

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th June, 1972.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 3.30 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of this Hon. House for the 30th May, 1972 and 18th April, 1972, are before you for confirmation. If there are no corrections the Minutes will be confirmed.

The Minutes are hereby confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following papers:

The Statements showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for payment of Money Orders for the months of March and April, 1972.

The Statements of Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for

Overseas Governments and Administrations for the months of March and April, 1972.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting, subject to the usual courtesies extended to the Opposition, if they have any matters with which they wish to deal.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am asking for leave, Sir, to deal with Order No. 1 which stands in the name of the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections, leave will be granted. Leave is granted.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ORDER ENTITLED "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No.3) ORDER, 1972"

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.3) Order, 1972 has been made by the Prime Minister on 29th May, 1972. As the Addendum sets out:

The Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1972" has been laid in Parliament.

The Order provides for adjustments to the establishment structure of the undermentioned Ministries and Departments at a total cost of \$131,000 per annum.

1. *Ministry of Finance*

(i) General

The upgrading of the post of Chief Accountant \$8,760 - 10,800 to \$12,000 in order to give adequate recognition to the duties and responsibilities of the post, the holder of which must be a professionally qualified Accountant.

(ii) Valuation Division

The provision of the following permanent posts -

1 Secretary	—	\$4,320 - 5,760
1 Senior Clerk	—	\$4,320 - 5,760

The Secretary is required to deal with the Department's confidential correspondence, information and data and to perform other secretarial duties. The additional post of Senior Clerk is provided to enable the Division to cope with its workload.

(iii) Data Processing Unit

(a) the establishment of the following additional permanent posts -

1 Systems Analyst	\$7,500 - 10,800
1 Data Librarian	\$6,000 - 7,200
2 Programmer's Assistant	\$4,320 - 5,760
1 Control Officer	\$4,320 - 5,760
1 Key Punch Operator	\$1,680 - 4,140
3 Clerical Officer	\$1,680 - 4,140

(b) the provision of a new grade of Senior Systems Analyst \$11,400 to be bracketed with the grade of Systems Analyst \$7,500 - 10,800;

(c) the upgrading of the post of Operations Controller \$7,500 - 10,800 to \$11,400.

The additional posts are required to enable the Unit to cope with the great demand made by various Ministries and Departments for computer service. The duties of the new post of Data Librarian include -

(a) the maintenance and control of the Program Library (tabulating cards).

(b) the maintenance and control of the Tape Library including stock of unused tapes;

(c) a stock control function for ADP supplies and forms;

- (d) the supervision and recording of the updating of program documentation and related data whenever program changes are incorporated;
- (e) labelling, filing and assembling of tapes for each job done.

The new grade of Senior Systems Analyst is designed to retain the services of fully trained officers. It is proposed that officers reaching the maximum of the grade of Systems Analyst should be promoted to the senior grade provided they have completed not less than three years' satisfactory service (including training) as a Systems Analyst.

The upgrading of the post of Operations Controller is intended to reflect the responsibilities of the post as second-in-command in the Department.

2. *Inland Revenue*

The upgrading of the post of Assistant Commissioner \$9,840 to \$10,800 for the purpose of remedying an anomalous situation under which the maximum salary of a junior post — that of Senior Inspector — is the same as the salary of the post of Assistant Commissioner which carries heavier responsibilities.

3. *Prime Minister's Office*

(Defence and Security)

The provision of the following additional posts -

1 Assistant Secretary	\$7,500 - 10,800
1 Secretary ..	\$4,320 - 5,760
1 Clerical Officer ..	\$1,680 - 4,140
1 Messenger ..	\$1,800 - 2,880

A post of Permanent Secretary was created with effect from 1st April, 1972 to assume responsibility for matters pertaining to defence and security. The Order provides the necessary supporting staff to enable the Division to carry out its functions.

4. *Ministry of Home Affairs*

- (i) the upgrading of the post of Chief Electoral Officer from \$9,840 to \$10,800 per annum.
- (ii) the establishment on a permanent and pensionable basis of the following temporary posts -

1 Senior Executive Officer	\$7,500 - 8,760
1 Chief Photographer	\$6,000 - 7,200
1 Assistant Photographer	\$3,600 - 4,800
1 Senior Clerk —	\$4,320 - 5,760
1 Operator —	\$1,680 - 4,140
1 Stenographer —	\$1,680 - 4,800
1 Messenger —	\$1,800 - 2,880

Based on the requirements of the Representation of the People's Act, 1971-15, it is considered that the responsibilities of the post of Chief Electoral Officer are heavier than those of other posts in the salary grade \$9,840. The salary grade \$10,800 is more appropriate.

Apart from the post of Chief Electoral Officer the staff of the Electoral Office was provided on a temporary basis pending a proper assessment of the permanent staff requirements. The supporting staff will now be established on a permanent basis as at (ii) above.

5. *Ministry of Education*

(Technical Institute)

The abolition of the posts at the Technical Institute.

As a result of the merger of the Technical Institute with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic which was completed on 1st April, 1972, the posts at the Technical Institute have become redundant.

6. *Ministry of Health*

(i) (General)

An adjustment to the salary scale of the post of Dental Hygienist.

This adjustment is designed to correct an error appearing in the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1972. The code number representing the salary scale should be Z.17-16 (Q.B) Z.15-14 and NOT 10.

(ii) (Welfare Department)

The creation of the following posts for the Child Care Division.

1 Executive Officer	—	\$6,000 - 7,200
1 Assistant Accountant		\$4,320 - 5,760
2 Clerical Officer	—	\$1,680 - 4,140
1 Stenographer	—	\$1,680 - 4,800

From its inception in 1969 the Child Care Board has depended on the staff of the various sections of the Welfare Department to carry out its management functions. As a result of the increase in the number of Children's Homes and Day Nurseries employing some 246 employees this arrangement is no longer satisfactory. It is therefore proposed to set up a separate Division to deal with all matters pertaining to the management of the Children's Homes and Day Nurseries. The additional staff is required for this purpose.

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.
3.40 p.m.

These are the main features and everything is as a result of the increase in the number of Children's Homes and Day Nurseries where some 246 people are employed at present. The idea is to establish certain temporary posts which have been existing for some time and to readjust certain anomalies.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this Order seeks to provide for the making of adjustments in the

Establishment. Now, if we were to look at the Ministry of Finance, I do not think for a single moment that anyone would be perturbed by having a professionally qualified Accountant performing the duties of Chief Accountant in the Ministry of Finance. What we, on this side, find here is that, in creating this post, we must ask if the Government is looking far enough ahead and is not merely creating a bottleneck as time goes on. When we look lower down the scale in other Departments and attempt to make comparison with what is done here and what is attempted to be done elsewhere, I believe the Leader of the House ought to appreciate and to follow the points I am trying to make.

I will now go to the Valuation Division. I think I am right in saying that the Minister of Finance gave us to understand in his Budget Speech that he expects to raise something like \$2 million when he gets his Land Valuation legislation going and everything is working smoothly. What we have seen here has nothing whatsoever to show what is really being done to effect any smoothness in the functioning of the Department. I know that the Minister has given August 15th as the deadline for sending out the notices to landowners and having them returned and so on but, perhaps, the Minister does not know that the work of this Department is in such a mess that people, who have never owned a square foot of land in Barbados, are now being presented with some of these notices for completion and return to the Department.

You will find, Mr. Speaker, that there are people whose land areas have been drastically reduced, and in other cases high increases and additions have been made to other land areas and some of these landowners do not know what to do in the circumstances. Situations such as these, Mr. Speaker, must inevitably bring about delay. When the Minister of Finance is expecting within a given time, to collect \$2 million, he might then find that he is not in a position to collect two million dimes, because the Valuation Division would not have been able to make an appreciable start in the workload that is really ahead of it.

Now, the post of Senior Clerk is provided in the Valuation Division to cope with the workload. That in itself is an admission that there is a workload with which to cope, but what we are saying is that the mere creation of the additional post of Senior Clerk is in no way helping to solve the problems that are created there. What the Minister must address his mind to is the number of daily-paid workers that are employed in a Department such as this which, to our mind, is something disgraceful and distasteful.

You will find, Mr. Speaker, that there are Draughtsmen — qualified people — receiving wages in the Valuation Division on a weekly basis. If that is the case, it is either that the Government has no respect or high regard for the work done by these people and seeks to employ them on a weekly basis so that they can go off at any time, or there is some other reason for it. This is a matter which should be looked into and, if possible, an attempt should be made to put things right.

Now, I want to bring a case to the attention of this Honourable House, and if the Minister concerned were to follow it up, I think it would

help to throw a lot of light on similar situations that are obtaining elsewhere.

3.50 p.m.

There is one hotel somewhere to the east of this Island that has produced plots, but the plots that have been produced are not plots for all of the lands owned by this hotel group; so if the hotel owners are going to be assessed according to the area of land on their plots, we are going to find that there are going to be vast areas unaccounted for, and I cannot say that there will be vast areas of no man's land because I am sure that the Government is not going to be in a position to lay its hands on the areas which I have before my mind. This is the kind of situation with which the Valuation Division is faced, and one must readily admit that it must call for very efficient officers to deal with a situation such as this.

Now I believe that on a previous occasion I drew to the attention of this House that assistant valuers of this Valuation Division had been going into the field carrying out surveys of people's lands, but they were doing so without contacting the owners of the land involved. In other words, there had been cases where the owners were in their homes and these valuers were on the land measuring up without making any contact or trying to enquire from the owners. Any owner to my mind who had been given an explanation that an officer was coming from the Valuation Division would be willing to lend assistance in showing him his land mark and where his boundaries end, and this I think would be of considerable assistance to these officers in doing their work. These are things, Mr. Speaker, which need to be attended to, and until they have been put right, it is going to create a very considerable delay in collecting revenue resulting from the functioning of this Department.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Messrs. H. deB. FORDE, EVELYN E. GREAVES and J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Let us turn now, Mr. Speaker, to the Data Processing Unit. We find, Sir, that a number of permanent posts are being created for this Department. The truth is that these people are already working and we believe have given considerable satisfaction, but there are ten other temporary posts in the Data Processing Unit which bear very close relation to the proper functioning of the Unit, and the occupants of these posts are now crying out. They want to know why it is that the post of Systems Analyst, Data Librarian, two Programmer's Assistant, Control Officer, Key Punch Operator and three Clerical Officers are being made permanent and not theirs. They feel and know that they have

rendered equally as good service, they have been as devoted as those whose posts have now been made permanent and we are asking the Minister to look into this and see what has happened. We do not expect for a single moment that we are going to see the Minister of Finance come to this House and tell us that we have ceased to computerize our accounts. We believe that the computer is with us to stay. If that is the case, and we take it that the decision to create these permanent posts have been arrived at after an assessment of the working of the Department and making a survey of its future requirements, the more so should we see the creation of these ten additional permanent posts which have now been left in the cold. It is not fair.

One other point strikes me and must strike members of Government especially those Trade Unionists who are members of the Government Party. You will find that a Key Punch Operator is being made permanent but they still advertise a starting point of \$35 a week, and any one who is familiar with the various deductions such as Income Tax, National Insurance and so on can readily appreciate what is that person's take home pay, but nevertheless the person is a Key Punch Operator working for Government. What kind of example is the Government setting? I agree, Mr. Speaker, that the maximum is \$86.25, but I also understand that the Key Punch Operator starting at \$35 a week will take a very long time to reach that figure.

4.00 p.m.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to hear an explanation from the introducer of this Resolution with reference to (b) "the provision of a new grade of Senior Systems Analyst \$11,400 to be bracketed with the grade of Systems Analyst \$7,500 - 10,800." I would really like to hear what information has been given to the Leader of the House on that particular point, but it would seem to us that there is an intention on the part of the Ministry of Finance to make fun at the whole system of data processing in this island.

Let us look at the setup as it stands at present. The Director of the Unit is presently seconded to act elsewhere in another post for one year. His Deputy is acting as Director, the Operations Controller is also acting, and somebody else is acting for the Operations Controller, so you will see, Mr. Speaker, that when you get a situation like this where we are told that heavy demands are being made by various Departments on the services of the Data Processing Unit, one can readily appreciate the kind of interest that some people are attaching to

getting the various Departments of Government to have their information available, so that when the time comes, whether it be for enabling the Minister of Finance to have his economic survey ready or whatever it might be, you will see that all these excuses have got to be offered from time to time and no real effort is being made to correct the situation. It is true that the Data Processing Unit is very much in demand by the various Government Departments, and I am in a position to say that there are at the present moment about almost two dozen requisitions from various Government Departments before the Data Processing Unit, and they are all labelled "Urgent".

You will find a Department like the Transport Board, even our very Valuation Division, the work of this Division is very much dependent upon what is executed by the Data Processing Unit, but is the work being executed? We say no, and we do not want for a single moment to address our minds to the numerous occasions on which the IBM 1401 machine is breaking down, we do not want to say it is breaking down under strain, because it is machinery and it will give way at any time. It was not a new machine in the first instance, and I remember the Minister of Finance replying to something I said about the Data Processing Unit warned that the present Unit would have to do what it is put to the test of doing because he had no intention of buying a new one.

Mr. Speaker, let us look to see Government's lack of policy in respect of certain matters. I come down to the note which says: "The new grade of Senior Systems Analyst is designed to retain the services of fully trained officers." I believe we on this side will be ready to support any such measure. We believe now that the Data Processing Unit is part and parcel of our governmental setup, as I have said, it is here to stay and if anything has got to be done to retain the services of an experienced officer, by all means we will support that measure, but if we were to look back, after hearing our Minister of Finance -- to use a term that is very much used in Barbados -- lambasting the secondary school teachers, you will find that Combermere School, for instance, not so long ago, I think they advertised ten posts and I think they received four local applications. Lodge School advertised three vacant posts, no local applications at all, but remember you will hear from our Minister of Finance that any attempt by a body representing the teachers at Lodge School, by anybody representing the teachers at Combermere School, seeking to get better conditions, better pay, a higher scale of pay for the teachers, to get the

Government to do something to retain teachers, because there have been admissions here that there has been a drain on our teaching service, many of our trained people have gone abroad and many who have gone abroad might not return.
4.10 p.m.

We are not disagreeing with attempting to retain the services of qualified, technical men. The System Analyst is an important post in the Data Processing Unit, but what we are saying is that as you find it necessary in Data Processing, so you will find it necessary in teaching. Let us look at it this way, Mr. Speaker. At the Barbados Community College, I think I am right in saying that higher salaries are paid there than to many of our Secondary School Teachers. Government, I think, made every effort to offer the best conditions to teachers so as to get the best staff with a view to establishing the Barbados Community College. If that were done in that case, and the Government is doing it in this case, why then should we be hearing these disparaging remarks about people who are willing to stand up for their rights? These insulting abuses are not nice and they are not necessary.

What really amuses us is that in this very note — let us see how the Government is going out of its way when it wants to accommodate certain people. As I have said, we want to see the best men retained at the Data Processing Unit or in any branch of the Service that means so much to us. It is stated here:

“It is proposed that officers reaching the maximum of the grade of Systems Analyst should be promoted to the senior grade provided they have completed not less than three years’ satisfactory service (including training) as a Systems Analyst.”

This “(including training)” Mr. Speaker, means a lot. Why? There are some of those officers in the Data Processing Unit who, since their appointment, have had as much as one year’s training abroad; so you will see why the words “including training” were included.

There is a lot of training needed in teaching, data processing, and in many other fields in this Island, and we would wish to see such training taking place. In the Data Processing Unit there are O.A.S. scholarships for Programmers and others, and we sincerely hope that those who are given the scholarships will benefit and that the Island as a whole will benefit on the return of the officers. We hope that these officers will not be sent abroad to be trained, and on their return you post them to some other Department to do

something with which they are not at all familiar, because that has been the pattern of the Government for very many years now.

Mr. Speaker, we support the upgrading of the post of Operations Controller. I speak because I try to do some home work when it comes to a matter like this, and I am in a position to say that in the Data Processing Unit there are something like 30 people with their various problems who fall under the immediate control of the Operations Controller. The responsibilities of that post are, indeed, worthy of some sort of consideration, and we are very glad to see that the post is being upgraded.

Now, let us go down, Mr. Speaker, to the Prime Minister’s Office (Defence and Security). Some time ago we created as from 1st April, 1972, a post of Permanent Secretary so that we could feel that our security was in capable hands. Mr. Speaker, I want to say something here now. I have never said it to the Leader of the Opposition, and I have not said it to any member of the Opposition. The office of the Leader of the Opposition is within the Public Buildings compound, and I am saying here and now and it is a fact — the Police will deny it as they usually do — that whenever meetings are held in the office of the Leader of the Opposition, Policemen on duty in the Public Buildings compound, when they are being relieved, are asked who they saw going there and leaving there. I do not want to say that I know the reason for it, but I am saying it is a definite fact that the Police are spying upon the office of the Leader of the Opposition.
4.20 p.m.

If the Commissioner denies it, if the Minister of Home Affairs denies it, it does not alter the fact; it remains a definite fact. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: If Sparrow says so, it is so.) I have never mentioned this to the Leader of the Opposition or to any member of my Party, and I have very good reasons for doing so.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have this question of security. As you know, Sir, the security of this country of ours has been in as much danger in the hands of some to whom it has been entrusted of late or in more danger in the hour of peace than we have ever been in, during either the first or second World War. It is common knowledge that a police officer, a security man, was at pains to get in touch with certain people about Bridgetown and say “Do you know whom you are talking to? I am the Prime Minister’s security man.” It is a definite fact. Why was this officer finding it so necessary to do this? City merchants, people who can give credit in

Bridgetown, lumber stores and people who sell concrete blocks can tell us who is the Prime Minister's security man, or at least who told them so. That is the type of security we have been having, but you and hon. members in this House must appreciate what a danger that in itself must be to the security of this country. I am not suggesting, Sir, that a single secret has been sold for the credit of 1,000 block stones, but I mention these things so that the Minister of Home Affairs might take a closer look at certain things that come within his portfolio.

Now exactly what kind of security office are we going to see operating with a Permanent Secretary as Chief Security Officer, one Assistant Secretary, one Secretary, one Clerical Officer and a Messenger? The note tells that the post of Permanent Secretary was created from 1st April to assume responsibility for matters pertaining to defence and security. These things, Mr. Speaker, need an examination in much greater detail than perhaps I should give here today, but I sincerely hope that the opportunity will present itself for me to give them the type of detailed examination they really deserve.

We turn now to the upgrading of the post of Chief Electoral Officer which I think really took place from April, 1971. The only thing that worries us is that if it would seem that the post should be upgraded and the title changed from April, 1971, why hasn't it been found necessary to upgrade the officer's salary to become effective from the day the title of his office was changed, because I am sure that on the day when his office got a new title, everybody was certainly looking forward to the new responsibilities that the officer had to discharge. Can the Leader of the House possibly look into this and draw it to the attention of the proper authorities and see what can be done in such a case? We know that there will be the keeping alive of the register at all times by the Chief Electoral Officer, but there again a lot of temporary staff will also have to be employed from time to time.

Now there is one post which needs looking into and it is that of operator. When it is taken into consideration the type of work the operator is called upon to do, he is in a specialist field. He does what is called laminating and embossing, and we feel that to offer this officer a salary of \$1,680 to \$4,140 is really not compensating the officer for the type of skill that the job requires him to bring to bear on his office.

Now I have learned that the Electoral Office is now invading the Housing Area. I do not want to say it is a bad thing; it is a good thing to get

as many people as possible to become registered and keep the register alive, but what we do not like is using the particular Minister or politician as the case may be on such occasions. It presents a certain amount of bias in the minds of the people because they should remember that if a Minister of Government or a politician is used by the Chief Electoral Office in these Housing Areas to try to influence people to vote or else, the Chief Electoral Officer has no control of the politicians' or Ministers' doings. All these things have got to be taken into consideration.

4.30 p.m.

I come right down to the Child Care Division, Welfare Department.

It would seem as if at long last the Government has taken into consideration suggestions which I have been making on the floor of this House from time to time with regard to the setting up of a separate department for the Child Care Board, distinct from the regular Welfare Department. We have here the creation of certain posts in the Child Care Division, and we are hoping to see that with the creation of these posts the two Clerical Officers and the Assistant Accountant be appointed to posts that bear some relation to the office which is indicated here. In other words, we do not want to find a Welfare Officer asking one of these Clerical Officers to go into the district and do some case work, we want case work done by people trained to do case work, because wherever we go in the various public offices we get complaints about people, some are young people, not knowing how to treat members of the public, and we are asking that these people who are appointed to do accounting work be left in the office to do accounting work, and I have a very special reason for making this plea to the Minister today.

We have at the present moment — I believe if the Minister checks his files he will find that I am right as always — some 850 children in the Homes and Day Nurseries. We are hoping that something will be done to see that there is not the bungling, the unnecessary interference, the spending of money without authority that was engaged in in the not so distant past. We do not want to see that type of thing occurring any more, and we are asking the Minister to look into this to see that everything goes as well as I know he would like.

I believe I have covered enough under this Resolution, except that I believe from my own experience, and if the Minister himself were to look at the sums of money that are expended in this Department, he would admit that on Welfare

there is something over \$4 million, Child Care in itself over \$1 million, and when one looks at all this and the question of deductions for national insurance, it will be something like \$42,000 or more, and I feel that the Leader of the House would do well if he gave a second thought to appointing another Clerical Officer for dealing with this aspect of the work, and I am sure he will find that his Department will be functioning properly.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Peter made reference during the course of his remarks to a Minister or Ministers of Government who have gone out to housing areas during the time recently when the Chief Registration Officer has had officers, photographers, people to do with registration, in those housing areas and suggested that in some way it was improper for a Minister of Government to be there present.

I would like to say that I, as a Minister of Government, was recently in one of the housing areas in my constituency, but I was not there as a Minister of Government I was there as a representative of the people of that constituency to give any aid and assistance that I could at the time when the Registration Officer and others were there. I honestly believe that the hon. member for St. Peter could not be suggesting that all twenty four members of this Hon. House, including yourself, and twenty four others who were not so fortunate at some time last year took the trouble to go and see people in various constituencies and took them to register or to change their address or to report the loss of an identity card, to see that they were properly registered so that they could vote when the time came. Is the hon. member suggesting that it is all very proper and correct for any member of this House to do that when an election is on, but it is incorrect for a representative of the people to go into his own constituency and assist people in a matter of registration whether there is an election or not? I could hardly believe it, but I would say this, that in the course of time in the next few weeks another unit will be coming to another housing area in my constituency, at Gall Hill, and I shall be there to assist the people in whatever way I can at that time and I will be doing this as part of the duty of a representative of the people.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be correct for me to follow the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. I think it is a good thing that we are setting about to photograph people and to make sure that the registration procedure in this country is right and is carried

out properly, yet as one who has tasted the sweets and the bitter of it, I believe that it is necessary to ensure that not only is the registration done but it is done under circumstances that people do not feel that they are forced necessarily to vote for one political party or the other.

4.40 p.m.

There are many instances during the last election where, particularly in housing areas, people were made to believe that only if you were voting for the Governing Party were you allowed to remain in the housing area, and it is because of this that I trust that there will be a bit more freedom in the administrative procedures now that the units are being taken to the housing areas properly. If a criticism has been made, it has been made because of this fear which exists.

I hope now that it is said that everybody is free to go that not only will hon. members go, but the opportunity will be taken when members from this side appear in their constituency to extend to them the same facilities that have been extended to the hon. member on the other side.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, there are no facilities. The Registration Unit is going to all of the housing areas. As far as I am concerned, I have no special facilities.

Mr. SPEAKER: Properly speaking, you should have risen on a point of explanation.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to dwell on that point. I should like to talk under the head of Defence and Security. Security is a subject which in most countries is shrouded, as it needs to be, in an aura of secrecy. But I believe that in any small country such as Barbados it is necessary to get one's guide-lines straight. On this Head I trust that, now we have a new Ministry, it will not be misused for the purpose of prying into the private lives of people in this country, or the purpose of using the telephone, for instance, or listening to telephone calls for political purposes. I have heard it denied on numerous occasions that people's telephone calls in this country are monitored. I am not satisfied this is so. I have heard conversations repeated on political platforms that originated over the telephone. I am calling on the Government, if they are quite sure of this position, to do as was done in Britain and have an independent group of persons of obviously independent and judicial temperament satisfy this nation that people who are running for political office and who are in the political limelight are not being subjected

stealthily to having their political conversations or their private conversations being pried upon either by means of Cable & Wireless or by means of the Telephone Company.

I am deeply concerned about this aspect of public affairs, and it is not good simply to deny it. I should like the Government to tell us the circumstances under which the Secret Branch of the Police listen in to telephone conversations, and the circumstances under which the concessionaire, the public utility in this country, can do the same. How many occasions this privilege has been used.

Those of us who are lawyers sometimes have to advise people on confidential matters, and I want to know how often, for the detection of crime, for instance, this method of investigation has been used in Barbados. If it has not been used, I should like the Government to give us an assurance that it would never be used, and that from time to time the procedures laid down in this respect are subjected to the scrutiny of people of high judicial calibre and obvious independence. In a country such as ours, it is quite easy to maintain oneself in power by abusing and using this type of method and, therefore, obtaining information which, normally, in any democratic country, would not be had in this way. I trust that we will get an undertaking on this and that the security will be what it is intended to be, and it should not be misused or abused in the method that we have seen it misused and abused in other countries of the world.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, the Minister of Information said that it is quite proper for any member of Parliament to go back to his constituency. I agree with that, and I support him. However, since the Minister has sent out letters to some of his constituents informing them that he would be in the area, when the Electoral Officers were coming to the housing area, to assist them with all of their needs, will the Minister of Home Affairs, under whose portfolio this matter falls, be in a position to let the members on this side and other members who may not be as fortunate as the Minister of Information know when they will be sending the Electoral Officers to certain areas so that we can write our constituents and let them know that we will be in the area to assist them in all their needs? We are saying that you have the right to go and it is quite proper to go, but we should also know when the officers are going to certain areas to do registration work. We would like to go and assist our constituents as you have done, but you happen to be in the driver's seat.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if it is proper for me to speak again on a point of explanation.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You may speak on a point of explanation.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. The list of visits to housing areas for the month of June was published in the newspaper by the Chief Registration Officer, but I do not know if it was mentioned on the radio. As far as I understood, the ones for the month of July should be published very close to the beginning of July so that there would be a minimum of confusion about it. There is no reason why, when an hon. member sees this sort of activity going on, he cannot call the Chief Registration Officer and enquire when the officers are coming to a housing area within his constituency.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member for Christ Church West, I must say that I am not aware that it is the practice of the Ministry of Defence and Security to indulge in those practices. I have made a note of his remarks together with the points raised by the hon. member for St. Peter with regard to the Data Processing Unit, the balance of the temporary, the additional Clerical Staff at the Child Care Board, etc. I will draw those matters to the attention of the appropriate Minister and see that further adjustments be made along the lines suggested by the hon. member.

The question that the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.3) Order, 1972, do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next item on the Order Paper are the amendments which we attempted to do last week. I think we have time to do it, because the members now have copies of all the proposed amendments. The amendments were circulated and dealt with since last week. The error which crept into the Bill and which was drawn to our attention by the Leader of the Opposition has now been regularised, and we are grateful to him for drawing it to our attention.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these amendments be now agreed to.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION re THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS, 1972

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before matters officially start, I rise to ask leave to give notice of the following Resolution:-

That this House takes note of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 1972 and regrets that the Government has taken no steps to deal with the recent spectacular rise in the cost of living, to raise the Old Age Pension, to give practical effect to its stated policy of crop diversification or to promote a policy of real economic expansion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to give notice of that Resolution, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I understand it, is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition merely giving notice of it or does he intend to deal with it?

Mr. ADAMS: I will ask the leave of the House to commence debate upon it. I cannot ask to deal with it in all its stages today, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have copies been circulated?

Mr. ADAMS: Copies are available, but with respect, if the Prime Minister has not moved a Resolution to found the debate, I have to move it. The Prime Minister drew English example to our attention in here. In England, immediately after presenting his Budget Statement the

Chancellor of the Exchequer moves a number of Resolutions and debate starts on them and no notice is given of them and they are not circulated before hand either since they deal with financial measures.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Finance makes his Budget Speech and then he introduces any Bills or Resolutions that are to be introduced. What we on this side are saying is that when the Minister of Finance gives notice of these Resolutions to do with Budgetary Proposals, he circulates copies to members of Parliament. The hon. member has introduced a Resolution. We do not have photographic memories and therefore we would want to have copies of this Resolution. It would have been in order for the hon. member to have sent it to the Clerk of the House or to the typists here or the Secretary in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition should have provided the House with copies of the Resolution so that members of the House could study it. The point I am making therefore, is that the hon. member could hardly expect us to deal with a Resolution, copies of which have not been circulated. If we had come here today with a Resolution asking the House to deal with it immediately without circulating copies, we would have had a big howl from the other side, and all we are saying is that it is discourteous of the Leader of the Opposition to expect us to come here and deal with a Resolution when we do not have copies of it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Leader of the Opposition make his speech in reply to the Budget.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition replies to the Budget Speech by way of a Resolution. I thought you had appreciated the point I had made, which is, that we on this side do not have copies of that Resolution. How can we debate a Resolution without copies being circulated? It is discourteous of the Leader of the Opposition to expect us to debate the Resolution under such circumstances. We do not deal with a Resolution the same day without producing copies for all members of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That point is quite clear and understandable, but I was asking the Leader of the Opposition to make his reply to the Budgetary Proposals.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The point here is that the Leader of the Opposition makes his reply as a result of a Resolution which he has

just introduced in the House, and of which we do not have copies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot make that reply until copies have been circulated, and no copies as far as I know have been circulated.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I would like the Leader of the Opposition to do at this stage is to read his proposed Resolution which he has asked for leave to deal with.

R Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, this is reducing Parliament to a kind of circus. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition was given a whole week in order to prepare his Budget which I understand he has been doing in consultation with the Minister of Communications and Works, because he even laid out the order of speakers with the Minister of Communications and Works. There is no room for any Resolution on the occasion of a reply to the Budget Speech. At any time that the hon. member wants to have a political exhibition, he can introduce any kind of Resolution; it is his prerogative, his right, and as a member of the Opposition, his duty to do so even if he thinks that talking about old age pensioners would widen the gap in the fifty votes by which he got his seat. He is entitled to do that; we expect him to do that; but what we expect now is the reply to the Budget.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what I intend to hear — the reply to the Budget.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to make it clear that the hon. member cannot do it by way of a Resolution. He has to get leave and leave is not granted.
5.00 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the cameras are ready, let us get this quite clear. It has been the invariable practice in this House for a Resolution to be introduced. Last year the Resolution was introduced on the day of the Budget reply; today I came in here and sent the Resolution upstairs to the Clerk's Office to have copies made around a quarter past four. There is no business before the House unless it be upon a motion; there is no such thing as statement and reply to statement, contrary to what the Prime Minister has said, because the Standing Orders specifically say that no reply can be made to a statement. That is the whole point.

The Resolution was sent up to the Clerk's Office, I cannot be responsible if all the copies

have not been circulated, I did not even have a copy myself a second ago till I got one here. It is up to hon. members, I asked for leave and leave was granted. On the Order Paper is Item No. 2, "To reply to the financial statement and budgetary proposals". I am not against the Prime Minister making new Standing Orders as he goes along, it does not worry me, I have come here to reply to the Budget, I am not easily going to be thrown off because the hon. member for St. Andrew is disappointed to hear that crop diversification is one of the things that we or other speakers in the debate may concentrate on, if it makes it easier for him, I am hardly going to mention it, we have a whole range of speakers on this side who will speak later in the debate, if it makes that much difference to him, but I am sure we are all in here trying to get on with the business of the Opposition's reply to the Budget Speech. I am sure also that the officers of the House are doing their best now to circulate copies of the Resolution for which leave has been given to give notice of, and to proceed with.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, no leave has been given for the debate to begin, because leave would have to be given with the assent of the House. I raised an objection to debating a Resolution, a copy of which I was not supplied with, so nobody can give the hon. member leave to debate a Resolution when there is objection. I am saying that I am prepared to agree to the debating of the Resolution when I get a copy of the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, leave to give notice of the Resolution was agreed to but not to have it debated, that should be clear to everybody.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was my understanding, leave to give notice but not to debate the Resolution. Will the Leader of the Opposition give his reply to the Budget?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I have seen it for ten or more years in here, the reply to the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance is done by introducing a Resolution. As I understand it today the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has introduced that Resolution with which he will debate the proposals in the Budget Speech. I do not know how other people understand it, this is how I understand it, and I think this is the way it ought to have been done. What I am saying is that a copy of that Resolution I have not been supplied with, and if the hon. member on the other side is seeking leave of the House to deal with it when members have not been supplied with

copies, I will not agree to debate a Resolution a copy of which I do not have. On the other hand, you are telling the hon. member that there can be a reply to the Budget Speech, the reply is done by way of this very Resolution which the member introduced.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was out of the Chamber a moment ago, and I gather there was some reference to my preparing a budget speech in collaboration with the Leader of the Opposition. That is a damnable lie, I am not saying the Leader of the Opposition said it, if it was said, I was not here, but I want to make it quite clear it is a damnable and vicious lie, whoever said it if it was said. I have not seen the Leader of the Opposition since the last meeting of the House, and if it was ever said, it was a damned lie, it is defaming, it is vicious and it could only spring from a perverted mind. (*Loud Cheers*).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think there must have been some misunderstanding, I was the person who referred to the preparation of the reply which I was enjoining the hon. member to get on with. I would like to assure the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works that it was not the Leader of the Opposition who said so directly, but I was pointing out that the Leader of the Opposition, I understood from what he had said, prepared it after consulting the Minister of Communications and Works as to the speakers and not that the Minister of Communications and Works was preparing the reply to the Budget Speech in collaboration with the hon. member.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Again I want to get the record straight. As to speakers I have not spoken to the Leader of the Opposition since the last time he was in the House, and I want the records straight because politics is a dangerous game. I want my position clear in this Chamber, I have clean hands. I have not spoken to him about parliamentary business, I have not said good morning to him or good night like Nicodemus, I have not said anything to him, I have not seen him, and I want the record of Hansard to record the position. Politics is a dangerous thing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the practice as far as replying to the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance has been, owing to the fact that we had not only an Official Opposition but we had two independent members in here, we allotted similar time to the Opposition as the Minister of Finance would take in delivering his Budget Speech. On this occasion the Opposition is limited to the Official Opposition and that alone, no independent

member, with the result that I was requested by the Party to interview and have a word with the Leader of the Opposition on that particular matter, which I did this morning by telephone and which I went to have it confirmed just now, but so far as the Leader of the Opposition is concerned, he is quite willing to make his speech, but the time might not be as much as that spent by the Minister of Finance, who has to give a lot of details and go into every item carefully. The position is that a remark was made to the effect that he got involved in the list of speakers but that is really what it is. That is the impression I got, but of course it might have been an aside to which I did not pay much attention.

5.10 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think there was some misunderstanding. The Leader of the House and myself were misinformed, and I think the Hon. Minister was also misinformed as to the intent of what he said. I do not think we need to pursue the matter any more.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said that I am not going to sit down in here and allow irregularities to go on. I wish to see a copy of the Resolution which we are going to debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked the Clerk at-the-Table to have copies circulated.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am now in possession of a copy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition may now proceed.

REPLY TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the 2nd July, 1968, the Minister of Finance rose in this House and introduced his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for that year, and he apologised then at length to the House and to the nation for his failure to publish an Economic Survey prior to the presentation of that Budget. The publication of the Economic Survey had always been a main point in the Prime Minister's approach to the budgetary management of the economy of Barbados, for without it, to use his own words last week, "taxation was imposed as a matter of arithmetic without consideration being given to the performance of various sectors of the economy."

Now, in 1972, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are back with the arithmetic, for the document with which I have been supplied since last week's speech is a mere summary — I say shadow — of what an Economic Survey should be. This, perhaps, gives a clue as to why an Opposition statesman on finance may not wish to rise and reply at once to budgetary proposals in Barbados. I am accused of being a shadow of my former self, whatever that means in the context of this debate. At least, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not a political Persian cat, grown sleek and indulgent, basking in flattery and admiration and forgetting altogether that my first duty to the people who put me here was to bring a fierceness and a drive, ideals and determination into the conduct of the affairs of my masters, the electorate and the people of Barbados.

But to return, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the mechanics of budgeteering, what I take to be a challenge was thrown out last week when the Prime Minister maintained that in the United Kingdom replies to the Budget Speech are delivered immediately after the Chancellor has sat down. This is substantially, even if not entirely, accurate. In fact, it is normally the Leader of the Opposition who, in England, is never the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer; he is never the Shadow Minister of Finance any more than the Prime Minister is never the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is usually the Leader of the Opposition who speaks after the Chancellor has sat down. The Shadow Chancellor speaks on the next day. That is the English position. What is entirely accurate is that, with a much more complex economy than that of Barbados, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer delivers his Budget in April shortly after the completion of the presentation of the Annual Estimates and when each Member of the House of Commons is already armed with the performance figures of the very massive United Kingdom economy for the previous year.

Another difference is this: no Chancellor entirely reads his speech. That is a privilege no more accorded to members of the House of Commons than it is to hon. members of Parliament here, and the newspapers often praise what they would judge to be a clever Chancellor with the words, "He hardly even glanced at his notes." I do not think that newspapers have ever praised the Minister of Finance for being able to make a speech in here on the Budget without hardly glancing at his notes, but I would not dwell on that point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think that hon. members and the public can take the point that I am making, but I am not making it as an excuse.

Last year, like the Shadow Chancellors in Britain, the example which the Prime Minister has drawn for us, I replied to the then Budget Speech on the following day. This year, as the Leader of the House can confirm, I was prepared to reply last Tuesday immediately after the Prime Minister had spoken, but, as my understanding has always been that the reply to the Budget Speech must be delivered at the same time of day and must occupy no more time than the Minister of Finance took in delivering the Budget itself, this course was not followed.

Next year, however, I am going to take the Prime Minister at his word, and I am going to reply to the Budget Speech immediately on its delivery, if I am so allowed. The Prime Minister once talked on policy. Well, he will hear talk next year about policy. It will be waiting for him even before he makes his Budget Speech. He has had an opportunity this year, never afforded to a Minister of Finance, of replying in advance to some of the arguments made by the Opposition; for since he introduced his Budget by instalments, coming the week before last with his proposals to raise taxation on motor vehicles, he naturally and very sensibly and correctly in a political sense grasped at some of the arguments I made then, and he has taken an opportunity to reply to them now.

Well, he will not get that opportunity next year, for I will keep my arguments covered, and I will be prepared to take him on before the television camera immediately he sits down. I believe that I will be able to give an account of myself. I do not say that I am the most fluent speaker that has ever existed. There are members of this House — I see the hon. member for St. Michael South East who, I think, is the master of fluency, although we never hear him in here — who have a fluency that, perhaps, I cannot approach, but I believe that I have been here long enough to have some idea of how business in the House of Assembly should be conducted and have some idea of criticising or praising, where appropriate, the conduct of any Minister or of any Ministry of this Island.

My only regret in this context is that I could not, in fact, reply last Wednesday and give the Prime Minister some policy on the very day after he delivered the Budget Speech. I do not want to detain hon. members on this point unnecessarily, especially after the alarms and excursions which greeted the introduction of the Resolution upon which my speech is based. I should, perhaps, explain to hon. members that for the last three weeks I have been working on cases in the Supreme Court of St. Vincent. I came

back last week to hear the Prime Minister deliver his Budget Speech, and I came back this morning to make my reply.

So far as collaborating with the Minister of Communications and Works, as was suggested, is concerned, that has been totally impossible and not even the most perverted mind — to use his own phrase, Sir — It is not me that said that about the Prime Minister — It is one of his own Ministers who said it 15 minutes ago in here — could have made it possible to collaborate in the writing of this speech with the Minister of Communications and Works.

5.20 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to the Budget. Like the Prime Minister, I concede that in modern times taxation is not a matter of arithmetic. It can and should be directed to social and economic ends of the community as well as to the community's mere need for government in the old sense. In Barbados people look to the budgetary policy as a means of satisfying their ambitions, and in this country people have ambitions for themselves, and Government and Opposition alike have ambitions for the people, and we expect those in power to take every possible step to satisfy their ambitions.

Now speaking for myself, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see simple and clear ideas for Barbados' economic future worked out and worked towards and set down and kept before us all as examples of what we should be aiming at. We know what our main factors of production are. Tourism — using our lands and the services of the people. agriculture — using the same resources in parallel; manufacturing industry — giving employment. These are the immediate economic tools that we have to work with to provide an income and a basic standard of living for our community, and this is recognised by all. But Barbados has serious problems, and I think that these problems are made worse because we are so near in space, in language and in spirit to countries which by our standards have found solutions to their problems. In other words, we are poor and the big countries that we know best, Britain and the United States, are rich. Now my view is that it is not just because they are big societies that they are rich, for small islands like Bermuda which has less to offer than Barbados is also rich. The people of Bermuda in my view are probably man for man and income for income better off in a material sense than the people in Britain. I am going to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is because we are losing our sense of direction after ten years of rule by the party opposite that we are not finding the right solutions. The rich

countries are getting richer and we in Barbados are standing still or even getting poorer. It is as simple as that.

Last September, Mr. Speaker, as we will all remember, there was a general election in this country. Speakers on the platform of the Barbados Labour Party warned that the economy of Barbados was slipping. We were ignored and laughed at. A moment ago the Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for St. Michael South West also smiled and laughed. Well let me tell them what — I can't call it an economic summary — the Summary Information on the Performance of the Economy during 1971 says: this is the Prime Minister's own document that he said he laid on the Table of the House last Tuesday. The Cabinet Secretary was kind enough to send and get one for me in order to give me a chance to study it. Read page 1. "In fact, it would seem" — I am quoting, Mr. Speaker, — "that with the continuing high increase in the price level, the economy experienced no real growth in 1971."

Now I am giving you fact from the horse's mouth, from the Economic Survey itself. The economy experienced no real growth in 1971. That is what the Prime Minister's own document puts forward; so if Hon. Ministers care to laugh when I say we are standing still, upon this occasion I can prove it to them out of the words of the fountain-head himself. The economy is standing still. I say it and I repeat it, Mr. Speaker, for it means nothing whatsoever to say that the Gross Domestic Product of this country rose by 9.1 per cent in 1971 if at the same time prices rose so that every bit of the apparent expansion of the economy was absorbed in rising prices. Obviously if the workers get more wages and all their money has to go in paying more for their food, they are no better off. The argument that has been repeated over and over in here, Mr. Speaker, when we say that the cost of living has skyrocketed is that people have more money in their pockets to pay for the goods.

In 1971 what we finally predicted on this side of the House has come to pass. In fact, the rise in prices outstripped the advance, if any, which the economy as a whole made.

Now the cost of living, the rise in prices, Mr. Speaker, because this clearly is the first thing that has to be dealt with. I repeat it is no use to have \$3.00 a week more in your pocket at the end of the week if when you go into the supermarket the goods cost \$4.00 more than you are accustomed to buying. That is exactly what the

economic survey said, happened in Barbados last year — no real growth. I am emphasising it.

The cost of living index and prices. Mr. Speaker, our cost of living index falls into two divisions in Barbados: 1953 to 1965, a period of twelve years covering the rule of both political parties, and 1965 to date covering the rule of the Democratic Labour Party only, for in 1965 the basis of the index was changed. Between 1953 and December 1961, Mr. Speaker, when the Barbados Labour Party went out of power, the cost of living index rose 11.9 points; you can say 12 points in eight years. The cost of living went up only twelve points in the last eight years of our party's rule. In the first four years of the Democratic Labour Party's rule the cost of living went up 9½ points and then the basis for estimation was changed.

In 1965 a new form of index was brought in and since then the cost of living of this country has risen 47 points in six years. In eight years under the Barbados Labour Party, the cost of living went up 12 points, in ten years under the Democratic Labour Party, the cost of living has gone up 56 points; that is 1¼ points a year under us, 5½ points a year under them. Mr. Speaker, they are the figures. My source, — for Mr. Speaker, you have to be very careful in these days of your sources of information — again the Summary Performance of the Economy and the Prime Minister's Budget Speech of 1968. Anyone can go and look at them and check on the facts. 56 points in ten years of Democratic Labour Party rule, 11 points under us.

Now Mr. Speaker, you are told that the cost of living goes up because of external factors which are not under our control that prices rise in the outside world, that you cannot stop the suppliers from raising prices in Canada or in England or whatever, but this was true under the Barbados Labour Party too. This is not true for the Democratic Labour Party only; this has been true continually since the War. It was true for the eight years that we were in power, but we took steps to correct it. We insisted on price controls; we insisted on subsidising the production of pork; we subsidised the sale of rice in Barbados; we saw to it that the people's food was kept at the lowest possible price consonant with the proper economic management of the economy. The Democratic Labour Party has done no such thing. Instead in 1968 when there was a startling rise in the cost of living during the first six months of the year, after the devaluation of the pound in December of the previous year, immediately the cost of living rose 9 points, and everything was devaluation. The whole of the debates in this

House for 1967 was devaluation; devaluation was responsible for everything that was wrong in Barbados, but now in August last year there is another devaluation, the devaluation of the United States dollar, and immediately, Mr. Speaker, we looked and we said the dollar is devalued therefore the cost of living should go down, and what we buy from the United States should become cheaper; but the cost of living skyrocketed up in the last half of last year as it has never risen in this country before even after devaluation of the United States dollar. The cost of living index from June to December for food and beverages in Barbados rose 16 points, the greatest rise ever recorded. What kind of management of the economy is that?
5.30 p.m.

You are on an advantageous market. The American dollar has been devalued from \$2.40 to the pound to \$2.60 for us, and everybody will also recall how last year \$2.60 or no \$2.60 you could buy American dollars in Barbados for around \$1.75 each, and even now you can buy them for \$1.80, but the Government in its management of the economy was so inept that it allowed the cost of food in the last six months of last year to rise sixteen points without doing anything about it. Such bad management deserves punishment, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the economic survey did not come out in time, the facts were not known in time to be thoroughly canvassed before September 9, but those that have memories will remember and we will never let the Government forget how they used devaluation to excuse the second highest raise in the cost of living index, but when there was another revaluation which would have worked to our advantage they then allowed the merchants in Bridgetown or whoever to put the greatest rise on our cost of food and beverages that has ever been known in this island.

During the Budget Speech the Prime Minister spoke about going around to supermarkets to check on the price of bacon, and he commented that markups — and I hope I heard him correctly, I think it was impromptu — as high as 300 per cent were going on. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: One hundred per cent.) One hundred per cent. If this is known — and I accept the correction readily, Mr. Speaker — why cannot the Prices Commission be put to work on the problem? There is a Prices Commission that has been going on for years, it has all kinds of powers, any merchant in Bridgetown can be summoned to it and asked why he charges so much for his bacon, or whatever you like. Any shopkeeper can be summoned and asked why although there is no taxation on Coca Cola the

price of Coca Cola has gone up subsequent to the Budget, and other soft drinks as well, I believe. I do not want to give any particular brand any advertisement, but the Prices Commission has power to deal with all this. The Minister of Trade has power to impose price controls on any item whatsoever. All this can be and should be checked, Mr. Speaker, the Government must not allow electioneering and Cabinet making to divert it from the task in hand, it should never have allowed what went on in the last half of last year, and I am calling on the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance now to hold discussions with the Ministry of Trade and those responsible for the Prices Commission and see to it that the cost of food and beverages is never allowed to skyrocket as spectacularly as it has since June 1971.

Mr. Speaker, what is the principal effect of this rise in the cost of living? The first people who feel it are people on fixed incomes, persons who have no way of working for more money, and I want to draw attention first of all to the thirteen thousand most unfortunate and depressed members of our community; these are the old age pensioners. The old age pension is not generous in Barbados, \$5.00 a week — the level to which it was raised in 1970 — is not a living amount of money. Last Sunday afternoon I was listening to CBC and I heard an old lady of 82 being questioned as to how she could live on \$5.00 a week. She explained she only had one son and she said that she gave somebody \$3.00 a week to get food and give her, she explained to the interviewer that her sole means of subsistence was this \$5.00 a week. It is a shame and a disgrace that in 1972 an old person, 82 years old, should have to be thinking in terms of a food budget of \$3.00 a week. We in this House have been pressing hard on the Government to raise the old age pension, and what do we get in return, a Resolution is sought to be brought in about increasing the old age pension to \$12.00 and it is suggested it is out of order, we must not say this, this is something we are just coming in here electioneering. Can nobody on the opposite side understand that we care about these things, that it worries anybody with humanity in him when he hears an old lady on the radio saying that she only has \$3.00 a week to feed her, and do members think they should be playing politics with it?

A mere matter of arithmetic now, Sir. The food index has risen nineteen points since the old age pension was fixed at \$5.00 per week. That means almost exactly that you have to pay \$5.00 now to buy the same amount of food as \$4.00

would have bought in 1970. That is exactly what it means. With the rise in the cost of living goods that cost \$4.00 then cost \$5.00 now; do you mean the Prime Minister in his Budget Speech could not even find \$700,000 out of his surpluses even to keep the old age pensioners with what they would buy in 1970? Mr. Speaker, nobody would accuse me, I hope, of electioneering six months after the election in a speech on television which no old age pensioner can afford, I hope they do not think that I expect there is an eager audience of old age pensioners clustered around their television sets hearing me put in a word for them, that is not what I am saying. I am appealing to the affluent who have television sets to put pressure on their Members of Parliament, bring some social pressure to bear on the members of the Government to do something about this disgraceful condition of Barbados in 1972, and I am going to suggest it is economically feasible for this reason. The old age pension problem will diminish and wither away in the fullness of time because with the introduction of the National Insurance scheme people. *(Cheers)* I am glad that hon. members recall that I pointed this out in a debate some months earlier, they little understood it, then when they heard it from the Prime Minister, I am glad they understand it now it is put in clearer language. Mr. Speaker, it will diminish and wither away. All political parties have aimed at this; before the Democratic Labour Party came to power in 1961 Mr. Freddie Miller, the then Minister of Social Services, brought an expert down here and it was one of the terms of reference to introduce a scheme to take care of the old. That was in 1961, the Democratic Labour Party took six years to bring it in. Anyway, eventually, as people become 65 years old they will in the ordinary way of affairs get a pension from the National Insurance, therefore in ten or fifteen years — I have not worked out the arithmetic of that yet — the immediate problem of taking care of the current generation of old age pensioners — because I believe the time can not be far away, probably this year or next year when the first persons who will look forward for an old age pension will be getting national insurance pensions — the special burden that I am inviting the Government to undertake on behalf of old age pensioners at present will not be necessary because the national insurance will take care of that. I am asking the Government and the Minister of Finance in particular to give up a little expenditure for four or five years, maybe even ten, to deal with the problem of old age pensions. If you can spend \$2½ million and lose it on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the only television station in the world to lose money of which I have ever heard, if you can spend \$2½

million on CBC, reflect, Mr. Speaker, that that could increase the old age pension by \$3.00 per week, what you have wasted on CBC in a year. This is what I am asking in respect of that matter.

It will be said how the old age pensioners have the benefit of free bus fares. I want to throw out to the Minister responsible and ask him to investigate something that has recently come to my attention. Conductors on buses when old age pensioners produce their pension cards are telling them the other people have to get in the bus first and they can get in if there is room for them at the end, so that if they do not really want to wait at the bus stop, these old people have arthritis and rheumatism and do not like standing up at bus stops, they still have to pay if there is any crowd whatsoever at the bus stop no matter what their position is in the queue.

5.40 p.m.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it may be that, the economy having proved to be standing still, the Minister of Finance, notwithstanding all his brave words, is really unprepared to advance on any front whatsoever. I want to return to the Survey to deal with all the figures which he quoted to the House in 1971. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I will deal with sugar. The Survey says that sugar's contribution to the economy of Barbados was 11% less in 1971 than it was in 1970. I accept that; I am not blaming the Government for that. Let it be said early that it was a misfortune of nature and the troubled conditions attendant upon the change over from cutting fresh cane to cutting burnt cane. We have to accept that. But manufacturing in Barbados, despite the rise in price for the very manufactured goods, despite the fact that manufactured goods were going up in price, manufacturing increased only 8% last year as compared with 15½% the year before.

Construction stood still, despite the Prime Minister's very inept attempt, which appears to have ended in failure, to expand this sector of the economy. Construction which had risen 23% in 1970 rose only 1.2% last year. In other words, it fell back because wages were higher. I refer to construction, among other things, and the wages paid in the construction industry. Government activity which rose 21% in 1970, rose only 10% last year — 10.8%. At least, it did not rise with the assistance of advanced salaries for the civil servants. Again, Mr. Speaker, it rose only by the sort of amount that prices are as a whole rose by.

With regard to the adverse balance of trade, we have given warning after warning in this House upon this occasion and upon other

occasions that no economy can carry on with a widening adverse balance of trade. We have seen the mighty United States brought to its knees by adverse balance of payment, by the need to restrict imports and to expand exports. The great American dollar, hoarded in Barbados for its supposed value, turns out to be worth less than our little, humble dollar bill and five dollar bill in which we have placed so little trust. The United States dollar had to be devalued. Why? Because of an adverse balance of trade leading to an adverse balance of payment. It is not a phrase that you hear much of in Barbados, and it deserves explanation. When a Minister of Finance allows the adverse balance of payment to multiply itself by three in five years, when he does what no Minister of Finance in any developed country professing sound, radical, conservative, reactionary, communist, progressive, or any kind of economic principles you will like to name, as long as the principles are understood, no Minister of Finance would allow the economy to get so wildly out of shape. What is an adverse balance of payment? It means that we are importing much more into Barbados than we are exporting. We have an adverse balance of payment now of \$183.7 million a year. We are importing \$183 million more than we are exporting.

Tourists receipts account for only \$66 million; so even if all of those receipts can be regarded as going towards this adverse balance of payment — money coming in from outside — you are still left with a massive difference. That difference is being financed by the monetary inter-relationship between, firstly, the countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority and, secondly, the relationship with the £ Sterling. The Prime Minister is setting up a Central Bank to cut us off from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority. He is going to set up a separate currency. That is the first step, I suggest, in a devaluation of the Barbados dollar, and I am not afraid to say so. With a balance of payment like this, no country is going to be satisfied to carry another country financially on its back.

We talk a lot about not getting any help from abroad from Britain. Who finances our adverse trade balance? It is financed by inputs into the only sterling bank in this Island from overseas which is Barclays Bank. In the long run it is financed by the free movement and convertibility of the Eastern Caribbean dollar and sterling. If you have to pay in sterling you, in effect, cable London and pay your suppliers in England in sterling. That is exactly and precisely how our balance of payment is financed. I am

not, in the least, surprised to see that the banks have become net importers of funds from abroad, for where so massive a payment has to be made outside Barbados, how else can it be financed but from the inflow of capital? That is how I see it. Mr. Speaker, it is more complex than can easily be explained, but some explanation would be called for on the Floor of the House. These are problems that we have to consider. I do not want to be a voice crying in the wilderness about a balance of payment. It is not a word — like Mr. Tudor a former member in here, I learned in my first week at Oxford and therefore repeat it. You never heard it from me at all until it became a problem. It is time we hear it now from the Prime Minister, because he above all as Minister of Finance must know it is a problem. You should not be hearing it from me. If the rule is "Keep Dipper Skipper," then the skipper must be giving the directions to the team. You do not ask the captain of the other side to come forward and tell the bowlers how to bowl. You do not ask me to set the field. The captain should be setting the field and dealing with problems like this. That is what should be done. Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward confidently to hearing an analysis next year about the balance of payment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention one thing in passing. I refer to Carifta, and I am dealing with this problem of overseas trade. The volume of trade with the Carifta areas has, undoubtedly, gone up, but I just want hon. members to take note of this. We are importing much more from Carifta and we are not exporting so much to them. The first effect of Carifta, as Mr. Deputy Speaker will be aware, is the destruction of the cooking oil industry in Barbados, reducing our exports and increasing our imports at the same time. Last year the exports from Carifta increased by \$5 million. The Prime Minister has told us about imports from Carifta, but he has not told us one word about what he is doing to increase our exports.

With regard to tourism, we have a Minister of Tourism, but if we want an economic analysis of the value of tourism we have to turn to other quarters.
5.50 p.m.

I have not heard one word from the Minister of Tourism in the middle of all of his trips abroad to explain to the people of Barbados that they now have a new phenomenon on the scene, namely, that the visitors are increasing but they are not spending any more money. Last year the cruise ships passengers fell by a few, but the ordinary visitors increased nearly 20 per cent, but they only spent 4 per cent more money. This is a

problem, Mr. Speaker. We must know why. We must get to understand why. When 20,000 people come into Barbados and immediately reveal that they are tourists of a different spending pattern, we have to ask ourselves whether the high cost luxury hotels represent what is needed in Barbados tourism today. These may be visitors from the other West Indian Islands whom I regard as the most desirable of all, because they are not going to be kept away by storms and alarms in foreign parts; but we should hear about it and we should be satisfied that the Government is giving that assistance to those who cater to the new type of visitor which alone will make an expansion of tourism meaningful in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to deal at any length with agriculture in this reply. This debate will continue long after the cameras have gone away and other hon. members on this side would have contributions to make, but I am just going to draw generally to the attention of hon. members and the public at large the extraordinary history of agriculture in the last two or three years. We have been told that we must have crop diversification; it is necessary to have crop diversification for import substitution; we must produce more vegetables and other foods here so that we can reduce the high import bill and take some corrective action about balance of payments.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some thirty years ago a Government which even then was dominated by sugar estate owners, sugar merchants and others took a step to restrict the planting of sugar over the whole acreage of a plantation in the interest of feeding the people. A certain acreage on a plantation had to be planted in food crops for the people. What is there in 1972 to support a reversal of such a step except to put more money in the plantation owners' pockets? It is purely a step to satisfy those who see that a better price is now being paid for sugar and therefore want to bring more sugar land into production to catch it while they can. The planters of 1942, the plantocrats who dominated this Assembly did not then and never subsequently repealed the steps requiring food to be grown for the people of plantations, but this Government of 1972, the people's Government they say, can take such a step. I am yet to hear the economic argument; no doubt there will be an extensive debate on it at another stage, but it was not comprised one way or another in the Budget Speech; so I will not dwell on it at any greater length.

Mr. Speaker, before the details of the Budget itself, a few more small things, not a

debate on all Government activities, but some examples, for we analyse budgets and Government statements of policy on what the measures proposed therein are doing to solve the problems. I want to select a few of these problems. Nobody can deny that employment is one of the great problems of Barbados today, and I want to tell hon. members how my party and I look at this problem, because the Barbados Labour Party's stand on employment starts with education. We believe that education must be directed towards social and economic ends. We believe that education must occupy children until they are ready for a job and until a job is ready for them. We do not believe in having any hiatus of young boys and girls having to spend fruitless and idle years home while looking for work. It is our policy that young people must be able to find work when they complete their education. Other countries have done it. The reactionary Government of Bermuda says it cannot have any more hotels in Bermuda because there is nobody to work in them. Other countries have done it. We see nothing being done in ten years of this Government to get such a policy implemented in Barbados. It will always be our stand, Mr. Speaker. As it is, the extent of the problem cannot even be told because proper figures are not published.

Housing is another point, Mr. Speaker. We in this party believe that housing is the greatest physical problem now facing Barbadians. The Emperor Augustus close to his death bed boasted that he found Rome built of brick and he left it built of marble. I hope for my part that I will live to see the day when every Barbadian family lives in a properly built stone house with water and electricity and proper road access to it. That is the long term aim of the Barbados Labour Party. We do not believe in the proliferation of impermanent wooden houses, and we do not have to go into the unsavoury details which less generous persons might assign to the motives of those responsible for that proliferation.

Land policy, Sir. We have not seen anything in the Budget to deal with this. We see nothing about housing or land policy as a whole. We do not believe in the alienation of the birth-right of Barbadians which is our 166 square miles. We can never believe that. We want to see a unified land policy. First of all, I cannot accept that it is right in a small country such as ours for those who are called aliens, to own land generally without restrictions. A policy such as this, you can only come to, after a lot of heart searching. You do not want to appear to be against anybody, but Barbados is only 166 square miles. I have done some research in the last few days and I found

that the common law of England does not allow aliens to own land. It rests upon statute in England. That goes back to time immemorial. I do not believe that foreign companies set up in the Cayman Islands for the purpose of concealing from Barbadians who the owners of Barbadian soil are, should be allowed to divide up land in Barbados for speculative purposes. I am not attacking anybody. There may be hon. members in here who are concerned in Cayman Island companies; I implore them not to take it personally. They have been misled. Every piece of land in Barbados, you should be able to go into the Registry and see whom it belongs to, and I do not believe that foreigners not resident in Barbados should be allowed to speculate in land at all. That applies to companies as well as individuals. When I say foreigners I am not attacking persons who have resident permits here; let that be understood. If somebody comes here with the intention of residing and obtains a residence permit, to my mind the policy of land transfer which allows him to be treated as a Barbadian like other Barbadians, is a correct policy.

I am not against somebody coming here, obtaining residence permission and speculating in land. After all, unkind persons would say he may have to recover his investment somehow, but I am not against that. People who live in Barbados must be treated equally, Mr. Speaker, but they must not speculate out of our scarcest factor of production.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what was in the Budget itself? I have dealt with one or two things that we were looking for and did not see. What is the main thing to notice about the Budget? That it attacked the Civil Service and the teachers. Why do we get this year after year? What have the Civil Service and the teachers done? What are they to do with the Budget? I thought Budgets were about things you were doing, not about things you were not doing. The teachers are attacked. They are churlish; opposition is mentioned. Who are these people who are being attacked? Who are these militants? The only teacher I have ever seen on television speaking about the Government or anything like that is a very gracious lady, the headmistress of Queen's College, one of the most outstanding women of Barbados, the first Barbados Scholar. Is it she who is being attacked because she is against the Government from a particular point of view? Is it she who is being described as being churlish and militant? Is it not possible to hold a view in opposition to the Prime Minister without incurring his eternal and perpetual wrath? God

help, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications and Works after today!
6.00 p.m.

It is time to call a halt on the attacks on the army of occupation and on the secondary school teachers. It is quite possible to say that Ministers' and higher Civil Servants' salaries are big enough, and we know that Ministers' salaries are big enough, we said it several years ago when they were raised. I myself was not here, Mr. Speaker, but I am glad that hon. members on that side have now come around to such a point of view. We know all that quite well, but what has it got to do with our budget? Why must we go on with this personalisation of politics? Year after year these unfortunate people, many of whom are only doing their best, having to suffer these attacks on every possible occasion.

What is this incomes policy? How can you have an incomes policy without a prices policy, Mr. Speaker, and not one word about a prices policy. Prices are allowed to rise 16 per cent and now you are going to tell Barbadians that there is going to be an incomes policy. An incomes policy means one thing, that people's incomes are going to be kept down. It is only a euphemism for not paying people more money in their different spheres of activity, that is all it means, but you cannot have such a policy unless you are prepared to have a rigid control of prices. In the United States context — and I am no Republican, Sir, I am of the parties of the reactionaries — but how is it we can look at President Nixon, a man who represents those with something to sell rather than those who are looking for something to buy, how is it President Nixon can restrain price rises in the United States in the most rigid manner imaginable, prosecute people for conspiracy, for breaking the law when they charge prices, impose penalties on them and we in Barbados have an unrestricted price rise going around us all the time? Incomes cannot be kept down without prices, and again I would not have to dwell on this at any length, food has gone up in price a great deal, and what are the things on which the Minister of Finance puts tax on in his Budget, hot dogs. The poor little children going to Fairs, Secretaries in Bridgetown, do they make hot dogs in CARIFTA? Is there anywhere in CARIFTA where English apples are grown? I predict that raising the prices of English apples is going to raise the price of all fruit. I ask hon. members to go out and look and see if that does not happen, because there are occasions of the year when English apples are the cheapest fruit to be obtained here, and when there is no longer the competition from apples — I am not referring only to apples, oranges, bananas, mangoes as well

— when there is no competition from apples, wait and see what happens to the prices of CARIFTA fruits. Taxing English apples raises the price of all fresh fruits, I am confidently predicting that.

Ham. Do you mean now that the poor man in the street can look forward to eating ham a little more freely, ham is going to be taxed? Can Trinidad or wherever CARIFTA hams come from, supply the demand in Barbados? Now that the poor man can drink a little more whisky, whisky is going to go up? Do you mean the minute you have aspirations towards a wider and more desirable range of food and beverages all these foods must be taxed. And what was the last item of all taxed, Mr. Speaker? Other food preparations. Not satisfied with setting out a large number of particular items, the last item is Other Foods. If there was ever a time when any taxation was completely and entirely wrong, bad policy, it is the present time after there has been so spectacular a rise in food in Barbados.

Motor licences, licences by weight. Do you mean that when you buy a second or third-hand old Mercedes now, you have to pay the same tax as somebody who has bought a new one? These are taxes which are naturally discriminatory, because being indirect taxes, they naturally bear more heavily upon the poorest class of person. What more needs to be said about this Budget than that the President of the Chamber of Commerce found it reasonable? He is their man you know, I do not mean personally, I do not know a thing about the gentleman, but he is their man, that is where they got their votes from in the election. Go all through Hastings and Rockley, Highgate Gardens, Graeme Hall Terrace, Dover, that is where they got their votes from. St. Lawrence, they are who have to be satisfied at a time like this.

The Prime Minister talked a lot about election budgets. He blinded us with figures, he said how could you impose new taxation this year because last year was such a good year. On page 10 of the copy of the Budget Speech which has been sent to me, the Prime Minister said that this year, income tax is not going to be very high because the Departments will be called upon to refund the excess collections of 1971 which were made on the basis of the old rates and allowances. The income tax refunds for 1972 are expected to be about \$2.2 million more than the average for previous years. That is page ten.

On page 25 now he says that last year, 1971, was the year when the largest refund ever had to be given back to those who overpaid. Which year is it, 1971 or 1972? He speaks with

one voice on page 10 and another voice on page 25.

Mr. Speaker, there is a talk about the \$20 million that was spent on Capital works last year. I defy any Barbadian to come and stand up in front of any of us and tell us what the \$20 million has done for the benefit of Barbados. Where is it? The Housing Authority got \$4 million of it, some houses may have been built, but where are the schools, where are the roads, where are the new Public Buildings, where are the great housing estates arising out of this \$20 million? It is a figure pure and simple, a figure inflated by the rise in prices last year. That is exactly what it is. Where is the new Post Office, where is the new Seawell Airport? For \$20 million we in the Barbados Labour Party built the whole Deep Water Harbour, what has the Government done for this big boast of \$20 million last year?

Mr. Speaker, time is getting a little short and I want to deal with some of the things that we would like to have seen in the Budget. I want to praise the National Insurance Department of this country. It is a superbly run Department, its Head is an outstanding Civil Servant. The present Head of the Civil Service and himself in my view have no peers, no equals in the Public Service of this Island for the quality of their expertise and the efficiency which they bring to bear on anything they have done in the Service. It is a Department run quite outstandingly, and it is accumulating a lot of money. The two things are not necessarily synonymous, but in this case they are. Certain things have to be done for the people of Barbados. Persons in our view who are unemployed must expect to get some kind of unemployment pay. That is a proposal which we are looking to see in a Budget. The National Insurance Fund can very nearly afford it, and we will suggest to the Prime Minister that if they cannot afford it entirely then they must take a leaf from the Government of Trinidad and introduce an unemployment levy on the firms of this Island to pay into an unemployment fund so that when somebody who has been in work fall out of work, he can have payment by the week as is done in all civilised countries.

6.10 p.m.

Germany did this in the 1880's and people were given an amount weekly to tide them over until they got the next job. We believe that can be afforded. We also believe that the National Insurance Fund can afford, at least, the beginning of a free health service. We have plugged this in here a good deal. We in the Barbados Labour Party believe that there must be a free health

service in the Island. I believe in the first debate after the Elections, I pressed this on hon. members and we will press it and force it on them for the other five years until the Government brings it into force. These are matters of which account could have been taken.

Mr. Speaker, we have already mentioned the question of the old age pension increase, but I want to say something that I did not canvass fully when we were talking about housing. The policy of house construction has failed. The business of providing mortgage money at 9½ % to help people build houses, has, so far as we can see, done very little to stimulate house building in Barbados, because people cannot afford to pay 9½ % on mortgage funds. Some other means must be found to stimulate house building in this country. It is one of the primers of the economy; it gives work, and it gives people houses. Something must be done to get it moving once again. Mortgage funds are cheaper all around us in the Caribbean. Steps must be taken to bring down the price of mortgage funds in Barbados.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who will appreciate this Budget? I have already made reference to the electorate in certain parts of Barbados. It is a very unstable electorate, and I use the word "unstable" in its best sense, because there are people who, perhaps, vote according to their economic interest as they see it — their social, political and economic interests. That is the whole point of the matter. In certain countries parties are stratified by class. One economic class supports one party, another economic class supports the other and there is a margin between the two for which the two parties fight. It is not so in Barbados and do not let anybody ever fool you about that in this country. Certain classes of society support one party in one election and another party in the next. Those who are referred to as the conservatives supported the Democratic Labour Party in 1961; they supported our party in 1966, and supported the Democratic Labour Party massively in 1971. Do not have any doubt about this. I will take any member through every polling district in Barbados and ask him who lives there and for whom they voted and he will find out.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Budget by the champion of stability; a Budget by the foe of radicalism, as evinced in the last general election. Well, I view it this way: this budget has paid off its supporters on that last occasion. Let him now turn to some progressive policies. Few things will arise before 1976. That party may be or may not be with us on that occasion. Who knows or who can tell? Let some radical and progressive policies

come through to the people from now on. Not an hon. member on the other side can tell you that Barbados should not have better housing, a free health service, unemployment insurance, and a superior land policy. All of us will have to agree with that, and I believe that we can afford some of it at this stage. We only need to re-organise ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, some years ago Sir Alec Douglas Home, the Prime Minister for a short time of Great Britain and now, I believe, the Foreign Secretary, described himself as a match-stick economist because he used to do his economics on match sticks. We cannot quite call the Prime Minister a match-stick economist on this occasion. He deals in full boxes. We have to call

this Budget on this occasion the match-box Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I think this concludes Government Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 4th July, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
6.20 p.m.