THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT
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FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 6th 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. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; 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); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. A. MORRISON and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of this House for 27th July, 1971, are before you for confirmation, and if there is no objection, they will be confirmed.

There being no objection, the Minutes are confirmed.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Statement of Accounts of the General Insurance Fund for the year 1970–71.

Also, the Summary Information on the Performance of the Economy during 1971.

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 19, asked by the hon. member for St. Thomas, is ready.

Hon. F. G. Smith laid the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 19.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Parliament, I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Christ Church East on the award of C.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1972.

The honourable member was Secretary of the Progressive League from 1938–41, and was also the first General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party.

During the period 1945–48, he was the General Secretary of the National Congress Party and served as Minister in "The Bushe Experiment," as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Law and Public Works during the period 1947–48.

When full Ministerial System was instituted in Barbados in 1954, he was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries for the Session 1961–64; and as Minister of Communications & Works for the Session 1964–65; and Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development for the Session 1965–69.

After the abolition of the Local Government Councils, he was appointed Minister of Health & Community Development for the Session 1969–71.

The honourable member for Christ Church East is at present Minister of State, and Leader of the House with responsibility for all Parliamentary Matters and Government Printing.

Mr. Talma represented the parish of Christ Church from 1944–48 and then from 1951–71. He now represents the constituency of Christ Church East for the Session 1971–76.

On behalf of this Honourable Chamber, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the hon. member for Christ Church East. *(Cheers.)*

Messrs. J. M. G. M. ADAMS and E. D. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition, I have very great pleasure in associating myself with the remarks made by the hon. member. I had an opportunity of reading them before entering the House and I have also had an opportunity within the last few days of reviewing some of the honourable member's early political life, and I have perused certain papers which were in my late father's archives. It may surprise you to hear that this very day, I was reading his first address to the electors of the parish of Christ Church and looking at some old newspaper cuttings with his reported speeches, and looking through indeed the Minute Book in which the first proceedings of the Barbados Labour Party were kept in his handwriting.

The honourable member for Christ Church East has enjoyed the confidence of the electors of the parish of Christ Church, with only one minor interruption, for a great many years, and although he has never in fact received my vote, I am sure he will understand that in these days of Party such things are not entirely possible. He has enjoyed the confidence of both of the great political parties of our State and of the late West Indian National Congress, and he has held positions in all these political parties without ever participating in the bitter enmities and rivalries for which political parties in small countries are unfortunately too well known and only too much given.

It is with a profound sense of pleasure that I can hold out the hand of congratulation to the hon. member, – and he will know that it is a hand offered in sincerity, a hand offered in friendship, and a hand offered in appreciation of the many years' of service which he has given to the people of Barbados. I look forward to many more years of service indeed by the hon. member in this or any other capacity to which he may be called by the people of Barbados or in any other part of the West Indies. *(Cheers).*

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to say on this matter that when the history of the Barbados Workers' Union and of Barbados in general is being written, the name of the hon. member for Christ Church East must figure in those pages. I would also like personally to add congratulations on behalf of the Chair to the hon. member.

3.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker and hon. members of this House, it is indeed a special privilege and pleasure for me this afternoon to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my numerous colleagues, both in the House today and those who have been here before, with whom I have associated for many long years and whom I know have already expressed their congratulations and best wishes to me, and I would like to say how grateful I am to all on the award which has been given to me by Her Majesty the Queen, the C.B.E.. As I stand here, I could hardly do otherwise but to recall my happy association with my former colleagues, both in the Barbados Labour Party and in the West Indian National Congress Party, many of whom are still alive and active, and it is only natural that I should refer to them when I received their assistance, support and encouragement. To all of them I am indeed very grateful, but my deepest gratitude of all would normally, as you would expect, go to the people of Christ Church as a whole, the entire parish of Christ Church, and to my numerous advisers, canvassers and supporters generally who rallied to my aid over the years and persisted in sending me to the House of Assembly over a number of years. It is to them that whatever honour comes my way, should go. I think they should share it because without their support and assistance nothing would be possible, so I feel very deeply on this and I am profoundly grateful and will always remain indebted to the people of Christ Church.

I would like to join with these sentiments the particular constituents whom I represent today, the constituents of Christ Church East, who on the last occasion saw fit to give me their unstinted support and send me back in. Nothing could have been possible unless I had joined the Democratic Labour Party in 1957 and became a very active member of that Party under the leadership of our Prime Minister, the hon. member for St. John, so that it is to the Democratic Labour Party and the people of Christ Church that I find myself deeply indebted in being so fortunate as to receive this award of C.B.E. On an occasion like this, these speeches are not necessary, I have always tried in

my quiet way – although I can be very vociferous at times – to perform my duties, and I am hoping for the continued cooperation of all the members of the House to assist me to continue to perform my duties to the satisfaction not only of Parliament but also to the public. Thank you very much, Sir, for the kind sentiments and the sentiments expressed by my colleague on this side, the Hon. Minister of Health and Welfare, and the Leader of the Opposition. *(Cheers)*

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 any matter of urgent importance which the Opposition may wish to deal at this time.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Leader of the House will give way, this has nothing to do with the business before the House, but I am quite sure that this is your first occasion as Speaker of the House when the Budget is to be presented. I have had the honour of being here on five occasions and I have seen the personnel from the television station operate before now, and it has always been customary to have these lights turned on only when the Prime Minister is about to begin his address. I am sure that at this stage, you are rather uncomfortable, and I would be grateful if you would ask the technician who is responsible for this, to turn off these lights until such time as they are needed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have asked the Marshal to ask the technicians of CBC if this could be done. In the meantime, Government Business could be proceeded with.

AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, there are certain amendments which were made by the Other Place to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1972 which was passed by this Chamber last week. These amendments appear to be in order, but I would like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that it is proposed to insert a new Schedule in place of the present Schedule.
3.50 p.m.

This arises mainly because of the amendment to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1970, which, apparently, was due to an oversight, but in submitting the new Schedule for the old Schedule it does not change any of the rates. It is a reclassification and no rate is changed. I think the Clerk has passed around copies of the proposed new Schedule, and, as I have mentioned already, the rates remain identically the same, but the 1970 Act reclassifies, in certain respects, certain things which were overlooked on the last occasion when we dealt with the matter.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, am I to understand that this is an amendment to something which we dealt with last week? If we object to doing this today – of course, might is going to be right on this occasion. *(Asides)* It is the duty of the Opposition to be the people's watch–dog. You are bringing something here a few minutes before the budgetary proposals are presented, and you are asking us to vote for these amendments. This matter affects legislation, but I must, at this stage, refer again to Government's slipshodded approach to the policies of this country.

My hon. friend the Minister of Communications and Works is responsible for this Ministry, but I regret to say that it is unfortunate that you should have legislation of this nature and on such an occasion.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has risen on a point of order. Will the hon. member kindly give way.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making a speech on a representation of the Leader of the House which has not yet even been seconded. Is he seconding the proposal for the amendment, or is he going to allow it to be seconded and then make a speech on it? He will have to get up when the amendment is put to the House and make a speech on it, in due course, but I do not think it is within the reasonable concept of Parliamentary procedure for the hon. member to make a speech on a matter before the amendment is seconded. I am sure the hon. member will agree with that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member for.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Sir, if the hon. member.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member kindly sit down, please. Will both hon. members sit down! I was under the impression that the Hon. Leader of the House's motion had been seconded, and on that basis I allowed the hon. member to speak. As that has not been done, I will ask the hon. member for St. James kindly to withhold any comments he wants to make on the introduction to the amendment to the Bill until such time as the amendment has been properly put.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, what I am explaining to you, as the Acting Attorney–General, is that this is a Bill that has come from the Upper House, which has the right to make amendments to anything sent to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member kindly take his seat, for the same reason that the motion has not been put.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion has not been even seconded. I understand that the Hon. Leader of the House has not even finished speaking yet.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I will deal first with the amendments from the Senate. The Senate has seen it fit to make certain amendments which have been circulated to hon. members, but over and above that it has been discovered that the reclassification of the Act of 1970 was not strictly observed and a new Schedule with the same rates is being substituted in order to bring it into line with the 1970 reclassification. That is all.

I beg to move – the Clerk will read the first amendment.

Mr. CLERK: Mr. Speaker, the first amendment is as follows:

"Delete clause 2 and substitute the following

2. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 hereinafter referred to as the principal Act is amended –

(a) by deleting the definition "local government area" appearing in subsection (1) thereof; and

(b) by the repeal of subsection (2) thereof."

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. I have not been circulated with any sheet relating to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not appear either to me that this amendment has been put and seconded. Has it been seconded?

Mr. ADAMS: With respect, Sir. When the Senate sends down an amendment, the Senate cannot move an amendment in this House. You cannot circulate a document saying that amendments are made by the Senate, and then the Clerk reads them out and you put them to the vote in here.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is being done, if I can bring the hon. member up to date, is that the Clerk is only giving notice of this particular amendment. It is now to be put and seconded.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House doth agree with the Honourable the Senate in the said Amendments.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is, "That this House doth agree with the Honourable the Senate in the said Amendments."

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the question is that Standing Order 49 has not been suspended. The Bill has to be returned with a list of the Senate's amendments. The Bill has to be returned – not just the Senate's amendments. That is point No. 1, as laid down by Standing Order 49(2) –

"Upon consideration of the amendments, the House may agree, disagree or make amendments thereto, or may propose amendments in lieu thereof."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. I have a copy of the Bill here. The Bill has been returned.

Mr. ADAMS: The returned Bill is not before me, Sir. I do not have the Bill that we are supposed to be working on. I, genuinely, cannot understand it, Sir. I want to speak on the procedure involved in this, but I do not know at what stage I will have a chance to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are now speaking, and you may continue. You are on your feet on a point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: No, Sir. I am speaking now because somebody has moved a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I want to speak on the Bill and on the procedure involved in the incompetence of a Ministry which has not advised the Prime Minister that the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act was amended in 1970, and has allowed the Prime Minister to make a foolish mistake with congratulations. I now understand the purpose of the Minister's speech last week in congratulating the Prime Minister and so on. I want to discuss how the Attorney–General or Acting Attorney-General can be so incompetent as to allow a Bill to come before the House without telling the House that it has been amended and, therefore, the wrong amendment is being considered.
4 p.m.

I want to know the proper moment to do that. As I understand it, the Senate has sent down amendments, but the Senate normally sends down reasons. Read Standing Order No. 49. The Minister is supposed to say whether the Government accepts the amendments or not.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, if the Bill is a monetary Bill or financial Bill, the Senate cannot give any reasons to this House. How can the Senate give reasons for what it is limited by the Constitution in altering? This Bill, the Prime Minister made quite clear was part of his Budgetary Proposals. How can the Senate which has no say in monetary matters give reasons to this House for something that is a money Bill? Whom is he talking to, a legal novitiate?

Mr. SPEAKER: I rule that no reasons need be given in what is obviously a financial measure.

Mr. ADAMS: If the Senate cannot give reasons, it cannot amend. If it is financial, the Senate cannot amend at all. Either it can amend and give reasons or it cannot amend; so what nonsense is this? The Constitution says that the Senate cannot amend money Bills; so if the Senate cannot amend, this Bill is out of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two hon. members on their feet. Will both hon. members please sit?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Leader of the Opposition is wrong in his interpretation of the Constitution. The Senate can amend, and if he would read the Constitution, he would see that the Senate can amend. Whom is he talking to? If I could get a copy of the Constitution I would show him that the Senate can amend.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard both hon. members. I rule that even though this is a money matter that the amendments sent down by the Senate are implicitly accepted by the Government, if not, they would not have been put, they can be made because they are essentially not typographical but amendments in the wording of the Bill, not an amendment to any of the financial provisions thereof.

Mr. ADAMS: A proper ruling if I may say so with the greatest possible respect, but it should not be directed to me, if Your Honour does not mind my saying so. I have not objected to the amendments on the grounds that the Senate cannot amend a money Bill. It is not me that got up and talked that foolishness; but if the Senate can amend, it can give reasons. It is not me that said this is a monetary Bill and the Senate cannot do this, that or the next with it. Law says some people can change more quickly than the chamelion. I remember the late Sir Grantley Adams speaking of Mr. Neville Boxill and saying that when at long last Barbados gets a zoo, the hon. member will find his rightful place. When at long last we get an insect sanctuary, certain hon. members may be able to demonstrate their chamelion-like qualities.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member wants a row, he is going to get a row. He cannot refer to the hon. members of this House as insects.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It must be a point of order. You cannot speak of hon. members of this House, not me, because he cannot speak to me, in this way. He has not got the respect of this community that I have. Not even his Party trusts him; so let us get our facts straight. You must not allow him to refer to hon. members of this House in a derogatory manner.

Mr. SPEAKER: No hon. member was being referred to in a derogatory manner.

Mr. ADAMS: I am really trying to talk. I do not know why I was interrupted in the first place with constitutional foolishness. I was at the Constitutional conference; the hon. member was not. I really do not know why.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not relevant to this matter before us.

Mr. ADAMS: The whole thing is not relevant. I am genuinely trying to get at the reasons for this. I have not even got a Bill before me. A few minutes ago something was circulated saying "Amendments made by the Honourable the Senate." I think they mean amendments proposed by the Honourable the Senate, because the Senate cannot amend a Bill without our concurrence. The Minister got up. Has he moved that Clause 2 be deleted and this be substituted in the Bill? Is it correct to move it here or in Committee? All these things I do not know. I am genuinely at a stage where I do not believe that the correct procedure is being followed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Senate's amendments which are now before us are done before the House and not in the Committee of the House. The Hon. Leader of the House has proposed these amendments and they have been seconded. *(Noise from the Gallery.)*

I direct the Marshal to have that member of the Gallery removed forthwith. *(Asides)*

Will hon. members not refer to anybody in the Gallery? And will hon. members who are not on their feet refrain from making interruptions?

My understanding is that the Leader of the House proposed that the amendments sent down by the Senate be agreed to by this Honourable Chamber. Both Clauses were proposed and seconded at the same time, Clause 2 and Clause 11, therefore you may speak on Clauses 2 and 11 at the same time.

Mr. ADAMS: The Leader of the House has really given no reasons for these amendments. What is the reason behind the amendments? There must be some reason why the definition of "Local Government Area" is being repealed. I have not got the Bill before me. Sir, I can speculate as to why Section 24 of the principal Act is being amended, because that was forgotten in the drafting last week? With great respect, if this could be read again, you will see it says: "Delete clause 2 and substitute the following –" and the marginal note refers to section 2, but the amendment does not refer to section 2. If any hon. member would read it carefully, he would see what I mean.

"The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act is amended –

(a) by deleting the definition "local Government area" appearing in subsection (1) thereof;"

That does not make sense. Subsection (1) of what section?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, it says "Delete Clause 2 and substitute the following." How do you mean it does not say what section it is referring to?

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central really must learn not to get up....

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Hon. Leader of the Opposition refrain from making personal remarks and get on with the amendments?

Mr. ADAMS: I make sport in here with the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member refrain from making personal remarks?

Mr. ADAMS: The point I am trying to make is that the hon. member does not understand what I am talking about, and he has interrupted me four separate times.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When I was a lawyer, he was learning to be a Judge. Are you the only person in Barbados who knows law?

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to warn the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that when an hon. member is on his feet, he can be interrupted on two occasions: on a point of order or on a point of elucidation. The hon. member got up just now on neither point. Please refrain from these unnecessary interruptions. Will the hon. member for St. Thomas kindly continue with his remarks?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of elucidation, the hon. member has a copy of the amendments made by the Senate; probably he has not got a copy of the Bill we dealt with before him, but the amendment says "Delete Clause 2 and substitute the following –

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 hereinafter referred to as the principal Act is amended –

(a) by deleting the definition "local government area" appearing in subsection (1) thereof; and

(b) by the repeal of subsection (2) thereof."

We are putting this in place of section 2.
4.10 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I think the whole idea behind this, Mr. Speaker, is that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member making a speech? He has not risen on a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: No hon. member was on his feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not risen on a point of order, and I warn you that this will be your first and last time to speak on this matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I appreciate this, but I think I can shed some light on the matter. The taxes should be collected by the Collector of Taxes, but the Act provided that they be collected by a particular Local Government area. Local Government has been abolished, and there is one Collector of Taxes in the country, so this is only to regularise the situation.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, may I continue my speech?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition having given way I have given the hon. member for St. Andrew permission to speak and he is exercising this right now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What I am saying, as I understand it, there is one Collector of Taxes and this amendment is to regularise the situation and abolish the question of collection in Local Government areas where you have a central authority for the collection of taxes.

Mr. ADAMS: With respect, Sir, I would ask hon. members to remember that every day perhaps certain hon. members on this side deal with legal documents. I beg of all those persons who have been lawyers longer than me and who have been in the Government longer than me to remember that they are not dealing with legal documents every day. Section 2 of the amending Act last week read: "Section 2 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 hereinafter referred to as the principal Act is amended by the repeal of subsection (2) thereof." This week you have not put into the amending clause which section is being amended, and if hon. members instead of interrupting – and I do not really mean the hon. member for St. Andrew because he has given valuable information – they would try to follow and see the point, we would understand what is going on.

This section as sent down by the Senate is meaningless. Any Parliamentary draftsman who looks at it and allows himself to think, will appreciate that, because what the Senate has done, is to amend two subsections, without amending the section. The marginal note is not a part of the amending section, therefore you have to add a line to the Senate's amendment, you have to add the words: "Section 2 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 is amended –....." That is all.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the understanding is that the amendment which the hon. member is now referring to has already been done in the 1958 when the Act 1958–55 was passed.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I ask hon. members before they speak again to look at the amendment.

1. Delete clause 2 and substitute the following-

"Amendment of section 2 of Act 1937–16

2. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 hereinafter referred to as the principal Act is amended –

(a) by deleting the definition "local government area" appearing in subsection (1) thereof; and

(b) by the repeal of subsection (2) thereof."

This amendment refers to subsection (1), but subsection (1) of what? Section 2 must be recited in the amending clause, there is no question about its being amended in 1958. It was amended in 1942, in 1958 and again in 1966. I believe there were even further amendments, and this is one time I wish Sir Theodore Brancker was in here because he participated in all those amendments and this will be the first amendment that he has not participated in and he perhaps will see the point I am making, but you have to add the words: "Section 2" if it is to make any sense. The Senate with all the wisdom and abundance of talent it has up there, has not put it in.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will give way, I think that on this occasion he is correct. This is an Act which was passed by this Hon. Chamber and I could not in fairness to this Hon. Chamber allow this amendment to proceed, so we have to send it back to the Honourable the Senate for circulation. I will ask the Clerk to check on the procedure.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, if I may.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Clerk is checking something, will the hon. member kindly keep silence for a moment?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. member kindly to take his seat for a moment.

4.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA rose--

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS rose--

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House caught my eye first.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House caught my eye first.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Let us get this straight. I stood up before the Hon. Leader of the House and you asked me to sit. You have to hear me before you hear the Leader of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Andrew is making a very serious breach of the Rules of this House. When the Chair stands the hon. member should sit. I have treated the hon. member for St. Andrew with as much lenience as I am prepared to give to any hon. member this evening. My patience has its limits. The hon. member or any hon. member must not do that again. The hon. Leader of the House caught my eye first.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I see the point which the Leader of the Opposition is making. He is suggesting that the words "section 2" were omitted, and that....

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say this. I want to have this matter sent back to the Senate for clarification. In this case I am not prepared at this point to hear further argument....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I just want to draw your attention to.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to hear further argument on this matter at this stage. I want it sent back to the Senate for clarification. This Honourable House must not engage in hasty legislation. *(Interruption.)* Will hon. members on both sides keep silence! It is better that the House proceed slowly and deliberately, and when these questions arise we should debate them in a careful manner and with due deliberation. I would, therefore, require the Senate to clarify that particular amendment before it comes back to this Honourable House.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, may I speak on a point of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: Sure.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, let us get this straight. I want to be listened to carefully. This is the second time in two weeks that an attempt was made in this House to thwart the authority of the House itself. The Senate has referred a Bill with amendments to the House and not to the Speaker. It is for the House, Mr. Speaker, I submit, to decide whether the House is going to deal with, accept, or overrule the recommendation or the amendment of the Senate.

With the greatest amount of humility, I submit that His Honour the Speaker cannot, constitutionally, decide unilaterally to send back a Bill to the Senate which has not been put to the House. If it is the wish of the House for that Bill to be dealt with, then no Speaker – not even the one in the House of Commons – can send it back to the Other Place.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the House appoints its Speaker, and the Speaker cannot take decisions inconsistent with the wishes of the House. The Speaker, after all, is the servant of the House. Now, I stood up to draw this to your attention and, as is customary, when you, Mr. Speaker, do not understand what the matter is all about, the first thing that can come to your mouth is to say "sit down." I know the Standing Orders, and I suggest that you learn them, too.

Mr. SPEAKER: While I appreciate guidance on points of the Standing Order, I would depreciate any personal references. I am very indebted to the hon. member for that intervention and, on reflection, I think he is entirely correct. It is quite right that the matter is before the whole House. I am very much indebted to the hon. member; it is within the jurisdiction of the House and not of the Speaker alone.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is precisely what I was trying to do.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You interrupted me. May I continue?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you take your seat, please. May I suggest to the hon. member that the door has already been opened. You have made your point; I have seen, and I have agreed. Let the House proceed with this matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, this is a democratic country. I said that I was speaking on a point of privilege. I have not completed my address; therefore, in all humility, again, I suggest that I be allowed to complete my address. If you, Mr. Speaker, consider that I was a bit personal, I apologise, but I want to make it clear that when I get up in here I either know what I am going to say, or I know what I am talking about. This is about the third time that an attempt was made at stifling me on the Floor. I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not going to get up in here and break the Standing Orders. If I see something going wrong, I will draw it to Your Honour's attention. In so doing I will appreciate that my right be given to me. I am not a nominated member; I am an elected member, elected by the people of this country on three consecutive occasions, and if I have to go back to the polls tomorrow, I shall be elected.

The point is that if it is a member on this side or a member on the other side, I think that he ought not to be denied his right of freedom of speech. There has been this attempt to stifle freedom of speech in this House far too often. It has not been the practice in the past. We go to the country, and we have to represent the people of this country in the right way. When we get up and make a suggestion, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you listen to what we have to say before you tell us to sit down. Perhaps, some of us, having more experience than others, can throw a lot of light on things and save them. I did not get up because I can get up. I got up to draw something to Your Honour's attention. In future I am begging that, when I stand and I am not breaking any Rules of the House, you should allow me to speak, because I am not going to be hushed. I am not made that way; I am not going to be silenced, and I am going to speak as my conscience tells me.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to say that the Chair has never made any attempt deliberately to stifle any member of this Honourable Chamber. The Chair maintains its essential humanity and fallibility, but the Chair will always endeavour to enforce the Standing Orders whether any hon. member regards that as stifling his right of speech or not. The Chair does not deliberately set out to stifle the right of speech of any hon. member.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, from your remarks, it would appear as if you understood me to say "deliberately". I refrained from using the word "deliberately". I said that in my opinion attempts have been made to stifle my freedom of speech.

Mr. CRAIG: Will the hon. member give way on a point of order? Sir, I really could not sit here and hear Your Honour being censured in such a manner. I am not going to sit here, Sir, and allow any member on that side or on this side to censure you, Mr. Speaker, without bringing a motion of "No Confidence" against you. That is what the hon. member for St. Andrew has been doing. He has used a point of privilege to do that. I do not know what point of privilege he is on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member finished?

Mr. CRAIG: I am asking you, Mr. Speaker, to ask the hon. member for St. Andrew to discontinue his speech. It is not fair to you, Mr. Speaker. You have been elected by the people. You have been nominated and seconded to the high office of Speaker and respect is due to you.
4.30 p.m.

Whatever rulings you may give, whether they are right or wrong, and a member disagreed with them, it is his bounden duty to bring a motion of no confidence against you, and the hon. member for St. Andrew knows that very well. But to get up on a point of privilege and to address the Chair in the manner in which he has been doing and censuring you, Mr. Speaker, in a rather diplomatic manner I think, is very unfair to the Chair and to this Honourable House. I am asking you to ask the hon. member to discontinue his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not accept that the Chair has been censured on this occasion. I simply think that the hon. member drew a very helpful and valid point to the Chair's attention and the Chair has taken it. I do not accept that the Chair is being censured.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: On a point of order, I would like to draw to the attention of this Chamber Standing Order No. 49 and I would like to read subsection 2 and 3.

"Upon consideration of the amendments, the House may agree, disagree or make amendments thereto, or may propose amendments in lieu thereof.

Unless all of the Senate's amendments are agreed to, the Bill shall be returned to the Senate by the Clerk with a list of the further amendments

and, if any amendments have been disagreed with, a list of reasons for such disagreement, and a Message desiring the concurrence of the Senate."

I would like to point out here that there seems to be an erroneous impression that the Senate should send down their reasons, but from my interpretation of this it would appear that this Hon. Chamber has the right to make any amendment to the amendments submitted by the Senate to this House, and also if they do not agree with the amendments proposed by the Senate, in returning the Bill to the Senate, this House should set out the reasons for not agreeing to the amendments proposed by the Senate. I would like to urge this Chamber to let us proceed with the Bill and make any necessary amendments that we may find at this stage.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this is precisely what I attempted to say. I thought I would get a copy of Standing Order 49 (2) in order to clarify it further. The position is that the amendments sent down by the Senate can be clarified in one or two ways. One way was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition, by repeating "subsection 2" of the beginning, or by saying "(a) by deleting the definition "local government area" appearing in subsection (1) of section 2 thereof; and (b) by the repeal of subsection (2) of the section thereof." That is another way of doing the same thing. That is what the Leader of the Opposition wants clairfied, and I think we would accept it either way in order to make it doubly clear what we are doing. The House house has to deal with the amendment because Standing Order No. 49 (2) says:

"Upon consideration of the amendments, the House may agree, disagree or make amendments thereto, or may propose amendments in lieu thereof."

It is for us to regularise the amendments made by the Senate and see that they are strictly in order.

Mr. ADAMS: Now, Sir, after that little episode in which Your Honour's duties have been incorrectly put to you by the hon. member for St. Andrew, after you made a ruling which was perfectly comprehensible, after the re-reading of Standing Order No. 49 (2), because I do not know if the hon. member for St. Michael North Central was in his seat, I had already read this section out in the course of my speech, and I was interrupted at the crucial point, unless the House agrees with all the amendments of the Senate, the Bill has to go back to the Senate. It can either go back as Your Honour first suggested asking for clarification by the Senate and setting out what they are worried about, or we can add the words "section 2 of" which we passed last week and which the Senate has forgotten; but it has to go back to the Senate. It cannot be passed and completed now.

There has been a long episode of disagreement with Your Honour when with a little more goodwill on the part of Your Honour's party colleagues, although I should not speak of party when Your Honour is in the Chair, the matter might have been solved much more easily; but it has to go back and we should give reasons. That is what I read Standing Order No. 49 to say, and that is what I understood Your Honour to say, because I saw Your Honour read Standing Order No. 49 from your lap before Your Honour made the ruling. Either we have to send it back and say "section 2 of" shall be amended, or we have to send back and ask the Senate to do it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the Standing Order says "or may propose amendments in lieu thereof." In other words, the House can propose amendments in place of the amendments which were sent to us. It is now left to the House if the Senate made an error or blundered in any material respect to regularise everything and put in whatever is correct and then send it back, and not just be jumping up and down like that. If we see they are wrong, let us try to correct what they erred in and make the necessary correct amendments so that at long last we will have it in order.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I do not know what to say. Standing Order No. 49 (3) says:

"Unless all of the Senate's amendments are agreed to, the Bill shall be returned to the Senate by the Clerk with a list of the further amendments and, if any amendments have been disagreed with, a list of reasons for such disagreement and a Message desiring the concurrence of the Senate."

We cannot agree with all the amendments. They have deleted the words from our Bill last week "section 2 of," and that is the whole tenor of this argument; so it is going to have to be sent back to the Senate with a list of the reasons for our disagreement. What are the reasons for our disagreement? The Clause is now made ambiguous. You cannot see what section you are repealing; so it is not only Standing Order No. 49 (2), it is also subsection (3) that has to be read. The Senate has removed the words from our Bill "section 2 of." It should not have removed them. We do not have, as I see it, to propose an amendment. They have deleted the words. We must send back the Bill to the Senate and tell them our reasons for not

agreeing with their amendments because we cannot agree with their amendments. It has taken out vital words from what we passed. It is a perfectly simple matter. I think it was five minutes past four when I read out this the first time and hon. members have taken an hour to read out the same section. I hope to understand it.

But there is a further point why I am submitting that they should not only go to the Senate but to the draftsmen. Now, Sir, I am not Maxwell upon the interpretation of Statutes. I was asked recently by the Judges to give them off the cuff, an opinion upon the inter-relationship of the Prison Act, 1891 and the Prison Act, 1964, and if Rules which were *ultra vires* in the first Act but are *intra vires* in the second can stand, and I really had to tell their Lordships the Judges that I would have to sit down in my Chambers with a proper fee and read a lot of books before I could answer a question like that. I do not like to supply instant law even where I am asked by those persons whose duty it is to ask me the law and from whom they can expect a duty from me to give it to them instantly. I am not sure of the relationship between the repeal of subsection 2 of this Act and the rest of the Act for this reason: subsection 2 of section 2 of the Road Traffic Act is contained in the Local Government Act of 1958. It substituted for the words "parochial treasurer" "Treasurer of the Council." Now we are going to repeal that in the second clause of our new Bill, therefore it may very well be that the words "parochial treasurer" will be revised, because if you repeal an Act that deletes "parochial treasurer" and substitutes "Treasurer of the Council," you have no more Treasurer of the Council, therefore the whole scheme of this Act in which we go through section by section deleting "Treasurer of the Council" may well be of no avail because it may be that by repealing subsection 2 of section 2 we have already repealed the words "Treasurer of the Council" whereever they appear. By repealing a part of the Act that refers to "Treasurer of the Council" we may restore "Parochial Treasurer;" so it may very well be that in the whole Act we should not be removing the words "Treasurer of the Council," we should be removing the words "Parochial Treasurer of the Parish." This is why I would like to see it go back to the draftsmen.

I want to offer a very fulsome apology to the hon. member for Christ Church West who last week told me that I should not have agreed so readily to carrying the Act through all of its stages in one day. The other members of the Opposition all felt that if it was a taxation matter which had come down, we could not object to it being done in one day, and the hon. member for Christ Church West found himself the odd man out. I do not think, he saw this point at the time, but it would have been better for all of us to have examined this particular aspect of repealing Acts which are themselves amending Acts before we proceed so hastily.

4.40 p.m.

If the Government had been properly advised legally, none of these points would be bothering us today. I am not attacking anybody, I am not attacking the draftsman because I do not know the draftsman but I am sure there is no hon. member in here, who is going to be prepared to get up and say what is the effect of repealing an amending section. If you have changed the words "Parochial Treasurer" to read "Treasurer of the Council." I am not by any means sure that the Act does not still read "Parochial Treasurer" and therefore we should not be changing "Treasurer of the Council" to "Collector of Taxes," we should be changing "Parochial Treasurer." What I do know about amending Acts is that they should read seriatim, that is, that they should begin at the first clause as put down and go on down clause by clause to the end.

I submit that the House has not had the legal advice which it deserves on this matter, and that before it comes back to the House from the Senate again – although it need not unless they again disagree with us – before it goes on to the Senate again a draftsman's opinion should be given, and I do not mean the opinion of the lawyers, we are only in here as amateur lawyers, nobody pays us in here for legal opinions, it is forbidden by the Standing Orders, let us have professional advice on the drafting of this Act, because if we delete "Treasurer of the Council" where the Act in fact states "Parochial Treasurer" you will get some clever person saying that the Collector of Taxes is not authorised to receive money, and I can see many lawyers making a good point in the traffic courts. That is what will happen, do not make any mistake about that, that is an argument that will be before the courts in the months to come unless we assure ourselves that every drafting loophole has been plugged.

This is one of the examples where the House has been treated to hasty legislation and we may very well have gone wrong. That is my speech, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Having heard both sides on this matter and reading section 3 of Rule 49 which does not prevent this Chamber from making amendments to the existing amendments which have been sent down from the Hon. Senate, I am guided by this particular rule of this Standing Order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in view of the apparent errors or insertions which may have to be made, further amendments or additions, we cannot attempt to pass any hasty legislation as such, so I beg to move that further consideration of these amendments be postponed.

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

The question that further consideration of these amendments be postponed, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 standing in the name of the Prime Minister, which is to move the second reading of a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1972, be the next Order of the day.

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

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

THE FINAL APPROPRIATION (1971–72) BILL, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as is customary, this Bill is the Final Appropriation Bill in respect of the financial year which ended on 31st March, 1972, and it is to provide for the grant from the Consolidated Fund of the sum of $5,799,637 and for the appropriation of such sum for the services and purposes specified in the Schedule.

As hon. members will know, at the end of every financial year the Final Appropriation Bill is moved and passed, because the Constitution provides by section 109(5) in respect of all supplementary expenditure voted by the House of Assembly in pursuance of subsection (4) the Minister responsible for finance may at any time before the end of the financial year introduce into the House of Assembly a supplementary Appropriation Bill containing under appropriate Heads the aggregate sums so voted and shall as soon as possible after the end of each financial year introduce into the House of Assembly the Final Appropriation Bill showing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Appropriation Bill. Hon. members will recall that an Appropriation Bill was introduced in the House of Assembly in the financial year which ended on 31st March, 1972 dealing with money resolutions which were passed during the period April to July, 1971.
4.50 p.m.

This Final Appropriation Bill 1971–72 is more money Resolutions Nos. 15/1971 to 20/1972 which were passed by the House of Assembly during the period August, 1971, to March, 1972. The Appropriation Bill has the Schedule which sets out the various amounts and, as far as I know, everything is in order.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Schedule was called and passed.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. SPEAKER reported to Mr. SPEAKER, who resumed the Chair, and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was read and agreed to.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2 which stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.3) Order, 1972, be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, Item No. 2 is the instant Order of the Day.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be postponed.

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

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1972–73

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 1 which stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister to present the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the Fiscal Year 1972–73 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, Order No. 1 is the instant Order of the Day.

5 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, our financial year ends on 31st day of March in each and every year. By virtue of the provisions of the Constitution of this island, by the Financial Administration and Audit Act of 1964 and by the rules made thereunder the estimates of revenue and expenditure on current account and on capital account – if there are such – must be approved by this House before the 31st day of March in the financial year immediately before the year in which the expenditure is to be incurred. If there is any approved expenditure which has not been undertaken the monies are not paid into an account for or on behalf of a particular ministry, these unexpended sums remain in the Treasury and must be voted out again by this House before any expenditure can be incurred.

Inevitably there are projects of a capital nature which cannot be completed on or before the 31st day of March. Some projects take three or more years to complete and the capacity of a Ministry to fulfill the expenditure in any one year may be either underestimated or over-commited.

In the former case requests for funds are made by way of supplementary resolutions and in the latter case the vote lapses and funds must be revoted if work is to continue smoothly and without interruption.

There could be some years in which all the estimated expenditure has been absorbed in the manner approved by Parliament but at the end of which there may remain a surplus on current account. This situation can arise where revenue has been underestimated.

One can therefore have surpluses by underspending or by underestimating revenue.

In both cases such surpluses may be legitimately diverted to capital account in order to obviate the need to increase the public debt by way of loans. *Actual* capital expenditure from the 1st April 1962 to end of March 1972 amounted to one hundred and eight million, two hundred thousand, three hundred and fifteen dollars. Estimated expenditure on the other hand

was one hundred and fifty nine million, five hundred and twenty-seven thousand, eight hundred and eighty-four dollars the difference being fifty-one million, three hundred and twenty-seven thousand, six hundred and sixty-nine dollars. These figures give a fair indication of the absorptive capacity of the economy and of the works departments to grapple with and solve the problems of expectations and of growth.

Loans during the same period amounted to 44.5 million dollars. Net surpluses amounted to forty-two million, three hundred and thirty thousand, four hundred and seventy-one dollars. Grants received from overseas governments and international sources for special projects amounted to 4.8 million dollars from Commonwealth Development and Welfare, 1.2 million dollars from the Canadian Government, totalling 6 million dollars. The Labour Welfare Fund contributed 1.4 million dollars.

The figure given for surpluses represents the effective savings of the country through the public sector for capital investment. By this amount alone to-day's tax payers have added to the permanent assets of our country.

But the private sector has also contributed by way of local government stock to an amount of 28 million dollars and treasury bills amounted to 14 million dollars over the period, a total of 42 million dollars matching almost dollar for dollar the public sector.

External loans during the ten year period amounted to only 14.5 million dollars or to approximately one third of the public saving and one third of the private sector investment in government securities. External borrowings therefore accounted for one sixth only of the aggregate local investment which stands at 84.5 million dollars. I consider this a proud achievement which demonstrates our ability to pull ourselves up by our own efforts in increasing the nation's wealth and to assist developmental growth.

I instituted a system of yearly economic surveys which we were ambituous enough to plan to make available to members and to the general public before budget time. I heard it suggested last week by the shadow minister of finance - who by his own statements last year is now only a shadow of himself - that we would do better to revert to the old housekeeping system whereby one divulged new measures of taxation if any, at the same time as the House dealt with the Annual Estimates in Committee of supply.

The rationale advanced *inter alia* by the honourable member last week was that government was not bringing out the survey in time for members to make an evaluation before the budget was presented.

Firstly I should like to say that within the time frame given by the constitution for the presentation of estimates and the date set by the Minister of Finance for delivery of his financial statement it is virtually impossible to present an economic survey based on the performance of the economy during the previous year because accurate out-turn figures and statistics are simply not available within such a time frame. A survey is an analytical tool.

Secondly in the absence of a printed survey I do not intend reverting to the mal-practices of the past when taxation was imposed as a matter of

arithmetic without consideration being given to the performances of various sectors of the economy. Economic barbarism is no remedy for the imperfections of civilisation.

In the United Kingdom replies to the budget speech are delivered by the shadow Minister immediately after the Chancellor has sat down. The speeches are confined to matter of policy so that no difficulties are experienced by speakers who are acquainted with if not well versed in the subjects with which they have to deal.

* I have laid in the House earlier to-day a document which gives summary information on the performance of the economy during 1971. The first paragraph explains the reasons for the later publication of the full survey which I understand will be available in July.

I should now deal with the major factors which tend to impinge upon this economy of ours and it would be fitting to examine the root of most evil which is *The International Monetary Scene.*
5.10 p.m.

International Monetary Scene

The year 1971 was a critical one for the international monetary system. Strains had been apparent for some time but the crisis came with the announcement by President Nixon on the night of 15th August that the US dollar would no longer be freely convertible. A number of measures were introduced with the intention of strengthening the US dollar which was allowed to float. After a succession of meetings of the ten most highly industrialised nations-commonly called the Group of Ten, agreement was reached among them on a realignment of currencies and the US dollar devalued by 7.89%. The pound sterling to which our present currency the EC dollar is statutorily tied was revalued from US $2.40 = £1 to US $2.60 = £1. This meant that the EC dollar was revalued upwards about 8% in terms of the US dollar. The independent Commonwealth Caribbean Countries viz Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana who have an independent currency, after considering the effect of the currency realignment on their respective economies, with the exception of Guyana, decided that their currencies should retain the existing parity with the pound sterling and be allowed to appreciate in terms of the US dollar. Guyana on the other hand decided to retain the existing parity with the US dollar and to depreciate in terms of the pound sterling. As a result of this, in the Carifta area, the relationship of the Jamaica dollar, the Trinidad and Tobago dollar and the EC dollar remained unchanged but the Guyana dollar depreciated in terms of other Carifta currencies.

The effects of this situation were considered at a meeting of Carifta Finance Ministers in January, 1972 over which I presided and the immediate problems which had arisen out of this situation resolved.

Inter-American Development Bank

Barbados has received its first loan from the Inter-American Development Bank. It is a loan of US $1 million to the Barbados

Development Bank for the continuation of its programme to aid industrial and tourist projects. Projects in fishing, sewerage and airport expansion are being prepared and it is expected that financing will be forthcoming.

Commercial Banks

The savings accumulated in the Commercial Banks continued to expand during the year under review and had increased by $27.8 million to $219.1 million whereas advances had increased by $35.5 million to $203.9 million. The ratio of advances to deposits is approximately 93% as compared with 88% at the end of March, 1971. At the end of March, 1972 a trend which was started at the end of December, 1971 was maintained when the total liabilities of the commercial banks to banks abroad exceeded the balances due by banks abroad indicating that the commercial banking sector was a net importer of funds to the extent of some $15.3 million.

Central Bank

The Central Bank of Barbados Act was proclaimed on the 2nd May, 1972 on which date the Directors of the Bank were also appointed. A Barbadian has been selected as Governor and the International Monetary Fund has supplied a central banking expert as General Manager. The Governor is expected to assume duty about the middle of July. Meanwhile preparatory work is being done by the interim establishment which was set up following the coming into force of the legislation.

Discussions have been held at official level regarding Barbados withdrawal from the East Caribbean Currency Agreement and it is expected that a meeting at ministerial level will be held in July.

Barbados Development Bank

The Bank continues to make steady progress. During the year 33 loans totalling nine hundred and ten thousand dollars were made bringing the total amount outstanding at the end of the Bank's financial year to $1.5 million as compared with $1.2 million at the end of the previous year.

The Bank made the first issue of National Development Bonds announced in my 1971 budget yesterday and I have no doubt that Barbadians of all walks of life will take this opportunity to invest in the development of their country. Indications are that the issue will be highly successful.

Revenue and Expenditure 1971/72

I shall now turn to a review of the fiscal year 1971/72. The approved estimates of current expenditure for 1971/72 amounted to $98.9 million which together with supplementary Estimates of $4.5 million made a total approved expenditure of $103.4 million. Actual expenditure is provisionally estimated at $94.1 million.

The revenue for 1971/72 was estimated at $97.4 million but the actual revenue received during the year is provisionally adjusted to $103.5 million yielding a contribution from the current budget of $9.4 million to the Capital budget. The final accounts of the Treasury for the year just ended are still in the course of preparation.

Capital Expenditure 1971/72

The approved Estimates of capital expenditure for 1971/72 amounted to $31.26 million. Supplementary capital Estimates amounted to $2.64 million making a total approved capital expenditure of $33.9 million. Actual expenditure was $20.4 million as compared with $15.7 million for the previous year. The capital expenditure was financed as follows:-

Loans raised	$ 7.5
Contribution from Current Revenue	9.4
Treasury Bills	3.5
	$20.4

Public Debt

At the 1st April, 1971 the funded Public Debt stood at $61.8 million while Treasury Bills outstanding amounted to $8.9 million. During the year $7.5 million was raised by way of loans so that at the 31st March, 1972 the funded Public Debt stood at $69.4 million. Outstanding Treasury Bills increased by $5.1 million to $14 million. No external market loan was raised during 1971/72. However, drawings were made from a loan which was raised through bilateral arrangements from the Government of Canada for Canadian $2.6 million for the development of water resources. At 31st March EC $1.2 million was drawn down so that external debt amounted to $26.9 million while internal debt has increased to $42.5 million. The cost of servicing the public debt was estimated at $7.4 million or approximately 7.6% of the estimated current revenue.

5.20 p.m.

Revenue and Expenditure 1972/73

The approved Estimates for 1971/72 provide for expenditure on the current and capital services of the Government to the extent of $140.4 million. Current expenditure is estimated at $107.5 million while capital expenditure is estimated at $32.9 million. This compares with a total expenditure in 1971/72 of $114.5 million and represents an increase of 22.6% over the expenditure for the previous year.

The estimated current revenue for 1972/73 is $95.2 million as compared with actual current revenue receipts of $103.5 million for 1971/72.

Over the fiscal years 1966/67 to 1970/71 current revenue rose at an annual average rate of over 18% a year while current expenditure rose by over 19%. In 1971/72 revenue rose by 16.5% over the previous year while expenditure rose by 5.3%. In my 1971 budget, the income tax concessions granted were estimated to cost the revenue $4.3 million. As these concessions were granted mostly in respect of the income year 1971 the effects on the revenue will be felt in the year of assessment 1972. Not only will the collections of the Department of Inland Revenue be reduced on account of the introduction of the lower rate structure, separate assessment of husbands and working wives and increased allowances but, in addition, the Department 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. The customs receipts for 1971/72 were 6.6% above the previous year. Import duties, internal consumption duties and income tax produce approximately 75% of the current revenue so that given the low rate of increase now being experienced in customs receipts and the lower incidence of income tax the rate of increase of current revenue is unlikely to remain at the level of the past five years.

So far Barbados has had little external assistance in the form of loans for specific projects but this type of borrowing will become more important in the future. Approximately $1.2 million of the water resource development programme has been met from a loan of EC $5 million from the Canadian Government through bilateral arrangements, and projects in agriculture, fisheries, vocational education and airport development are under negotiation with the Inter-American Development Bank and other sources for financing. In view of the size of the estimated deficit of $12.3 million for the current financial year, no contribution to the capital budget from the recurrent budget may be expected and it will be necessary to finance the capital budget wholly from loan funds. It will be necessary to take corrective and remedial action.

Salaries Revision

The first proposal which I intend to implement is a policy on incomes of persons who draw salaries and wages out of the public treasury. I said earlier this year, on the first day of May to be more precise, that persons in the higher brackets - including the Prime Minister, other Ministers, members of Parliament and others who cannot be deemed to be mere wage earners - cannot expect that I will widen the gulf between them or us and those wage and salary earners who are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

There is some kind of supersitition that the public service is automatically entitled to a three yearly upward revision of salaries. This is the main preoccupation of the Civil Service Association which has now dispensed with the term civil and changed their sobrique to the National Union of Public Workers and which registered as a Trade Union in 1964 and not at any time during the regime of The National Conservative and/or Labour Party.

They are demanding salaries for some public officers higher than those currently paid to Ministers of Government, increases in pensions from 30% to 50% without any explanation as to the manner in which these increases can be justified.

The militant and churlish opposition leadership of the Secondary Teachers Union has staked its own claims on the earnings of the taxpayers still entrenched in the belief that they can go further than holding up the nation's children to ransom but that they can blackmail the whole community and even overthrow the Government.

I wish to make it clear that what I decide as Minister of Finance is not predicated by exhibitions of bad manners and ill will of the detractors,

but by a concern for the overall good of the country rather than the wide ambitions of any narrow sectoral interests.

I will therefore look at the emoluments of those less well off members of the public service and postpone consideration of the demands of those higher up until the country can afford them the luxury of three or four motor vehicles in each family compound.

Negotiations may take place provided that a sensible rather than the present insolent and truculent approach is adopted. The appropriate time for increases will be the time when the country can afford them.

Common External Tariff

At the second meeting of the CARIFTA Council of Ministers held in September, 1968, it was agreed that a study should be undertaken to determine whether the objective of achieving trade expansion to the mutual benefit of Member States of the Carifta Area could be facilitated by the establishment of a Common External Tariff. A team of experts was appointed to carry out the study and their Report was received at the beginning of 1971. The Report is under detailed study by the Carifta Governments and two meetings have been held at official level. The general level of the tariff is higher than the Barbados tariff and when agreement has been reached on the Common External Tariff it will be necessary to phase its application over a period of years and to take complementary measures to cushion the cost of living effects.

5.30 p.m.

IMPORT DUTIES

There are some imported goods on which the tariff is very low and there is room for an increase. A start might be made with some of these goods so that any increases which may result from the adoption of the Common External Tariff may be phased in gradually. There are also certain goods which the Carifta area has great potential for producing yet considerable quantities are imported from outside the Carifta area. Bearing in mind the possible cost of living effects by increasing the Customs Tariff I propose the following increases in the rates of import duty on the following articles. I will give the Standard International Trade Classification and the old and new rates of duties in detail. The first figure which I quote will be the S.I.T.C. I will next state the class or description of the goods, then the old rate of duty and lastly the new rates. This detail is necessary as the new duties take effect immediately and will certainly be in operation at the commencement of business tomorrow morning.

Item No.	CLASS OR DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Unit for Duty	Present		Proposed	
			Pref.	Gen.	Pref.	Gen.
012.11	Bacon	100 lb. Val.	$1.00	$2.00	5%	10%
012.12	Ham	100 lb. Val.	$1.00	$2.00	5%	10%

Item No.	CLASS OR DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Unit for Duty	Present		Proposed	
			Pref.	Gen.	Pref.	Gen.
013.41	Sausages in airtight containers	100 lb. Val.	$1.00	$2.00	5%	10%
013.42	Sausages not in airtight containers	100 lb. Val.	$ .42¢	$ .84¢	5%	10%
013.811	Ham in airtight containers	100 lb.	$1.00	$2.00	5%	10%
013.813	Other prepared or preserved meat in airtight containers	100 lb. Val.	$1.00	$2.00	5%	10%
048.421	Biscuits sweetened	100 lb. Val.	$3.60	$7.20	10%	20%
048.422	Bread and Cakes sweetened	100 lb. Val.	$3.60	$7.20	10%	20%
048.49	Other Bakery products	Val.	$3.60	$7.20	10%	20%
051.4	Apples Fresh	Val.	Free	$ .50¢	10%	20%
051.5	Grapes Fresh	Val.	Free	Free	10%	20%
053.21	Citrus Peel	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.22	Other	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.31	Citrus marmalade	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.32	Citrus Pulp	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.33	Jams, marmalades, Fruit jellies other than Citrus	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.39	Other fruit pulps and pastes	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.511	Grapefruit juice concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.512	Grapefruit juice in bulk not concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.513	Grapefruit juice in air-tight containers not concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.521	Orange juice concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%

Item No.	CLASS OR DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Unit for Duty	Present		Proposed	
			Pref.	Gen.	Pref.	Gen.
053.522	Orange juice in bulk not concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.523	Orange juice in airtight containers not concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.531	Mixtures of Orange and Grapefruit juice in bulk	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.532	Mixtures of Orange and Grapefruit in airtight containers	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.541	Lemon and Lime juice raw	Val.	Free	Free	15%	15%
053.542	Lemon and Lime juice concentrated	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.543	Lemon and Lime juice clear, clarified	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.59	Other unfermented fruit juices, syrups and Vegetable juices	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.6	Fruits, temporarily preserved	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.91	Preserved Fruit in air-tight containers	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.92	Preserved fruit not in airtight containers	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.93	Cooked, roasted or preserved meats	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
053.521	Vegetables in airtight containers	100 lb. Val.	50¢	$1.00	10%	20%
071.12	Coffee, roasted including ground	100 lb. Val.	$2.00	$4.00	10%	20%
099.04	Sauces; mixed seasonings	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%

Item No.	CLASS OR DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Unit for Duty	Present		Proposed	
			Pref.	Gen.	Pref.	Gen.
099.05	Soups and broths	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
099.09	Other food preparations	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
629.111	Inner Tubes for motor cars	Val.	12%	32%	15%	35%
629.112	Inner Tubes (giant) for lorries, trucks, tractors and vans	Val.	12%	32%	15%	35%
629.141	Outer casings for motor cars	Val.	12%	32%	15%	35%
629.142	Outer casings (giant) for lorries, trucks, tractors and vans	Val.	12%	32%	15%	35%
656.911	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
656.912	Made up curtains, draperies and made up household articles	Val.	10%	20%	15%	35%
656.92	Other made up textile materials	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
665.2	Glass, tableware and other articles of glass	Val.	6%	16%	10%	20%
665.81	Laboratory glass ware	Val.	6%	16%	10%	20%
665.82	Decorative glass ware and ornaments of glass	Val.	6%	16%	10%	20%
665.89	Other articles of glass	Val.	6%	16%	10%	20%
666.4	Porcelain or china household ware	Val.	8%	18%	15%	25%
666.5	Household ware of other ceramic materials	Val.	8%	18%	15%	25%
666.6	Ornaments of porcelain, china or other ceramic materials	Val.	8%	18%	15%	25%

Item No.	CLASS OR DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	Unit for Duty	Present		Proposed	
			Pref.	Gen.	Pref.	Gen.
719.151	Refrigerators not domestic type	Val.	Free	10%	10%	20%
719.152	Parts for non-domestic type refrigerators	Val.	Free	10%	10%	20%
719.153	Other Refrigerating equipment	Val.	Free	10%	10%	20%
891.11	Gramophones, tape recorders and other sound recorders and players	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
891.12	Accessories and parts of gramophones and tape recorders and players	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
892.94	Printed Calendars of paper	Val.	Free	Free	10%	10%
892.991	Commercial publicity material	Val.	Free	Free	10%	10%
892.999	Other printed matter	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
893.01	Table and other household articles of plastic	Val.	10%	20%	15%	25%
893.03	Articles made of plastic n.e.s.	Val. Val.	10% 10%	20% 20%	15% 15%	25% 25%
899.321	Matches in boxes containing 60 matches or less	Gross Boxes	16¢	32¢	$1.00	$2.00
899.322	Matches in boxes containing more than 60 matches each	8640 matches	16¢ per 8640 matches	32c per 8640 matches	$ 1.00 per 8640 matches	$2.00 per 8640 matches

Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize that the increases in import duties do not affect imports from the Carifta Countries. These higher import duties are intended to promote trade within Carifta. In particular I would state that

no additional import duties are payable on such items as fruit juices imported from Trinidad and other Carifta Countries. There is no justification for any increase in the prices of such items. There is also no justification for increases in the prices of duty paid goods which are already in the shops and bonds of the merchants and other traders.

Internal Consumption Duties

I propose increases in the rates of consumption duty on the following items. These items all fall under the heading of alcholic beverages:-

Item of Goods	*Present Rate*	*Proposed Rate*
Whisky	$6.60 per proof gallon	$10.00 per proof gallon
Brandy	$6.60 per proof gallon	$10.00 per proof gallon
Gin	$4.80 per proof gallon	$ 7.50 per proof gallon
Vodka	$5.50 per proof gallon	$ 7.50 per proof gallon

The new rates also take effect immediately. The estimated yield is three hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars.

Motor Vehicle Licences

We have already dealt with motor vehicle licences, but I would like to embody it in my budgetary proposals.

I feel that motor vehicles can bear some additional taxation. After considering the alternatives open to me I have come to the conclusion that the licence fee which was revised five years should be again revised. I have proposed the following new schedule of licence fees which is expected to yield five hundred thousand dollars.

The fees which I have given here are the same which I gave last week.

5.50 p.m.

MOTOR CARS AND MOTOR CABS

Weight Unladen		*Motor Car*		*Motor Cab*	
Exceeding cwt.	*Not Exceeding cwt.*	*Old Rate*	*New rate*	*Old Rate*	*New Rate*
–	18	21.50 - 26.00	$35	33- 39	$45
18	22	27.50 –33.50	$45	41 - 49	$55
22	26	35.00 - 41.00	$55	51 - 59	$65
26	30	42.50 - 47.00	$65	61 - 67	$75
30	35	50.00 - 56.00	$75	71 - 73	$85
35	40	59.00 - 65.00	$90	73	$95
40	–	71.00	$100	89	$120

MOTOR CYCLES

	Old Rate	*New Rate*
Not used for industrial purposes	9	15
With car attached when not used for industrial purposes	12	20
When used for industrial purposes	18	30
With car attached when used for industrial purposes	26	40

VANS, OMNIBUSES, LORRIES

A. Vehicles all the wheels of which are fitted with pneumatic tyres;

Exceeding	*Not Exceeding*	*Old Rate* $	*New Rate* $
–	20 cwt.	35	50
20 cwt.	30 cwt.	38 - 41	60
30 cwt.	2 tons	44 - 47	70
2 tons	3 tons	53 - 59	80
3 tons	4½ tons	65 - 77	100
4½ tons	6 tons	83 - 95	150
6 tons	9 tons	101 - 131	200
9 tons	11 tons	131 - 155	250

B. Vehicles all four wheels of which are not fitted with pneumatic tyres:

	Old Rate $	*New Rate* $
Not exceeding 2 tons	95	120
For each additional half ton or part thereof up to six tons maximum gross weight	12	20

C. Trailer one half of the above rate applicable to Vans, Omnibuses or lorries being 4 wheeled (2 axle) vehicles:

D. Plantation carts 30 60

Land Tax

In my budget statement last year I informed this Honourable House that I expected that that was the last occasion on which the general rate would be levied on the rental value basis as the new system on which the Valuation Division of the Ministry of Finance had been working with

the help of United Nations technical assistance for the past four years - it is now five years - would come into operation in the 1972/73 financial year.

The programme of valuation is proceeding satisfactorily but it is not expected that the valuation roll will be ready before the end of August next. I am therefore not in a position to levy a rate of tax on land at the present time. I will do this during the passage of the Land Tax Bill in the House. However, from the very preliminary figures which I have I estimate that an additional yield from this source in the region of $2 million could be achieved without causing any undue hardship to property owners.

Summary

I shall now summarise the main features of this Budget:

It is proposed-

(1) To increase the import duty on -

(a) Certain smoked meat, canned meat and canned meat preparations;

(b) Tyres and inner tubes for motor vehicles;

(c) Made up articles of textile materials;

(d) Glass tableware and other articles of glass;

(e) Porcelain or china household ware and household ware of other ceramic materials;

(f) Non-domestic refrigerators and other non-domestic refrigerating equipment;

(g) Gramaphones, taperecorders, other sound recorders and players and their accessories and parts;

(h) Printed calendars of paper and other commercial publicity material;

(i) Certain plastic articles

(j) Matches

(2) To increase the consumption duty on whisky, brandy, gin and vodka.

(3) To increase the annual licence fee on motor vehicles.

(4) To raise additional revenue from Land Tax.

The estimates of revenue for the current year have been reviewed and additional revenue may be expected from the major sources. The Estimate of revenue from customs and excise for the current year is thirty-nine million, seven hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars whereas the actual net receipts for 1971/72 were thirty-nine million, five hundred thousand, nine hundred and ninety-two dollars. The increase in the Customs receipts of 1971/72 over 1970/71 was 2.476 million or 6.6% as I stated earlier. It is too early in the financial year for any trends in customs receipts to be established for the months of April and May there was an upturn of about 10% over the same period in 1971. The estimate of Customs revenue has been revised upwards by 1.5 million dollars taking no account of the revised tariff proposed in this budget.

The Department of Inland Revenue has received the company tax payable 30th April and it has also had the opportunity to examine the trend of P.A.Y.E. payments following the introduction of the new tax tables as from the 1st January based on the new rates and allowances. From an examination of these trends it is considered that an additional one million dollars should be received from this source during the financial year.

From the measures which I have outlined and from a review of the main sources of current revenue the additional revenue which it is estimated will be available for financing current expenditure is six million, eight hundred and eighty-five thousand, five hundred dollars made up as follows:-

Budgetary Measures

Import Duties	$1,501,500
Consumption Duties	384,000
Highway Revenue	500,000
Land Tax	2,000,000
	4,385,500

Additional Receipts

Customs & Excise	1,500,000
Income Tax	1,000,000
	$6,885,500

A review of the fees chargeable by Government Ministries and Departments in respect of certain services is being undertaken and it is expected that during the year increased schedules of fees will be brought into force covering a wide category of services. It is still too early to make an assessment of the amount of additional revenue from these sources. The main purpose is to bring fees chargeable in line with present day costs and money values.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many remarks made on the floor of this House and on political platforms that my budget last year was an

election budget and that I would have to make up for it by increasing taxation this year.
6.00 p.m.

I should first like to confess that I have never heard of any other kind of budget in an election year. But if by the ill-considered pronouncement it was implied that the country could not afford a no-tax budget in 1971 then I should like to refer to something I mentioned only 'en passant' earlier in my speech. This country experienced the largest budget surplus in its history going back to 1639 in the very year 1971 when we had the lowest sugar crop for over twenty years and in the very year when no new taxes were imposed; when extensive concessions were made to income tax payers and when the largest refund ever had to be given back to those who had overpaid. It was also the year in which we incurred the largest ever capital expenditure and the year in which the capital works received the largest contribution from current revenue of 9.4 million dollars or nearly fifty percent of total capital expenditure.

It would have been dishonest in the result to impose taxation in those circumstances just to alleviate the disappointment of a few disgruntled and inept contenders for political office.

This year the estimates show a deficit of 12.3 million dollars again this gap will be lessened by tight control of expenditure and by increased efficiency in collections. New taxation is expected to yield only 4.4 million dollars. I expect another 2½ million from additional receipts from the Customs and Income Tax Departments to be brought about by more efficient methods of collection. The overall additional tax burden will be 4.3% of that for 1971/72 and I do not consider that this further contribution should cause any hardships on anyone who pays taxes. Government members and parliamentarians whether on the front benches or in the back stalls pay the same rates of tax as the members on the other side and the general tax-paying public. Only more because it is deducted at source.

Always remember that the pilot up front wants to live and frequently has more to live for than the one hundred and eighty third passenger sitting in the back row near the tail of the plane. The whole ship has to arrive in port at the same time. We have put behind us the days when the first class passengers sat tight in their upholstered seats, the second class got out and walked and the descamisados, sans culottes and barefooted passengers got out and pushed. We all have to get out. We all have to push and we all wear shoes even if only on a Sunday. When we get over the hump we can jump on and ride.

Mr. Speaker, this is a budget almost exclusively designed to set the Region on the road towards a Caribbean Common Market. As such, it is a 'No Nonsense No Privilege' budget and in the circumstances the only right one I know.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following documents to be laid by me.

"The Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972."

"The Consumption Tax Order, 1972."

I believe these are subject to negative Resolution. These Orders were made today.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition did intimate at one time that he would be ready at any time, but it was more or less agreed that on Tuesday next week he would exercise his right of reply on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I had hardly expected in the Prime Minister's speech any reference to my replying right away, and I will deal with that point next week, since it has never been represented to the Opposition yet they could reply on television immediately following the Prime Minister. It has never been represented to us that we could reply at once, but just let me inform the House that last year I replied the next day because it has always been represented to us that we must have the same time precisely, we must start at the same time and end at the same time. It has always been represented to us. Unfortunately I cannot reply tomorrow because I have to go to St. Vincent in the morning to appear in a part heard election matter in which I have been appearing, and therefore as the Leader of the House has quite properly said he and I have had discussion and it has been agreed that a reply will be made next week at the same time. It is somewhat of a surprise to me that it is suggested that I am incapable of replying immediately on general grounds of policy and not representing myself properly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, only yesterday when we were preparing the formal letters to Your Honour, the Leader of the Opposition and the Clerk of Parliament, I had occasion to speak to the Leader of the Opposition as to the arrangements in connection with his reply and to be granted equal time and the various facilities which have been accorded the Prime Minister as is customary, and the hon. member did intimate that left to him he could do it at the very time. I did not really take it very seriously, but I could have held him to that. I know that it would be more convenient for C.B.C. – TV and the various engineers and officers of Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and Rediffusion to have set up all their equipment and have the matter dealt with once and for all than to be coming in this week and again next week in order to comply with our wishes and in order to supply the public with all the necessary information and courtesies. I really should have taken the hon. member at his word, but I did not take him seriously, and it is true that I agreed that he would have a whole week to look at his study and consult his colleagues and his advisers outside in order to make his reply speech in a week as from now. That was my understanding.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may mention that I have received a copy of that letter intimating the agreement.

6.10 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: There is nothing in this budget speech that I would not reply to now, this is not a speech which would tax the ingenuity even of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

ADJORUNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I think this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till Tuesday next, 13th June, 1972, at 3.30 p.m.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there are copies of the budget speech available, as well as copies of the Summary Information on the Performance of the Economy during 1971 which I mentioned in my speech. These copies are available, and members can collect them from the Marshal of the House after the adjournment rather than postponing the adjournment of the House.

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

6.12 p.m.