THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th March, 1972

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.05 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (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); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. J.M.G.M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., and Mr. A. MORRISON.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: There are three sets of Minutes which have been circulated: 7th December, 1971, 8th February, 1972, and 22nd February, 1972. If there are no objections, the Minutes will be confirmed. There being no objections, the Minutes are confirmed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS and Hon. P. G. MORGAN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport, I am commanded to lay the following:

(1) The Annual Report of the Barbados Community College for the period 1st August 1969 to 31st August 1970.

(2) The Annual Report of the Barbados Community College for the year September 1970 to August 1971.

(3) The Statements of Accounts of the Barbados Community College for the period 1st April 1969 to 31st March 1970, and 1st April 1970 to 31st March 1971.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Health Services Act, 1969.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Health Services Act, 1969, be now read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting and for the duration of the consideration of the Estimates 1972-1973. It is hoped that out of election time, the debate on the Estimates will not cover ten or twelve days as hitherto, and that a reasonable time of four of five days will be sufficient.

I may say at the very outset, that we propose sitting, subject to further consultation, from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. each day except Thursday when we will start at 2.30 p.m., thus giving certain hon. members an opportunity to look into other matters of interest. That is the programme, and we are hoping that although we have almost completed consideration of the Standing Orders of the House which are being revised and amended and which will improve conditions in here considerably and bring them

more in line with modern-day trends as far as Parliament is concerned, yet we have not actually concluded our labours and we are not in a position to report to the House today. We are hoping that members of the Opposition – the majority of them are members of this Committee – will, at least, be aware of the feeling of this Committee, and we hope that we will have some sort of evidence of that today. As far as the Committee is concerned, members of the Opposition with one or two exceptions are members of this Committee.

I beg to move that these Standing Orders be suspended for today's sitting and also for the remainder of the time expended on the consideration of the Estimates.

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

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

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

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.

Mr. SPRINGER entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: The Bill has not yet been read a second time.
10.15 a.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr Speaker, at this stage I wish to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill which is entitled "An Act to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on 31st March, 1973." This is the usual Appropriation Bill which is passed at this time and completed before 31st March each year. The Memorandum to the Estimates which gives an analysis of the Draft Estimates and classified revenue, and also classification of current and capital expenditure has been circulated, and hon. members are fully aware of the procedures whereby the second reading of the Appropriation Bill is passed, then the Schedule which forms the Estimates for the year 1972-73 is considered, and then the Appropriation Bill itself is passed, and the Draft Resolution in respect of the revenue and expenditure for the Port Department is dealt with. That is the procedure which is usually adopted.

I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1972, be now read a second time.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it is usual, I believe, for the Minister of Finance to introduce the Appropriation Bill and give a little outline of his estimates, but if that procedure is no longer thought necessary, then perhaps the Opposition will have to make a comment or two without the benefit of the speech and the possibility of reply by the Minister concerned.

Mr. Speaker, the estimated revenue of the Government for the first time in many years, I observe, is showing a decline. We in the Opposition just wish to repeat once again that point which we have had to say for years and years, and this year in our view it is worse than ever. The Government must stop under-estimating revenue and over-estimating expenditure so as to pull this fancy surplus out of the bag every Budget day. Last year's estimated revenue was $97 milliom; it is estimated at the end of this month that the actual revenue will be $102.5 million. We are estimating now for $95 million in revenue for the forthcoming financial year, and yet we are seeking to increase expenditure by one of the biggest leaps that it has taken for some time to go from $99 million to $107 million in all, so that there will appear to be an excess of expenditure over revenue of not less than $12 million, the largest excess ever estimated for by a Minister of Finance in the Estimates. Last year's excess of $1.5 million was estimated to turn into a surplus of $6 million when the final figures are known at the end of this month.

We must repeat, Mr. Speaker, that we regard this as bad financial procedure. It has gone for year after year as a means of concealing the revenue surplus and as a means of masquerading in the Ministry of Finance to enable it to say that good financial management has done this, that or the other. We on this side of the House reject that utterly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there may be few opportunities to talk about some of the Heads of Revenue in Committee because it is not every Head of Revenue to which you can attach a direct Head of expenditure and therefore which can be discussed when you are appropriating individual items, but I wish to select an old favourite, and I wish to link it to a number of modern developments in Barbados, and it is the Hilton Hotel. Some time ago we heard a very grandiose claim by the Prime Minister that when money

was needed, he telephoned the Hilton Hotel and they paid in $700,000 to enable Government to fill some minor hole. Two years ago the Hilton contributed $7,000 to the revenue of this Island; last year it contributed $1.1 million, and now it is estimated to contribute only $384,000. A very exact figure has been put forward, $384,712, where normally we estimate in hundreds of thousands exactly. Perhaps the Minister of Tourism, if he is not too tired from his European roundabout will be able to tell us exactly why it is thought that the Hilton Hotel will be in such a poor profit position at a time when we would hope that it is making money. I very much hope, Mr. Speaker, that this is not some dire fate awaiting the tourist industry and known in the various Ministries responsible for anticipating and calculating revenue. I very much hope that the profitability of the Hilton Hotel being estimated at only 30% of last year's actual profitability is not the result of some survey that has been carried out in the tourist industry to show perhaps that we can expect a bad year for tourism whether through the new emigration and immigration policy or not. I would be glad to hear what the Minister of Tourism has to say about that if in fact he knows anything about it. That is one aspect of revenue.

During the debate on individual items, members on this side of the House are going at the other end, so to speak, of the revenue scale to urge on the Government that on one or two small and petty taxes which in fact cost more to collect, or indeed in the case of hawkers' badges bring in less than it costs to make the badges and collect the money, some new form of taxation procedure be evolved to deal with these things, dog licences, bicycle licences, hawkers' badges and so on. The time is overdue for some small relief in respect of this type of tax. You receive $24 a year for a pawnbroker's licence. Either these taxes should be made realistic or some other method of control procedure should be evolved in our view to deal with the particular trades which they cover.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few words which I would like to say in reply to the remarks which the Leader of the House made in his own right in connection with the time table and the expected time table for the Estimates. I am sure, knowing Leader of the House in his unfailing courtesy, realism and generosity, one could say kindness in his dealings towards all hon. members, was not holding out any threat when he spoke of the Standing Orders and what alterations were going to be made in them. We cannot anticipate nor indeed should we discuss details of proposed Standing Orders, but, Sir, we would not be revealing any knowledge which we got inside the Committee if we said that it is known that some limitation on the length of speech to be made by hon. members is proposed for at least some aspects of the House's deliberations. This seems to be a matter of public knowledge now, and I will say no more than that.

10.25 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a pledge. The Leader of the House, I think, is already aware of my views on this matter, but I want to give a general pledge on behalf of the Opposition to hon. members and to the public at large. We do not regard the Estimates as an exercise of time-wasting, we have seen Hon. Ministers come in here and receive with thanks the comments made by hon. members on the Estimates. Well can I remember upon an occasion when the Leader of the House was introducing Estimates, such as I recall them, relating to the Mental Hospital, his praise and congratulations to the hon. member for St. Peter for his close knowledge and the detail with which he was able to inform the House of conditions at the Mental Hospital. That is the only one item which I would suggest to hon. members reveals that the Opposition, as would any knowledgeable and interested member of the public in this island, have something to offer to the Ministers.

We hope indeed to be able to make those whose duty it is to administer the Government of this island and spend the money which we are appropriating in such generous quantities understand what they are doing better. We do not mean this in any impertinent sense, we mean it in a very honest and straightforward sense. That is what the Opposition is here for. Estimates time, and the division of Estimates time, and the speeches that are going to be made on the Estimates, I suggest to hon. members, more properly fall within the distribution machinery of the Opposition than of the Government. The Government has an interest in getting the Estimates through in a fixed time, the Opposition has an interest in selecting and highlighting whatever it feels it can illuminate in debate and in discussion, and indeed in cross talk – something which is used pejoratively sometimes – but I believe in this sense it can denote the useful cross talk and exchanges across the floor of the House in Committee of Supply. All these are within our province, so we would urge all hon. members to take away with them the thought that the Opposition is perfectly ready to cooperate with the Government in getting the Estimates through in a fixed time, a certain number of days or whatever, as long as the Opposition continues to be able to exercise its own options as to how it will make use of that time.

I think I have put everything in a nutshell without revealing any confidential or private

discussions, and I look forward to the cooperation of the Government in letting us start, even without such Standing Orders, at this time with a new approach to the consideration of the Estimates. I can give a pledge that as far as it is within our power on this side we will not approach these Estimates in any time-wasting sense. I only ask hon. members opposite to bear with us when we question them and to understand – the new Ministers particularly – that it is their duty to be guided by the behaviour of such persons as the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Health, in all of whom, I am sure, I have every confidence. It will be found that they will continue their usual courtesy in Committee of Supply on Estimates to members of the Opposition. We on this side are trying to help; if we have certain points to make, after all, we are politicians and we are trying to help ourselves as well, but we are trying to help the people of Barbados and all of their electoral representatives.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I just want to reply briefly to one or two remarks, because I find that if the Leader of the Opposition would just endeavour in discussing high financial matters and serious matters without cheap political jibes he would certainly achieve more and impress the public more as to the serious contribution which he can make.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker,. . . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: On what point are you rising?

Mr. ADAMS: A point of order, Sir. I am objecting to "cheap political jibes" I already heard that deliberate misrepresentation is all right, but I want a ruling now on "cheap political jibes". I am asking the hon. member to withdraw it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will withdraw it. I am not here to argue, because when it comes to the interest of the taxpayers the Leader of the Opposition has not got any greater love for the people or the taxpayers than the Minister of Communications and Works; this is historical, but what I am saying is, if when he is making a speech on important financial matters, he would stick to a high plane of discussion instead of realising that the people decided long ago who is to run this country, then people would believe more in his sincerity and in his honesty than is possible at this moment. The Minister of Finance is not present in the House today. . . . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister of Finance is present.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am entitled as a member of Parliament to speak, I did not walk in here by my own volition, I do not have to reply for anybody, I speak in my own right as a patriot and a citizen of this country. As I was saying, at the time when the Leader of the Opposition attempted to say to this House that the practice of the introduction of the Estimates by the Minister of Finance seems to have fallen into disuse, the Hon. Prime Minister was not here, but the Hon. Prime Minister treated this House with the courtesy of submitting with the Estimates a memorandum for 1972-73, and therefore even although at that time of the second reading of this Bill the Hon. Prime Minister was not here, let it not be given abroad, as was the intention of the Leader of the Opposition, that the Prime Minister treated this House with discourtesy by allowing to fall into disuse the habit of moving the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I never said a word about the Prime Minister's discourtesy. The Prime Minister was kind enough when the memorandum on Estimates was not circulated to take his personal copy out of his file and send it to me, I have never said anything about his discourtesy.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order, a point of explanation. Before you rise to reply and continue this exchange of reply and allegation and counter allegation, I think myself that the Leader of the House has injected quite a good note into the proceedings of the House, and I thought that the Leader of the Opposition replied suitably. We do not want to encourage hon. members to do anything during these Estimates to lower the debate or to introduce political notes of any kind. This is completely unnecessary. What I want to do is to get through with the people's business.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, is to whom you are addressing your remarks. There were only three speakers so far in this debate, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and myself. Are you suggesting that by my speech I have lowered the tenor of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: I take objection to reference to the Speaker as "you".

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Are you, Mr. Speaker, suggesting that by my speaking I am lowering the tenor of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is absolutely no need to raise your voice. I thought that I would make a general point for the assistance of all hon. members.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: So am I to understand, Mr. Speaker, that you are not referring to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central?

Mr. SPEAKER: I made a general point.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have rights in this House, Mr. Speaker, whether you know it or not. I take it you are not referring to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member proceed with his speech?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will not be standing in this House for anybody, the Speaker or anybody, to insult me as a representative of the people, and I want that made clear early in this Session. I will not be in here for anybody to insult me or to suggest that by replying to the Leader of the Opposition I can lower the tenor of debate in this House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, it seems as though certain members come to my assistance when very often I do not need their help, unfortunately. I introduced the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, and normally I could have given more information.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker, I want the Leader of the House to know I did not come to his help, I spoke in my own right as an elected representative of the people, so he need not think I have come to his help, I am making a speech on the second reading of this Bill.
10.35 a.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I regarded the hon. member as coming to the assistance of the Government and, incidentally, helping me. If that is wrong, I am here to be guided by your ruling. I could have given all the figures and all the various details about this Appropriation Bill and other things connected thereto. Normally, the Prime Minister makes a speech later in the year when the Budget is being introduced. Our exercise today is to get through the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill, which is the Estimates.

I welcome the sentiments of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, because he, more or less, confirmed many of my hopes and aspirations, and with that spirit I am hoping that we have come here to do the people's business and not to wrangle among ourselves unnecessarily. I think we have started on a very good keel, and I, certainly, would like to see the proceedings carried on in that way. I have only come in here to try and get the Government's Business done, and I do not want to curse anybody. Anybody who wants to curse, that is his business, and I would not be a party to that. It is on that basis that I have come in here. I am happy that, at the very inception, we are trying to get things moving on a proper basis.

I now beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1972, be read a second time.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think there is a slight error in the procedure. Unfortunately, I was held up and could not get here to move the second reading of this Bill, but there should be a Resolution on the Estimates and that is what we should be dealing with in Committee. We do not go into Committee on the Appropriation Bill, because the amount of money appropriated there is only $32 million whereas we are dealing with a sum in the Resolution regarding the Estimates for at least three times that amount. There are also some corrections to be made in the figures of the Appropriation Bill which are now being done. I do not see how we can approve the second reading of the Bill unless we do the corrections. My Motion will be, "That the House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates and not to consider the Appropriation Bill in Committee." We will do that after the Resolution on the Estimates has been completed, and then we will appropriate the sums which have not been fixed by law. I wonder if Your Honour would like some time to digest that, or to consult the Clerks on the procedure. This is my understanding of the matter. I do not see how we can go into Committee on the second reading of a Bill when we would approve all the clauses of the Bill for $32 million when what we really want to consider in Committee of Supply is the Estimates.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a Motion before the House which was moved by the Hon. Leader of the House. We cannot go into Committee of Supply on a Resolution unless that Motion is withdrawn. I would respectfully suggest to the Leader of the House that he withdraws the Motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill before we deal with the last Motion.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have just looked at the Standing Orders. According to Standing Order 60(3):

> "When the Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a

> Committee of the whole House to be called the Committee of Supply to which the Estimates shall then also stand referred."

We would have to move a Resolution that the Estimates should stand referred, because there is no mention of the Estimates in this House this morning, as far as I know. My problem is a simple one. We cannot go into Committee on a Bill which is imperfect. We can certainly correct the Estimates in Committee of Supply in so far as there are items to be moved in. What are we committing, at this stage, after the second reading of a Bill which has errors in it?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is also the additional point that you have mentioned that various Schedules in the Appropriation Bill are contained in the Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think the true interpretation of Standing Order 60 is that the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill is discussed along with the Estimates, because the Appropriation Bill Schedule deals only with the amounts not fixed by law, but nonetheless it appropriates $100 million and it does not appropriate $32 million. I refer to Clause 2. The Appropriation Bill appropriates all the money whether or not fixed by law. I am submitting to you, Mr. Speaker, that is the true construction of Standing Order 60(3) –

> "When the Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a Committee of the whole House to be called the Committee of Supply to which the Estimates shall then also stand referred." –

I have always understood that that obviates the necessity of any other dealings with the Estimates. The Schedule to the Bill should be dealt with before the Clauses, but you deal with that automatically because you can make corrections to the Bill after we have done the Estimates in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am much obliged to hon. members for their arguments. I think that, according to Standing Order 60(3), both the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates can properly be discussed simultaneously, and any corrections to be made in the Bill may be made before it is passed into law.

The question that the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time 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.

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

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 of Supply, Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

10.45 a.m.

HEAD I – GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Head I – Governor-General – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there are some corrections here. I think the list of amendments has been circulated. Under Item 15 – Furniture and Fittings, the figure "2397" in the second column should be changed to "3197" and the note should be amended accordingly to read as follows: –

"To purchase bedsteads and mattresses, steam iron, carpet, table and duplicator."

The original note to Item 15 says "to purchase bedsteads and mattresses, steam iron, carpet and mahogany table." So the substantial change there is that "duplicator" has been added and it does not specify that the table has to be mahogany. I do not know what kind of table this is; it may be the invisible table that we have here in the House for laying documents on which I never see; it is supposed to be behind the Speaker's Chair. The total then under Governor-General would be $46,325 instead of $45,525; so the total would be corrected consequentially.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $46,325 under Head I – Governor-General – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Governor-General's Estimates are not by any means on such a scale of generosity as to offend any right thinking citizen of this Island, and certainly the difference between $2,397 and $3,197 is so slight, that the Opposition is not going to object to that. It is little enough to buy bedsteads, steam iron, a carpet and so on; but there is one item that I would ask the Minister

responsible to give his attention to, and that is Item 9. If we look at Item 73 under Head 30, we find that there is another item for a very simple purpose. There is an item there for $13,500 – Upkeep of Gardens and it says "provides for upkeep of Government Gardens and labour charges at Government House. Increase due to employment of additional labour at Government House." That is $13,000 embracing some of Government House under the Ministry of Agriculture. And you have a figure of $1,400 embracing maintenance of grounds under Government House itself.

Now I have taken the opinion of a landscape architect and I was informed, and this is a company that deals with landscaping that this company would not undertake to upkeep Government House grounds for less than $500 a month, an amount which far exceeds what we are seeking to pass here. There is also another statutory amount of $240. I daresay that refers to some ancient act when $240 was considered enough to keep up Government House grounds. I would urge on the Minister responsible that His Excellency himself must surely be the person subject to the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture or whatever Department of Government – indeed I would have thought the Parks and Beaches Commission, subject to whatever advice he cared to seek and they cared to give – responsible for the upkeep of the grounds of Government House, and all the amounts should be centralised. Why there should be statutory expenditure of $20 a month for this, then an appropriated recurrent amount of $1,400 and some amount buried in the Ministry of Agriculture's vote of $1,300, I do not know. There may be an explanation for it. I would have thought that the administration of Government House should be responsible for keeping up its own grounds. If there is going to be any vote there at all, all the work that was going to be done, I would suggest should be done from a Government House vote, and suitable machinery set up between the appropriate departments to see that it is done properly. The sum of $1,400 appears too little for Government House grounds, $13,000 appear too much even with the gardening training which is given to inmates at Her Majesty's prison in allowing them to cut the lawns at Government House and other places. Even with all that, it still seems a confused situation, and I would throw that out for the consideration of the Minister responsible.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, first, I should say that the amount which is voted under Item 9 is not for the upkeep and maintenance of Government House grounds. That amount really is to look after the equipment that belongs to Government House, and these Government-owned buildings are looked after either by the Ministry of Communications and Works, in so far as the fabric of the building is concerned, and the grounds are looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. So the amount of $13,000 is in respect of the wages and so on for the gardeners who are not included under an established staff at Item 5. The unestablished staff includes the inside staff, but the outside staff are now paid by the Ministry of Agriculture, and it was thought better that since the conditions of Government House grounds and the grounds at Culloden Farm particularly Government House, varied from incumbent to incumbent, they are now in a very good state of repair, the Ministry of Agriculture would look after the planting material and pay the staff as well, and they would be subject to the discipline of the Ministry of Agriculture; and they have the expertise because they are now regarded as public grounds and not the sort of private gardens of the Governor-General himself; they are part and parcel of the national kind of heritage.

Mr. Chairman, the bill for the upkeep of motor machines would be a lot higher, but they are taking advantage of one of my gardeners who is an expert mechanic, because we used to have inseparable delays from the Ministry of Communications and Works in the repairs of motor machines, and without paying this gentleman any additional money, he has to repair all the motor machines from all over the Island in between doing his job as a gardener as well. I do not think this is fair. I think the gentleman ought to be paid as an artisan. I am not criticising the Minister; I am just saying that the Ministry of Communications and Works was so hopeless with the repair of motor machines, and one little fellow who has taught himself is an expert on this, and all repairs are being done down at me now and he is getting $35 or $38 per week as a gardener and doing all the repairs for the Port Department, Welfare Department, Government House and everywhere else. Maybe it is a form of exploitation, and I think the Ministry of Labour should take that up. The sum of $1,400 is merely for the upkeep of their personal equipment, their hoses and matters of that kind and is not in respect of payment of staff. All the garden staff now whether it be for the Trafalgar Square or for the things that have not been turned over to the Parks and Beaches Commission – and Parks and Beaches means exactly what it says – is now being looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. ADAMS: Would the Prime Minister then see to it that the note is amended, because the

note does say for the maintenance and upkeep of garden and grounds. It is really the note that needs amending because the note has certainly misled members on this side – both the description of the item and the note.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not mind altering the note because I happen to know what the situation is, but there may be some minor items in the gardens and grounds like putting a little gravel on a path or something like that, but the staff for gardening and such are being paid from this vote.
10.55 a.m.

It could be changed to equipment, but the upkeep of gardens and grounds would cover equipment, whereas equipment would not cover things like concreting a footpath and matters of that kind. It is not a very big point, but I think once members understand that the staff is being paid by the Ministry of Agriculture this is the important thing.

The question that the sum of $46,325 under Head 1 – Governor-General – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 2 – SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Head 2 – Service Commissions – was called.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $639,867 under Head 2 – Service Commissions – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $639,867 under Head 2 – Service Commissions – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is just one thing I tried to point out to the Ministry of Communications and Works when they painted the sign. It should be the Services Commissions and not the Service Commissions, because there are several Commissions. I do not know whether members will agree to make the amendment now, in Jamaica it is known as the Services Commissions, and I believe in Trinidad as well, because there is a Police Service Commission, a Public Service Commission, the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, the Statutory Boards Service Commission, and this office is really the office of the Services Commissions. I just want to make that point, because this is how it is in almost every other country that I know about that has Services Commissions. I would like this Head to be known as the Services Commissions, and the sign up there on Culloden Road should read "Offices of the Services Commissions"; there is no one Service Commission in Barbados.

I would like hon. members to agree with this, because I feel very strongly on this, because the Judicial and Legal Service Commission and the Public Service Commission are like the Jews and the Samaritans, they have no dealings with one another except so far as somebody is co-opted from the Services Commissions. I beg to move that Head 2 be re-committed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, you will see on page 2 under Item 21 there is a Public Service Commission, under Item 22 a Judicial and Legal Service Commission, and if you turn over the page you will see a Police Service Commission, and I thought the appropriate description of Head 2 should be Services Commissions. I beg to move that that be amended to "Services Commissions".

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one observation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What Item are you speaking on?

Mr. HINDS: Item 21. I think the time has come when Government must consider that the Public Service Commission is sufficiently well established that the need is certainly made clear now for the appointment of a whole-time or permanent Chairman. Time and time again, even on the floor of this House, we hear every now and again that, whenever there is a matter complained of, a Minister is not responsibe, it is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission, and we feel that some consideration should be given to creating such a post so that you can have an officer who would better be able to give the type of attention that this function requires.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I have been examining the whole question of the permanency of the Public Service Commission and whether

there should be a permanent officer, because from time to time various Chairmen have made recommendations to this effect, and I know there is one in Jamaica. It is a complicated matter. The Services Commissions are set out in the Constitution; whether this particular aspect of it would cause a constitutional amendment is something that I now have to investigate, but I myself am not at the moment convinced – although there is a large volume of work and there might be some case for having a part-time Chairman or Head of a Service Commission – we have a gentleman called Mr. Sorum who is looking into the re-organisation of the Public Service and this is one of the matters to which he has adverted, and he has even recommended that there should be a Public Service Ministry. There again we may get a constitutional conflict because you put a Public Service Ministry under a Minister – because mind you, the Services Commissions, as far as administration is concerned and voting money, come under my portfolio as far as I remember. Sometimes I do not have to bother with them for a whole month and then I get things coming up from them, but right now there is no ministerial strain, the Minister does not have to interfere or give directions to the Services Commissions because the Constitution provides what matters are within the jurisdiction of the Minister, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance and what matters the Services Commissions deal with; there is also in the Constitution provision for consultation on the appointment of Permanent Secretaries and so on.

I really do not see the need for a separate Ministry of Public Service, this is one of the recommendations which we are discussing, I am not sort of throwing it out of the board, out of hand or anything like that, but we have had this whole situation under review, and there are complaints about delays which do not occur so frequently now in appointments and that kind of thing, but sometimes it is the fault of the Ministries and not the Services Commissions. Sometimes it is difficult to convene a meeting within 48 hours. I do not see how the appointment of a permanent Chairman is going to assist that matter unless you are going to let the Chairman usurp a lot of the functions in which the Commissions as a whole or the particular Commission may perform. We are dealing with the Public Service Commission because that has the largest volume of work, but a permanent Head of a particular Service Commission may be there in consultation with the Chief Personnel Officer and the Chief Establishments Officer and so on, but I do not see how he can make decisions.

The Public Service Commission has power to delegate a lot of its functions to subordinate bodies which I believe it does in respect of non-established staff, unestablished staff and a few other matters, but not really acting on behalf of the Services Commissions. Unless you are going to extend delegation further and delegate all the functions of the Services Commissions, except you reserve a certain few to the Chairman, it means that you will have a one-man show. I am not expressing any opinion, I am saying that we have been looking at this matter for something like seven years, and I have had consultation with Sir John Mordecai who was at one time Deputy Governor-General, because he was appointed permanent Head of the Public Service Commission in Jamaica, and after discussing the matter with him I still was no more convinced that what they have done in Jamaica is necessarily the solution to the problem in Barbados. I just want to say that to let the hon. member know that we think of these things and we have them constantly under review, and if he could submit some valid, good and reasonable arguments why we should do it instead of asking a question, I am sure the Personnel Officer and even I myself or the Chairman of the Public Service Commission will be prepared to discuss it with him, because we are always willing to listen to ideas which would produce greater efficiency in the administration of Government.

The question that Head 2 as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

11.05 a.m.

HEAD 3 – PARLIAMENT

Head 3 – Parliament was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: At page 5 – Item 22 – Amplifying Equipment. There is an amendment to this Item. Delete figure "900" under column "Other Expenditure", insert figure "1600" and make consequential amendments.

I beg to move that the sum of $249,840 for Head 3 – Parliament – as amended, stand part.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr, Chairman, I should like to say something under this Item as a member of the House. It is nearly something approaching a matter of privilege. Under Parliament, the payment of the salaries of the Officers of this House is dealt with. The Officers of this House are employed by the Debates

Committee which comprises members of both sides of the House. As far as I can remember, I have never been a member of the Debates Committee. It may be in 1952 or 1953 I remember that the appointment of a messenger came up. In those days, jobs were so short in Barbados that we had 210 applications for the job as messenger of this House, and we had to come back to the House and divide the House into 12 Committees to interview the 210 applicants; so that each one of the sub-Committees had approximately 18 people to interview. I cannot remember whether or not I did that as a member of the Debates Committee, but I know that I was co-opted into one of these Committees as a senior member for St. George at the time. However, that is not what I want to speak about. What I want to speak about is a very serious matter. First, I do not think that the Debates Committee should impose on this House any extravagant salaries revisions, unless there have been representations from the Union which substantially represents the staff of this House.

Secondly, I think that we have to exercise, through the Debates Committee, the greatest care in our selection of the people who serve this House. We have had one or two unfortunate experiences, I do not know whether other hon. members have received a letter from the gentleman who used to be Librarian of this House. I received a letter which I considered offensive, because the Debates Committee, of which I am not a member, did not pay, in my opinion quite rightly, the Secretary of the C.P.A. as he then was for a period of 6 months, during which he did no work.

Mr. WALCOTT entered the Committee and took his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think that any member of the staff of this House, should write me a condemnatory letter regarding something which I know nothing about, and, even if I did know anything about it, from what I have heard, the indication was that the Committee would have been quite justified in deciding that it would not be fair and equitable to pay an officer who refused to turn out to work. That is on a different level altogether.

If Your Honour or Mr. Speaker wants to set up a special Committee to investigate this matter, the representation should be made to the Debates Committee and not to me. I have the letter here, and I will show it to any member. The employee of the House went on to say that he was not one of the people who described the present Government as wild boys in 1961. Inferentially, he is saying that in 1961 he was not of that opinion, but since we have not given him his salary, he will now have to refer to us as wild boys. I am not dealing with that now. I am dealing with something else.

First, we have to be very careful, and the Debates Committee for which both sides must take responsibility must be careful about appointments. What I want to deal with now is really a matter of privilege. Mr. Chairman, you will find it hard to belive that, after I was commissioned in the Royal Air Force and did not line up for my pay on a Friday, I did not know how much money I had worked for. I did not care; the bank never sent me a note for an overdraft and, therefore, I considered I was living within my income. I was pleased when I returned to Barbados to get notification that they had £497 for me that I had not drawn. I was never concerned about that.

Do you know, Mr. Chairman, that I honestly did not know, except when my income tax was made out, exactly how much money I had worked for and what income tax I would have to pay? I was alarmed, and I will tell you how I became alarmed at how much income tax I had paid. An employee of this House went to a party, enumerated his duties, gave a list of almost every member of this House indicating how much they worked for; how much he had to take out, to show his importance and so on. An itemised account was given to me by someone who regarded this matter as improper and jotted everything. I asked the Cabinet Secretary to check the statements and everything that was said in front of 9 people and what my Cabinet Secretary reported to me was exactly what my salary and deductions were. When I heard that I was paying this amount of money this year, I will now have to have a few words with the Commissioner, because I think they have my TD4 in the wrong category. They have already taken out half of my salary for income tax, but I must have been living within my means because I have not had any undue pressures from my Bank Managers to pay back any money to him recently.

I think this is an appropriate time to mention this matter, because people who are in a position to deal with personal business – everybody in Barbados would know that an amount of money is voted under the Prime Minister's Office for payment of Ministers' salaries. The level of salaries is fixed when we have salaries revisions, and the necessary amendments are made to any Bills that have to be amended. We know what the allowances are

for members of the House – most of us know about it, but I do not, I have to ring a Minister and ask him what are his allowances. Whatever the House does, is all right with me. I just want to warn hon. members that if they look at the discrepancy between the Estimates of Revenue and Estimates of Expenditure, $12 million, I am sure they will be the last ones to come to this House for any salary increase this year and that includes me as well. As a matter of fact, if we were pursuing a correct wages and income policy, I would suggest a 10% reduction all round down to a certain level. I would not touch the cantonniers, unestablished and non-established staff. This is what should be done in any economy like ours. Now, when I talk about increases, there may be some increases for the staff because of negotiations with the Union, and I do not want to scare them. As far as members are concerned, as long as I am the Minister of Finance there will be no salary increases this year. You come here to serve the people; some years you are going to be out of pocket, and some years you will be able to buy a new refrigerator. That is the way the ball bounces. Immediately after a salaries revision, we get backpay and then we try to clear off some of our debts.

I do not want anybody in this community to get the idea that there is some printing plant or that now the Government has a Central Bank we can turn out Bank Notes indiscriminately, because the money has to come out of our pockets in the final analysis. I am merely taking this opportunity to say that, as far as we are concerned, we have to exercise restraint: Ministers, back benchers, Opposition members and everybody alike, and this is the burden we have to bear.

11.15 a.m.

What I do question as a matter of privilege is that any officer in this House in a confidential position should, in order to inflate his sense of importance, go outside of this House and discuss matters which are not even vouchsafed to members other than the persons with whose income and deductions he may be dealing. We do not hear anything about the incomes of the people in Broad Street. If you heard some of them... because some of them would be foolish enough to write to me, but I would never call their names. In one instance one gentleman was complaining about the $13,000 limitation on annuity schemes and insurance and that kind of thing – I am not going into particular cases – and said that a gentleman in Braod Street was paying $20,000 a year towards his superannuation and he would only get a tax reduction in respect of $1,700; so if you think that we are work-for money – I know you do not think so, Mr. Chairman – we are not, but a lot of people outside think that you do not pay tax and feel that we are working for a lot of money by the frequency of the demands which are made on our private pockets for every wedding, christening, singing, dance, funeral, service-of-song and harvest. So, Mr. Chairman, people have really to consider that what is paid to members here is by way of a little compensation for out of pocket expenses; it is not a salary because only Minister are paid salaries. The Leader of the Opposition is paid more than other members but in respect of the additional attention which he as Leader of the Opposition has to pay to Government Business.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas with a population of 102,000 people gets something like $98,000 a year. As a matter of fact, I am not quite sure whether this is US or EC dollars, and the Bahamas dollar is on par with the American dollar, and when you add it up... (Mr. ADAMS: It is $50,000) This is about $EC 100,000 a year. I am not ashamed of what I work for; I am ashamed of the country that it can only afford to pay me what it does, and I have no apologies to offer to anybody. I am ashamed that I am not living in a more prosperous country and that all of us including the Clerks and everybody else are not getting more money.

I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that anybody is taking me seriously. This is a very serious breach of privilege. We do not expect any officer of this House to walk about talking about members' salaries, and how much money they get, because how does he know you do not owe a man for a bicycle or for a taxi and he may be listening and say that this man works for all this money and he cannot pay me the $3.78 that I charge him to take him to the races. It is not merely embarrassment, it is improper, and I am inviting the Debates Committee to look very seriously at the qualifications of people, their work record, where they have worked, why they are not working there, how many jobs they have had during their life-time short or long as it may be before they hoist them upon this House for personal reasons. I am very serious about this. We can attack one another as we like across the floor of this House until Your Honour or the Speaker corrects us or puts us in our place but we do not expect any servant or officer or employee of this House who has been foisted on the House by the Debates Committee to go outside discussing the personal business of any member, not only myself, because I have heard things now that I am very glad to know about my own deductions and salary and that kind of thing itemised down to the last half-penny, and I do not expect this to prevail. I

am warning the members who are on the Debates Committee that I may have to make direct representations about the suitability of certain people they have around here.

As I said before, Mr. Chairman, I am not doing it because I am embarrassed; I am embarrassed for the country. It is improper and I do not want it done to me and I do not want it done to any of the other hon. members in this House because no public officer, no member of the Income Tax Department is entitled even to tell me what a member of the opposite side works for. The Commissioner of Income Tax is supreme and I can ask him how much money have we collected from businesses, how much money have we collected from people as an aggregate group in, say, the $10,000 bracket. I have to ask these questions, but the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, if he even volunteered the information, I would be the first person to prosecute him or ask the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute him for disclosing income and other allowances of any member of this House. This is our law and I as Minister of Finance am prepared to abide by it, and therefore I expect the employees of this House to have a greater sense of decency, a greater sense of what is right or wrong, and if they do not have that, they do not have any right working for us inside this Chamber. It is a very dangerous thing. That is all I want to say.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am deeply shocked to hear the Prime Minister relate such a story in connection with the business of this Honourable House. The Prime Minister has said that he is considering whether this is not a breach of privilege, but he himself at the last sitting of the House moved a Resolution against a newspaper and the Radio Station and I hope that in the same faith something could be done about this, because if members of the House...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I do not want to interrupt the hon. member. I did not say it was a breach of privilege. In a looser sense I said I was considering whether it was, but in this case we have direct and immediate remedy. We do not have to summon employees here; you summon them to the Debates Committee and ask them to show cause why they should not have gone home six months ago. I just want to make it clear. I am not saying it is a question of privilege. I regard it as a breach of my privilege and the privilege of all other members whose incomes he disclosed, but I do not think it is appropriate to deal with it at that level. I thank the hon. member for giving way.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Prime Minister would not file the necessary report and summon the individual before the Debates Committee to show cause, because if this is true that members' private business is being discussed at a party, it does not worry me because I am not in that salary bracket to worry, but I am wondering if the Prime Minister would not do what he has just said, that is, summon the individual before the necessary Committee to show cause why he should not go home.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, believe me, some people seem to think that when members of this side make criticism, they are fighting the Government for some reason or the other, or doing something to reduce the country in the eyes of the entire world. I was heartened this morning to hear the Prime Minister speak on this Head. Firstly he said he would like to see a 10 per cent reduction in the salaries of the top fellows...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to get the record straight. I said that if we had a Wages and Incomes policy what would be needed this year is not a salary increase but maybe an all round 10 percent reduction in all our salaries and the people at the top in the public service. I did not say I am doing it. I know how difficult it is in a country like Barbados, because we do not normally live within our incomes. As soon as we get an increase in salary we go and commit ourselves to hire purchase, a new motor car and that kind of thing; but I am saying that in a place like England they would not hesitate to put a 10 percent reduction.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I think it is just a matter of bandying words, but I understand the Prime Minister's position that instead of giving a wage increase this year to Civil Servants, he would rather see a 10 percent reduction for all of us, but the only persons he would not touch are the cantonniers. This is not the same story we heard up to September 8 last year; it was a different story. I remember the Prime Minister in here saying that he had to find $11 million to pay Civil Servants and he was not going to worry his head to find $11 million to pay Civil Servants unless he himself got some too. Now we see this is really the business of politics.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, when did the hon. member hear me say that? The only reference I made to $11 million was in respect of the alacrity with which the back-pay was taken out of the Treasury. I have never said that I was not going to get the $11 million unless we got some too. I have never said that, not even during, before or after the election.

11.25 a.m.

Mr. CRAIG: The Prime Minister is always misrepresented, but I accept that. I am glad he has mentioned the behaviour of officers of Parliament, and I am sorry he did not go a little further. I will say this now, I have been in here five years and a few months, but when I was younger I used to visit Parliament and I was afraid, whether there was a black man or a white man in the Chair, to come in here and even walk in the Gallery hard. Not only the suitability of the officers, it is the entire structure of Parliament that is on a downward trend, the whole thing has fallen down, and if your Parliament is going to fall down, the society must collapse. This is my view. You hear people in the Gallery laughing and cheering if a member says something you hear people "chupsing" and those in authority sit down and enjoy it. As a matter of fact, I will say this now – and I am sorry the hon. member is not in his place – but I heard on one occasion the Deputy Speaker when he was in the Chair asked members in this House, elected members, not to show off because there were visitors in the Gallery. I thought that was rude, but I always say that to put authority in the hands of a fool is like putting a gun in the hands of a child or in the hands of an insane person.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I think the hon. member has gone too far. I think he should withdraw that reference to the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I understand it, the remark really was not made in reference to the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. CRAIG: As far as the officer to whom the Prime Minister himself referred, I know the officer very well, and before the officer even had the job I heard how much money he was going to get and what the increase was going to be in six months after, and the increase was going to be something in the vicinity of that of a Quantity Surveyor, something like $800 a month. If you really know the officer, it is no big thing to know what amount of income tax the Prime Minister pays, what is wrong with the people who pushed that particular officer into the particular post which he now has, knowing the officer himself.

Let us look at the whole thing. If we on this side had got up and had attacked the people who were pushing that particular individual into that post you would have heard that because he is a member of the Government Party, and because he supports the Government Party we were against him; well, it has backfired now and the first person to cry out is the Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: For and on behalf of all members of the House, not in my personal case, because I will be able to deal with him a different way, but I think the privileges of the House have to be safeguarded. I am not crying out, I do not cry out, I make them cry out.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I know that particular officer and I will say this for the Prime Minister, that that particular officer was never really in the Prime Minister's company. That same officer one day eased up on the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House who were both sitting down having what I considered to be a private conversation at lunch, and before you could say anything that officer was between them, and the Prime Minister knowing this man well enough, a good chess player, merely ducked out leaving the Leader of the House to deal with him. *(Asides)* It is the former Leader of the House that has us in this awkward position today. I sincerely hope that we will not just look into the matter of the suitability of officers when they are engaged in the business of Parliament, but at the whole thing.

Sometimes I feel embarrassed, sometimes I walk down the stairs and if I am not mistaken I think that on Parliament days we are free from molest and arrest, but you go down the stairs and you hear the people in the courtyard abusing the Prime Minister. I do not subscribe to this. My driver in the last election, I heard him one day taking a turn in the Prime Minister downstairs, and I told him I did not agree with him doing those things, that he would not be satisfied with anybody doing that to me, therefore he should not do it to a member on the other side, and unless we are going to have the respect of the country – we must first respect ourselves – but it is too much feeling and pushing into position people who are not suited for the particular jobs as a political reward for services well done. I do not believe in this sort of thing.

I heard the present Minister of Agriculture once say, and I am quite sure that the member for St. Michael West said it would be unkind if we did not make Egbert Brancker something, and I agree with him because this was for his work, but you must still examine the people you are putting into these very important posts. I have heard this myself. I heard the amount of income tax the Prime Minister pays, and the particular officer was betting that he could bring proof of this. There is a Xerox machine inside, and you have had the proof, and this is the whole problem with which we are confronted. Perhaps if I had complained that this had happened to me, you would hear "what is wrong with that, Craggie?"

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to correct the hon. member, it is because it happened to him that I complained. It was not only my salary that was read out, but the hon. member's and about five or six others too. I do not know if the person had it in for the member for St. James, let me just make my position clear. I never would say if it had happened to the hon. member for St. James that there was nothing wrong with it, I think the whole principle is wrong.

Mr. CRAIG: Also, Mr. Chairman, under the same Head 3, Item 28, Grant to the Barbados branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I do not know if you have had the privilege of going to London, I do not even know if you are a member of the C.P.A., but this is a vote for $40,000 for the C.P.A. I am not on the Committee, I have never attended one of the meetings for that matter, but I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker and you, Mr. Chairman, be given the first opportunity to go on a Parliamentary course. I believe it would do this House a great deal of good. One of the first duties of the Chair is to protect the minority group. I have been into the House of Commons on several occasions only to hear debates, and I remember Dr. Horace King, the then Speaker of the House; he only uttered "Order", nothing else, and members sat down quietly. If you think of going in the Gallery – and I see members on the other side shaking their heads – *(Asides)* You cannot stop me from coming across there and giving you a slap in the face, Mr. Speaker cannot stop me from doing what Bernadette Devlin did to Mr. Maudling.
11.35 a.m.

What I am dealing with is the strength the Speaker has, the power and respect that he can get from the members of Parliament. Apart from that, Sir, what we find is that strangers are allowed to join in the Debates. Mr. Chairman, you have seen this yourself, but you cannot order them out of the Gallery because you will be sending out Party supporters. I can tell you that I am going to draw it to the Chair's attention whenever I see any of them doing that, because an example must be set. If the dignity of the House is to be restored, we all as black people – I am not dealing with the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, because he thinks black nowadays, I hear, and you must not mind the colour of his skin. I am now dealing with the thinking of a man. If we are here to guide and direct our own destinies, I feel that we must have a degree of dignity among ourselves.

Now, I have heard criticisms about our wearing shirtjacs in here. What is wrong with wearing a shirtjac in Parliament? There is nothing wrong with that; you are comfortable, and I am sure it does not detract from the quality of the debate. I feel that under this Head for $40,000, two of the officers who hold such high offices, the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of Committees – I believe that the Chairman of Committees should go first, because it may be your last session. I am not saying that this is your last session by way of defeat, because only you could have scrambled out of that necktie with the assistance, I am told, of members on the other side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like the hon. member to understand that I have never been held in a necktie.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not referring to what you have around your neck, Sir. I think you are getting confused with a stranglehold. This may be your last session, Sir, and I do not think you will contest a seat again. I do not think the Prime Minister would like to see you contesting a seat, because he will have to work too hard again as well as the member for St. Michael West. I should like to see you, Mr. Chairman, as one of the first to go on a Parliamentary Course, because I am sure that with your size, at least, you would be able to use a strong arm in controlling members on both sides of the House and in the Gallery, particularly. The day is going to come when some of them will jump over here and pull out somebody. I would not be surprised at that. I always walk with a gun, and I have one on me now. I walk with a gun all the time. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In Parliament, too!)

Mr. Chairman, I have something to say about refreshments. Of course, food and drink is nothing big to me. I am a smoker and I have other pastimes. I think the Prime Minister shares some of these things with me. I am not talking about cruising down the Grenadines. He likes dancing with a Princess and I like dancing. Now, when Mr. Jones was responsible for refreshments things were fair some of the times. I am dealing with catering and refreshments, Mr. Chairman. Now that Mr. Jones is no longer responsible for refreshments – members on the other side would not like to hear this, but I think they had a good meal the last day of Parliament before the Christmas recess. We were served with some Corned Beef cakes and a few side things.

Now, $18,000 is provided for refreshments. Have you ever heard of Flash In and Flash Out? The member for St. Michael West would know of FILO: First In and Last Out. Now $18,000 is voted to feed 50 members, but look at what we

are getting for it! I believe that if proper control was put on the catering we would be better off. I was in here one night, when the Ex-Speaker who is now President of the Senate ordered three hams. He ate two of them, I am very sure about that. He also ordered a few cases of Amstel Beer. *(Asides)* I am dealing with Item 20 – Refreshments.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You get along.

Mr. CRAIG: I am quite sure that when we asked Mr. Mayhew, the then caterer, what was the bill, we were told that it was $30 or $35. I am sure that was a well-spent $35 because the two hams alone would cost about $16. Whisky was also provided and everyone was satisfied. If you are going to spend $18,000 on refreshments, then we must get $18,000 worth. Sometimes a member goes to the Dining Hall and asks for a Coke and is told that no Cokes are available. If you call for Cola Tonic they will give you a Schweppes. I am not critical of the food but of the actual catering, and I sincerely hope that we will see improvements in this matter.

With regard to the indexing of Debates, I do not know very much about this matter. I should like to see the Library in Parliament brought up to date. If the Librarian is only a Librarian by name, I should like to know what is the position. I know that he tries to do his best in whatever line he is in. We cannot call it a library. I wonder whether it is possible for us to get a Librarian from the Public Library to come over and assist us in setting up a proper Library for members of Parliament. I hope that the Minister has taken notes of my remarks, and I look forward to a better Parliament with members setting the example.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the Item on which I should like to speak is Item 35 – Parliamentary Printing – and I notice that there is a token vote under this Head. I wonder whether the Minister responsible could give us some idea of whether Government's policy is fixed in this matter, because it seems to me that one of the things that we want to do in this House is not merely to hear ourselves talk or to pass words of commendation about each other, or at times even very sharp criticism. It seems to me that we need to inform people in as many ways as we can and as quickly as we can about the work of Parliament.

11.45 a.m.

This is important, if we are trying to build a nation particularly with the young people, and one of the things, I regret to say, that have always made me very sad is to think that when I receive a debate from this House it has come so late that it is stale and has lost most of its value. I think sometimes that even for the members themselves it would be helpful if we could see in print what we said; some of it we may want to withdraw because it did not represent the facts as we thought they were at the time, but I believe that during this year and certainly during this session of Parliament, the Government must take some urgent steps to improve the speed with which debates of this House are put out to the people whom we serve. In this regard I believe that the Clerk of the House should be in a position having just returned from a course to tell us of his experience in another place and in another Parliament, and I should really like seriously to commend to the Minister responsible urgent study of this problem. I have heard complaints from people not only in my constituency, but in other constituencies and even in the Prime Minister's constituency that they do not know what members of Parliament said. We note that we are now getting some reports from the Press and C.B.C., but I do not think this could be adequate in the context of a nation of this sort. There are important statements of policy made from time to time on the Government side, important suggestions from backbenchers on the Government side and from this side, and people would like to know what members of Parliament do other than some people seem to think, just attack one another. Points on civil aviation policy and economic policy are discussed. For instance I consider the debate on the Central Bank although it was a brief debate so very important that the documents should have been made available in the absence of a proper press-reporting system in this country to each of our constituents, and this cannot be done. I consider that one of the ways that we can bring Parliament to the people if we are not disposed at this moment to televise the debates of Parliament or broadcast the debates of Parliament is to make sure that our Gazettes carry the debates and are being sold as a revenue-earning exercise and not only as that but as a matter of civics in this country. It is because of the mere token vote, and I understand that this token vote occurs almost every year, that I am making a strong plea on my first sitting on the consideration of Estimates in this House that something positive be done in the future on this matter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that I should first take up the point where the Prime Minister left off with respect to the two complaints that he mentioned regarding the letter he received from the Librarian. I am a member of the Debates Committee and I would certainly be urging upon the Committee that disciplinary action be taken. As regards the other officer, it

would be well if the Prime Minister makes available to the Debates Committee the evidence which he has at his disposal and let us see what action can be taken there.

Now I just want to say briefly on these two points and more so on the one with respect to the officer who is supposed to have carried out the business of Parliament that the Leader of this House would have to accept blame for what has happened. He may consider me unkind in saying this, but I am going to say that until he decides that he is Leader of this House and that he must also lead the Debates Committee, he will forever find himself and his Committee running into this kind of trouble; and I am hoping that what the Prime Minister has said will serve the Leader of the House in good stead when he goes to the Debates Committee in future. That is all I want to say on that score.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have here under Item 10 the sum of $7,200 to pay the Librarian. Mr. Chairman, I think I can say that there is no Library of Parliament or at least of the House of Assembly. We may have thrown here and there bundles of books, periodicals, papers and what not, but at no time can anything be found by the Librarian, and what is more, the same Librarian who likes writing was good enough to have written to the Debates Committee saying that he had not worked for a period of six months, and he was also good enough to say that the bulk of the work that had been done in the Library had been done by the Assistant Librarian. I feel that if the Debates Committee did not feel to punish the officer who did not work, it should have made a recommendation to this House to pay the Assistant Librarian for what the Librarian was honest enough to say the officer did during the time the Librarian himself had not been functioning. I feel that Parliament owes something to the Assistant Librarian, because what hon. members and others might have been able from time to time to get brought to their assistance must be considered something more than valuable in view of the more than human effort that is required to extract or get anything from the junk that we may have around us that some people may still be attempting to call a Library. We have no Library of Parliament; there is nowhere you can find any proper filing system or anything.

At a Debates Committee meeting, I asked if we could get our Librarian to begin by taking an inventory of what we really have. I do not think the inventory has been taken yet and this is months now it has not been produced because even the Librarian who is still drawing his salary of $600 a month does not seem to be able to begin at any point in preparing an inventory of what books or magazines one may have. I think. Mr. Chairman, that our concern today ought to be a vote for refurbishing the Library of Parliament. We want to see and to know that as this debate is going on any hon. member can with consummate ease make a request for any document that is supposed to be within the confines of the Library and have it brought to him within a reasonable time. Nobody wants to have a Librarian doing the impossible, but my own view is that after having read some of the correspondence between the Librarian and members of the Debates Committee, the present Librarian, and I think he has made a recommendation to this effect, should be relieved of the situation and you should appoint somebody else who is better qualified, because I think one of his letters suggest that with the type of politician coming into Parliament today, there is going to be a greater demand and it is going to draw heavily on a qualified Librarian.
11.55 p.m.

I think that words to that effect are put to us somewhere in some of the letters coming from the Librarian to the Chairman of the Debates Committee, and I am sure that this House will be doing itself a service, doing Parliament justice if we were to act on these things. We cannot go on as we have been going on. Time and again I have called up here to ask the Librarian to supply me with the first reports on the Government Printery and he promptly told me, he would have to try and get it from the Government Printery. If it had to be got from the Government Printery I might as well have gone to the Government Printery myself, and these are the things I should like to see remedied. I do not see how we could justifiably support the paying of a salary of a Librarian when in truth and in fact, we do not have a Library that is beginning to function.

Mr. Chairman, there is another matter at Item 23 — Reporting. Reporters are employed by the Debates Committee, and I am a member of the Debates Committee. I feel that prompt action must be taken if we are to get better results from the money that we are spending on reporting in this House. In other words, we have got to decide once and for all who is going to be in charge of these Reporters. As it stands at the present moment nobody is in charge of them; there may be a Chief Reporter who is responsible to himself and to nobody else, and we should urge that as the Clerk of Parliament is the principal officer there should be some sort of liason between the Clerk of Parliament and the Chief Reporter, that the Clerk should be in a position to detail the Reporters for reporting in this Chamber as against

when they should report in the Other Place, but as it now obtains our information is that Reporters are saying, or have some right in saying, that they have been employed as Reporters for the Other Place and as such, having been employed as Reporters for the Senate cannot be asked to come to report in the House of Assembly.

If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, I think that we have got to take the bull by the horns, if it means terminating the present terms of employment and re-employment under different terms whereby the Clerk of Parliament with the Chief Reporter should be able to shift an officer from here to there. We might find ourselves here today, if anything went wrong with this Reporter who is now presently serving, requiring the Reporters from the Senate who as far as we know are not actively engaged at the moment. What is wrong with our Clerk and his Chief Reporter consulting and detailing one who is supposed to be with the Other Place to come and carry on here? As it stands, this cannot be done, and this is a matter which we feel must be remedied.

The Clerk of Parliament, as I say, must be given complete control over the work, including work hours and the like, of these people, because as it stands at the moment nobody is responsible to anybody, and we cannot see the taxpayers' money being spent in this way.

At Item 22 there is an amount of $1,600, and this is to meet the cost of operation and amplifying equipment. I do not understand what this means.

At Item 24 – Indexing of Debates, I think we have reached the point where there again the Debates Committee will have to take more action than has been taken at the moment if we are to have the work of these officers who have been employed speeded up, because as it is going at the moment a backlog is going to be created in the not too distant future, and this is something we must try to avoid. If more staff is necessary, we should get it so as to push on with the work that these Indexers have been doing during the past two years. I think I have covered enough ground on this particular Head.

The hon. member for Christ Church West has raised the point of parliamentary printing at Item 35. I think that I was somewhat responsible for urging upon Government to include this $1.00 token vote, but I am only hoping and praying that some dayGovernment will come around to deciding that if a debate is carried on in this Chamber on Tuesday measures will be taken that it will be placed in the hands of the public at a very cheap rate at least the Saturday of the same week, i.e., within four days. After that it serves no purpose except for stacking by in a library which we do not have, and we are urging Government to look into this, because as the hon. member for Christ Church West has said, we want the young people to follow us in Parliament and the surest way of doing this is by presenting them with the written word.
12.05 p.m.

We have the means whereby we can do it, but for some unknown reason, the Government has been somewhat reluctant to appreciate this matter of giving Parliament its own Printery to deal with its own printing.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to deal with Item 22 – Amplifying Equipment. I remember last year when this matter came up for discussion in the Estimates we were told that we were looking into a proper system of amplification for Parliament. I notice that we have some kind of new equipment, but only two speakers are provided inside of Parliament. I believe that Parliament means the surrounding rooms outside of this Chamber. When hon. members leave this Chamber and go into one of the other rooms outside they are unable to hear what is going on, whereas in most other Parliaments the proceedings are relayed into the rooms surrounding the Chamber itself. I had hoped that the Government would have taken the opportunity this time to increase the system of amplification so that members on both sides of the House as well as the staff of Parliament could hear what is going on without entering the Chamber. I hope that the Government will look into this matter as soon as possible.

The next point with which I would like to deal is Item 27A – Speaker's Hospitality. I notice that the Speaker's Hospitality vote has been restored in the Estimates, and I would have thought that Government, seeing it fit to restore the Speaker's Hospitality vote, would have, at least, considered a vote for the Leader of the Opposition. We hear so much talk that the Opposition is part of the Government in running a country, that I do not see how we can discriminate by allowing the Speaker a Hospitality vote when the Leader of the Opposition has none.

With regard to Item 32 – Air Conditioning Units, Mr. Chairman, you know how much trouble we had with this makeshift arrangement we have had installed in these windows. There has been a lot of talk about the manoeuvring of

these Air Conditioning Units in this Parliament; we heard who had the contract and who bypassed whom by the bringing in of equipment; how these things got here and so on. I would hope that whoever is responsible for spending this $14,000 would get proper advice regarding the purchase of Air Conditioning Units, otherwise we would have the same problem we have had with these. In my honest opinion, these Air Conditioning Units are still not satisfactory for this Chamber.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we are not satisfied with the accommodation for Parliament as it stands. I have travelled and I have seen several Parliamentary Buildings throughout the world and, apart from the historical aspect of our building, from the point of view of comfort, we are far down the line and below the standards of Parliamentary Institutions. I think that when you consider that Parliamentarians should be pleased to come to Parliament on Tuesday, when you have to come to this building with the accommodation it affords, it certainly is neither encouraging nor outstanding.

The Government certainly has plans, but at the moment, the accommodation in Government is a matter for concern because we are experiencing difficulty, which we hope to solve in a very short time, in expanding the space for the accommodation for Parliament. It has always been our plan to remove certain offices from this particular building in order to enable Parliamentarians to have more room in which they can do the people's business. There should be properly furnished Committee rooms and office space. As a matter of fact, I am a member of the Standing Orders Committee, and when you have to attend a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee, you have typists at your back and front. In order to accommodate the staff of Parliament, it is necessary to shift typists about to enable Parliament to hold a Committee meeting. Certainly that is not satisfactory by any standard. I can assure hon. members that we are not satisfied that the highest Parliament in an Independent country has not the accommodation befitting Parliament, and at the earliest possible opportunity when Government accommodation eases, steps should be taken to make members of this House as comfortable as possible.

With regard to the Library, without dealing with any personality, there is no space in the present place allotted to Parliament for a Library. We can only have a proper Library if we have adequate space for the establishment of a Library. I went to Australia and I noticed that they employed about forty people to do research for Parliamentarians. Any Parliamentarian can request from the Library staff a research paper on any aspect of legislation which is coming before Parliament; he can ask for any Debate that has taken place in the Australian Federal Parliament, and it is an Institution in which they can put their hands on anything a member wants within five minutes, if it is necessary for his Debate.

I think, as the hon. member for St. Peter has said, that we are "potting" around with the Library, but I cannot see, with the space existing, that we can have a proper Library in this Parliament at the moment. Whether the question is to get rid of the Librarian because we cannot have a Library is another matter, and I am not a member of the Debates Committee. We should endeavour, as soon as it is humanly possible, to see that the highest Parliament in the land has accommodation befitting Parliament.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have made up my mind to say very little about this Head, because, as a member of the Debates Committee, I do not believe you should be bringing tales out of school. I consider it is the duty of the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, in something like this where the Debates Committee is being attacked, to listen and try to put the House in order inside the four walls of the House itself. So much can be said, Mr. Chairman, that I feel it would be unfair to the House not to say some of it starting from Alpha and fighting, indeed, down to Omega.

Mr. Chairman I remember a couple of years ago looking at a book written by one of the individuals whose conduct and, indeed, character have come under review today. I saw some words about a politician in that book called Henry Morgan, and he was described as a person whom if you said to him that God is love he would see something sinister in that. He went on to say that this Henry Morgan distrusted his wife, his children and his closest friends, and that his cantankerousness had won him many cases in the Law Courts where he was famous for quarrelling with Judges.

Now, this Henry Morgan is described in this book – I cannot make it a document of the House because it already belongs to the House – "Man From The People" as the Leader of Barbados' newest political party, the National Democratic Party, known as the Dems. I thought somehow that with such words as "being the bully he was he would soon wreck the party," sooner or later the writer of this book would have to pay for some of the words. I have seen him paying for some of those words which relate to his describing the Secretary of this party, the

Dems, obviously a mythical party with no reference to any party represented in this House. 12.15 p.m.

There is no party called the National Democratic Party, but the then Secretary of the Dems who was an Oxford M.A. and had been President of the Union at Oxford was described as being very slippery and very fond of his stomach, and various other uncomplimentary descriptions, and I felt at the time that he was not showing the true loyalty of a party supporter when he wrote those words. He may not have said that the Dems were young and wild boys – the phrase occurs in the book – but he was not the one that called them the wild boys, other people called them the wild boys, but I have been waiting for him to receive some of the lashes that he so liberally dealt out to this mythical party, the Dems, in the pages of "Man From The People".

Now, Sir, I do not think that I am talking the Debates Committee's business when I talk about this particular situation. It is a situation that has been allowed to get totally out of hand. I think I can say I agree with everything the Prime Minister has said about the improper writing of letters to people who are not in fact the people who employ you and who cannot in fact on the face of it assist you one way or the other. I think that the Debates Committee must come to a sense of its responsibilities and deal with this matter. It is an involved matter, the matter of the library. What the Minister of Communications and Works has said in five minutes perhaps is the only useful and really first class contribution he has so far made to the debates of this House. I must be left-handed when I give him a compliment, but he deserves a compliment on this occasion. The accommodation of Parliament is sub-standard. There is no Committee room and there is nowhere to put a library.

Now everybody who has had to deal with this problem has started out from one way or the other. From the one point of view the Librarian deserves to be moved. This is a point of view that is put forward; he is no use, he is not a Librarian, he should be fired. That is how one set of people approach it. Another set of people approach it by saying whether he is any use or not you cannot judge because there is no proper system for organising the Library. I happen to be in the second camp. One of the reasons for my not being in the first camp is that the person who above all says he is not a Librarian is the Librarian. The only memorandum I have ever seen from him to the Debates Committee is one saying he is not a Librarian and you need proper library assistance in the Library. That is the only memorandum I can recall seeing about the library that is, and there are numerous memoranda dealing with payment. I remember upon one classic occasion the then Attorney-General gave a wrong opinion to the Debates Committee and we had to apply to the Solicitor General to find out what the law really was, and that gave the Librarian a reprieve of a few months in terms of his salary. We much appreciated the Solicitor General's opinion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I would not let the Leader of the Opposition get away with this. On no occasion could you find my signature to any opinion given to the Debates Committee, and the hon. member knows that. If you can produce an opinion signed by F. G. Smith, Attorney General, to the Debates Committee, produce it to this Honourable House.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member thinks I mean him; he is quite correct.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I know you mean me, but I am no fool. Mr. Chairman, I know he means me. I would like him if he is honest to produce to this Honourable House any opinion signed by Frederick Gladstone Smith, then Attorney General, whom he means, to the Debates Committee. I defy him to do it.

Mr. ADAMS: The point about the opinion was this; so little confidence did he have in it that he did not deliver the opinion in writing. He gave the Debates Committee a wrong view of the law, and the Debates Committee guided perhaps by persons in more day to day contact with the law than the then Attorney General took the wise precaution of not hearing him around the table on what the law was and asked the Solicitor General for an opinion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, you are not getting away with anything in here. Every time I attended the Debates Committee I attended as a member of the Senate, not as Attorney General, and I would not give you an opinion because you would twist it. Any opinion I gave you would be in writing, and that is why I ask you to produce the opinion that you said I gave, because I do not trust you. You would twist the Lord's Prayer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw that remark. You cannot impute that the hon. member is dishonest.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If I say I do not trust him it does not mean he is dishonest. At least his party should trust him. His own party does not trust him; how can I trust him?

Mr. ADAMS: Nonetheless, Sir,...

Rt. E. W. BARROW: I wonder if I could be of some assistance. We were going very good. The question of whether a member trusts another member is a personal opinion, but what I think you might ask the hon. member to withdraw is that the hon. member would twist the Lord's Prayer. I do not think that is capable of being twisted anymore. The Church has twisted it already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All I have asked the hon. member to do is to withdraw the remark regardless of whether it is right or wrong. I want hon. members to understand that when I ask them to withdraw something, it is my opinion that it is wrong.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There can be no debate at this stage.

Mr. WALCOTT: But a member can rise on a point of order at any time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have asked the hon. member to withdraw.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I rose to a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking and all other hon. members must be silent and take their seats. I want hon. members to understand that I have asked the hon. member to withdraw a remark which in my opinion is offensive. If in your opinion it is not offensive, that is your opinion, but as long as I am in the Chair you must respect my opinion, otherwise the onus is on hon. members of this Chamber to bring a substantive motion and remove me if they do not have any confidence in me.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I am not going to worry with the hon. member for St. Michael South-Central. I am glad to hear that the hon. member...

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, you have called on the hon. member to withdraw a remark and he has not withdrawn it. If he does not obey you now, do you expect me or any other member to obey the Chair? Call on him to withdraw or nothing else will go on. When the hon. member obeys you, all other hon. members will be encouraged to obey the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have asked the hon. member to withdraw.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I withdraw, but I also require that the hon. member withdraw that I gave such an opinion to the Debates Committee and they are to go behind my back to the Solicitor General because it imputes incompetence to me. Let me get a ruling on that too.

Mr. ADAMS: If the hon. member heard me say that, I will gladly withdraw it because we did not go behind his back; we went in front of his face to get a new opinion. I am obliged to hear that he was not attending the Debates Committee as Attorney General, because presumably that will excuse some of the bad law he used to put to us when he was there on the Debates Committee; he was only an ordinary member of the Senate.

Nonetheless at that time somebody, obviously not the member for St. Michael South-Central, said that the Librarian should be fired because he had not done any work, and the Solicitor-General gave a scholarly and proper opinion as a result of which the Librarian received some salary and his position was reviewed.
12.25 p.m.

His position has been under review ever since, and these little disputes – I would not like any hon. member to think that the disputes as to the C.P.A. vote or whatever it was have come before the Debates Committee. I have not heard of them, I have seen a letter and I have heard something to the effect that this is to be dealt with. It has not in my memory been dealt with; if the Leader of the House can give the House more elucidation on the point, I am sure he will, but as far as I know I have attended all the relevant meetings and I have not been present when any recent complaint in respect of which a letter could be written to the Prime Minister or anybody else has been dealt with by the Debates Committee, and I believe that is the proper place for it to be dealt with. My views are identical with those of hon. members who want to see the correct thing done correctly, and that is what I would say about that.

The general question on the raise of pay. I have to speak on the whole Head because it is

going to relate to all those Items – Librarian, Marshal, Deputy Marshal, Secretary, Administrative Officer, Deputy Marshal and Library Attendant, Messenger/Cleaner. My view is that all those are going to be raised and there will have to be a supplementary resolution very soon. I am sorry about the supplementary resolution which was prepared and which I understand the Minister of Finance did not think that he could properly lay before the House in the circumstances that were then set out; and he has indicated that again today. I am sorry that this was not gone into by those responsible, before the Debates Committee was allowed to set new salary scales.

I remember a memorandum came around from a certain person who is not now a member of this House. A memorandum for the reorganisation of the staff of Parliament was circulated; there were a number of posts, notably that of Administrative Officer, against which were put certain code letters indicating the grade in the Public Service at which it was being suggested that these officers should be paid. The Leader of the House said nothing and was kind enough to pass me a copy of the Estimates, and these grades were checked and it was discovered in this memorandum that the person who was formerly a member of this House but is now a member of the Other Place, was envisaging that the Administrative Officer be paid on the same scale as Crown Counsel, Magistrate, Veterinary Officer, Archivist, Senior Personnel Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Architect and Town Planner, and this was pointed out and the Debates Committee very properly ignored altogether any such reorganisation as would have placed the Librarian – I think there was some post of Librarian which was going to be very close indeed in salary to the salary of the post of Clerk of Parliament – we ignored all of that and we arrived at salary scales and did not include all the deserving officers either, they were left for later. We arrived at salary scales which were considerable reductions below these inflated figures that were first proposed, so I would like to let hon. members know that the Debates Committee did not feel that it acted irresponsibly in the matter of salaries.

I believe one of the officers about whom the Prime Minister spoke had been heard to say – for discretion has never been one of his strong points – that when he was confirmed in office after his six months probation period that he was going to get a raise of salary back-dated to the first day of his appointment. This was also fought against in the Committee and I think he was given back pay for a few weeks, so the Debates Committee did not approach this matter in my view with any spendthrift principle; indeed if we had approached not just on a spendthrift but on a principle of humanity we would have to say that the Marshal, $3,600, the Deputy Marshal and Library Attendant who is treated as a Messenger, has to drive about delivering Order Papers and so into late hours of the night and gets nothing for it – $20.00 a month allowance for working very late hours – we would have to say that the young man who operates the amplifying equipment gets $15.00 per operation. If the House is not in session the person who operates the amplifying equipment is not paid, he is only given that although he gives many other services to this Hon. House as is within my knowledge. He is in the position of the Gardener at Culloden Farm who repairs the lawn mowers in terms of the hard work that he does week in week out. When employees of Parliament who are Public Servants drawing a salary cannot be found on the premises, you can find him here at any time always willing to help hon. members, even when the House is not sitting and he is not going to draw a salary.

The Debates Committee did not deal with any of these officers. I think the House needs a Messenger, I do not think the Deputy Marshal should be made a messenger, he has been here a very long time and he entered the House upon the same basis as the present Librarian entered the House, and he has been here a good number of years. I do not think that he should be treated as a boy in the yard any longer when he has a great deal of knowledge about Parliament, the way it works and the needs of hon. members, and he is always willing to assist hon. members in reasonable and unreasonable requests. I do not think that these provisions are generous by any means.

How far should we tell tales out of school? Hon. members should hear some of the things that go on in this Committee, and they do not go on to the Opposition's point of view either. I remember the cleaning of the windows of this Hon. House. There was complaint that the people from the Ministry of Communications and Works who were supposed to clean the outside of the windows did not clean the inside and did not take orders from the person who is in charge of cleaning the inside, and so they wanted to put all the windows on the whole outside of Parliament under one Head for the purpose of giving authority to a particular person to do all the work. We agreed to give the authority to the administrative officer to call on all the cleaners to do the work the way he wanted it done, and a little later on in the debate we were then told

that since we have increased this person's duties we must give him $300 a month more, and this was at his own request.

That is what the more sensible members, among whom, I think I can fairly say that I can include every member of this House who is a member of the Debates Committee and who attends the meetings, that is what we in here have to fight against in Committee. I have to get a little bit personal now – I do not mean personal against anybody, I mean personal because it concerns me – and I have to take members to Item 27A which is to be found on page 5. Some years ago when the salaries of members were raised, the hospitality allowances formerly enjoyed by Mr. Speaker and by the Leader of the Opposition were both taken away. I am not going to dwell upon this, I will merely point out that one has been restored. It may be that there is some reason and why it is thought that only one of those officers has any entertaining to do. I would like to assure the House that there are two offices concerned, both within the precincts of the Public Buildings, and persons have been entertained, public servants of this island, visitors to this Island and diplomatic persons have been entertained in at least one of the offices at the expense of the person in whose charge the office is at present. I cannot say who has been entertained in the other, I know about only one. Hon. members may consider what has changed in the last three or four years.
12.35 p.m.

If Mr. Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition were once thought worthy of both having a hospitality allowance, I would just ask hon. members if it is unreasonable for me to ask why Item 27A appears by itself at the present time. I have not begged for anything, Mr. Chairman, in respect of the Leader of the Opposition's Office, but there is something else that I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members. This now goes back to Item 12 – 2 Secretaries: one at $500 x $240 - $600 a month, and another at a flat rate of $300 a month, that is the Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition. Now, I am not being tendentious, and the Prime Minister must understand this because I am going to touch on one of his Departments a little more closely.

With reference to Head 16 – Cabinet Office – Item 8 – the Prime Minister must understand that I am not attacking him, but Item 8 includes provision for a Secretary to the Prime Minister's Personal Aide and to his Parliamentary Secretary, which is obviously a person outside of the Public Service who has functions for which it would not be appropriate to ask a public servant to do. Anybody with common sense knows that the Prime Minister has a Personal Aide, and he would have to write political letters and deal in political subjects on two grounds: First a public servant may be embarrassed dealing with this, and you might want a member of your party to carry out this work; secondly, there is the question of confidence, and I am not quarelling with the Item for those reasons, but I am just pointing out to hon. members that that officer, whoever he or she is, I do not know, is drawing about $600 a month or $7,250 per annum.

I am not so impertinent as to suggest that the Leader of the Opposition needs a Personal Aide. I think I have a little more humility than that, but I would suggest that the disparity between the Personal Aide's Secretary at $600 a month and the Leader of the Opposition's Secretary at $300 a month is also one which hon. members should take into account. Let us be fair where fairness is due.

With regard to what has been said about Refreshments and Parliamentary Printing, I would not add to that because I was hearing about that when I was comparatively a young man. I refer to the difficulties of Parliamentary Printing. A contract was given for the indexing of the Debates of Parliament to two Indexers for two years, and in that period they were supposed to index the Debates. Last night I looked at the most recent report of the Indexers – I am not anticipating anything – and one Indexer reported that he had got the index for 1950-51 up to date. I happen to have a large number of bound volumes of the Debates of Parliament which belonged to my late father in my office in the Public Building. I looked there and I saw one in my office for 1948-51, and when I took it down and opened it I found that it has already been indexed. Now I want to know, Sir, why we are so happily voting this money for indexing, without a question apparently, without its being open to the House that the contract had expired. There are no Indexers. They were to be paid for one month extra up to the end of last month in the course of which they would prepare a report on the indexing for the consideration of the Committee. No such report has been circulated to me.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. If the hon. member had assisted us in forming a quorum on the last two occasions when we attempted to hold meetings of the Debates Committee, he would probably have been speaking in a different manner today. What I have just said about the hon. member would not

necessarily apply to him particularly, because he is usually present, but it applies to other members. We had two abortive meetings of the Debates Committee. It is all right to get up here and blame everybody, or hand-pick somebody to blame, but it is a long, long story so far as the printing and indexing of the Debates are concerned. All of this is about twenty years old, and it is not a question of the Leader of the House coming here to straighten out things in one minute. I will speak at length later, but I just want to let the Committee know that we have had two abortive meetings. We have had an abortive meeting as recent as yesterday. When we do not meet, are you going to try to pick out somebody and attempt to make him a scapegoat of the House? I am not a Committee by myself; I am not a corporation sole.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I very much hope the Leader of the House does not think that any of my criticisms are directed to him. I most regret that anything said in here by me is taken personally by the Leader of the House in terms of his office or officially. I am very sorry that I could not get to the meeting yesterday. I did come, but when I arrived, I saw Senator Tudor driving away with one of the Indexers and I understood that the meeting had been abortive. I had a very important appointment which made it impossible for me to be here at 3.30 p.m. I tried to get here, but I was late. I am sorry for that, and I apologise to the Leader of the House as well as to all members of the House. That is something I throw out to the House.

Now, if this Report is going to have anything about the indexing of the Debates which to my knowledge are already indexed, then the Report could as well be taken back and re-written. In any case, the Report should be circulated to the Debates Committee hereforehand. These are the things we have to consider. You are providing $14,000 for indexing of Debates, when $15 a week is all that one of the employees of this House can get for sitting down in here for ten or twelve hours working taperecording machines, and that shows a wrong sense of priority, Sir.

With regard to the provision of $18,000 for Refreshments, I think hon. members are really beginning to do themselves too well. I am very glad to say, and this is nothing to do with the Debates or any other Committee, this is to do with Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader of the House and Mr. Leader of the Opposition. I am very glad to say that when a round robin came to me asking me to agree to giving out a contract for the feeding of members of this Honourable House at such a rate that a Supplementary Resolution would have to have been brought in for feeding the members between October 1971 and March 1972 for $21,000, in other words, exceeding the whole amount for which the former contractor was willing to work over the whole year, I opposed it and correct steps were taken to deal with this.

I would ask hon. members to bear in mind that this $18,000 may very well have to be supplemented unless the tenders are much lower than any tender – I have not seen any tenders, so I should have said much lower than any offer which has been made to this Honourable House about which I know for the feeding of hon. members. There are 120 prisoners in Glendairy Prison, on any average day between 110 and 120, and the food for them for a whole year comes to $42,000. *(Asides.)* Some hon. members say that they should not be fed at all, and that would no doubt be one way of reducing the appropriate Head. Hon. members must recall that 120 people means that something like 40,000 meals are being provided in Glendairy Prison every year at an average of $1 a meal over a whole year. I wish that a similar spirit of economy could enter into the consideration of persons who are responsible for spending Government Hospitality money in this manner for refreshments for members of the House of Assembly when they are dealing with members of Parliament.

12.45 p.m.

I would not like to see a situation where a caterer can quote to the House of Assembly a price for feeding 50 members – he can choose the meal and give to them – at a higher cost than you can get any meal if you went to his restaurant and sat down and ate there. You cannot go down there and get a meal as expensive as one of the meals that was quoted to the Honourable House. I would hope that the House of Assembly will not be regarded as a milch cow for outdoor relief for businessmen of this Island.

I have not written any letters or made any demands for any furniture for the office of the Leader of the Opposition or anything like that, but in the interest of, I am not going to say the hon. member for St. Michael South-Central because that would be unrealistic, I am not going to say the hon. member for St. Michael South because that will not come to happen, and I am not even going to say the hon. member for St. Andrew because I think that is merely fanciful, so for safety I had better say the hon. member for St. John, I want to put forward the next

point that I am going to deal with. I am not going to be the only occupant of the Leader of the Opposition's Office across the way. I am sure that all potential occupants will join with me if they knew that office and ask for it to be air-conditioned, not that it is hot. It is hot as it happens, but it is not comfort alone. The country's business cannot be carried on in a room where you cannot hear yourself talk and where what you say can be heard outside. Last night as it happened, the members of the Opposition were having a meeting in that office, and at some stage there were people outside on the pavement and we only knew they were outside there when they joined in and began to talk about what was going on. We discuss private business in there and we may well discuss business in there which in the interest of hon. members should not he heard on the pavement by people walking. There may very well be things that are not party business, but public business, and I would seriously ask in the interest of security as well as comfort that the Leader of the Opposition's office be sealed and air-conditioned. It is more security really than comfort because I can sit down there quite comfortably now, but you cannot open the windows at present without being heard outside and without hearing everything that is going on outside coming in.

I do not like asking for the expenditure of Government money, and I have come to this view only after some months of trial and error and I would urge this on hon. members. We do not even ask for chairs now. We provide our own extra chairs when we need them. I have personally provided a desk to supplement the furniture which is in there, and I am going to provide additional bookcases myself. I am not even asking for this, but what I would ask for is that it be air-conditioned in the general interest of the public business of Barbados.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to make a suggestion. I have been listening rather carefully to the criticisms of the inadequacies of the present House of Assembly, and I would like to put it out to hon. members if they would address their energies and considerations to the suitability of providing Barbados with a new House of Parliament where many of the inadequacies now existing much to the discomfort of the present members could be eradicated and the existing buildings could be used either as a museum or national art theatre or for some other purpose in the interest of the people of this country, because a lot of what has been said may be true, but I think to go on all the time coming here and criticising the inadequacies of the present House, I think we could do a lot better by addressing ourselves to the needs and suitability of getting a better and a new House at some proper site.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think I may agree with the Minister on this; but I remember hearing the member for St. Michael South-Central say that if the economy of the country cannot stand an expenditure, no money would be provided. What I would suggest at this stage is that as soon as we can move out the Savings Bank and the Post Office from downstairs, this would probably assist us in the accommodation of Parliament. I think that is the real problem. I think the hon. member knows that I am far from being a colonist, but I think this building adds a little to us all, and I do not mind looking at the Queen some times.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there are one or two things which I would like to reply on, and I am going to make them as briefly as possible. First of all I should like to say that I am as ignorant of what goes on in the Debates Committee as any member of the general public. I think the time has come except in so far as they come for money Resolutions which was the stage at which I was able to intervene because I did not consider it appropriate that any individual member of the staff's salary should be selected for a special dispensation by this House when it had to go through the Ministry of Finance, when the Debates Committee in matters relating to salaries should invite the Chief Establishments Officer to give them some guidance which they need not find to be binding or impelling upon themselves, but if they want me to endorse anything in relation to salaries and remuneration to members of this House, I am suggesting that they invite the Chief Establishments Officer to come along and give them some guidance on the relativity of the salaries vis-a-vis the salaries of the Public Service. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has pointed out how one officer six months after he was working here was put by the Debates Committee on the same scale as a Veterinary Officer, but it did not come to the House.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation, the Debates Committee rejected the Veterinary Officer's scale, but the Prime Minister may also be interested to know that on an earlier occasion I specifically queried the proposed salary and asked somebody who is not now a member of this House and he assured me that the Minister of Finance regarded this as a salary within the means of Barbados to pay. I specifically asked for that assurance and got it, not in this connection, but I specifically asked for that on one occasion.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What I am trying to point out is this: we have asked the British Government, the United States Government, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Alliance for Progress for surveyors and we cannot even get surveyors in Barbados, and to put an administrative officer on the same scale as a surveyor in the Barbados Government is absolutely ridiculous. I am not being personal, but I think I will make a suggestion that all the Minutes whether they have been confirmed or not should be submitted to all members of this House so that even if there are abortive meetings we can at least see what they are doing in the Debates Committee by reading the unconfirmed Minutes. All the Statutory Boards were requested by Government to submit the minutes of their proceedings and meetings to the Cabinet, and we found out that they would shower us with nine and ten Minutes becuase they only confirm them once every six months because somebody had not typed them; so we changed the rule and said that all confirmed Minutes should be submitted within seven days of the meeting, and we have been able to stop a lot of illegalities and nonsense going on in some Statutory Boards by being able to see the Minutes, and before they can implement these things, we have had a Permanent Secretary or whoever is concerned call them up and say that this is not going to 'get past first base', to use an American expression; so there is no point in bringing it up.

12.55 p.m.

The Debates Committee is a sub-committee of Parliament and they should not operate in a conspiratorial manner. I do not want anybody reporting that I approved this or I approved that, any member of the Debates Committee can ask me direct whether I have been consulted. I have no power to interfere with the Debates Committee except so far as they come for money appropriations and if I feel that they are inappropriate then I will say so, and as Minister of Finance I do not have to bring them in here, I will do what I did last time, send them back because as I said at the beginning I am not prepared to single out any individual member of the staff of this House and give him a special dispensation when, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, there are a lot of other salaries that need redressing anyhow, and certainly somebody who has been on probation for six months is not going to get even one day's back pay as far as I am concerned, because when you are on probation you are on probation, and when you are on probation certainly you are on probation at that salary, and unless there is a general revision of salaries there is no justification whatsoever when you confirm a man for giving more money in a job which he may or may not have proved his competence, so I just want to get that clear.

Genaral information. The members of the Debates Committee are the member for St. Michael North East, the member for Christ Church East who is the Leader of the House, Senator Goddard, Senator Tudor who is the Leader of the Senate, Senator St. John, Senator Moe, and in this House the member for St. Thomas, the member for St. Peter, the member for St. Lucy, Mr. Speaker *ex officio.* Chairman and the other two I have mentioned before. If the member for St. Peter does not attend meetings he cannot come in here and criticise us or if he has missed a meeting – let me put it this way – he should check what has taken place with the other members. I am not suggesting that he does not attend meetings but I am saying that something happened or they did not have a quorum when he was not there or something happened when he was not there. As an intelligent member of the community, he should check back with his other colleagues and ask them what foolishness they had done that day or what good thing did they do, as the case may be, but invariably as far as I can see, it is the former and not the latter, so the member being vigilant, might ask them that they circularise all the members of the House and the Other Place with copies of their Minutes so we should know what they are coming up with.

If I have not been present in the island something may have been passed by this House on the recommendation of the Debates Committee which no well thinking person would allow himself to subscribe to; this is what I am saying.

On the question of refreshments, this is not a matter I have usually concerned myself with but if you take 50 persons who have to be fed on the average every meeting of the House, there must be an average of 40 meetings a year at least, even if we are on vacation the meetings that we do not have are compensated by the frequency of the meetings during the Estimates and so on, that would be about 2,000 meals, but you cannot put us on the same scale as Glendairy, because the administrative cost of feeding the prisoners is not included in the Item for food under the Prisons. Furthermore, they cook for themselves and they wash their own dishes and they have utensils which are of high durability, they are not like the fragile crockery that we are supposed to eat out of but we do not often get, so when you

compare us with the prisoners you are really bringing down the House to a level with which all the members in here are not familiar, so I do not think the hon. member is doing himself or the rest of us justice when he compares our meals with those at Glendairy. I hear that they are well fed, but you have to look into all the other costs as well.

There is something in addition that you have to look at. The members in here get refreshment in every sense of the work, and the liquid refreshment in this House probably costs more than the solid refreshment, and I do not think there has ever been any shortage of liquid refreshment in the House, and I have left out even the question like this morning there was a tea break and this afternoon there will be another tea break, and the days when we meet at 12 o'clock there is both lunch and dinner, and if any statistician went into it – and somebody on the staff of the House should evaluate these things – you will find out that probably much more than 2,000 meals are served, so I do not regard the sum of $18,000 as being exorbitant, but I must join the Leader of the Opposition.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, it is not the $18,000 that is exorbitant, it is the anticipated supplementary which I would suggest to hon. members is going to be exorbitant.

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW: The only member who is anticipating a supplementary is the hon. member for St. Thomas, because there is nothing in the Estimates about any supplementary, but I hope that if and when they do come for a supplementary we will have a breakdown of the number of meals and the quantity of liquor which is consumed in the House.

When I suggested that members should pay for their own meals, when we were going into some economic measure and we felt that the House should set an example, the Caterer nearly went broke because about seven people ate and only about three paid, and the cost was not unreasonable. I do think that if members are only given three quarters of an hour for a luncheon break that they should be fed within the precincts of the House, but I do feel that there should be some form of subsidised meal rather than the members paying the whole cost of the meal. I believe that the members should be allowed to pay, say 50% or 30% of the cost of the meal so that they would appreciate the food more, and that they should be able to have a certain number of visitors for whom they would pay the full rate from time to time, and I think we should have more than one dining room, not necessarily a segregated dining room one for the Government members and one for others, but there should be a dining room which is exclusive to members like in the House of Commons, a dining room in which you can entertain visitors.

I think this is what we need, but what the hon. member for St. James has put forward – and I am correctly describing him now – about taking over this whole building has been my ambition since 1951, and I have said it here debate, after debate, but we are now seeking to build new premises for the Post Office so I hope by that time we will be able to have our Library and other facilities like that and a proper Library, because we do not have a proper Library now, and I too am concerned if we are now only doing 1951 debates. It is true that some debates have been edited and so on, but if you took that as a rough guide – and it is no fault of this House or the present Indexers or the present Clerk that this is the situation in which we now find ourselves – but some of the Laws of Barbados have not been printed at all. If we take 1951 or 1948, it seems to me that we had better start making provision for pensioning these Indexers right now, because they would have done 25 years solid service by the time we get the indexing up to date, and I think we ought to put them on the Established Staff. At the rate of progress which we are going, we are quite sure what is going on.

1.05 p.m.

Let us go back to the question of the laws of Barbados and the printing. This House has voted, I think, over $300,000 during the current financial year for the re-organisation of the Government Printery. The hon. member for St. Peter did sit on a Committee, and he was largely responsible for producing a report which suggested that the House should set up its own Printing Department. This has been very carefully examined, and we appointed a Committee of officials to go into the hon. member's Report. I think he was the Chairman of the Committee – I do not know if it was a Committee of one. The Committee was to go into the Report and report back to the Cabinet. As a result of the findings in depth-study, one of the best studies I have ever seen on any studies relating to Government, there was the Report on the Government Printery.

I am not saying that the one by the hon. member was not, in his own right, a good Report, but he did not have the facilities to go in depth and do the detailed examination of the working-motion studies, the job analysis and so on of the Committee which included Mr. Carlisle

Burton, the setter-upper of the Government Printery. Mr. Burton knew a lot about this matter, because he went to the United States of America and England and was responsible for introducing the first offset operation in Barbados. The recommendation is one of the best Reports I have ever seen coming from a bunch of officials relating to any Government at any time. Apart from the Beveridge Report on Full Employment In A Free Society, it is certainly one of the most detailed Reports I have seen. We have already approved that Report in this House by voting $300,000 to start re-organisation of the Government Printery.

I have said time and time again that I consider that the Debates of this House and the *Official Gazette*, should appear within 48 hours of each meeting. We certainly have the staff to do it, but what we do not have is the sort of intermediate machinery for getting the Debates from the Reporters to the Government Printery in time. Some of them have never seen the light of day. In other words, posterity will never be able to discover what was discussed in Parliament, this Place and the Other Place, for a period of years because those Debates never reached the Government Printery at all. We tolerated, through the Debates Committee, this intolerable state of affairs for about ten years longer that we should have tolerated it.

A Judge of the High Court, at one time a Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal, was appointed Editor of the laws of Barbados. I waited for seven years for a judgment from that particular gentleman who subsequently ran against me in the parish of St. John unsuccessfully. I asked the people up there, quite justifiably, if I had to wait seven years to receive a decision from him after the case had been concluded, then how long would they have to wait to get any representation about water mains and so on, when I am a lawyer and my clients had already paid for that decision? He holds a record, because for nine years, he never published the laws of Barbados. That system had to be looked into, where you had a Government Printery and you appointed somebody from outside to be Editor of the laws of Barbados. The same person who edits the Debates in the House, and the Debates are passed through Parliament, should be the person responsible for bringing out the laws of Barbados and bringing them out within three months from the end of the year. There is no reason at all under the new system, in which the new laws will be printed, that we should not have them within one week from the end of the year.

We have spent a lot of time under this Head. We usually gloss over this Head because it is related to Parliament, but if we expect to get efficiency outside of Parliament, we must first set our house in order in Parliament. This House is like the Augean stables. I cannot remember how many hours it took Hercules to have them cleaned out, but it has certainly taken us a longer time to clean ours. We have 24 Herculeses in here, and we have not been able to clean up this place in 15 years. It is time that we start looking seriously at the problems with which we are confronted, whether there be problems of accommodations, problems of staff, problems of efficiency, problems of loyalty, problems of the nature and quality of the diet with which we are inflicted and so on, but the only thing we tend to look at, is salaries.

With regard to the Library, we vote money for the Library, and I think that there ought to be a Committee to select books for the Library. If I sent to the Library now, provided they can find the key, and got out some of the books which have never been opened, you would wonder what some of those books are doing in Parliament. You will find books on some of the most "far-out" subjects under the sun, probably duplicating books that are in the Public Library and would serve no useful purpose whatsoever to members of Parliament. Now, if you want a copy of Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Procedure, you will have to borrow the Speaker's copy. In other words, there should be at least two copies on this side of the House; the Chairman of Committees ought to have his own copy; the Deputy Speaker ought to have his own personal copy provided by the House to take home and keep, after he has even ceased to be a member of the House, and the Speaker, ought to have his own copy.

I wonder if, at a later stage, I could bring a list of the selection of the books that we have in the Library and read the titles. We do not even have the laws of Barbados in it. You can try and find Volume II. We do not even have the laws of Barbados, and we have been putting up with this for all of these months, every 18 months giving somebody more money and then they write letters to me and say that the Cabinet has robbed an officer of his salary, when in truth and in fact nothing has come before the Cabinet in connection with the matter. He is even so ignorant of the conditions under which he is appointed, who appoints him and where he gets his money from, that he writes to me, and accuses the Cabinet of robbing him. The first thing that a man should be able to tell you is,

who his employer is, and what he expects to get from his employer. If he cannot tell you that, then you cannot expect any level of service out of him.

I am going to say now, and it is time it should be said, from time to time I see a lot of nonsense in the *Advocate* Newspaper about the accounts in Government Departments and so on. There is nothing wrong with the accounts in Government Departments, except that the people will not put in the reports. Now and then you get the odd person, and no matter what kind of system you may set up, you will get somebody who will be able to beat the system. If you are dishonest, you are dishonest, but that is not the fault of any Minister. What about the large amounts of money that have been taken out of Parliament and we have not said a word about it, or told the general public about that? I refer to money which has been misspent; money misappropriated and money which has been stolen out of Parliament. We have never said a word about that in here, but I am not going to call anybody's name. We have had the situation where the President of the Senate resigned in protest because he refused to have anything to do with the situation in which the Clerk and the Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was about to get away with those things. Do you know what we have done in that matter? The general public ought to know. Far from firing the offending officer we gave him a big gratuity and he is still quarrelling because he thinks it is not sufficient. If we had deducted the money for which he could not account, he would owe us $27,000. We gave him a gratuity, and we are now considering whether his gratuity should be increased. What kind of responsibility are we exercising as members of Parliament?

Now, I have to exercise responsibility over $107 million for Current Accounts or something like $102 million. When we vote $240,000 and they cannot account for 10% of the money, we say that is all right, and, far from ushering them out of the House of Assembly, we turn around and give them more money for their misdeeds.
1.15 p.m.

The members who are on the Debates Committee are not turning up to the House of Assembly, so I do not want anybody coming in here criticising Government Departments, if the people who are responsible for voting money for the supply of this country are not prepared to invigilate and keep a careful check on what is going on, in this place.

On the question of the publication of the debates, I am entirely in agreement and I intended last week that we would like to cut out all the advertising in the newspapers and have the Gazette. In some countries, the Gazette is like a newspaper. What we can do is to incorporate all the Government information that they spend money printing all these leaflets and so on on, put all our advertisements about jobs, all the debates and everything in a document that comes out once or twice a week, and so it would have an attraction to the general public and even make a little money on the side. We get very little money from the debates as they are printed, and they are very uninteresting to look at, and you have to be interested in a particular subject to pick up a parliamentary debate amongst all the other duties and reading material that you have to observe from week to week.

I am not in disagreement, Mr. Chairman, but I am very glad that this debate has taken so long because it is time that we devoted time and attention to what is going on in Parliament, and I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that it is far from satisfactory.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, this has been a lengthy and varied debate which has taken place today, but it could well have taken place probably over twenty years ago. Unfortunately for me it takes place now that I am Leader of the Government after just a few months, and I want to get that clear at the start. This is an old, dreary, dreadful story for the last 20 or 30 years which has only reached the floor of the Assembly today. The Prime Minister has given most of the answers, but there are a few breaches I would like to fill up. The Leader of the Opposition has stated the case for the Debates Committee in so far as the salaries and the attitude we adopted at that meeting in question are concerned. At that particular meeting I was in the Chair acting as Chairman for the Speaker, but I did agree with what went on and I am not trying to extricate myself.

Mr. ADAMS: I would like the Minister to understand that we are not blaming him. If he was whom we had to deal with, we would not have all this trouble. We are not in any way blaming him.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member for St. Peter selected me to attach the blame to.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of explanation, all I want the Leader of the House to do in the future is to lead in Committee. In other words, we are asking him not to allow the former Leader of this

House to lead him into the kind of traps that we have heard explained here today. We want him to lead in the future and we will back him one hundred per cent from the Opposition.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Now that we have had a little clarification, I am indebted to the hon. members of the Opposition. Now the Debates Committee is comprised of six members of the House and four of the Other Place, but the difficulty very often, Mr. Chairman, is to have a quorum. As recently as yesterday, we attempted to hold a meeting in order to clarify and go into all these matters, the question of Parliamentary printing, the question of indexing: and the indexing is not quite as bad as has been made out in that the two gentlemen who have been appointed on contract, have done a great deal of work and have given a report and they were called to two abortive meetings to explain the position as far as indexing is concerned. They were standing by to give the evidence on what work they have been doing. It is not fair to level any blame at them because on two occasions they have been there to explain to the Committee the work done along with the printed copies of the reports of what they have done, but the Committee never met because we did not have a quorum. That is the position as far as the indexing is concerned. Placing an amount here in the Estimates for carrying on that work is essential in that the work is not completed yet but great progress has been made. For that reason, as far as I can see from my little experience of these matters, what we really need is an Editor of Debates, and until we get someone who can be relied upon and someone who is knowledgeable and has the necessary experience to put the responsibility on, we will never have these debates in order and there will always be this confusion. This is a legacy of the past twenty or thirty years, an accumulation of acts of commission or omission, more of omission of what could have been done and many of these debates cannot be found or have not been done at all. I do not know if hon. members are aware that many of these debates cannot be found. I am not speaking of the present Clerk or Deputy Clerks, but their predecessors in office could not find some of the debates; so when you talk about indexing, they could not even find the debates themselves. That is the position briefly.

Mr. Chairman, I can speak on this for quite some time, but I want to make it doubly clear that appointing the two gentlemen on contract to try and improve conditions and look after the indexing and try and regularise things has been a very good act on the part of the Debates Committee and they are doing useful work, and the money which has been included here is needed to pay these people to continue that work; and what is more, an Editor of Debates should be appointed.

Now the Prime Minister explained the $300,000 which was passed as a result of the report of the Printing Committee which is a Government Committee for the establishment of a new Government Printing Office and for the purchase of new equipment and machinery. All this is being worked on. Certain orders have gone forward on this, but we will have to revote some of this money because we are looking around for a suitable site. I understand, and I hope I am not bringing tales out of school, that it may be possible to extend the Government Printery on its present site. That has been suggested by one of my colleagues, and like that, the whole thing is in the melting pot. To single out any one individual and say let us get ahead with it, you cannot get ahead with certain matters in Government like that. It is not private enterprise or your own private business. We have voted the $300,000 but now we are looking around for a site in order to have a new Printing Office and a building suggested by the Prime Minister streamlined for the sake of efficiency, something modern and along the lines whereby you would get work done and supervision would be more effective, we hear that some department will be moving from where it is - I am referring to the building next to the Government Printery - and it may be easy to extend there and so on. So it is not as easy as it looks; but that is the position.

I appreciate the remarks of the hon. member for Christ Church West and I can well understand his apprehensions about parliamentary printing and debates. It is towards that goal that we are working in order that the debates can be out early, but we have just made a start. We have had a Committee appointed in the House, and we have had a Government Committee as far as the Government Printery is concerned, we have good recommendations and it is a question now of implementing them. The Government has come for $300,000 in order to get this matter off the ground, and we are trying to do so as soon as possible.

1.25 p.m.

It is suggested that the printing of parliamentary debates be done in here, but it is all well and good to say that we have to provide equipment and machinery for the Government Printery but the Government Printery at present is so congested, there is no room for the increase in staff which has been provided. There are many problems and we are trying to tackle all these

problems. I will not worry to touch on the other points, but I just want to make it clear that a start has been made as far as the parliamentary printing is concerned, and we are hoping to report on this very shortly.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has said that a start has been made, but from what he has just said, no start has been made. Money has been voted but the Minister goes on to tell us that the Government Printery is so congested ...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I thought the hon. member would appreciate what I said. The money is there, but should we spend the money when the building adjacent to the Government Printery will soon be vacant? The Town Planning Office abuts the Government Printery, and according to the Minister who is in charge of Government accommodation, will soon be vacant, so should we go and start building somewhere else when it may only be necessary to alter that building? That is what I mean when I say a start has been made. We have been going around selecting alternative sites, so that is a start. The holdup has been a suggestion that the Government Printery may incorporate the Town Planning Office which is adjacent.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I only hope that I will be proved wrong. I hope that before the end of these five years we will see all of this, that the debates of Parliament get on the streets and in the hands of the public within two or three days after the debate. I hope that this five year session will not pass before this is done, because I know it will happen because they are buying the wrong machinery and doing everything that is wrong.

The question that the sum of $249,840 under Head 3 – Parliament – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 4 – AUDITOR GENERAL

Head 4 – Auditor General – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $30,545 for Head 4 – Auditor General – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $30,545 for Head 4 – Auditor General – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 5 – JUDICIARY

Head 5 – Judiciary – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 5 stand part, and in so doing I would like to point out that there is an amendment on page 7. You will have to insert a new Item 24A – Liquor Licensing Authority, insert the figure $1,600 under the "Other Expenditure" column, and then we have to insert the note to read as follows: "Provision for travelling and remuneration for members at the rate of $3.00 per meeting for members of the Liquor Licensing Authority." The total would then be changed from $139,810 to $141,410. I beg to move that the sum of $141,410 for Head 5 – Judiciary – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we would like to know what the situation is with regard to the break. I do not believe we are going to finish Head 5 before 1.30 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Leader of the House has proposed to suspend the sitting at 1.30. If members want to speak on Head 5 and prefer to suspend now, my suggestion is that I would move then that we do not take Head 5 but suspend for one hour. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

1.30 p.m.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At the time of the suspension Head 5 was under discussion.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think that this Head is one which is not too controversial, but there are one or two points I would like to put to the Minister responsible. I think some time ago a memorandum was sent from the Bar Association to the Minister of Legal Affairs with a copy to the Chief Justice, and going by the Press Release given by the Bar Association, after not receiving any acknowledgement from either of the two gentlemen, a copy was sent to the Prime Minister. I believe that this arises out of a debate some two years ago when certain comments were made here in the House concerning the reorganisation of the Magistrates' Courts centred in Bridgetown as this would not create any hardships in the Magistrates' Courts.

Also the question of the Writ Servers was then raised. The Writ Servers are still under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Police, and the situation does not operate efficiently. The Bar Association felt then, and I believe in the memorandum to the Prime Minister this was set out, that the Writ Servers should be moved, that a post of Chief Magistrate be established so that the Writ Servers could be responsible to him and that he would be responsible for the administration of the Writ Servers' Department. I know in the Speech from the Throne there was some mention of the building of a Court at Oistin, and from time to time there was also mention of replacing the District "D" Magistrate's Court.

I do not know whether the Government will review all the recommendations put up by the Bar Association, and in view of the feeling of the Bar that there is need to reorganise the Magistrates' Courts, whether the Government would really look into the possibility of reorganising the Courts as quickly as possible so that proper and adequate Courts will be provided.

2.35 p.m.

Only this morning before coming to the House, I was at District D Magistrate's Court, and as I looked around it reminded me of a place where one would expect to find Barnabas Collins. I think most of the Magistrates' Courts in the country would be condemned by the Health Service of this country if they were inspected, because they are not in good condition.

I want to make it perfectly clear that I come here not to say that the Magistrates should be given more money, but I think that if one were to analyse the position of the Magistrates in this country, one will find that for far too long the tendency in this country has been to use the magistracy – if not as the recruiting grade because you have the Assistant Crown Counsel – as a grade very low down in the scale in the Judiciary. You find that a person will become a Magistrate; he will then become a Crown Counsel and then a Senior Crown Counsel. I think that part or parcel of the reorganisation suggested by the Bar Association is to reduce the number on the establishment of Magistrates probably by two to six, and then to increase the salaries of the Magistrates. I think the time has come when the Government must realise that, having regard to salary and experience, nobody should be appointed as a Magistrate without having 5 years experience either in private practice or in the Attorney-General's Chambers.

I know that the Prime Minister, as one who has practised in Magistrates' Courts, will agree with me on that score. Once this is done you will then be able to recruit a better qualified person to become a Magistrate instead of just appoint an officer who joins the Service either as Deputy Registrar or Assistant Crown Counsel, he wants promotion, he becomes a Magistrate for two or three years, and then he moves on to the post of Crown Counsel. If that is done, then the Government could consider increasing the present salary of Magistrates to put it on par with the Senior Crown Counsel level. I think the responsibility of a Magistrate is, perhaps, equal to that of those who practise in the Attorney-General's Chambers as Senior Crown Counsel. I believe that other members will speak on this matter. There are other matters on which I should like to speak, but I think that I will probably raise them under the Ministry of Legal Affairs rather than under the Head of Judiciary.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak on the Head of Judiciary as my legally trained friends on this side, but there is something which I see as an ordinary citizen of the community. I feel that the time has come when the Government should increase the fines in Magistrates Courts cases for this reason: It is no fun having a hard day at work; you go home to have some rest; you sit down with your family, or just as you are about to go to bed, you see some stranger walk into your house and advance to cut off your hand. They usually tell you that they will cut off your hand nowadays; they go before the Law Courts, and then some of my colleagues on this side who are the legal

luminaries...*(Asides.)* I said legal luminaries and I was not talking about you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask hon. members to observe Standing Order 29(6).

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that you will find some of these legal luminaries going to the Law Courts to defend some of these people. If they are convicted you will hear that they only had to pay $20. They walk up and down Broad Street; they ask 20 people for a $1 each and the fine is paid. We should make these fines $500, and such people will have to think twice before committing crimes. I am really concerned with the society as it stands right now, Sir. If you read today's newspaper, Mr. Chairman, you will see that even the Police will soon have to carry guns. As soon as you have to put a gun into into the hands of the Police, it shows that the country is about to be taken over and that law and order will, eventually, break down. The Police will have to walk with guns to combat the chaps with guns all over the country. I feel that it will be necessary to give the Magistrates power to impose heavier fines on people who come before them charged with certain offences and, if possible, order that they be flogged with the cat-o'-nine tails. I believe in nipping things in the bud. I know that some of my colleagues share different views on this matter, and they feel that we should treat prisoners in a special manner. There is no special way in treating a prisoner.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that when one is a first offender every effort should be made to help that person reform, but when you look at some of these chaps walking the street you will find that they look to put a knife in their pockets before they think of putting a handkerchief. A lot of them look to see how long the blade of their knife is before putting a knife in their pocket. Now they do not walk around with a knife to go and eat a pork chop. They walk around with a knife to do something that is wrong.

I now recall what happened to the man at Seaview when Magistrate Sargeant gave him a very stiff fine. I sincerely hope that many Magistrates will take the course which Magistrate Sargeant and Magistrate Perry have taken. I do not know much about the law. Perhaps the lawyers will say that Magistrate Perry was wrong and so on, but that is their duty and I am not concerned with that.

If you are going to have a law-abiding society with something like 250,000 in it, and every time you build a house today you have to use wrought iron not for decorative purposes but for protection, then you can no longer enjoy the trade wind coming through your windows at night. You will have to be on the alert. Now, I operate a small business in an agricultural district, and it is pathetic when I see boys between the ages of 12 and 16 challenging big men with knives.

2.45 p.m.

Like me, Sir, you operate a business of a similar nature. It is true I may have a little more sophistication as compared with yours, but this is only a matter of how we think. You probably may have this type of behaviour and unless we can set about to control it. where are we going? It is all right for people to get up and shout "the youth", but I think this word is overplayed, because my grandmother used to say to me "I do not know what is going to become of you young people"! That was more than thirty years ago, and today in 1972 we are talking about the same young people. It is not the young people, Mr. Chairman; it is we the leaders who are responsible for this type of behaviour, and unless we can impose some stiff fines in the law courts so as to bring them to their senses, then we are going to have this problem of the society going into a point of degeneration. I am speaking under Head 5 – Judiciary, because it deals with the Magistrates' Courts. I would also like to draw to your attention that a supporter of mine was once arrested and taken to the Magistrate's Court, and I felt very concerned the way he looked in there when I went to stand bail for him. He had drunk some liquor the previous night and had probably said something he should not have said to the police. The same thing happens to us in here sometimes; you get a little sweet and our voices get a little bit loud. If I am not mistaken there is a case pending before the Law Courts in which the former Attorney-General used obscene language to a supporter of this party.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Oh no, you are not getting away with that. (Mr. CRAIG: Insulting language, Sir.) On a point of order, I can get the facts straight. The complainant brought a case printed on the typewriter of the Leader of the Opposition and when he went before the Magistrate he withdrew it; so the case is finished and I am innocent; so do not come with this. The Leader of the Opposition's typewriter was used in printing the complaint; so let us get the facts straight; and this was during the elections.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation, I do not know if my typewriter was used or not, but I am obliged to the hon. member for his

assurance that my typewriter was used. I do not know; I was trying to get votes; I was fighting in St. Thomas. But if he refers to the printed form upon which the complaint was drawn, let me just assure him that those printed forms may be purchased from the Beacon Publishing Company for four cents each which is where I bought mine and where I believe the complainant bought his too.

Mr. CRAIG: The former Attorney-General and now Minister of Communications and Works is always quite anxious to jump to his defence. I used the words "abusive language", but I would withdraw that and say "insulting language". Can you imagine the Attorney General of Barbados being arrested on such an occasion and placed in a cell and there is no place for him to lie down? Maybe you get a fellow with his liquors coming in and urinating in his face. All these things can happen and I would like to see better conditions for people who are held overnight to be brought before the Magistrate the following morning. It is a point which I believe the Minister will take note of because I do not feel, nor do I think the Prime Minister would feel very happy to know that the Attorney General appointed by him had been placed in a cell where a drunk can have some fun with him, and I think in the interest of all concerned there should be better facilities for keeping these people who are picked up off the road at night. I hope this will not fall on deaf ears.

As far as the other items are concerned, I leave these to the members on my right and left. The Prime Minister says he no longer practises in the courts of this country so I doubt very much he would have very much to say about this, but knowing that the Minister of Communications and Works is an authority on all subjects, I am quite sure he will give us a favourable reply.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I would like to speak on Item 15 – Legal Aid. I think that the initiation of the Legal Aid for Criminal Cases (Amendment) Act in 1969 was a very vital step in this country's social history, and I believe that the present Minister of Communications and Works would acknowledge that it has had the full support of the Bar Association in getting this scheme working properly. In fact, looking at the figures which have been presented in the Draft Estimates, there is a decrease in the region of $3,000 although the actual expenditure in 1970-71 was in the region of $3,030, and I was wondering whether the time was not ripe as a matter of policy for the Government to consider extending the Legal Aid Scheme in certain categories of cases. In particular, I believe that a check with the Social Welfare Department should convince the Minister that there are several deserving cases particularly in husband and wife and offences involving children where it would be useful to have such an extension, and although I am aware under Social Welfare that there is a small vote for legal expenses, very frequently many of us are called upon and we give unhesitatingly assistance to Government Departments who may be confronted out of the normal run of things with people who have need of legal aid in circumstances such as these.

I believe that whatever else may be said of the former Attorney General in criticism, it can certainly be said in commendation of him that very frequently he used his influence to persuade members of the practising Bar in particular and members of the solicitors profession to give assistance to some of these deserving cases where there was no provision of money under these Heads. I think that the country can well afford in this area to have some token vote, and I wonder whether the Minister would consider at some stage instead of decreasing the vote, increasing it and widening the categories not only of offences but the categories of persons and class of persons whom we help under this Head.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am rising in connection with this Head on a very pleasurable note. I cannot congratulate the Government; it is not the Government to be congratulated; I suppose it is the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. For the first time since I have been a practitioner I am happy to say from a practitioner's point of view and I have taken an opinion of a large number of fellow counsel that we now have a magistracy which from top to bottom consists of proper persons. There is hardly a magistrate whom I could not praise. In fact, there is no magistrate whom I could not praise for courtesy, attention to matters before him, absence of extraneous matter, politeness to litigants and politeness to counsel.... the Learned member for the City has pointed out that I must confine these remarks to the present Bench, from Mr. Sargeant the most recently appointed magistrate to Mr. Johnson and Mr. Walcott whom I believe are the senior ones. I am calling names because I would like the magistrates to know and the public as aware as possible that they are much appreciated by the Bar.

2.55 p.m.

This is an occasion where the names should be called because I would like the Magistrates to know in as public a way as possible that they are much appreciated by the Bar. Mr. King, doing outstanding work in Bridgetown, Mr. Lynch, Mr.

Cox, Mr. Springer – all of them are doing outstanding work at the present, and I think that the Government ought to take a lesson from this, that many of the Magistrates are persons who intend to remain in the magisterial service. Many appear to be persons who are happy to be Magistrates and who know and who correctly know that their talents lie in the exercise of the magisterial functions. Mr. King may be a little bit different, I can tell you this, I will be extremely sorry when his undoubted qualities as a Magistrate gain him promotion, because I think he will be a great loss to the Bench. I would be glad to think that it would be possible to keep him at an adequate salary on the magisterial Bench.

I say all this, not merely for the sake of fulfilling what to me is a duty, it has been so pleasant over the last few months to work with people of this calibre, not merely for that reason but to support what has been said earlier and what is contained I believe in submissions before the Government, that something must be done about upgrading the magisterial service and ceasing to make it a recruiting grade. One very good Magistrate has also recently been lost to the Bench, Mr. Reid, upon promotion. If the magisterial Bench was paid a flat salary as was suggested, and the qualifications of five years professional service or whatever similar qualifications be applied to it, we would not be getting the disgraceful situation with some Magistrates. There have been two persons of the worst conceivable quality inflicted upon the magisterial district of District "E" over the last three or four years. I do not want to call any names, but I am sure that all hon. members who know about these matters will be familiar with them. They have been responsible for a lot, and we will meet them again in the Estimates when we come to the stage of costs by the Police, the reason for an increase in costs by the Police, one of the reasons is that the Court of Appeal in connection with both these Magistrates at intervals of a couple of years made up its mind that unless cause was shown to the contrary, and even if every one of the Judges denied this I would still say they made their minds up, an appeal from these Magistrates had to be allowed. It was extremely difficult to lose and appeal from two particular Magistrates at District "E" over the last few years. I am not referring to the last Magistrate at District "E" although they were allowing all his appeals too.

These Magistrates were there much longer before steps were taken, whetehr by kicking them upstairs or by kicking them out altogether, long before these steps were taken something should have been done to relieve the Bar, the Bench and the public of the incubus which they placed upon the backs of the administration of justice in this country, and it is not to say that these things are not known, there are files I believe in the Registration Office of complaints for every – I was told some time ago for every leading practitioner and all the solicitors, certainly including me, Mr. Chairman – every practitioner who has been in practice for a few years, leading in the sense of say five years' practice, and I mean every one there is no exception, and all the Solicitors. *(Asides).* The hon. member for St. Michael North West is saying that they are none against him; well, that is very possible. I would not expect, if I am talking in terms of complaints against leading practitioners, for the....anyhow, I would not go on with that, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, the fact that there are complaints does not mean that the complaints are justified, but when particular persons attract an exceptional volume of complaints for their work on the Bench, this is something which not only the Commission but the Government, the Minister of Legal Affairs must interest himself in this. When there are accusations, and there have been certain things said, I have seen a Police Sergeant embarrassed in the extreme recently at Holetown having to explain to the Magistrate who came immediately before Mr. Sargeant that the previous Magistrate had called him into his Chambers and told him he had made a mistake in dismissing a police case and that he would lock up the fellow but the policeman must put back in the case. The Sergeant obviously did not mean to expose the whole thing in the circumstances, but he was trying to tell the Court when the Court was pressing on him to say this man had been acquitted already what the case was doing there, and he was trying to tell the Court and eventually under a lot of pressure the whole story came out and naturally the case was dropped right away. What knid of justice are we having, when the Magistrate are putting pressure on Policemen to carry out prosecutions? What kind of administration of justice is that? These matters have been the subjects of complaints to the Registrar, to the Chief Justice, and I do not know as far as the Ministry is concerned, they certainly have been the subject of complaints by myself in respect of one or both of the particular Magistrates concerned.

I do not want to see any interference by politicians in the administration of justice in this country, Mr. Chairman, I would not wish to see that under any conditions, but there are occasions where indeed incompetence or indeed in my opinion malice show themselves so strongly

on the magisterial Bench that the Minister of Legal Affairs, while obviously he cannot exercise any disciplinary function, should see to it that those who are put there to exercise disciplinary functions do so, and it is not in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, a proper exercise of the judicial function of disciplining persons who are found incompetent or otherwise improper for carrying out magisterial functions in this country to get rid of them on promotion, you merely shift the problem somewhere else. That is what I have to say about the Magistrates.

I would like to say under Item 25 that I am very glad to see the vote for furniture and equipment for the Courts. What I particularly doubt is whether it is sufficient. There are certain Courts where it can be extremely difficult for Counsel to get a seat, if Counsel gets a seat sometimes the prisoner has to stand because they take the chair out of the dock. There are certain Courts where the accommodation is grossly cramped at the present time, and I do not see for example at District "C" that an executive chair and an upright chair will solve the problem by any means. I would also like to join with the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown who has pointed out some of the difficulties in the future administration of justice involved by not having officers of the Court, like Writ Servers and so on, under the jurisdiction of the Magistrates.
3.05 p.m.

I do not go along with that by any means, Mr. Chairman, and it should not be thought to be the policy of the Barbados Labour Party that there should only be one Magisterial District in Bridgetown, and that people who want to go to Belleplaine to plead guilty to some petty offence will have to take the bus to come to Bridgetown and spend time hanging around an already congested Court Yard to enter their pleas there and then. It cannot be said to be the policy of this particular Political Party by any means. We do not at all go along with the whole memorandum. It is not before the House and I am not going into what was submitted by the Bar Association, but we do support a lot of the reorganisation of the Magistrates' Department in general.

Mr. Chairman, this is purely a personal view. I myself will support the joining of District D to District A. District D concerns my constituency in St. Thomas, and I can tell you that it will be a lot more convenient for litigants in St. Thomas to catch a bus and go to Bridgetown than to go to Rock Hall, cool and comfortable place though Rock Hall is. It could be a health resort it is so cool even in the middle of the day, but it is an inconvenient place for people from Welchman Hall to have to travel to get justice. That is only one District which is near Bridgetown. I know less about St. George, but perhaps people from St. George could also some to Bridgetown.

I would not like to see Magistrates' Courts abolished in Speightstown and Oistins. I should like to see one with a bigger jursidiction, perhaps, than the present District B and Oistins; let it take in a little more of Christ Church where you have the early morning bus traffic going out to Oistins rather than congesting the buses coming into Bridgetown a little more. These are only thoughts for the consideration of the Minister of Legal Affairs in the fullness of time. Subject to those remarks, Sir, It has been pointed out to me that we have to deal with the Minister of Legal Affairs under the next Head.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak on Item 24 — Liquor Licensing Authority. For some time now I have been very disturbed with the method of granting licences to rum shops, restaurants, etc. Already the Courts are burdened by the number of cases which comes before them daily, and I think the old practice of persons coming before the Court once a year or, probably those who apply for licences in between the regular Licensing Sessions, having to come to the Court Yard, queue up and prevent the Magistrate from doing a worthwhile job, which is his substantial post of hearing criminal or domestic cases, to sit with two others on the Licensing Authority, is a waste of time. You call the name John Thomas who comes up, stand up on the stand, the licence is granted and he goes back out. I think this is a waste of valuable time not only to the Magistrate, but to the people who have to come and show their face in order to get a licence.

I believe it is time that Government should amend the legislation so that when someone applies for a licence, at the end of the period the licence will be automatically granted. You will get a note stating that the licence has been granted, and you will pay the necessary fees within so many days after you have received the notice, and only those which are objected to by the police or any other person should be sent a summons to appear before the Licensing Authority. I think the present system is old, outdated and should be abandoned as soon as possible. The Magistrate would then have more time to get on with trying the cases before the Court.

In my honest opinion it is merely a question of showing off nowadays, because you bring an undertaker from Belmont Road and somebody

else who will go and sit down with the Magistrate and you will hear; "John Thomas, come in. Granted. Peter Jones. Granted." In the end a whole morning is wasted. I think that this could be a sort of administrative function. I feel that when one applies for the renewal of a licence, at the end of 14 days or whatever time is specified one should get a note stating that it is automatically granted. Further, I believe that the applicant should be made to pay the necessary fees at the time of the application, so that the licence can automatically be sent back. I believe this would speed up the operation, and probably the Government could save some of the money that is being voted under this Head.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, one of the things I believe that causes concern to the Magistrates is the constant shifting of the personnel working in the Magistrates' Courts. It appears to me that the personnel who work in the Magistrates' Court actually come under the Ministry of Legal Affairs under the Registration Office whereas the Magistrates themselves come under the Judiciary and, therefore, under the Prime Minister. I do not know whether the Prime Minister is going to reply to the comments I have made, but, if he is going to reply, perhaps he will tell us the reason for this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say that one of the recommendation of Mr. Sorum, the Organisation and Methods Expert, is that there should be a re-arrangement. There was some feud going on in the United States years and years ago equivalent to the Capulets and the Montagues, and it is said that the Capulets and the Montagues did not speak to each other, and somebody else only spoke to God. We will have to put the Judiciary in the same position. The Judges are not public officers *(Asides.)* I am talking about family fueds in Ireland and Italy and so on, but there is no feud involved here.

The point I want to make is that the Judiciary is in a special position. The Judges are not members of the Public Service – that is the Constitution of Barbados – and they do not like being classified as members of the Public Service. Some of the Judges may not even want to talk to me; I am the Prime Minister, but they prefer to talk to the Governor-General although he has no power; therefore, we have to be very sensitive to these little susceptibilities of the Judiciary. That is the only reason why it is not under a different Ministry. No Judge will address a public officer, and Judges will talk only to the Prime Minister. I am not blaming them, but they have little problems like that because of the peculiar Constitution that we have in Barbados. That is the only reason why, up to now, there has not been a re-shuffling of the Department. I do not know whether they think that I am a lawyer and would be more sympathetic in dealing with their problems, but they do not like to deal with anybody else. Sometimes you do not get answers when you write the Public Service; sometimes you get answers; sometimes I do not get answers.

It took me nine months to get permission to sell my house; the Town Planning Office is just next door to me, but I am not going over there to beg them to give me permission to change the use of my house, because they know their duty and I know mine. *(Asides.)* There are problems, and everything Mr. Serum recommended will be examined. With reference to the Ministry of Legal Affairs, I am not sure whether this is the correct disignation of the post.. I am not sure whether there should be a Ministry of Justice or a Minister of Justice. All of these things are debated. They may have them in other places, but it is not a sort of watertight operation that you can carry out and say put this and that in a Department.

3.15 p.m.

Sometimes I have some subjects that I do not really want but there are difficulties in putting them somewhere else, and I am like the repository in the last resort, and whatever else they cannot find somebody to do, they put it in Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet and General. As long as the work is done, that is all I am concerned with. We would like to make things tidier; we are working on it and very shortly we may have an amalgamation of some Ministries. As far as the magistrates are concerned, we do have recommendations up now form the Law Society, I believe, and the Bar Association. What surprises me is that there was a proposal some time ago that there should be a Chief Magistrate and this was turned down out of hand, and now I am hearing that there should be a Chief Magistrate from the same source that said it was not really necessary; so it places me in an awkward position. I do not mind whether there is a Chief Magistrate or not; I am interested in efficiency and I am not going to have any big public debate or argument on whether there should be a Chief Magistrate. It appears sometimes that whether there should be a Chief Magistrate or not depends on who may be eligible for the job. I think that people with legal training should be the last people to approach a problem from the point of view of whether a person who is likely to get the job would make a good Chief Magistrate or not. The point is do you need a Chief Magistrate in principle, not

whether you think somebody is the person who should have the job. I am not making any accusation. I am just saying there appear to me to be certain inconsistencies in the kind of recommendations I get from time to time. I do not often talk about them because I have a very simple formula, and it would seem to be a formula which some people working with the Government adopt from day to day, but it should never apply to a person in a judicial or magisterial position. A person in a judicial position must always make a decision, and when I get conflicting advice there will be no kind of harm done to the public and things can stay in a status quo without any detriment being suffered by the community, I do nothing.

Mr. Chairman, when I was practising there were some judges who used to do nothing when they had a decision to make. I made a complaint about that earlier. Some magistrates would adjourn a case 37 times, and I hope the general public is not suffering that kind of thing anymore. From what I have heard, the legal profession is satisfied with the level of efficiency now, but I had a lot of laymen to contend with and I used to call them Mr. Necessity outside the Court, because you know they say that necessity knows no law; so I had to say that Mr. Necessity had adjourned the case again. we had a lot of time servers taken from public service and put on the magisterial Bench. At one stage there were at least six. Maybe the salary was not attractive to practitioners or there were not enough practitioners, although I am glad to hear that that situation has been remedied; but when people put two conflicting sets of advice to me from the same source, I only say I should not be surprised if I decide that that something which can wait and let me go on with other personal problems.

Mr. Chairman, the conditions of the Magistrates' Courts in this Island have been deplorable for a long time. We now have air-conditioning in the Supreme Court and I hope the day is not far off when we have a rational system of magisterial districts. I agree with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that there should be a court at Oistins. Boarded Hall can only serve Christ Church and St. Philip; it certainly does not serve St. George because Boarded Hall Tenantry is in Christ Church and Windsor is on the borders of Christ Church and St. Philip and the only village which is partially convenient for Boarded Hall is South District and Watts Village, and certainly the people in South District would perfer to come to town. I think a court at Oistin would be a good thing and the people from St. George could get to town a lot more easily than to District "B" court, and we would find another use for the premises at Boarded Hall. All these are things on which we have had submissions from the Bar Association and from the Judiciary and on which we are working, but we do not expect to rush and spend a lot of money to do the wrong thing. The whole matter is under consideration. I do not think there is any other matter that I was asked to comment on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is one other point. It is now almost six years since Barbados became independent, and under the provisions of Section 24 of the Constitution which deals with the enforcement of protective provisions – and I think the member for St. Michael South-Central could bear me out on this – rules and regulations should be made if any person wants to bring a case before the Supreme Court dealing with the protection of freedom of association, freedom of expression or freedom of conscience for the guidance of the practice both in the High Court and the Court of Appeal, and to date I believe I am correct in saying that no such regulations have been made. I do think that this is causing members of the Bar some concern. I know it is not the function of the Government as such to make them, but I wonder if the Prime Minister, or even the member for St. Michael South-Central, becuase I think he would have dealt with this not so long ago when he was Attorney General, could assist the members of the Opposition on this score.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I know that no such rules and regulations have been made under that particular section, and when I was Attorney General it was a source of worry to me that I would have to spur people to do what should have struck them most forcibly as a necessity. I know that Jamaica has theirs and the Associated States have theirs, but as I say, it can only be due, I suppose, to the knowledge that this Government would never do anything to infringe the fundamental rights and provisions of the people of this country, and the reluctance of the Judicial Advisory Committee to perform that particular function may have sprung from their knowledge of the fact that this Government at least up to today has honoured that particular section of the Constitution. I agree with the Hon. member for Bridgetown that the time has come when practitioners should know how they should approach the Courts in case they have got to bring a case to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual.

As I have got up I would just like to say one or two things. I am very glad that the hon. member for St. James did admit in his opening remarks that he was a layman and knew nothing

about legal matters, so his description of what he thinks of legal luminaries must therefore be taken in the light of his limited knowlege, as he says, of legal affairs so that he might give the description of legal luminaries to persons with whom he comes in contact daily without being aware of what one must do to merit such nomenclature. Be that as it may, I agree with him that the fines in this country are completely out of date. The Laws of this country date back to the early 17th Century and they go right up to modern day, and some of the fines imposed in 1664 and 1891 are still the fines which bind the magistrates today. I should like to draw to the attention of the hon. member for Bridgetown that during my regime there was no Minister of Legal Affairs, so when he says that two years ago he drew something to the attention of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, I should just like to correct him on that detail. But lying somewhere in one of the Ministries, is a big volume on which I spent some time with the legal draughtsman going through every single law in Barbados, amending or leaving open for the consideration of Government and the legal profession an increase in fines to bring the monetary values into line with today's monetary position.

3.25 p.m.

Somewhere either in the Ministry of Home Affairs and perhaps now in the Ministry of Legal Affairs lies that document. It has a long Schedule of every law which carries a punitive section waiting to be filled in, whether it is $240 or not, and this is particularly so especially in the Road Traffic Law which was in 1937 and which carries some fines that the poor Magistrate has to impose. You can never correct dangerous driving, careless driving and driving without due care and attention when the fines in the country are so ridiculous under the Road Traffic Law. That will soon be remedied, and I do hope to have before Parliament in this very year a modern and up-to-date road traffic law, but I do agree with him that something has got to be done about fines.

As to the question of flogging that is another matter, and I shall not deal with that aspect, but I am talking about fines pure and simple, they bear no relationship to the monetary value today. If you do study penology and you do go into the purposes of sentences, certainly those fines need to be brought up to date. I must thank the hon. member for Christ Church West for the commendation which he gave me in the question of legal aid in criminal cases, and I claim the credit on behalf of the Government for this, and I must say that during my term of office I did have the complete cooperation of all the members of the profession in the carrying out of this law, and I think it was a good piece of legislation. Of course it can be amended and the categories can be extended now and had I remained Attorney General one of my intentions would have been to extend legal aid, not only to criminal cases but to certain areas of civil litigation, because my term of office as Attorney General led me to the conclusion that many cases of poor litigants in this country go by default, whether it is being turned out of their houses even in breach of the Landlord and Tenant Act, whether it is being sued for money they have already paid to certain debt collectors, and in many other areas people of this country suffer injustice, and I had a big file with them. I used to see them by the hundreds of people with legitimate causes of action, legitimate complaints, and as I say, because of their inability to hire counsel or a solicitor, then they suffer.

I remember one case of a woman whose house was overhanging on another woman's house and the woman brought over another woman from America who had money who brought her before the Supreme Court for trespass to the property. The Judge ordered her to remove the trepass, she refused to do it and she was cited and sent to Glendiary for contempt of Court, failing to obey the order of the Court. This woman was in Court for two or three weeks when she came to me as Attorney General. I got the Crown Solicitor of his own free will and volition to file an action in the Supreme Court, I entered an *amicus curiae* as Her Majesty's Attorney General. I went to the Solicitors for the Plaintiff, we inspected the house, we saw that the obstruction had been removed, I got an affidavit from myself and an affidavit from the Plaintiff's Solicitor, filed them in Court and the lady was released. She was charged $250 to enter into the Court, and the family was charged that to enter into Glendairy; that woman could not raise the first cent.

That is an area in which as I say if there were means to help her she would have had to remain in Court because she did not know how to appear before the Judge and get relief, so I am very glad for that because as I say I have experienced this in the course of my administration as Attorney General. The difference between an Attorney General and a Minister of Communications and Works is just another step, because both Ministers enable you to remedy injustices and help as many people as it is possible to help under the particular circumstances.

The question that the sum of $141,410 under Head 5 — Judiciary -- stand part of the Schedule

was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 6 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $154,745 under Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I propose to address the Committee briefly on Items 22, 25 and 26. With respect to Item 26, it is quite some time now – and I take printing of laws to mean printing of the revised laws which we heard at least two or three years ago would have been published in that year – I do not know what has happened, perhaps whoever is the Minister responsible or whoever is going to answer questions arising out of this would perhaps be able to bring us up to date, because I know that for the young barristers coming back to Barbados it is a very difficult thing for them to get any of the existing laws, and even to get the existing laws it is difficult to find and appreciate what laws have been amended and what laws have not been amended, therefore I would like to find out from the Minister how far the revision has reached, how far the printing of the laws has reached and when it is likely to have these laws made available to the members of the public.

I shall take Items 22 and 25 together, Sir. On the question of the revision of laws and the Law Reform Committee, I am one of the people who serve on the Law Reform Committee as established by the then Attorney General, and I think for a while we did do some work, we were able to do a draft Evidence Bill which I think went before the Government some years ago, but to date we have not heard anything about it. There were also some minor amendments we suggested to the Government.

The Law Reform Committee was at the time constituted with three members of the Bar, three members of the legal profession, the Solicitor General, another representative from the Attorney General's Chambers without having any full time draughtsman attached to it and could not adequately meet the needs of the reform that is required in Barbados. We on this side would like to see a permanent Law Reform Committee established, we think there is need for this, with a permanent Chairman even if the Chairman is not a full time Chairman, at least to have a legal officer trained in drafting attached to it so that even if the Committee as is presently constituted, members of the Bar, members of the legal profession – and I say legal profession in anticipation of the Fusion Bill – and members of the Attorney General's Chambers, I think that there must be an officer assigned to it who would be able to do the requisite drafting that is needed, because the Committee as such can only make recommendation on certain aspects but the actual final draft can only be done by a person who is trained in drafting.

3.35 p.m.

The Minister of Communications said that he hopes to introduce a new road Traffic Act, and we on this side of the House welcome that. We think there is also need for a revision of the land law of this country. There is also need for reform rather than revision. The Criminal Law is also in need of reform. We have drafted the Evidence Act and sent it to the Minister sometime ago, and we have no doubt that we will hear something about it, because it is also in need of a revision.

The establishment of the Supreme Court of Judicature is four Judges at the moment. I do not think that there is really full-time work for all four Judges, and it may very well be that, if the drafting section of the Attorney General's Chamber cannot cope with the question of law reform, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court should be assigned to do law reform work and in this manner assist in bringing the laws, especially the land law and the divorce law, up to date. It may very well be that in assigning him to do law reform work, he could also be assigned to sit in the Court of Appeal only, in which event there would be no need to appoint an additional Judge to sit in the Court of Appeal. I throw this out as a suggestion to the Government, because there is no doubt that the law in Barbados is badly in need of reform.

With regard to the printing of the laws, I think the laws will be printed up to the 30th November, 1966, or the 1st December, but it is obvious that as soon as the laws are printed quite a number of the provisions will be outdated and it will be necessary to have them revised again. I think that the Government will have to think in terms of having an officer of the Parliamentary Draftsmen Division whose function it will be to keep the laws revised. I understand that it is intended to print the laws in a loose-leaf system so that at the end of the year you can have any law that is amended brought up to date with the

publication of a new page, and you would know what laws are amended. These are some of the points on which I would like to hear the Prime Minister inasmuch as he has moved this Head.

Mr. FORDE: Before the Prime Minister replies to this Head, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should support the plea made by the hon. and learned member for the City of Bridgetown and expand a bit on some of the aspects of this matter. Certainly, speaking for myself, I am not very satisfied on the level of the vote which has been brought in respect of the Law Reform Committee. I believe that this is a bigger problem than the Government realises and, in some respect, the absence of immediate and effective law reform is probably frustrating some of the Government's plans for the country particularly in the economic sphere.

For instance, I should think that if one looks at the trade marks legislation of this Island,one is shocked to see that the United Kingdom trade mark is almost automatically accepted in Barbados for registration without much challenge and this in circumstances where we have been finding that by this sort of acceptance it immediately gives to United Kingdom exporters in Barbados monopolies in respect of their goods. You can find, for instance, a product like Nescafe being produced in Brazil, and because of the presence of trade marks legislation here the Nescafe which comes in by a Company registered in Switzerland is being sold at a much more expensive price than if the trade mark legislation did not exist as it stands and the coffee came in by menns of Brazil. Likewise in the Patents Act we find the same problems and difficulties.

If I may, again, draw something to the Minister's attention, I do not see how we can pursue a course of being an industralised nation, and there is no doubt that in recent years our industrial development has quickened the pace, without having a Registered Designs Act on the Statute Book. Now, I would be the first to admit that it is rather difficult for a Government, without in some respect increasing revenue, to provide essentials and all priorities, but, in my view this is a priority.

I have had the honour of sitting on a Committee revising the Companies law. The position is, of course, that we have done so in circumstances where our report is about to be written and we have had the assistance of someone now to draft that legislation. My experience there will help me draw to the Minister's attention that law reform and not merely law revision is the tremendous task, and it certainly needs a body that is properly organised with at least a full-time Chairman who has the scope, ability, competence and knowlege to draft the laws and who is in complete contact with all aspects of the economic, social and political affairs of this country.

I think, for instance, if I may use the experience of the United Kingdom for the benefit of the Minister concerned, Britain has had to establish a high-power Committee drawing on the Professors of Universities who had given up chairs to sit on the Committee and also people from the Practising Bar, leading silks, who had come to sit on the Committee as full-time Chairmen. We cannot afford this expenditure on the same level as the United Kingdom, but I think the time has come for us to do a lot more in this respect. I believe the Hon. Prime Minister, having held the Portfolio for External Affairs, will agree that we do not know what are the Economic Treaties binding the country; we do not know in the subsidiary legislation whether we have reciprocal enforcements with different countries in relation to maintenance agreements or in relation to even our judgments. These are aspects which, I think, should be quickened during the next five years. I feel that five years subsequent to Independence is a settling-down period. We are now aware of the problems, and I believe that we will have to face them even if it means at times asking people to bear a few burdens.

In this respect, let me sound a warning. I feel that professional people in this country, including people of my own profession, must be prepared to give up some of their time voluntarily to help the community. When we come here to discuss people like Architects, Surveyors and so on, I see it wrong in principle, that they are paid to sit on Boards in this country when they are making money otherwise on a fairly high level of earnings. The same thing goes for the Bar. I think that the Solicitors and the Bar can give up a bit more of their time in some areas. Doctors, too, should also give assistance of their knowlege and expertise on this level. I know that the reply will be that you have succeeded. I think that regardless of whether we have succeeded or on the ladder of success, it is incumbent on us because of our limited land space or limited resources in areas such as these to help as much as possible. We are not helping a particular Political Party; we are really, in essence, helping ourselves.

3.45 p.m.

I should like to appeal to the Bar Association and the Law Society on this score to

offer again to the Government their part-time services as much as they can in this sphere, but I think even with that the Government needs to look at this in a much more realistic form. A sum of $1,000, an increase of $500 is only looking at the problems as a token vote. For instance I think the member for St. Michael-West would like to know that the whole area of labour legislation, although a labour code is promised, needs looking at realistically in the context of this country, and we cannot do it in a piecemeal fashion waiting for the odd amendment to change some word here and there. It needs looking at in the context of an under-developed country trying to push forward, having to do it against difficult odds, in circumstances where the foreign aid is very little and in circumstances where we have to redress the balances in the society as quickly as possible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would be grateful if the Minister of Communications and Works would give way because I was going to invite him to reply on the printing of the Laws. I really am surprised by the legal profession. I heard from the hon. member for Christ Church-West that he does not know what treaties we have with reciprocity of enforcement of judgments and maintenance orders. They are all in the Laws of Barbados. In the first place on Independence we took all the existing treaties with us and we keep now in the Ministry of External Affairs for the information of the legal profession a treaty register in which is demonstrated every international agreement that we have whether it is an enforcement of maintenance orders and they are on the Statute Book of Barbados, and we carry them forward. We have had no new ones since and there is need for us to have some new enforcement of maintenance and other orders and judgements. There are some on the Statute Book and any new treaties and obligations that we have entered into are on the treaty register, and any member of the legal profession who is in doubt, I assure you, has access to the treaty register at any time whatsoever.

Now on the question of the position with the printing of laws, and this has been the main bugbear, I think the Minister for Communications and Works will be in a better position to bring them up to date on that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long on this because I think the members of the Opposition know that the Government is as keen as they are to have laws which can be referred to as easily as possible, and I think that if knowledgeable members of the Opposition are fair on this matter, they will agree that the Government has done every single thing possible to get these laws. I think that you probably know that we have appointed Professor Marshall who is now Vice-Chancellor of the Univeristy and Professor Patchett who is Dean of the Faculty of Law to revise the Laws. They were not in those positions when we appointed them as our law-revision commissioners, and they were doing a very good job. Professor Marshall was then at Sheffield and Professor Patchett was also senior lecturer at Sheffield, but as things happened Professor Marshall undertook the responsibility of running our University at Mona and Professor Patchett became the first Dean of the Law School, and this obviously interfered with the intensive work which they have already put in, and is still interferring for the simple reason that even although on the Books they are our law-revision commissioners, they cannot give their undivided attention to the bringing forth of these Laws, and I think the hon. member for Christ Church-West will agree that in this type of exercise it is impossible to change horses at this particular stage. I know both would welcome it but I think we who have been involved and the Prime Minister would know that in an exercise as extensive and involved as this to change them at this point when they have done almost four-fifths of the work would only prolong the exercise. I am not misleading the House on this. As a matter of fact, everything they have asked we have endeavoured to do. Professor Patchett having established the new Faculty has asked us to hire Mr. W. K. Fergusson whom he thinks can assist in hurrying the Laws along. We have hired Mr. Fergusson. The Establishments Officer has given him a secretary and they are sending down the proofs now from England, but the point is that they have got to be read and it is a delicate exercise. The Laws of Barbados from the 1600s we have got to read, and therefore we are doing our best. Our draughtsman in the Attorney General's Office cannot take time off from keeping Government legislation going in order to do this exercise of proof reading; they have got to do it between the Government's demands for current legislation to keep Parliament and the country going, but I can only assure the House – and I would not give another firm date again as I attempted to do in the Other Place and was let down, that the Government has done and will do everything in its power to see it that these Laws are as readily available as possible, and we shall not ease up to get this desire met. That is why we have put this money in and we are prepared to spend any amount of money within reason to see that this exercise is completed as quickly as

possible. That is the most I can give on this aspect.

On the question of law reform, this also is another matter in which the Government established a Law Reform Committee with a view to bringing the Laws of Barbados or as many of them as possible up to date. As the hon. member for Christ Church-West said, the United Kingdom, as he would know, has readily available legal talent which is either retired in the sense that they are retired from active occupation or are persons who can afford because of their relatively wealthy position to devote time to this exercise; but here in Barbados at the time when we were establishing this Committee we could think of four retired Chief Justices who were living in our midst, One went to the sugar industry, one is not in good health, another is a part-time judge in a court in the Caribbean and the other was not well either; so you are stuck by the talent at your disposal. As I say, even among the practitioners you cannot find the talent within Barbados, and to people to come to do this type of exercise is something for which we should recruit people, as the hon. member for Bridgetown has suggested, when the Attorney General's Department has three draughtmen in name, two trained, one going through a process of apprenticeship, one is abroad now learning draughtsmanship in Canada, it is impossible to attach draughtman to a Committee of this nature however well-intentioned you are.

I should like to say how very pleased I was that the Law Reform Committee as established by the Government was able to produce matters on which in due course some legislation will follow. The Evidence Act was referred to the Chief Justice and has just been returned to the Attorney's General's Department and should soon be ready for implemenatation. The Legal Practitioner's Act which we hope to bring in to establish fusion of the professions is going through its final process, and I gather it should be introduced into Parliament some time this year. As regards the Companies Act, as the hon. member for Christ Church-West has said, we have had again to hire somebody to put final touches to an Act which I am sure the Prime Minister is more anxious than anybody should be enacted. The Education Act which my colleague on my left is dying for, the Administration of Estates Act and certain aspects of the Landlord and Tenant Act are in a state where if you could get the staff to devote to these, they could be made ready for introduction to the House. As you know, drafting is a highly technical field. The limited resources of the Attorney General's Department are called upon; the Solicitor General has got to represent Barbados at times on the law of the Sea, the Attorney General is called away on international conferences, and even now one draftsman is in a neighbouring island on a financial conference; so that with you limited resources your draftsmen get taken away from time to time and it makes the task much more difficult. We have lost Mr. Nicholls to the Caribbean Development Bank, we have lost Mr. Justice Williams to the Bench. Anybody can be a lawyer but anybody cannot be a proper and able legal draftsman.

3.55 p.m.

That is the position, but you can rest assured that with the new Attorney General, dedicated to the continuation of the work of his predecessor, and who is a very honourable, dedicated and hard working member of the Cabinet, the good relations that existed in the past will be cemented, and I think he will be amenable to any suggestion which he thinks would be beneficial to the reformation of the laws. As I say I hope this five years of this Parliament will be more productive in legislation than the last five years which were obviously years of consolidation and bringing the laws in conformity with a new Constitution, but I have every reason to believe that this Department which we are discussing and the money which this Hon. House is about to vote for will be well spent, and next year this time I hope that every member of this Parliament will have a printed copy of the laws in front of him so that at least he can refer to it without error. *(Asides).* I am not giving a date, I am just expressing a hope. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is just one slight point of correction I would like to make. I heard the Hon. Minister mention that I am particularly anxious to see the law relating to the fusion of the professions come into force. (Hon. F. G. Smith: I said the Companies Act). I will not worry to say what I wanted to say on fusion, because I have expressed concern that there has not been fusion of the profession and I have personnaly said that I would never be interested in practising again unless there was fusion because it is in a state of confusion now, but I would not like that to be taken as an indication that I am ready to give up the job which I now hold.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in the light of what the Prime Minister has just said, we can realise why he was particularly going to address those remarks to the Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: This is not a point of order, this is my speech, Sir. If you please, Sir, I am a bit of a maverick where law reform is concerned because I believe that the Law Reform Committee, the Bar Association, the hon. member for Christ Church West, the Judges and all of them have equally dragged their feet. I used to blame the former Attorney General, I am convinced, now that I go to the Bar Association, that the barristers are just as bad. I do not know about the hon. member for St. Joseph who sits in the Judicial Advisory Council, unless I am mistaken, I do not know about him. I have not had such bad reports, but certainly who would think, talking about law reform, that we live in a place which bases its law upon the common law of England, which takes its precedents from the statute law of England, that there is a Statute Law Commission that has been sitting in England for years and years and covering every single aspect of the common law and of the statute law of England dealing with the day to day laws under which we live, not economic affairs, the law and order at least in society, and I am told by the member for Bridgetown that he has never even seen one of the reports . You would think the first thing the Law Reform Committee would do would be to subscribe to the Statute Law Command Papers in England and see, since these people are so praiseworthy, since these people were praised in both the speeches of the hon. member for Bridgetown and the member for St, Michael South Central, since these people are so remarkable, leading practitioners who give up their practice, law professors who give up their chairs, why are not their findings more available to the Law Reform Committee and to the draftsmen and to people who are interested? I do not even believe the hon. member for Christ Chruch West, if I asked him now.... (Mr. FORDE: I have every one). He says he has every one, I am going to test him tomorrow. Anyway, Mr. Chairman, that will be between us.

Certainly there is no evidence that people responsible for this in Barbados are aware of these. They can look at the law of larceny, they can look and say the entire law of larceny has been changed in England. All the difficulties that have worried practitioners for 200 years have been ironed out in England; they have been ironed out and they have been working for eight or ten years, so you have got new decisions and a lot of academic thought, let us look at this and see if we can adopt the Larceny Act. That is how we got a Larceny Act originally. It was taken word for word from English Larceny Acts. We may not think it is a good thing to do because people may imagine there is some aspect of colonialism in it but in fact there is not, in fact it is merely a convenience if you choose to adopt a system of law, you could adopt the system of law of Timbuktu if you cared as long as you had access to Timbuktu and the thoughts of the Timbuktu legal academics. These are things that can be done and they are not done. Simple things at Assizes like the right of reply in criminal cases or whatever it is. I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, speaking as a practitioner – I know the Prime Minister who is an able practitioner in the criminal courts will bear me out – as practitioners who have practised in England for hundreds of years can bear me out, you have to think twice in an Assize case before putting in a witness for the Defence. There may be somebody whose evidence might be most believable evidence of all, but you are afraid to put them before the jury because it means you lose the right to speak last to the jury, you lose the right of last reply to the jury. I may be a witness who could tell everybody exactly what happpened.

I understand it is in the Evidence Bill and that the Solicitor General and Senator St. John disagree with it. The Solicitor General and Senator St. John are wrong; their ideas are ante-diluvian. that is my view of it; I can disagree with anybody, old friendship or respect for the legal ability notwithstanding. Both the Solicitor General and Senator St. John are persons of the greatest legal ability, but they are still wrong in thinking that the defence of prisoners in criminal cases should be a lottery; they are still wrong if they think that. They are still wrong if they want to keep the clock back in the 19th century; that is my view. I am glad to have the hon. member for the City on my side in this matter in these circumstances.

I could say a lot about the administration of criminal justice, a lot about the fact that Barbados tends to be a long way behind the times in modern administration of criminal justice, and I am absolutely sure that the Evidence Act is not going to have in any rule forbidding the reception in Court of illegally obtained evidence. I am confident that not even the member for the City of Bridgetown is going to say that if the Police illegally break down a door and find tangible evidence inside the door that is broken down they can still present it in Court.

4.05 p.m.

That is the law of Barbados at present. Illegally obtained evidence is admissible in our Courts. The Supreme Court of the United States has set its face against it. It is very popular to

attack the administration of justice in the United States, but when it comes to criminal justice, as far as the Rules of law are concerned – I am not talking about the jury and the Judges who may very often be biased – the United States, to my mind, is in the forefront of the English-speaking world in protecting the rights of citizens before the law.

Now, that is my view, and I am sure, nonetheless, that conservatism not to say reaction will prevail in all matters of law reform in Barbados. I am quite sure that when it comes to the point, even so radical a lawyer as the Prime Minister will be found to become a reactionary Head of the Government in this aspect as, indeed, in many others. We are confining this particular discussion to criminal matters and things of that sort.

Barbados is a strictly law-abiding place, the strictures of the hon. member for St. James notwithstanding in my view, let us to take a saner and more humane view of the citizen's position before the law. I am not one that believes that you send people to prison to be punished; I believe you send them to prison as a punishment, and I do not think you have to punish them further when they are in prison. I do not believe that when a man is arrested you must automatically believe that he has done something bad. I am sure that there are many hon. members who would, when put in those terms, accept my contention. But we still have a system, Mr. Chairman, of criminal justice which is colonial in its attitude which continues to be reactionary in its Rules.

I am appalled sometimes when I hear some of the views expressed by people whom I respect as human beings and whose intelligence and judicial qualities I respect. I am still appalled when I realise that we could be living in the days of the hangings on the Pierhead where they used to hang women and the hangings of the men in the Green by the Financial Building. The same views were expressed by Lord Edinburgh and the Judges of England in the nineteenth century, we still hear expressed by practitioners, Legal Officers and, indeed, perhaps even at a higher level. I am appalled when I hear it, Sir, and as far as law reform is concerned, I just do not believe there are all of those difficulties.

The House must be weary of hearing of the amendment of the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act with a Committee consisting of Sir Theodore Brancker, Mr. Sargeant, the member of the City of Bridgetown and myself. We attempted to do that here, and the then Attorney General said that we had not told the Chief Justice about it; so he was going to oppose the reforms. Not aware of the quality of what we were suggesting; not one reference to the fact that in 1961 the Magistrates' Jurisdiction And Procedure Act was amended and there was a mistake in it relating to the law of malicious damage and that it had been known ever since then, and that all we proposed to do was to correct that mistake; not aware that it would have been something useful to do, he adopted that attitude. He felt that the Law Reform Committee was there; we were Barristers, and we had not told the Chief Justice about the matter. We did not want to take the thunder away from the Law Reform Committee.

I am going to give notice now, Mr. Chairman, that it is my intention in this Session to introduce a Bill to amend the Magistrates' Jurisdiction And Procedure Act in certain respects. I will send a copy of my proposed introduction – I am informed that that is not a breach of privilege – to the Chief Justice and the Attorney General. It will only be a small amendment and it will not affect principle. If the Bar Association and those with whom it is in close communion do not care to reform the law in these small respects, then I will strike such a small blow as I am able to strike for the better administration of criminal justice in one or two aspects. It is still the law of Barbados that if you throw a stone and break a glass window or two in a house and it causes more than $24 damage, then you have to go to Sessions to be tried before Judge and Jury, and you do not get convicted there because the Jury feel it is too frivolous a matter. I would ask those who know to find the last time somebody was convicted at the Assizes for malicious damage, say, between $24 and $100. Let us say that a man and his girl friend quarrel; he takes a knife and cuts up three dresses worth $32, and he is taken before a Judge and Jury with all the paraphernalia and the cost incidental to that. This could have been cured years ago were it not for the intransigence of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, because that was one of the reforms which we proposed in Committee and to which he objected.

Mr. Chairman, before this year is out, I will introduce such a Bill. Let the Government say it is an improper reform, and let it come out with the few little things that will be contained in it. Let him come into this House and oppose initiative by a Private Member in that manner. If nobody else will do it, then the Leader of the Opposition will have to do it.

With regard to Law Reform – $1,000, and the Revision of Laws – $800, I do not grudge

any money paid for the revision of laws. We have been promised the laws for a very long time. I want to enter a plea for legal printing which, so far as I know, will not embraced in the printing of laws of Barbados. There are no easily accessible Court of Appeal Rules in Barbados. They are contained in the old Federal Supreme Court Regulations. I remember doing an appeal case in St. Lucia some years ago and discovered that the Registrar did not have the most up-to-date Regulations and had shown me the wrong ones. There is no copy in St. Lucia, and the only copy is in the hands of the President of the Court of Appeal. That was a matter which then embraced Barbados, because the Court then belonged to all of us at that stage. That was before we had our own Court of Appeal. There are cases before the Courts now which turn upon the inter-relationship of the Glendairy Prison Rules and the Court of Appeal Rules, and the Judges are finding it impossible to give a decision because there is no copy of the Glendairy Prison Rules other than, I believe, one in the Attorney General's Office, one in Glendairy Prison, and a third one in private hands. The one in Glendairy Prison is endorsed with a note that the 1940 Amendment to those Rules is not available in Barbados and nobody knows what it contained. I have seen that.

This is the condition, Sir, of the Rules that govern appeals in Barbados. How many practitioners in Barbados know how to appeal to the Privy Council? You cannot name something as a lawyer unless you have the means of finding out. We are trained lawyers, but it does not mean that we know how to appeal to the Privy Council merely by sitting in an office and saying I am a lawyer and you appeal to the Privy Council this way. It is a difficult pattern to find out, and there is no easily accessible information in Barbados which will tell you how to bring an appeal to the Privy Council in a special time. All you know is that the Constitution says you have a right to do it. All of these matters should be taken out of the old Federal Legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I am very much obliged to the hon. member for St. Peter for reminding me of a lady who originated in Guyana, and it is my considered opinion that that lady lost her property, and it is a significant property on a corner spot of a main road in Barbados opposite a large shopping centre now occupied by a big gasolene station, because of the unfamiliarity of her then legal advisers with the Appeal Rules. It was not a good decision, in my view. I remember another case in which she did succeed in appealing to the Privy Council, but for years and years the Registrar was not able to find out what had happened to the appeal to the Privy Council. He did not know whether the Privy Council undertook it, what the result was, or whether or not it reached there, and he was unable to advise the parties in Barbados whether or not they could proceed to execute the judgement which they had obtained.

4.15 p.m.

All these things have happened before the Courts and these are a direct result of the relevant laws of Barbados not being in print.

A final point I would make about this business of being in print. The people at the Government Printing Office in my opinion are unaware that every hon. member of this House is entitled to a copy of the laws of Barbados as they are printed. I was looking around to see the practising lawyers in this House. It is my opinion that the hon. member for Bridgetown is unaware of the latest volume of subsidiary legislation that has been printed. One was printed last year and the Clerks of the House were unaware of it. No copies were sent down here to tell the Clerks of the House. I think it was 1958 or 1959. It was through the instrumentality of Mr. Hutchinson the then and perhaps now Librarian that I obtained a copy. I mention this in closing because although money has been voted, the Law Revision Commissioners brief includes subsidiary legislation, the Rules, the Orders, the Statutory Instruments; it includes all that, yet nothing has been done to bring that up to date, when we consider that there were regulations made in and around the First World War, after the First World War all of which still apply in Barbados, and they are not easy to get. I have a couple of copies of the Bankruptcy Rules inherited from my late father. No doubt in those days many of his clients found themselves in that unfortunate position. We do not get so many bankruptcies nowadays; but who could find copies of the bankruptcy rules? Admiralty cases: who even knows what rules apply to the administration of Admiralty law in Barbados. Again you do not get many cases, but the member for Bridgetown and I appeared in a case in which there was a certain amount of admiralty law and all we could agree on was that the correct procedure had not been followed since we did not know what the correct procedure was... since I did not know what the correct procedure was, I am corrected; neither could he, Mr. Chairman, because he did not take the point against him. We let the case go forward in what we knew to be imperfect conditions because we really were not able to establish exactly how an admiralty case should proceed in Barbados because the 1883 Rules were available only in Carrington & Sealey's office and they

could not find them. The case was fought on its merits; we did not take the technical points. Those are the conditions under which we are to practise law, Mr. Chairman, and all this is what the Law Reform Committee should be doing. I hear it has not met for two years. The Commissioners should be doing it too, Sir. Under Items 25 and 26 all that should be done. There are still unemployed or underemployed barristers in Barbados. All this talk that you do not have the talent; a lot of the work is mechanical work and a lot of talent fully capable of improving itself by application to such mechanical work is available in Barbados at the present time; so a lot of these excuses that I am hearing do not carry much weight with me as a practitioner in and out of the courts every single day in this island.

The question that the sum of $154,745 under Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 7 – REGISTRATION

Head 7 – Registration – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $76,476 under Head 7 – Registration – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is just one thing I want to say under this before anybody mentions it. I think that one of the most iniquitous things that we have in Barbados – and it may have had some relevance to a case which was mentioned under the last head of a lady who was deprived of property of which she was in possession, whether she was legally in possession I cannot remember, but I did represent her at one time, but it was not my ignorance of anything; I had to leave the case because.... *(Asides)* Obviously my leaving the case caused her to lose. I am very grateful to the hon. member for getting the records straight and there was no other practitioner in Barbados who was able to conclude it successfully. I regret that that state of affairs prevailed at the time. Mr. Patchett and I have been having some discussion, that is the Dean of the Faculty of Law, and I am very pleased that they are making an entensive investigation of the procedure of foreclosure and sales which in my opinion is a fraudulent matter that should never have been on the Statute Book of Barbados, and it has given rise to a lot of people in the United States and elsewhere and even here in Barbados being deprived of land to which they are legally entitled. It is as bad as this, Mr. Chairman, that you can pick up the daily newspaper or the Official Gazette and read that your land is being foreclosed on and may not be aware of it. You may read every word and all need say is that it is in the parish of Christ Church, abutting on the sea and on the public road and on the lands of Mr. John Smith, and Mr. John Smith may have boundaries with 18 other people, and therefore you could not dream that you would be there living on your land somebody could be passing it through the courts of Barbados. Not only that; at one time when I investigated there were 550 foreclosure actions outstanding in which the people were not getting the titles to their land, some of them to which they were legally entitled. I am very pleased to inform hon. member that one of the major studies that the Law Faculty is doing now is into the system of foreclosure; and one of the probably more iniquitous aspects of it is that the Crown is barred. This should never be, and we have cases now in Fontabelle in which the Jehovah Witnesses and other people have built on Government land. There is a gentleman for a company down there called Tartan Metal Company trespassing without any kind of concealment whatsoever on Government land, and this is a wicked state of affiars. We have had a church built on Government land and we have not been able to get any action on it. I have taken the surveyors and demonstrated to them with the longest resident of Fontabelle, the Minister of Health, and we have shown them where the high water mark was in our days as school children which is in our case over forty years up to the time the Deep Water Harbour was built. There are several people, mostly foreigners – and I am not going into the evangelistic aspects of this, I leave that to the hon. member for St. Joseph although I really have not even read that controversy – but when they add insult to injury and come to expropriate land belonging to the people of Barbados, then I think this whole system of foreclosure has to be looked at very carefully.

The other thing I would like to see is something done about the delays. People come here from the United States and from England just to get their birth certificates or baptisms certificates and they have two weeks. They go to the Registration Office day after day and they are invited to some transaction such as citizenship or something else or maybe something to do with National Insurance or taking out papers of one kind or another. We do not have a system up to now as far as I know although I have discussed it with the Ministry of Home Affairs of having something put through a machine and presented in five minutes to the people who go to the

Registration Office. The Register of Births is one which should be kept in a permanent form, but there should also be a looseleaf form from which copies could be reproduced within five minutes. There is no point in somebody taking your 50 cents or $1.00 and telling you to come back in three weeks and when you go back you find a long queue and then they tell you to come back and your vacation is up the next day. That is unsatisfactory and the people in Barbados are not getting service for their money so I have been trying for over seven years to get this implemented and that is past the statute of limitation; so it means that I am even debarred from asking questions on it.

4.25 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have a very great deal to say under this Head on a number of subjects. I would like to join the Prime Minister in what he has just said about foreclosure actions, but I must advise him he must not take too much praise for what I have said about it being the result of his leaving the case and that the case did not come to a successful conclusion. It was the interruption in the lady's legal representation to which I was referring, but that is only in passing. It may interest the Prime Minister to know that very recently in St. Lucy a tenantry was foreclosed upon without any notice being given to the tenant and summary possession – no notice to quit of any sort was given to the tenants – summary possession was sought of the spots. One of the spots was an upstairs rum shop; hon. members will readily appreciate that to move an upstairs rum shop made of wood is one of the most difficult and heart-rending experiences that a small business person can have, because you lose the value of the property when you take it apart, it is upstairs so it is inconvenient, you have to find a new site and you have to make a new application to use that site as a site for carrying on a liquor business.

Many arguments were put forward. The argument which prevailed in the end – I argued strongly against it and I am not casting any view one way or the other on the Judge, the case is too recent and it would be impolite for me to say whether I agree with the opinion or do not agree with it, I was briefed to put forward the opinion of the tenants, I put it forward, Senator St. John was briefed to put forward the opinion of the purchaser, he put it forward, and the Judge preferred Senator St. John's opinion. I am not commenting in any way at all on the judgement, for the arguments used you have to go and refer to the Court, but I would like to praise Mr. Justice Hanschell – and the Prime Minister will not be aware of this – for remarks in very similar vein to the remarks just made by the Prime Minister, and in that particular case he said he would like to see it a practice of the Court that before any Solicitor accepts a brief to carry through a foreclosure suit that he himself personally visit the land and satisfy himself as far as by an inspection of the land that it is not occupied as a tenantry and that the facts set out to him by his client accord with the physical situation of the land, because as Mr. Justice Hanschell said, he is sure that if solicitors had visited the tenantry before the foreclosure action was put through, that they would have taken the Tenantries Act in mind.

I want the Government to look at this. The Judge held that the Chancery Act of 1906 overrides the Tenantries Act. Bear in mind, that means this, anybody who cares to foreclose on a tenantry will be able to remove every tenant except those that have the money to go to a lawyer to put in a claim or fight a case in the High Court. Tenantries that have 30 or 40 tenants in them if the owner cares to foreclose – the Prime Minister is familiar with the property in Fairfield, a tenantry in which he worked before I worked, he worked and then there was a hiatus and the lady was kind enough to brief me subsequent to that – and there was a foreclosure action. It went on for years, eventually it was successful and the lady has possession of her tenantry. As I see it, the judgement as given means even though the land was foreclosed on before the Tenantries Act, the judgement as given means that the lady can go and apply for summary possession of any one of the spots irrespective of when she foreclosed on the land, and there is no reason why she should not obtain it, if you interpret the judgement strictly.

I would like the Minister of Legal Affairs to have a look at that, because there is a good deal of law in fact in England to the effect to that. A person who has the status of a statutory tenant does not have an interest in land and therefore, as I argued, cannot claim under the Statutory Act. That is one argument, and I believe it may have been fairly evenly balanced, but it was not the argument that prevailed. I believe it is against the spirit of the Tenantries Bill and the Government's policy in relation to tenants to allow this situation to continue even one day longer, and I would be glad to give the Minister of Legal Affairs the name of the case, the dates of judgement and the dates for which possession has been ordered in due course, but I mention that in passing.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I was very surprised because nearly three years ago

we gave instructions as a result of certain people who had been inmates of the hospital for Hanson's diseases, better known in Barbados as the Lazaretto, had been evicted off their land through the same foreclosure action in the High Court, and an immediate Writ of Possession was issued. Fortunately, I would like to get his name on the record because he is a kind-hearted gentleman rejoicing in the same subriquet as the Clerk of the House who is present in the Chamber now by the name of Mr. Connell, he immediately provided land for these displaced ex-patients of the Lazaretto not very far from where they used to live before, and in order to stop further evictions we had to instruct the Crown Solicitor to serve a notice under the Land Acquisition Act that we were going to acquire all the land belonging to Shell and the land at Danesbury and so on. This is the only measure that we could take to stop it, but the situation is satisfactory now because we have not really acquired the land but we had to do that to prevent a frustration of the law which was passed by Parliament saying that people who live in tenantries could not be evicted. No action by Parliament has been taken on introducing legislation – I was under the impression it was passed already, now I hear it has not – to show that the law relating to tenantries transcends any provisions of the Chancery Act as now embodied in the legislation of the Supreme Court, but it is an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I have some responsibility for the Tenantries Act of 1965, and indeed I am very surprised to hear the case related by the hon. member for St. Thomas, because the Prime Minister referred to the Danesbury case and that to my mind is not on all fours, because in fact what happened in that case is that the Counsel for the Defence consented to judgement and consented to the tenants being removed from the land. Arising out of that case we had another look at the Tenantries Act to see if it needed tightening in certain areas. We produced a draft and we sent it to the Chief Justice for his comments. The Chief Justice looked at the draft and he suggested that we further amend the draft because the Tenantries Act was all right as it stood, and in fact that the Tenantries Act would have been a charge on the land in any case for foreclosure, so that is why I am very interested in the case raised by the hon. member for St. Thomas, because it appears now that indeed the Tenantries Act is no longer noted for any purchase under the Tenantries Act, and I am interested to see the transcript of that case to see if in fact we do need the amendment that we had earlier contemplated but we had been advised against putting into action.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want to misrepresent the case, Mr. Chairman, but the point is this. The judgement may have turned on this, that the people must claim under the foreclosure suit. The point I am making is that you can claim if you know of something; this is what the Prime Minister said. It is not everybody who is a tenant of some little spot at $1.00 a month who understands when they read in the newspapers two people of whom they have never heard, it may well be, somebody goes and buys the tenantry so you do not know this new name, and some Clerk in a Solicitor's office appears as a Plaintiff. You do not know of it, there is no requirement that the tenant be given notice that the land is being foreclosed on, all that you will know is that you are served with a notice of an application for a Writ of Possession and the Courts will then tell you that by then it is too late, you should have put in a claim under the Tenantries Act.

4.35 p.m.

All that you will know is that you are served with a notice of an application for a writ of possession, and the Courts will then tell you that it is too late and you should have put in as a claimant under the Tenantry Act. Indeed, the Chief Justice is also part of this particular case and by judicial accident he did not try the case. The facts of the Danesbury case have something to do with what the Minister was just indicating. I am familiar with that, Sir, and I would not be too hard on the Counsel who consented to the tenants moving, because he consented on the promise of the payment of money to move the houses and put them up somewhere else. The money was not given to the Counsel, but to the tenants. The tenants had their houses moved and put up somewhere else, and they were given some coppers as well. I do not know who the Counsel was. I only know the facts without knowing anything about the personnel. I had no discussion with the parties on either side. I only know that the Chief Justice indicated certain things. I do not know any of the people concerned. The Minister of Legal Affairs may have been one. Anyhow, I am sure that once it is agreed in this House that the Chancery Act is an instrument of fraud in the hands of unscrupulous persons, I believe action will be taken. I understand that this Chancery Act was one of the instruments of a serious profession.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It was the old common law fiction of Richard Roe against John Doe and it was inherited. It may surprise you to know that one of the chief offenders under this Act was a former President of the Assistant Court of Appeal, President of the Legislative Council, Master in Chancery,

who acquired large tracts of land in Barbados against expatriate owners by virtue of the provisions of this Act.

Mr. ADAMS: If you are going back to the Negro economic-political history of Barbados, I can refer the Prime Minister to one or two things which indicated that the gentleman in question had been accused by English persons, who have studied the British West Indian Sugar Industry in 1970, of using the Chancery Act as a deliberate instrument of fraud against the English sugar brokers, and more than one bankruptcy of the Liverpool sugar brokers in the late nineteenth century is directly attributed to this particular luminary in Barbados. He was obviously a patriarch, because as far as once can judge he only robbed Englishmen.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: As far as they were concerned, he was rewarded by conferring two Knighthoods on him.

Mr. ADAMS: That is correct, Mr. Chairman. He was accused of many other things. When as Master of Chancery he had to sell out an estate for the benefit of English absentees, and he used to put the upset price at so high a level that nobody would buy it. He would then appoint the former owner of the estate to be the Chancery receiver and liquidator and allow him to live in the plantation house and go on managing the estate, the only difference being that he would not have to pay any of the profits to the Liverpool sugar brokers, and he went on living there by order of the Court. All of this has happened, and we only have to hope that nobody in Barbados would be allowed to become such a potent fraud in the future whether in the interest of patriotism or not.

The Act does not, I understand, exist in any of the English-speaking territories except Ireland where it was introduced to protect the interests of English landlords in the nineteenth century. It was taken from the Encumbered Estate Act of Ireland. You certainly will find no judicial authority on it deriving from England or the United States, but I will not dwell on that at any greater length.

Sir, I cannot talk about Item 13 because it is statutory expenditure, but I think that under Item 19 I can talk along those lines. I observed that the Chief Marshal and his travelling allowance which is mentioned at Item 19 also appears to get a salary under Item 13. The salary shows a decrease, and I do not know how that is possible. I do not know that any public offer had his salary reduced over the past year. He was voted $7,200 plus his travelling allowance, and then there is a decrease of $240. I understand that this amount was never paid and there is some dispute. Perhaps the Minister concerned may be able to give us some information on this. It must surely appear to be unfair to know that he has been voted $600 a month by the legislature and the next year the amount is reduced. As far as I know, the Chief Marshal does his work very efficiently as far as Counsel can judge. I should like to lend my voice to a much maligned Department. I cannot speak so much of the registration side of the business, but on the Registry or Supreme Court side, I should just like to say that I cannot in any way join with the attacks that I sometimes hear made upon the Registrar and his staff.

I have received nothing but unfailing courtesy from that Registry. There is a brillant young man as the Chief Clerk. Again this is a matter for regret. This is a Specialist Department. Mr. Beckles is a young man who shows great talent in the Department. When he is promoted, undoubtedly, he is going to be lost to the Department because there is inadequacy of jobs at the higher level. You show quality and you show brillance and the public ultimately are the sufferers in respect of that Department, becuase you end up by being transferred to another Department. He is by no means the only person I have seen show real quality in the Registry. Previous Clerks have shown real quality and they have been lost to the administration of the Registry, which is, to my mind, a difficult Department and deserves the service of trained and specialists members of staff at a higher level than they have been at the present time.

The Registry has been given an increase in staff, and in there looks like a chicken farm. You see the young ladies sitting desk to desk, and they do not have enough space to get out. I daresay that if one of them pushes back her desk to get out and she is a little larger than usual she will find difficulty in getting out. The Department is very cramped and crowded, and legal practitioners have had to be excluded from going behind the front desk for one reason or other. It needs more physical space in my opinion, and the sooner all of this grandiose plan of having the Registrar General who will look after the certificates in the Waterworks Building comes about the better. It is certainly a reform that is needed at the earliest stage.

Now, I would not like to say that all is well in the Registry. I do not want to get up in court and criticise some little aspect of the administration to be told that I got up in the

House of Assembly and said that it was the best Department in the world. I think I am satisfied with the way the Registry is being run at the present time.

Sir, I want to deal now not with the Registry but with the Minister of Legal Affairs and the Ministry. I want to know who is responsible for Item 18 – Utilities. It would hardly be generally known to hon. members that at the beginning of last week practitioners entered the Courts; various rearrangements of sitting had gone about in the Air Conditioned Courts used by certain Judges under certain conditions, and when we switched on the light there was no light and no air conditioning.
4.45 p.m.

The refrigerator was not working nor was the machine and there was no photostat. Why is this? The electric bill has not been paid and the Electric Company has cut off the light. Can that be proper in a legal department, Mr. Chairman? Is it conceivable when the public come along that the electric adding machine will not even add up if somebody comes to pay something and a calculation is necessary, that the photostat machine for giving out copies of documents is not in operation? Whoever is responsible for that should be severely criticised, and I understand that in fact although some of the lights have come back on and the air-conditioners have come back on for the convenience of the judges, the bill has still not been paid. That is the sort of thing, Mr. Chairman, that I very much hope the responsible Minister will take steps to see about.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Law Library will be the subject of contributions from this side, but I want now to get away from the minutiae of administration to deal with a very serious and sombre subject indeed under this Head. I have mentioned it before in here, Sir. It is Item 21. I have given an amendment proposing a reduction to the Clerk but it was out of time; so I would have to talk on the Head and the item generally. This refers to execution. Now, Sir, since this seems to be the time and political season at which one can express unpopular views when one feels the need to let one's conscience speak rather than from a sense of expediency, and I am going to make a straightforward and flat statement which I have made in here before upon which I know it is not the policy of our Party; some members may agree with it, some members may not, but I will deal with that later. I am against capital punishment for murder. I do believe that in this world of 1972 there is no longer any need to hang people. You will have to hang me politically for that. My conscience tells me it is wrong to kill. It is as wrong to hang as it was to commit murder. I regret I have lost the support of the former Mr. Speaker, Sir Theodore, and Senator Tudor in this respect, for I know that they were also opponents, particularly Sir Theodore Brancker. I intended to move a reduction in the vote under Item 21 which relates to expenses of execution of capital sentences to express my feelings upon this point. It would be a free vote in my Party because I believe that this is a matter for the individual consciences of members of Parliament. I do not care how much the voice of reaction – I am not attacking any individual when I speak on the voices of reaction – in respect of capital punishment speak against me; I believe this is a moral issue in which the elected representatives of the people have to give the lead.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot see that it is necessary in Barbados to hang people year after year when there is no longer capital punishment in the United States, certainly no longer any executions in Britain or any civilised country of Western Europe. It takes a long time to convince those who think a life for a life should be the law and if you kill why shouldn't you be killed, and the only thing that makes you sleep safely in your bed is the fact that you have the gallows at Glendairy to hang people. I am not going to anticipate perhaps next year's debate because I do not think that hon. members will want to give their views on such a subject without any deep and long thought. I am not going to produce long sets of statistics. When I was in Britain I took part very much in a campaign to abolish capital punishment in 1957 when it was substantially reduced. My views have not changed since then. I would perhaps ask hon. members to look at some of the literature on the subject and see if they can examine themselves in the light of reason rather than in the light of emotion. What country hangs more than any other today? In South Africa, the most reactionary country in the world, three- quarters of all executions are carried out on Black people and the same arguments are used as are going to be used by people who believe in hanging in Barbados, about the same kind of people too, if you want the truth: that you can't sleep in your bed in South Africa, no white woman would be safe unless you hang for rape and so on. Remember that the South Africans are the biggest proponents in the world today of killing people with a rope, not Russia, not the Continent, South Africa. Remember that in the United States which is one of the most murderous countries in the world they can do without capital punishment on moral grounds. Let not it be said that we are so far behind in morals that we have to repeat all the outworn

arguments, as I said, nobody can sleep safely at night in their beds. Do you know what encourages murder? The failure to detect murderers. When a boy and a girl going for a walk in Queen's Park or by the Children's Goodwill League can be murdered and nobody can find who did it, that encourages murder, not the hanging. There was no hanging in this country from 1958 to 1964 and then they hanged the three boys from Fitts Gap, the man who chopped up his wife in Christ Church, then they hanged Brathwaite, Green and others. The murder rate has not gone down in Barbados since hanging started again. The horrors of the vicarage murder and the hanging of Brathwaite only caused seven murder cases at the last Assizes. Don't believe that capital punishment stops anybody from killing. The absence of capital punishment neither encourages murder nor does its presence discourage it. I may repeat this next year; I am not going on at any length. I am just letting my views be known and letting hon. members know that next year I will be moving a reduction in this vote. There will be a free vote on this side of the House even if three or four hon. members vote against it, and I am asking the Leader of the House to permit a free vote on his side as well. This can be discussed in the next twelve months. I am giving long notice of this matter. I am not now going to move the reduction because I am out of time with it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think it will be necessary next year; that is all I can tell the hon. member.

Mr. ADAMS: If it may not be necessary next year, I am glad that unknowing of that I have made my views known in here. I will give some statistics which I collected together, and any hon. member who wishes to see the literature on the subject, I will be glad to get it out of my boxes and let him see it. It is literature. that I remember I had constant recourse to when I used to take part in the debates and give lectures on the subject in 1957. The one which I always point out as being a total and complete argument against the deterring effects of capital punishment was the Italian experience. We, educated within the English framework, believe that Italians are terrible people who stab each other all the time. Italians are a highly civilised people in a highly civilised country in Western Europe, and in 1890 capital punishment was abolished in Italy. The number of murders fell steadily for thirty years. As in every country in the world there was a lot of murder in 1920 and that period because during World War I you trained people to go and shoot Germans, Austrians, Russians, French, Americans, English, and naturally whenever they got back home they might well have said, I shot a German and he has not done me anything, so this man gives me some trouble now and why should I not shoot him? That undoubtedly was the attitude of mind after both wars and thank God we are now getting out of it I believe in these parts although perhaps not in the United States with people coming back from Vietnam.

In 1922 Mussolini re-introduced capital punishment into Italy and thereafter the number of murders went up every year when they had capital punishment. In 1947 a post-war Italian Government abolished capital punishment and the number of murders has gone down again. In other words when they had hanging more people were killed in Italy, but now they do not have hanging, fewer people are being killed.
4.55 p.m.

I am not saying that hanging causes murder, it can to certain types of personalities. I am not saying that it can but it is not a general thing. The point I am making is that social and economic conditions cause murder, the temper of the people, and hanging has no effect whatsoever upon preventing it. I have yet to hear in this country of any released murderer, any convicted person coming out and committing the crime again. I have yet to hear of it, indeed except in one case where a man was charged for murder, convicted of manslaughter, escaped and committed murder in Britain. I do not know of any professional murderers in this island of Barbados. Of all the texts in the Bible dealing with killing, the one I prefer is "Thou shalt not kill"; that is the one that I prefer. That is Christ's text, and that is the most modern as far as I am concerned, and that is the Biblical statute which would override all the others. We no longer chop off people's hands for stealing or chop off their heads for blasphemy, we no longer stone to death the woman taken in adultery and we should no longer pay a blind and foolish tribute to the principle of life for a life.

They are my views, Sir, and if by any chance next year this Item will not be here, if there is not anything in the past that I have congratulated the Democratic Labour Party Government for, if as a Government they choose to deal with this problem in the manner I have indicated they would have to have my congratulations on the occasion whenever they do this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to reply very briefly to let the hon. member feel that I am not alone. I think the question of capital punishment is not a question of a

Government programme or anything like that, there are strong feelings on both sides of the argument about capital punishment. I am not going to say anything about the people who believe in it, I certainly do not and at every meeting of the Privy Council when they have to review the death sentence I start off by telling the Governor-General "everyone around this table knows my views so I am prejudiced and biased" and for many years I am sure that I must have had at least the equivalent of the amount of literature that the Leader of the Opposition has, because one young member of the legal profession who has been practising now almost as long as I was practising law, he came back to this island before it was abolished in England, we were strongly opposed to it and we formed ourselves into a kind of society against capital punishment and went around trying to convince people in our station of life – whatever that is, if there is such a thing – because they are the people who have influence, to join us, and we could not get a single member to join our society, but I must say that I myself have suffered pangs of conscience because I remember one Sunday morning about a quarter to six going to the beach, I met my friend – the other member of a two-man society – coming the other way, he stopped his car and I stopped my car, I got out he got out, and it was in connection with one of the cases, we had not had a hanging in Barbados for nearly five years ever since our Party came in from 1961 to 1965, and there had not been any for about 18 months before that. All the cases that came up were reprieved and commuted to life imprisonment. He looked at me, I looked at him and I said we were up against a tough opposition because we had had one of the most brutal murders in Barbados where an old man was a cripple was attacked by more than one assailant, they took his money away, left him and went back.

Now this makes the case very bad for us, the people who do not believe in capital punishment, and the people talk about protecting society and that we are paying too much attention to criminals and not to the people who suffer. I personally would say this from my own point of view, I do not believe in capital punishment, and one of the things that nauseated me within the past two years was a case of a man coming to me and telling me that he was a Foreman of the jury that convicted a man of murder and he asked for the job of hanging him to make sure that he went down. This meant that the Foreman went into Court with his mind made up and did not tell the Judge that he had his mind made up, and I was completely nauseated. I have never been seasick nor airsick in my life that I can remember, and I came very close to being landsick, carsick, airsick all at the same time when the man looked me straight in the face and told me he was Foreman of the jury and he asked for the job of hanging somebody. He got the job and he got paid for it. *(Asides).* I hope we are not going to call names but this person is not one of the brightest people in the community but he feels morally strong on this that he had a right to do that, and I do not think I have spoken to him since although the case was a particularly bad case, but when you get that kind of thing intervening in criminal trials you begin to ask whether our administration of justice should not go on closer investigation of people like jurymen and that kind of thing, but I am not in favour of capital punishment and every time I go up to a meeting of the Privy Council I say that I am biased but I will give my views and then the Governor-General and other members of the Privy Council decide what they are to do.

I want to admit here and now that in two cases in the past ten years I have had to agree with the Privy Council because that is the law of Barbados, but very, very reluctantly in all the other cases. Where I felt they came within the law of diminished responsibility at all I always recommend that these sentences be commuted to life imprisonment.

Another thing I want to say here and now because I may not get an opportunity again that ever since the English legislation was passed – I cannot remember what year it was – what they call the law against noisy murders, because you can poison somebody and you go to gaol, you can premeditate it for two and a half years and systematically poison a person, but if you shot a policeman you would get hanged, and I think it was Lord Denning who described it as the law against noisy murders, and I for the life of me could not see how if you take up a revolver in the heat of passion and shoot somebody you should be hanged but if you sat down and plotted systematically to poison your whole family that you would only get life imprisonment, but let me come to the point. I have been asking since 1957 – and that is a long time, over ten years – that there should be a law of diminished responsibility here in Barbados because 99% of the homicides committed in Barbados would be exempted under the law of diminished responsibility. Maybe I am over-simplifying it, that at least would be a step in the right direction, but I have been asking for this and I am Prime Minister – at least I have been Prime Minister for most of the time, nine out of the twelve years – and I have been asking for diminished responsibility and I cannot even

get that on the Statute Book, but as far as I am concerned, I was not prepared to make this an election issue because I do not think that this is the stuff elections are made of, it is a matter of conscience, but I do not believe in capital punishment and I do not need to read any more books on it because I have had personal experiences and I have seen cases like the case at Notting Hill Gate was a man was hanged for something that he had never done, the case of Evans and Christie I believe it was, where subsequently they discovered that the man went to the gallows protesting that he knew nothing about it.

I know of another case in which a man was hanged when he was struck by the victim in a very delicate part of his anatomy with a big stick and in the heat of his agony he let off the gun.

5.05 p.m.

I did the first two cases in which the jury disagreed. I do not want to cast aspersions against the Minister of Communications and Works, but I think he was up against a tougher jury than I was. He may not have argued the case as well as I argued it, but the jury felt that the man had been there already and there must be something in it and, unfortunately, the man was hanged. I can name a number of cases where people fought, rolled on the ground and somebody got stabbed, and because a man may have said: "If you interfere with me again I will stab you," it was held that that was premeditation.

Now, most of the homicides committed in Barbados take place on Saturday nights. There are very few Monday night, Tuesday night or Wednesday morning cases. If you look at the history of homicides in Barbados, you will find that they usually take place on Saturday nights when people have in a few rums, or a man spent all of his money gambling and did not take home any for his wife and that sort of thing. I am in favour of introducing, immediately after the Estimates, if we can get it from the Attorney General, the law relating to diminished responsibility. The next stage, within a very short time I am prepared to introduce a law abolishing capital punishment. I am going to get criticised and the hon. member for St. Thomas will get criticised by a lot of middle-class people who do not even read the Diocesan Almanac far less criminology. These are the people who pontificate on every subject under the sun in Barbados. You go into their houses and you do not even see certain magazines, far less the comic strips and the *Trinidad Guardian*. They set themselves up as the custodians of the morals and the criminology and penology of Barbados. I think it is a matter of conscience in a civilised country that I am after.

I regret that, at the time I started my society against capital punishment, I was unable to recruit him because he was not available. We went to several people and asked them whether they would look at this question as a matter of social reform. Anyway, I do not think we will have any difficulty with this Item. It is only $300, and I hope that nobody comes back here with a supplementary in connection with this. We have had a large number of cases at the last Assizes and probably only a couple of convictions. What happens now is that in borderline cases the jurors are reluctant to convict, and in some of these borderline cases the people ought to be in jail if the jury had a free hand.

I am thinking since the recent abolition, not in the whole of the United States but in California, they use a lot of the social functions – I do not think it was purely from a sociological but from a political decision made by the Supreme Court, because they realised that the present cases engaging the attention of the Courts in California were cases which would give rise to further uprisings and rebellion in the United States of America. I do not think that they did this because they are more enlightened than we are. It was done because the tensions which existed in the United States of America are such today that they are sitting on a keg of gunpowder; it is a highly explosive situation, and if you make martyrs of people who may be misguided you may get trouble.

Although I do not approve of their approach to the problems that exist in America, if the law says that so and so is so, then they must know before they do these actions that something is wrong and they are likely to suffer, whether it be life imprisonment or the gas chamber. The situation in the United States today is such that they cannot go on visiting the extreme penalty on people who have rebellion basically at heart. I do not believe that we have to come to the stage in Barbados where we have social rebellion in order to do something about capital punishment. The hon. member had caught your eye, but I had asked him to give way on a point of personal explanation, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it would appear to be very difficult for me to speak after these two gentlemen: one member has a lot of experience at the Bar, although he claims that he no longer practises at the Law Court, as a brilliant criminal lawyer, and my colleague on this side of the House who is recognised as an outstanding all round lawyer. I have heard the case for the abolition of the death penalty very

well put by both sides, and if there is one thing that they have, apparently, agreed on for a very long time it is this particular matter before us.

Mr. Chairman, I am now going to put my case as I see it. This is not a question of policy; it is a free vote, as far as I am concerned. The Prime Minister intimated that there are members on his side who, probably, do not agree with the abolition of the death penalty and some who will agree with it. I look at this matter not as a member of Parliament, but as a peaceful, law-abiding citizen working 8 hours a day in my regular business and then going to little "Flash In" to put in an additional 6 hours. Let us say that a man comes into my restaurant and calls for a cheese cutter; he opens the bread and using all kinds of adjectives he asks why there is not more cheese in the bread. I am trying to explain why I believe in capital punishment and why I would like the job of hanging some of them, too. *(Asides)* Give me a chance to talk; you are behaving like Boxill.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Boxill in here. You are addressing the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, he is interrupting me. I was saying Mr. Chairman that the man is dissatisfied with the amount of cheese in the bread; he throws the cheese cutter back at you and refuses to pay for it. Now Boarded Hall is far away from my place of business. What am I to do? *(Asides)* I am not dealing with the legal aspects of the matter. If I try to take my cheese cutter from him and he takes a knife and pushes it in me, am I to be told that he is to get three years? He should be hung three times. I know that the lawyers will go into Court; put up some sort of fancy argument; get a couple of dollars and pay the jury, and as the Prime Minister says, a man went to sit on a jury with his mind made up to convict a man whether he was right or wrong. Am I right in saying this?

5.15 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I know there is a great misunderstanding amonst laymen about the function of lawyers. Lawyers do not give evidence. Lawyers present evidence and in murder cases as the hon. member for St. Thomas has pointed out, they are reluctant even to give evidence. What the lawyers try to do in defence is to make the prosecution prove their case beyond reasonable doubt, and there is a common misunderstanding about lawyers being liars. Lawyers can only be liars in their own cases because those are the only cases in which they are entitled to give evidence. If I have a case against the hon. member for running into my motor car, I will give evidence that he was on the wrong side of the road and in that sense a lawyer is not then a lawyer but a person. I do not like the sort of slur when the hon. member suggests that lawyers pay jurymen because I certainly have not come across any evidence of that during my course of practice, and I think it would be a wrong impression to get out that lawyers win cases by paying members of the jury to give a decision one way or the other. I just want to make that clear, and I would not be subscribing to any suggestion like that. You may have a suspicion and people say these things, but I am not prepared to support them because I have never had any evidence of that.

Mr. CRAIG: The very strong union of lawyers always make sure that they defend each other when push comes to shove. They can be as far apart as north and south as soon as you decide to touch right inside the womb of a lawyer, they rise to the defence of each other. The only thing is that they do not pay dues to the Barbados Workers' Union.

Mr. Chairman, I am one who believes in abolishing the jury system. I may be wrong in saying this, but I am not going to engage myself in any legal combat. If a jury convicts a man the defence can appeal and I am told it goes to Privy Council where there is no jury and where the evidence is examined, and they can either have the man discharged or have the sentence upheld. Where are we going? I agree therefore that instead of having the jury, according to what the Prime Minister said just now, this is a clear cut case in which the jury system is wrong and not necessarily trying to avoid the execution of people. My colleague said "Thou shalt not kill", but it is the Heads of State who cannot get together. Two men cannot see eye to eye but millions of people can die as a result while the leaders of the two countries will find themselves sitting down and cooling out. Do not tell me that I am going home a night from work and I see a policeman lying on the road as I recently heard one was shot at, and I go to assist the police in carrying him to the hospital and a man takes out a gun and shoots me for assisting the police. Do you mean he should not die?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, the police might be shot for assisting the hon. member but not vice versa. I do not think the hon. member would ever go to his assistance.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not think you know the hon. member well enough. That is why I always pull out a surprise. As far as the abolition of the death penalty is concerned, I will never support it because I believe that as long as people feel they

can walk around and molest you, shoot you down when they feel like, push a knife in you and tell you straight and plain that they will kill you and get five years , they could not be sick in the head. It is just that somebody would want to prove that he was motivated; that a man came in and found another man intimately connected to his girl friend and they are going to prove that he was emotionally upset with the bandying of words before the jury. I am not interested in what happens in the United States or the United Kingdom. They are just about to reduce the voting age to 18 in the United States, but the Democratic Labour Party led the way in Barbados. *(Cheers.)* We have not got to wait on the United States of America to do anything; so do not tell me that because they have abolished the death sentence, we should abolish it here. Any hon. member on the other side would know that the United States is a frightening place in which to live; it is a jungle and the police there probably have to walk around with machine guns; someone can shoot you down and go to prison for five years, argue that their egg is too big or too small, or it is fried too hard, that they would like it sunny-side up, that the coffee is too dark, and all these fancy things that you get in prisons.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that you have to look at your case in more than one way. For this reason a man can in self defence go and kill somebody, but you have to ask yourself whether this man should die. Do not tell me that my fourteen year old son is going home from school, a vagabond rushes at him and starts to beat him, he takes up a stone and hits the boy and he dies and you say my son should hang. There are so many arguments that one can put up as to the death penalty, but you can rest assured that as long as I am in here I am going to ask that the hangmen be increased because you should have more than one. I am quite serious of this. Imagine the Prime Minister out of the country seeing after the nation's business and comes home to find that his wife raped, buggered, the cash carried away and that the same villian killed her. What are you going to say about a man like that? That the man was sick. And then he can walk around and say he will only get five years, and for good behaviour he only spends three. There is a lot of argument for the abolition of the death penalty, but I am a firm believer that it is just like a child; if a child continues to do something and you give him a good whipping, the child is inclined to forget.

I remember that some years ago there was a racket around here called "bounce and draw". You could not attempt to go to one of the cinemas and attempt to go in before they did not touch you. They had just come back from the United States; one fellow would hit you on one side and the other fellow would hit you from the other side, and your money would be out of your pocket. Well Sir Allan Collymore gave one ten years for saying he was in that too and the bounce-and-drawers never came back on the scene again until recent times with the advent of television, and I will say something on that when it comes to film censorship. There is a lot of sophisticated crime. You have unsolved crime in this country of 250,000 people in an area of 166 square miles, and you are going to tell me that with a police force of almost 800 people you cannot get a citizen in this country to give evidence leading up to the solving of crimes of this nature. I will never support the abolition of the death penalty. Sometimes I feel I would like the job of pulling their nails out. You only have to go along the road and hear them. I think you will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, because you represent an agricultural district in particular. There is a little boy in Pilgrim Road by the name of Barabas who challenges any man and tells him how he would juck a knife in him and go to Dodds. I feel he should be taken up by the police and given a whipping with a rod and he would never open his mouth again, because he is no more than you can give a backhand slap to, a boy who is young enough to be my son. You can imagine this type of behaviour in this society. That is why you see I am glad there is a free vote on this, because some of the legal members on my side may feel as I did towards this and others may feel differently. This seems to be the case on the other side, and I am glad that the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have for once agreed on something. I do not know what they might have agreed on before but I know that lawyers always jump to the defence of each other and I find myself in the awkward position of putting my case in my way between the legal men.

5.25 p.m.

I would also like to add at this stage that I hope, and this is my personal view, that the day will come when – as a matter of fact, I will say this, I think I once heard a Minister in here saying that you have people who set about to make sure they get on the jury, it is a job. I do not mind what the Prime Minister might have said just now about lawyers not paying, they have the money sometimes, you see them roaming around at two and three o'clock in the morning sometimes to get up to the Foreman to make sure that certain things do not go wrong, and I remember a particular friend of mine who was on a jury once saying that when they make up their minds they can go to him but the man is

not guilty. I hear they are going to abolish the death penalty or abolish the jury system, but to my mind we should have a Judge who is an impartial person to sit there and on the evidence and because of his legally trained mind he should be able to try the case. This is how I see it, I am not saying this is the view of other members, but let me go before three trained minds who would examine the evidence, and I am quite sure that a lot of these murder cases in which you find the lawyers winning and boasting that they have 100%, a lot of them would be running about then saying they cannot get through a certain Judge because he is reasonably tight, and they will have to come with good law and the evidence would have to be good, the Prosecution would have to prove its case beyond any shadow of doubt, and the defence counsel would have to defend the man in the way he should be defended. I would say therefore, Sir, that you should allow the death penalty to remain but abolish the jury system and let three Judges sit there and determine the fate of a man. This is my honest opinion on it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this morbid subject, but what I want the hon. member for St. James to understand that I am one who take deep objection to him, my mother and father or anybody else saying that lawyers pay jurymen. *(Noise in the Gallery).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the Gallery to understand something.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, if you call attention to strangers everybody has to leave, and I am sure that is not Your Honour's intention.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, jurymen are like anybody else. Some of them go with their minds prepared as to what they are going to do, and I have heard stories of jurymen coming out and saying all kinds of things, and even to support the way in which the case has ended they themselves create stories, but the hon. member is now in a responsible position and he should not make allegations against lawyers unless he can prove them, and I take great objection to this.

I would like to appeal to the Minister of Legal Affairs to have a look at the registration of births in this country. I raised it last year that our birth certificates still carry the old columns which from time immemorial they have always carried. In England they have what is called the shortened birth certificate in which you can have a birth certificate without setting out a blank line across for your father's name or occupation if you happen to be born out ot wedlock, and I believe it is time that the modern birth certificate should be put into use.

Again I would say – and this would save money for the Government – that the question of a birth certificate and then a baptismal certificate should be abolished, it should be one document incorporating all the facts that are necessary. I feel Barbados is one of the few places today where you can register the birth of a child by putting a male or female child and then wait on a baptismal certificate to identify this male or female. This leads me to another point.

I have had in the few years I have been practising to draw affidavits for persons who have been baptised by the roaming evangelists and when the time comes to get married or to go to the United States they cannot present the necessary certificates to identify their birth or baptism, and it is about time that you have one concise document which is filled out either in the hospital, by the midwife or by some responsible person within a certain number of days after birth which would form your documentation of coming into this world.

Another point is this. We have a system of re-registration of birth, that is, where a child has been born to a couple who were not married, and when the couple gets married subsequently they can go and re-register the birth and the child is legitimated by law, but the certificate bears the words "re-registration of birth" so everybody still knows that you were born out of wedlock, and I believe it is quite simple when the forms are being printed to take off the first two letters and the dash and it becomes "registration of birth." These are things I believe can be done quite simply and effectively, and it would save some money to the Government. I asked about it last year and it is still existing, and I hope the Minister responsible will do something about it in the very near future.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have no intention to enter into the debate that has just gone on about the virtues of the abolition or retention of capital punishment nor do I seek at this stage to defend any lawyer of the legal profession. What I want to speak on is Item 20 – Books and Publications. Here there is a vote of $3,500 to be spent, according to the note, to purchase books, publications and other incidental expenses of the Law Library. If I may just at this stage compare that with another note under Head 38, Item 105 which is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Books and Publications – $8,000, to

provide text books and periodicals for Reference Library for Medical Officers, and it is stated that the increase is due to a rise in subscription rates. I would like to find out from the Minister why there is this big discrepancy in the amount of money voted for the Law Library and the amount of money voted for the hospital. I am not saying that too much money is voted for the Hospital, but the money voted for the Law Library is too little.

In law it is always essential to have your text books, your reference books and particularly your case books. I can think of two series of Law Reports which are required in the Law Library. 5.35. p.m.

I can think of two series which are required in the Law Library with respect to the English Reports. There is a set of English Reports at the moment in the Law Library and a number of volumes, between 150 to 170 are in bad condition. If you touch the pages, or you turn them over, the paper crumples in your hand and we, obviously, need a new set of these laws. A new set would cost the Government something like £1700 alone. In almost all textbooks in which you are going to do any kind of research, you will find that all the references are in the English Reports. In addition to this there is also a new reprint of the Law Report which takes in the Queen's Bench Division Reports, the Chancery Division, and a number of Divisions going back to the fifteenth century, and I believe these will cost in the vicinity of £3,500.

No one person here at the Practising Bar will be able to buy either of these Reports, but when you think in terms of having to go before a Court of Law and having to use textbooks, as the Minister of Communications and Works can appreciate, is one thing, but when you have to go before a Judge to cite a point of law you can read the textbook to him, but he is not going to accept that unless you can produce a case of authority. You can only do that by producing the cases and, therefore, I would like the Government to consider seriously the question of giving more money to the Registration Office to buy more books.

Now, look at the amount of money given to the Attorney General's Chambers. The Attorney General's Chambers is given $2,740, but the entire Law Library only gets $3,500 and yet the Attorney General's Chambers, with fourteen lawyers, is granted the sum of $2,740 for the Library for the year.

I have the highest praise for the Law Library Attendant who, with his limited knowledge of Library Sciences, does an extremely good job. I believe he is retiring some time this year, and it is at this stage that I would like to suggest to the Government that, rather than just appointing a person who is a Library Attendant, to obtain the services of somebody from the Public Library, as was suggested for the Library of the House of Assembly. The Government should obtain the services of a trained Librarian either from the University at Cave Hill or from the Public Library to assist in setting up the Law Library within the precincts of the Law Courts. There is no index system there. If the present Library Attendant goes home and you want to get a book from the Law Library, you will have to spend hours looking for it yourself. The books are not catalogued and there is no index to them. I suggest to the Government that the time has come when assistance should be obtained from the University or the Public Library to assist in putting the Law Library in order.

Another suggestion I should like to put to the Government is that there should be a Committee to advise on the purchase of law books instead of leaving it to the Registrar. I am not criticising the Registrar in this respect, but the Registrar in his field is limited to one aspect of practice and that deals with the Supreme Court. There are a number of people who would go to the Registrar and say: "Buy this book on Planning Law or on Income Tax, "but this is not a very good method of purchasing books for the Law Library. What we should have is a Committee including members of the Practising Bar and the Judges who could advise the Registrar on the type of book required to be purchased, so that you would be spending money and getting the best value for it. I should really like to find out from the Minister of Communications and Works why this discrepancy exists between the Law Library and the Library for the Attorney General's Chambers.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is no discrepancy, but I think the hon. member is labouring under a misconception by looking at one Head and comparing what is granted for a similar item under another Head. If he wants to compare things and he looks at the Head dealing with Finance, he will see that we have only $100 for books. I can say that if the Ministry of Finance started to buy books on Economic Theory, Central Banking and so on, it would take about $20,000.

I can assure the hon. member that the Registration Office received every penny for books and publications for which they asked the Government. It is no function of ours at the

Estimates Committee to go down in the Library and tell them that they do not have Rayden on Divorce and so on. It is for you to quarrel with them if they do not have the books you need, but from the Government's point of view we are absolved from that criticism. Now, the Attorney General is in a different position, because he is the Legal Adviser to the entire Government. *(Asides.)* One of these days you will understand what are the functions of the Attorney General, but at the moment I am sure you do not. I think the Leader of the Opposition is in the same class as you are, because judging from some of his utterances, he obviously does not really understand not having occupied the post to be aware of the functions involved. Be that as it may, I cannot tell you why they did not ask for more. I know that they got their request.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the statement by the Minister that the Library has everything it asked for underlines the necessity for a Committee to advise the Registrar on the purchase of books for the Law Library. Nobody can seriously say that $3,000 a year is sufficient to purchase books for the Law Library when a set of English Reports will cost £ 1,700. The Registrar in his limited field of looking at Supreme Court law might not think along the lines of those who practise in criminal law, income tax law, planning law and so on, and it is necessary to have a Committee to look after this matter. Immediately after a Committee is appointed for this purpose, you will find that more money will be asked for. No Barrister can go into a Court and quote law out of his head or from a textbook unless he is supported by case law.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it is a very simple matter. If I were practising and I needed a book, I would go to the Registrar and tell him that a book is not in the Library and ask him to put it on his purchasing list. That is what we did in Jamaica and Africa.

5.45 p.m.

I am sure that if any practitioner went to Mr. Rocheford, the Registrar, and told him that these books are used for cases coming up add these to your list and try and get them, I am sure he would be only too willing to do so, but we can only grant you what he asks for.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What I am trying to get away from is the very practice that the Minister is mentioning of an individual barrister or legal practitioner going to the Registrar and saying, order this book on planning legislation or on income tax because you are not going to get sufficient mileage out of the money you are spending. What you would need is an Advisory Committee; a practitioner would be able to submit to the Registrar who would then go to the Advisory Committee and say these are the books required and ask what preference they have for these books. I could not walk into the Registrar's office tomorrow nor could a member of the Bar Association and say we want a reprint of the English Reports because every time you take up a Volume, and barely open the book, the pages are torn in half. Would the Registrar seriously consider buying a complete set of the English Reports? I would say that the University has started since us and it has a wonderful Law Library compared with the Law Library now in Bridgetown.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the University obviously is a different institution, so you cannot compare that at all. The University inherited all the law books which used to be at the Law Library. They have all been moved to Cave Hill. I should imagine that this is so simple that if the Bar Association wrote to Mr. Rocheford: Dear Mr. Registrar, in the practice of the profession the Bar is of the opinion that the following textbooks, law books, reports are necessary for the proper practice of the profession, would you care or mind ordering... and then if he replies and says "no" then you can come in here and criticise; but until you put to him the type of books which you find are inconveniencing your practice, do not expect him to know or to put up to Government a request for money. Unless the member for the City can tell me that the profession as a whole has recommended to the Registrar the books he mentioned which would cost more than is in the Estimates and that the Registrar either treated them discourteously or refused to put them up, then he cannot quarrel with this vote. What he could do is that in next year's vote he can get the Registrar to come for the supplementary; but this amount is right in that the Bar has never drawn to the Registrar's attention the need for the type of books which the hon. member for the City finds are not there and which he finds would assist in the practice of the legal profession.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Just let me finish one thing, Sir. My remarks were not made as any criticism of the Registrar. All I was saying is that certain barristers go and say order this book or order that book for me, but I want to avoid that system by having an Advisory Committee on the Law Library who would then consult the Registrar on the books necessary so that the Registrar can come up this year or when the Estimates Committee sits to say these are the books I want ordered.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I think the hon. member is belabouring the point. I take the point which the hon. member for the City is making, but if it is a question of the setting up of a Committee to advise the Registrar or whoever is responsible for the Library on the books to be purchased, the titles and so on, I would think that it is a simple matter for the appropriate Association to make the suggestion or proposal to the Registrar.

Mr. ADAMS: I hear all the talk about the Law Library and I had resolved not to say anything, but I would prefer to support the suggestion of a small Committee, not the Association. The Association is too confused at certain times. All those who have to deal with this think in terms of a small Committee; it is within my knowledge that if you make request to the Registrar and show the need, especially if you make a request for a book to assist with a difficult case and there is not sufficient of the textbook authority here, I know the Registrar will help. But the Law Library needs a lot of things. Some may have been mentioned. They have this fetish about keeping Jubie Reece's books in airconditioning and letting the proper set of law reports the replacement of which would cost L1,700 if you paid cash, and that is no small amount of money, moulder outside and get page rot, so that when you turn over the pages they begin to crumble. They should be in the airconditioning, not all of Mr. Reece's books. Mr. Reece's books are an auxiliary in my mind to the Law Library's original and very beautifully bound heavy leather set, and a Committee should advise on that. They should be in there getting some protection not all the old worn-out books that were in Mr. Reece's Library. You never know, they may soon get another set of old worn-out books from another Library. All of those books should be kept outside for historical interest and perhaps some sent to the University so that you can trace the development of the law, Archbold's and 19th Century editions receiving the full benefits of air conditioning while appeal cases and Kings Bench Reports used everyday are out of the open shelves.

The question that the sum of $78,076 under Head 7 – Registration – as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 8 – CROWN SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

Head 8 – Crown Solicitor's Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $14,437 under Head 8 – Crown Solicitor's Office – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 9 –Ministry of Finance (1) General Administration – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $125,014 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (2) VALUATION DIVISION

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $130,560 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the unsatisfactory staffing arrangements at a Department such as this ought to be drawn to the attention of the appropriate Minister, not that he might not himself be somewhat familiar with it, but the importance of the department at this particular time is what one has got to bear in mind. Now it is of the utmost necessity that in trying to get on with our land valuation proposals, every attempt must be made to exercise what control there is over the limited trained staff that there is at the disposal of the particular department. It would mean therefore that when any officer has undergone his training and finds that the time has come when promotion is due and it is denied him, there is going to be undoubtedly a lack of cooperation which from time to time must crop up and affect the smooth working of the department. We have

learned that the Minister of Finance quite justifiably has been pressing on the department to get on with its work so that he could bring into existence certain matters by a specific date, all perhaps for the good of the country. We have nothing against this, but it is at this very time that you find that the administration of this Department has struck such a new low that there are officers who are walking up and down in the department doing absolutely nothing for the taxpayers' money which they receive at the end of the month, and this has been going on for a very considerable time, and the thing about it is that nobody at the Department seems to be able to discipline the officer or say anything about such action. We do not think for a single moment that this is good enough at all.
5.55 p.m.

In the same case we found where a draftsman had to be sent to work alongside some Assistant Valuers. It was discovered that the draftsman was not pleased to work alongside them and did no work whatsoever, but instead of some action being taken to discipline an officer for receiving the taxpayers' money under false pretences, the officer was simply shifted from one section of the Department to another, but he carried on the idling and that does not help the execution of the work, because you will find that those officers, who are willing to help the Government get through with its programme by a specific date, find a situation like this obtaining and they themselves tend to lessen their efforts, and this is the type of thing that we do not want to see existing in any Department of Government.

While on the question of the administration, it has reached the stage where officers wanting to be transported from the Valuation Division to the Town and Country Planning Office find some difficulty. What Department's vehicles are available the van drivers refuse to carry them and there is nobody to whom the officers can report the van drivers, and that is the kind of thing we want to see removed. What is of very much interest too to all of us is this. There are some Assistant Valuers who have been doing the field work and have been using what is called the planning meter. It has been discovered that these trainees for the most part who have been using this equipment have been making a very considerable amount of mistakes, and in the view of the trained people the mistakes are too glaring and are appearing too often. The result is this, that a person who owned 10,000 square feet of land for maybe 15 or 20 years might eventually find that he is taxed for possessing an area over 10,000 square feet. It would mean then that if in a particular area in any parishof this island, if one person is taxed for having an area in excess of what the person formerly had, it must mean that his immediate neighbour or some not too far distant neighbour must in the end pay the tax for having less, because there is only one land area, it is not expanding as we go on, it is a question where much of the work which has already been done by these trainees who have gone into the field will certainly have to be gone over, because as it stands people who are dissatisfied with the assessment will have to take steps to have the situation corrected, but remember, each taxpayer is going to be faced with retaining barristers, whether from on this side of the House, that side of the House or somewhere else, but nevertheless it is a costly exercise and we would like to know that when it is all gone into and you find as at Item 20 where there is a provision of a mere $500 for Assessment Tribunals, we feel that if the valuation is to proceed from the work which has already been done and is presently in hand, unless some very corrective measures are taken in the office itself, there will be some very costly litigations and these we would not like to see occurring if they can all be avoided, and we want to counsel the appropriate Minister to examine all these things.

We might hear the Minister say that if people have complaints the proper place to go is to the Minister, but that is not always the case, people find avenues where they can have their grievances aired. One must bear in mind that whenever a complaint of this nature comes to any hon. member of this side of the House we have to go all out to carry out investigations, and I believe that when hon. members have heard the type of information which I have been able to give here today one must conclude it is nothing that anybody could have sat in any remote corner in any little office and decide, but it must be as a result of investigations that have been carried out where we know what is happening, and we would certainly like to see that as much as can be done is done to correct these issues as early as possible.

We have here at Item 14 $80,000 for payment of temporary staff. We know that of the temporary staff there are three senior officers who have been serving with Local Government, and we hope that their years of service in this Division are not lost in the sense that they are having trainees working under them who can benefit from the experience and who will be able to grapple with the problems which these Valuers themselves have encountered by going into the field in the early days and have helped in some very great measure and after some very

considerable sacrifice to themselves to perfect what we are acting upon at the present moment. 6.05. p.m.

We would certainly like to know that the temporary staff that is presently employed is given every encouragement to give of their best during the last days in the Department and not to take home their knowledge, because this is a case where we are satisfied that having been exposed to so much in these areas must be taken to mean so much to the Department in the prosecution of this exercise. We would certainly like to know that people are benefiting from what has been passed on to them and will be able to carry on when those old officers are gone.

With regard to Item 16 – Car Hire – my opinion is that car hire is embarked upon when the vehicles of the Department are standing idly by on the premises and could be used. We are not suggesting that there is corruption at any level in this Department. It may well be that in the course of our investigations people who are working in the Department, and I am not suggesting those low down the ladder – I do not want to say that they are dishonest, but they may be subsidising their own investments. I would certainly like to know that this aspect of things is investigated.

I repeat, Mr. Chairman, that very often it has been noticed that time and time again car hire was engaged in when the Department's vehicles were idle and could very well have carried out the jobs. I do not think this is good enough for the taxpayers. We want to see the work got through in the appropriate time, but we would like to know that everything that is humanly possible is done in the right way. I feel sure that the Prime Minister, like all of us, would like to know that any Department under his control is functioning properly and to the advantage of the taxpayers of this country.

Now, the Laboratory for the Photographic Department is being equipped. I am not suggesting that in the interim the photographer should be dismissed or his services retained on a part-time basis, but the strange thing is that whilst the photographer cannot perform certain functions for the Department there is still enough activity in the Laboratory which could very well be investigated so that we can know exactly what is going on there. I draw these matters to the appropriate Minister so that he can take them in the light in which they are given and take appropriate action when the occasion arises.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister can tell us what is the position concerning the Valuation Roll. I know that in the Throne Speech reference was made and he was hoping to introduce it in the new fiscal period. I wonder whether the rate is sufficiently satisfactory or is completed now. Perhaps he can give us some idea that certain consequential amendments of the Land Duty Act have been made. I do not know whether it is possible for him to say this without referring to budgetary measures which he may use in order to put into effect the Appropriation Bill which we are now discussing but, perhaps, if he could it would help. I am not absolutely certain about this, but I think there must be some period whereby the public are informed so that they can be *au fait* with what is happening.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, does he want me to touch on the Land Duty Act, or the Property Transfer Tax?

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in the Throne Speech mention was made of the new Land Duty Act.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is not really budgetary; it will come in because I have served notice. Of course, I should like to disabuse the mind of the hon. member for St. James that there is anybody idling in this office. *(Asides.)* I should have said the hon. member for St. Peter. I always say St. James, and I thought he had the courage to live in the constituency which he represents. It is true that a man can have more than one residence.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am taking a cue from the Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just remember that the hon. member representing St. Michael North Central also has a couple of establishments in Brittons Hill, I understand. I must apologise to the hon. member, because I always think of him as living in St. James, but I think he circulates in St. Peter. He must have paid a formal or informal visit to the Institution, but I have never seen anybody walking about in there looking for work to do.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is not a question of looking for work to do, but of walking about refusing to do work.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, this is one Department in which I

could never level that accusation, because of the people there each has specific functions, and you get the impression of a hive of activity and everybody working towards a goal. I must say that in defence of the Land Valuation Section. Now, the question of accommodation is something which we are trying to adjust. Every single member of the Department, including the Photographer, up to the last time I visited there was busily engaged in some kind of function. In my opinion a tremendous amount of work has been done, and I am speaking from my most recent visit about three months ago.

I understand that the statistical information is now in process of being computerised and being fed backwards and forwards with information daily. We have reached that stage of advancement.I do not know about the domestic details. You will appreciate, Sir, that I have a lot of work to do. I am not in a position, neither do I have the inclination nor the opportunity to go around seeing who is boiling tea and who has been home temporarily and so on. Those are minor administrative matters.

Now, when I was working in the Income Tax Department I could tell you who was boiling tea, who was going out to place the bets and so, because we had about four people doing nothing else but making tea, and they had job descriptions like Stationery Officer, Security Officer, and the Security Officer was at White City most of the time placing our bets and that kind of thing. I cannot tell you as Minister of Finance who is making tea, if the Photographer is at home and that kind of thing. Those are matters of day to day administration with which I am not concerned, so long as I get results. When I was working as a Junior Officer in Income Tax in Mayfair, London, I could tell you everything that was going on in the office, especially in Winter when it was cold, because I was one of the most guilty persons at malingering that there was because the job did not appeal to me.
6.15 p.m.

I really cannot concern myself. I am not in a position to answer those questions, but as far as the valuation role and getting the legislation on the statute book is concerned, I think that everything is going on at the rate of progress that I anticipated I would like to see with very few set-backs except a little delay in the Public Works completing the building and that kind of thing.

The question that the sum of $130,560 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3)
RATES & TAXES DIVISION

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (3) Rates & Taxes Division – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to Item 17 – Office Rent. Delete the figure "900" under column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "1200" and make the consequential amendments.

I beg to move that the sum of $74,786 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (4)
CENTRAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (4) Central Purchasing Department – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $16,351 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (4) Central Purchasing Department, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Central Purchasing is not working satisfactorily up to the present. We must realise that it is a department that will have its teething problems like any other department, but there have been complaints that it takes too long when an order is placed through Central Purchasing from a Department to get the supplies. The result is that some departments are held up in the performance of their routine work; but the main thing is that central purchasing is in truth and in fact bulk purchasing for the most part on a long term arrangement. One finds that when an order has been placed, it often happens that only part of the order is supplied to the department from which the order is placed. We are not satisfied that these firms making deliveries are doing all that they should, that is, sending along the necessary delivery

notes in duplicate or triplicate for the safe and effective control by Central Purchasing. If an order has been placed for an institution or department for, let us say, one hundred gross of any item, the supplier might find it convenient at the time to deliver 20 gross, but unless that supplier delivers his 20 gross with the necessary delivery notes and have them signed by the receiving officer at the particular department where a copy should be kept to be checked by Central Purchasing when the full order has been received, there can be no proper check. I will mention this one point because there is information that enough is not done to ensure that orders are delivered in toto before payment is made, and we would like to know that central purchasing is made a success of. You must remember that it is a commercial undertaking with which Civil Servants cannot boast of being as familiar as some of the people with whom they have got to deal, and we are urging upon Central Purchasing to be much more careful and to follow up the placing of the orders.

I understand – and this is something which I hope is not allowed to continue any further – that some departments feel that central purchasing is just a matter of taking away from two dozen Civil Servants a work which they carried on in the past and entrusting it to may be four Civil Servants; but what happened in the past is still apparently happening I am certain; that is, there have been complaints where a department placed an order through Central Purchasing for an item which could be obtained in Bridgetown, but the officer at Central Purchasing finds it more convenient to place that order with somebody in Speightstown. I just throw that out. I am happy that trade is done in Speightstown, but there is not the way to my mind that businesss should be done where central purchasing is involved. When a department places an order, it is a question of the quality that the department requires, the speed, the quick despatch of the item ordered is very important, and the price that is to be charged. All these things have got to be taken into consideration, and we do hope that for the better and more effective running of Central Purchasing that these few matters which I have brought to the attention of the Committee will be taken into consideration.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to ask the Minister if he cares to reply whether things like poultry, fish and meat for school meals are bought through Central Purchasing or whether it is done by tender. I am wondering if Central Purchasing would buy from Byer's or if the School Meals Department would directly buy from Byer or from anybody of that nature. What is the use of the Central Purchasing Department if you are not going to buy all your stuff through that department? If it is done by tender, does the Minister have the power to give the tender to anyone he deems fit? You see, at election time you can increase the order of meat from Byer's, and after elections you may decrease it.
6.25 p.m.

At election time you could increase the amount of meat from Byer's for argument's sake, and after election time you could decrease it. This is what I am trying to get at, because if you are going to vote this amount of money for the Central Purchasing Department, I feel that everything should be bought through the Central Purchasing Departmet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: All tenders in excess of a certain amount of money must go through the Tenders' Committee and the Tenders' Committee makes recommendations to the Minister and the Minister approves the recommendations of the Tenders' Committee. If the recommendations of the Tenders' Committee are not agreed to by the Minister he has to bring them to Cabinet and Cabinet has to say which side they agree on, so I do not know what the hon. member is talking about calling people's names in here, because if we are discussing principles we are discussing principles. The Tenders' Committee is responsible for awarding the contracts.

Mr. CRAIG: Excuse me, Sir, the Prime Minister seems to think I was calling somebody's name, and I apologise, I said the buyers.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not hear the definite article before the word so I did not assume that he meant b-u-y-e-r, the purchaser, meaning the particular Department. The Department processes everything because it goes up for approval. Down at the Harbour Industrial Park the Ministry of Education has its own warehouse in which it keeps all the perishable articles and more durable consumer goods for distribution to the School Meals Centres, but the whole procedure must still go through the Tenders' Committee on which no Government Minister sits, but the recommendation of the Tenders' Committee are put up to the Minister of the particular Department.

If you are buying anything in excess of $5,000 it has to go to the Tenders' Committee.

We know that there are delays in the Central Purchasing Department and the Chief Supply Officer as far as I can remember is a member of the Tenders' Committee, but the whole idea of establishing a Central Purchasing Department was to rationalise purchasing, so that if several Departments wanted filing cabinets the tender would be put out on behalf of the purchasing unit for a quantity of filing cabinets so that you would effect savings by buying larger quantities which is normal commercial practice. What we are concerned about I will tell you quite frankly is this, because the Minister of Communications and Works has mentioned this, is that we frequently find – and here I am not talking about buyers or purchasers – but when we are dealing with things like perishable commodities we find that people may tender below the other suppliers, but we do not think that there is as much inspection at the point of delivery on the quantities that are supplied, so if you bid 10% below all the other suppliers – I am not referring to any individual one because this thing has been going long before the School Meals Service – we feel that there is not enough inspection on the part of the officers responsible for receiving those supplies. They accept whatever is dumped at the door of the particular institution; this applies particularly to places like St. Michael District Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Mental Hospital and places like that, and unfortunately may have infiltrated into the School Meals Service as well.

If you are supplying, let us say, 5,000 pounds of flour – I am sort of choosing a neutral kind of commodity, I do not want to make it too highly protein – you deliver 5,000 pounds of flour and you have charged 10% below all the other poeple who have sent in tenders, in order to make back your money all you have got to do is to supply 4,500 pounds of flour, and too much of this we feel is happening. This has been drawn to our attention by other Ministers, and we really cannot stand up as Ministers over these people who should be protecting the taxpayers of the island, but there is too much slackness at that level. There was a time for instance, in the Mental Hospital when they were supposed to return tins and then you found that the tins had no covers, and biscuit tins valued at about $1.00 each and 3,000 tins would be returned but the covers did not go with them so we did not get compensation, but we suspect that the covers were supplied either before or after, so the tins were hypothetically rejected, but in reality accepted because it always meant that the delivery of the tins with the covers would not coincide in point of time, and this kind of thing happened. We investigated that and we found out what was happening, but there is an unfortunate tendency that every time that you find an officer has not done his job or has done it badly or even fraudulently the tendency is to promote the man to another job with a bigger salary.

There was that problem down at the Mental Hospital, and if an officer protests, usually one of the more junior and honest people, about what is going on he is recommended to the Public Service Commission for dismissal for insubordination, and I know several cases of this. It is termed insubordination because when he reaches the point of exasperation he goes up to the Executive Officer or whoever is in charge and says "man, you are a big thief" and that is what the Executive Officer was waiting on, for him to call him a thief, then puts him befor the Public Service Commission and the poor junior officer who has just left school with all the sort of standards that have been drilled into him finds himself out of a job. This is the kind of thing that we really cannot condone, but it makes it extremely difficult for a Minister to play detective and follow up that kind of thing.

What I would like to do is to pick out about two or three good people, and we have about two or three good ones in the Public Service, and form a flying squad, and I would be glad for the assistance of any hon. member from the other side, where we could just go without warning and descend on a Government Department and say "let me see your books, let me see what is going on in here", and if the Public Accounts Committee or somebody put in a vote for transportation for this flying squad we do not want any sirens or red lights flashing, we want to be inconspicous, we would be able to unearth a lot of things without people acting as informants and running to the member for St. Peter and giving him sometimes some misinformation, sometimes good information.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, the Prime Minister knows very well that everything I have ever yet told this Committee since I have been in here is perfectly true, and if they had acted upon it in many cases they would have saved a lot of embarrassment.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not entirely in agreement with the hon. member because he has expressed a lot of opinions

about people's character and so on that I could not subscribe to, but he does seem to have more information than any of us, whether it is accurate or inaccurate I am never able to check up because we never get anything in writing and we cannot go on what rumour has like how CBC said one time that rumour had it that something was happening or that they had been reliably informed I have invited members on the other side whenever they get reliable information put it in writing, bring it to the Minister and get an affidavit if necessary, or if the person wants to remain anonymous, then if there is sufficient substance in it we will have it investigated. What I do not like is people coming in here making allegations against Departments that we have not had an opportunity to investigate and will be in no position to reply.
6.35 p.m.

We have never barred anybody from coming into any Ministerial Office and saying: "I am a taxpayer; this is the case, and will you have it investigated." If three or four weeks after that a member discovers that the Minister is not prepared to do anything, or that the officer to whom he passed the matter for investigation has not reported, he does not have to wait 7 years like the gentleman from St. Andrew, who was drawing Government money for 7 years, and then we had to pay him $5,000, as I mentioned last week. He was working otherwise doing two other jobs as well, but we had to pay him. If at the end of three weeks a member does not get a satisfactory reply, he should then come to this House and say: "I informed the Minister about this, and the Minister appears to have done nothing about it." It is not fair to people for a member to pick up any kind of rumour, or any kind of allegation from somebody who has a grudge against his immediate superior, and come in here and bandy about the names of people.

Mr. Chairman, when you hear me say anything, you must understand that I am a very long-suffering person. Sometimes I have been waiting for three years to try to get action. When you hear me protest, I am not hot tempered as some people think. When I am really angry I am very quiet. When you hear me come in here and complain, Sir, it is because I am frustrated and I cannot get action I have investigated and done everything possible in a particular matter. It is in this regard that I should like hon. members to exercise a certain amount of responsibility, and to let them know that the Ministers are available to all members of the House either by written correspondence or by actual confrontation in our offices or elsewhere.

The question that the sum of $16,351 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (4) – Central Purchasing Department – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE (5) – DATA PROCESSING UNIT

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (5) – Data Processing Unit – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $105,038 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (5) – Data Processing Unit – Stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to spend much time on this Head. The Prime Minister must know that the computer is now rented out and is bringing in revenue of some sort by way of rental, but I have not been able to discover where it is accounted for in the Estimates. I have checked revenue from Government undertakings, rental of Government property and so on, but I have not seen this. I would like to hear from the Minister what he expects to receive from the rental of the computer in this present financial year and, undoubtedly, he would be in a position to tell us how much it brought in last year. I think it is rented at $150 an hour. How many hours was it rented out last year?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out to the hon. member that the Unit has only been rented out in this financial year, and I would not have that information until the end of the year. Any estimate of receipts should have been in last year's Approved Estimates, but at that time they may not have started to rent it out. We will be able to show that next year. There is only one firm, as far as I know, renting it at the moment. *(Asides.)* There may be two firms renting the computer. The point is, Sir, that it is not a regular sum that you can calculate, because they do not agree to give us so much time, so much utilisation, and we do not agree to give them any specific time. I now understand that we have received $25,000 in rent for three months. The position is that there was a firm doing Data Processing work in the Island, but they have gone out of operation. They do not use their own equipment and they are using ours.

Mr. ADAMS: Where is it shown? There must be some sort of projected revenue. We are now dealing with next year's Estimates.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, not seeing where the projected revenue was accounted for, it occurs to me that when the Unit is rented out some members of the staff would have to work overtime. We take it that they would not rent it out during the period when it is required for prosecuting Government's work, and it would then entail our having to pay overtime to certain members of the staff. Undoubtedly, certain members of the permanent staff would have to be on duty during the period when it is rented out to other people, but I do not see where any amount is requested here for payment of overtime.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am informed – I am nearer to the Head of the Department than the Hon. Prime Minister – that is at the moment a stopgap arrangement, and he has been instructed that the firms for which the Government are at the moment doing work are making alternative arrangements which may come to an end tomorrow or not. It is difficult, in the circumstances, to project – it is not a permanent contract – in the revenue column any particular revenue for the year. At the moment they are making arrangements with another firm that is getting a computer, and the arrangements may stop tomorrow or next week. You cannot project revenue for a whole year not based on a regular monthly or weekly contract.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, has the money been paid in advance? What guarantee do we have that the money will be received? If you say that we are going to receive $25,000, is there any assurance that we will get the money? It should be accounted for here, and there should be some sort of projection. If we projected that for three months, we would be doing pretty good. If in the subsequent months we received one-third or one-half of what we received during the previous three months, it would be a different matter. Surely, the Prime Minister should look into this matter to see if the Unit was not rented out some time last year.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It was not rented out last year, and the money has already been paid in advance for the months of December to February.
6.45 p.m.

These Estimates do not come into effect until 1st April, so it cannot be reflected in these Estimates, and at the time when the last Estimates were made up there was no thought then of renting it or the need for it since there was already another company, and it could not have been incorporated the last Estimates. It is a simple accounting financial position. It cannot be projected in these Estimates since, as I said; it might come to an end before the financial year properly begins. These are the simple reasons.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are happy now that we know what took place. We wanted to know exactly what went on, and it is our duty to try and find these things out.

At Item 24 an amount of $30,000 is needed. We do not envisage any supplementaries because the Prime Minister might tell us that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. On the rental of the data processing machines, one has got to realise that we have got to spend this amount of money after paying the large sum we did for the computer; but there is more than this because at Item 22 there is an amount of $22,000 for Tabulating Cards, Magnetic Tapes, Ribbons etc. When we hear that the computer is rented at $150 an hour, we might decide that we are giving away our machine, time and everything else. $150 an hour is a peppercorn rent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, it was higher but I reduced it to $150 because it was uneconomic for the firms to rent it at the rate when they could send it to Trinidad, the United States and other competitors and get it as an overall at a more reasonable price. There is an advantage of having it done in Barbados because we are on the spot, but after discussion with all the people concerned, I reduced it to $150 an hour. I do not think that a revenue of $25,000 in three months is bad considering that the total spent by the department is only $280,000, and if we can go on even at this sort of minimal usage where we could get $100,000, I do not think you can complain about the soft wear, tabulating cards, tapes and so on because these are essential. The list of departments that we are servicing is really fantastic considering we have been operating just over a year, because they completed voters registration, budget application, lists of receipts and payments for the Treasury, trade statistics, Post Office money orders, Government pensions by pay-cheques, education statistics between 1965 and 1970, land surveying computations, waterworks billing, traffic surveys, income tax statistics and national insurance roll of contributors which is over 100,000 people, and then projects which are nearing completion are the monthly payroll for Government departments, obstetrics analysis for the Government maternity units, Central Purchasing Department, work on the agricultural census, land valuation, migration, income tax accounting, annual Civil List, Health statistics, immigration,

national insurance accounting. There are other things to be done like Customs entry, processing systems, engineering problems and the Hospital patient records. If in that short period of time the unit could undertake all these projects and still make $25,000 in three months, I don't think that that is a peppercorn rent at all, because if we had enough firms in Barbados, I am sure that the total cost of renting the Data Processing Unit could probably be financed by rental of time without interfering with our normal programme. What I am concerned about now is the under-utilisation of the computer, and I think we ought to discourage more computers coming into the Island as long as there is surplus capacity on Shipping & Trading and our computer here at the Data Processing Unit.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Mr. Chairman, we are somewhat happy with the explanation that has been given so far except that I would like to remind the Prime Minister that with respect to the tabulating cards and magnetic tapes, he has got to bear in mind that they have got to be purchased from places like the United States, and sometimes they have to be flown in from Trinidad, and my mentioning this must cause the Minister to relate this to cost. However, the Minister mentioned that the unit is not fully utilised in a sense. Now right here, the various Government departments are not giving the Data Processing Unit the fullest cooperation. I want to say that the unit could do more if it were fed with the material from the various departments, and it is also known that often when the material from the various departments reaches the unit, it is presented in such a shabby and unencouraging manner that it militates against the quick operation of the whole business. Now quite recently I understand that some effort was made when a seminar was held, I think, at the Hilton Hotel for Permanent Secretaries.

6.55 p.m.

It is all well and good, Mr. Chairman, to hold a seminar for Permanent Secretaries in an effort to make them *au fait* with the functioning of the Unit and causing them to understand what delay by their Departments can mean, but in truth and in fact holding a seminar for Permanent Secretaries was not the full answer. It would have been much better if in addition to the Permanent Secretaries – because I am not going to suggest that you should take the junior officers who will have the day to day working, preparing the statistics and so on, to send to the Data Processing Unit, and send them to this seminar and the Permanent Secretaries not knowing what is going on – the Permanent Secretaries should be there, but there are others in the setup who ought to have been present, because we know some of the Permanent Secretaries very well, Sir.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I rise on a point of explanation. Before the Unit was set up and ever since it was set up there has been liaison between the Unit and the officers responsible for the particular Departments and Ministries for collaborating with the Data Processing Unit. This has been going on all the time, but for instance, I took some Ministries of Finance to Mexico long before we had a Data Processing Unit because I realised that this was one of the problems of efficiency and unless I could get Ministries of Finance at that level to understand the implications and what is entailed, and some senior Government officials as well, like the Head of the Civil Service, the Auditor General and so on, they would be completely unsympathetic because it would look like a visitation from Mars when we brought in the computer. I got Ministries from Jamaica, Trinidad – I had the Minister of Finance from there – and Guyana, from all over the place, and the seminar for Permanent Secretaires was one to try and get them to appreciate that they could not call off an officer who was supplying the Unit with information and expect him to carry out his normal duties or to be opening letters or answering the telephone – I may be oversimplifying it – but to give them an appreciation as Accounting Officers of what the whole operation entails.

Nobody was excluded, because there are continual programmes for people who have to deal with the Unit, and there is a joint consultative committee comprising Heads of certain Departments who meet frequently and discuss some of their problems.

The other thing I want to emphasise is this. When I said that the machinery was being under utilised, one possible interpretation of this would be that the Ministries were not making sufficient use of it. This is not what I meant, because the staff of the Unit are fully occupied eight hours per day, but in a Unit any computer nowadays costs a lot of money. We were lucky to get one at one-third of the ex-factory price which is functioning, we have had replacements for it, we are not going to buy any new one, IBM has been putting pressure on us to buy a 360 series and we feel that what we have got is competent for what we want to do at least for the next five to seven years. What I mean by under utilisation, if you want to advertise a machine by its capability and its cost and so on and putting all these parameters together, a unit like that should be

working a minimum of 16 hours a day, so that we could sell if we are working 8 hours a day where our people are busy around the machine, we could afford to pay overtime and rent it out for a further eight hours and make a lot of money, but now the salesmen are so high pressured that they are going around to every firm in Bridgetown and persuading them that they need computers, and they ended up in Trinidad in the ridiculous situation where they have 31 computers and when the experts went down and did an evaluation they found out that one good 360 machine could have done the work of the 31 computers.

We are aware of this. The gentleman who sold those 31 computers has now retired at the tender age of about 34; he has been able to retire and set up a firm in Barbados, one in Trinidad and one in Jamaica to do land development and property and that kind of thing. I compliment him on his initiative, but when you study the history of IBM you will know that they are a very aggresive organisation and they will try to sell you all kinds of ideas when you do not really need them. The hon. member can rest assured that we have no intention of coming here for any capital to buy any new machines, we may come for backup equipment which is available in the island so that if we have a breakdown we could get additional tapes and so on. As a matter of fact, I am surprised it is not in the Estimates because there is equipment available that we could buy at a very cheap price as backup equipment to what we have; in other words, similar in every respect, but I want to emphasise that when I said it was underutilised I do not mean that people in the Unit are idle, I mean from the point of view of the capability of the machine which could be working sixteen hours a day instead of eight.

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this now brings us to one other point, that of training. I do not believe, after hearing what the Prime Minister has said, that we are doing enough to train staff as quickly as we ought to, because no doubt the capabilities of the machine have been spelt out to us in no uncertain terms, we are fully aware of this, but there is a possibility of the work being channelled, i.e., after Government's requirements have been met by the machine, there are still some hours left to do other work. It will then entail, Mr. Chairman, the question of having trained and competent staff to execute this work. What I can gather is that I think we have one officer who is presently in Jamaica observing some work that is going on there but that there is nobody who we can say that we have undergoing any overseas training at the moment.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we are more advanced than Jamaica in our Data Processing, and we train most of our staff locally. We bought in people, the Director went to Nassau and other places, some of our people apart from myself and the Financial Secretary have been on courses in Mexico, and we train more programmers than we actually need. I think that what we are going to be deficient on in Barbados is on the engineering side, but I do not want to go into this now because it is a sore point with me. I heard it takes ten or fifteen years to train a good engineer, that a proficient engineer should have fifteen years' experience.

7.05 p.m.

The gentleman who was doing a good job on our machines was only given one year to reside; so we will be 15 years behind hand, and this is the kind of problem that I have. The gentleman married a Barbadian; he decided that he could not get any promotion with IBM and he was leaving. That is another problem altogether which I am trying to resolve in the best way I can. So far as training is concerned, there may be somebody in Jamaica undergoing training but I do not know, but we do not have to send people to Jamaica to be trained. We have trained all of our Programmers and Key Punch Operators here in Barbados and we will continue to have a reserve of people to carry on.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry to hear that the Engineer who would be required to work on the computer has only been given one year to reside in Barbados. My feeling is that the Officer must be given permission to remain in Barbados and train people. We are concerning ourselves with his being present to train our people. We understand that some of our Officers are at present taking Correspondence Courses in some of the phases of activity relating to the vast exercise of computers, and we want to see that as much as possible is done to ensure that at some stage, whether the decision is to train them locally, whether we can train all of them locally, or whether we have to send some of them abroad, we will eventually expose them to wider horizons, if we are to benefit in the long run from the experience which they would have gained. After all, whilst the members of the present staff are performing very, very creditably, it would mean that they have to adapt themselves most readily. It is something that Barbadians are quite capable of doing, and this is something to our credit but it is not enough.

The Prime Minister has said that he intends to see that the machine that is at present installed will have to do the work which has to

be done. I am not an expert on this matter, but I have said in this House already that my information is that the present machines will not be able to cope with certain jobs. It may appear that, having spent a large sum of money recently to purchase a machine, to go back to Parliament to ask for money to purchase another type of machine might give the appearance that the Prime Minister did not know what he was doing, but it might have been that the Prime Minister was badly advised in the first instance when he bought the other machine. Anyway, we are glad to see what we have got out of it, and we are looking forward to seeing what we will get out of it in the future. Let us hope and pray that, when the necessity arises for another machine to be placed on the premises, the Prime Minister will come boldly before this House and state that a case has been made out for acquiring another machine, and we will give him our support.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I think a case has been made out for back-up equipment, because we had an agreement with the International Systems or the Grazettes firm – there is some dispute over its present designation. They had a 1401, 1402 and 1406 series of machines, and it was felt that it would be more compatible to have a back-up system as there was already a 1401 machine in the Island, and we got it for $200,000 when the normal price was $300,000 (US) and that is $600,000 in our money. During transit delivery it was damaged and we were able to get an even more modern and up-to-date machine with a larger number of key positions. *(Asides.)* It was the model after the one at Grazettes. We can acquire the one at Grazettes, and the sum involved is not going to be in excess of $50,000, but we do not have to buy it.

As far as doing programmes which are beyond the capacity of our present machine are concerned, we can also buy time in Trinidad or Jamaica as the case may be, and it would be a lot cheaper than changing our machines. I respectfully submit that IBM's business is renting and selling machines; they bring out series after series and tell you that this series will be better than the last. A machine of that cost, in my opinion, should not be written off in less than 5 years even if it were a second-hand machine. I have no intention of coming here to ask for money to buy any 36020. I have already told the people at the Data Processing Department that; so if they are feeding that information to the hon. member in the hope that we will get one from IBM when they come down – *(Asides.)* IBM has been trying to make out a case even before we purchased the 1401 that we should buy the latest one. The head of the IBM went to jail when he was working at the National Cash Register for this kind of fraudulent operation against the anti-trust legislation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I hold no brief for anybody at International Systems; I have had no discussion with anybody at IBM, and I did not know that the Grazettes people were still operating. I have just been told that there is a matter before the Supreme Court in connection with these machines. If there is a dispute over the machines and the matter is now in the Supreme Court, then I would advise the Prime Minister to take his mind off the machine altogether. What has been happening at the Grazettes Industrial Estates all along is that two or three form a company and come here, and when a dispute arises one of the partners would interfere with a machine, damage it and put it out of operation. The Prime Minister may obtain this machine for half of the value of what he may have to pay for a new machine, but in the end he may find himself in a court action.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am only assuring the hon. member that I have no intention of coming here to ask for money for new machines. He must realise that these people's business is disposing of machines whether by way of sale or leases. I am satisfied that any kind of sophisticated work can be done elsewhere at a cheaper rate than by purchasing a new machine.

7.15 p.m.

The only purpose I am thinking of another machine is to have a back-up particularly on the tape equipment that they have which would cost a lot more if we bought them new, so that if we had a break-down we would not have to wait a long time to get the programmes going again and that sort of thing. I have no intention of coming this year or next year for any new machine. I think we are lucky to have one at all; we only have to make use of it.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear all this about the machine. I have not had the benefit like the Prime Minister of going to a computer course in Mexico or wherever, and therefore I know very little about these machines except that I am told that the machine which the Government purchased was already highly out of date at the time, that they ceased making even spare parts for that machine in 1965 far less training anybody to work it, that the machine at International Systems is not only in bad shape, old in the same sense, but that IBM with a debt of $140,000 and City Bank with a debt of $110,000 are disputing altogether who should get

the benefit of the assets of the Grazettes Company, not to speak of Mr. Edwards and his $5,000; so if the Government buys a machine, I would be sorry to see any team or persons come and seek to take away the Government's machine.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I do not think the Leader of the Opposition having had the assurance of the hon. member for St. Peter that the matter is a court action should go into details to that extent. After all we have got to be responsible in this Chamber. I think that unintentionally in his desire to warn the Government he should not have revealed the details since I had the assurance that it was a court action and the details should really have been kept quiet. Not that they might not be true, but I think you have to refrain from commenting on matters which are *sub judice.*

On the other point, I think the entire House was invited by the Government prior to the election to inspect on a Saturday morning the Government's machine and computer and only three Ministers turned up and inspected it and saw it in operation doing the electoral roll. Both the Senate and House were invited. I see the hon. member for Bridgetown shaking his head. That is cooperation as we lawyers say.

Mr. ADAMS: There is an important point here. This is nothing to do with the Head of course. This is the matter of a court case. There seems to be a belief on that side of the House that there is some Standing Order or practice of Parliament which forbids the mention of cases which are before the Court. I would ask all hon. members who question this to show me the Standing Order. There is a rule you must not discuss a matter whish is *sub judice* so as to prejudice it; there is no Rule that you cannot discuss a case which is before the Court. If there is any Standing Order to that effect, I would be glad to be educated. I am not having any contention about this.

Mr. SMITH: Standing Order notwithstanding, I think the hon. member is schooled enough in Parliamentary procedure that any matter *sub judice,* as a matter of decency, as a matter of fairness, as a matter of anything, Parliament should not comment on it while it is still before the Court. You do not have to find that in a Standing Order. We who have read any Parliamentary procedure know that we should refrain from doing it as a matter of course, and as a matter of parliamentary responsibility.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the level of Parliament which the hon. member understands is not the level I understand. If the Hon. Minister wants to know about discussuons *sub judice* and contempt of Court, let him look at development over the last three or four years in England where persons had deliberately issued writs so as to suppress discussion in the Press of certain outstanding matters and in Parliament. He is operating at a level of what he believes; I am operating at a practical level. Let him go and look at the history of the last three years when even contempt of court has been held, not to cover certain matters in respect of these things. Listen to Order No. 26 Rule 3 – "Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as might in the opinion of the Chair prejudice the interest of parties thereto." That Rule is specifically framed and you will find it in the House of Commons to allow discussion in a manner that does not anticipate or interfere with the Court's potential decision. Don't tell me that something cannot be mentioned in here because somebody decides to go and issue a writ in order to stop it being discussed in Parliament when it deserves discussion. I am told in any case in the computer matter, my understanding is the matter is a liquidation. It may well be a liquidation by the Court. It may well be a petition to the Court, but that is the way companies have to be liquidated, and an allegation of fraudulent preference is not fraud in the sense of trials before the Assizes. *(Asides.)* Anyhow let us not deal with that. I am just suggesting that even $50,000 for a computer that is subject to liquidation in the court in which there is an allegation of fraudulent preference being made might not be a good plan by the Government. Thar is all I am saying. *(Asides.)* The hon. member for St. Michael-West usurping the functions of the Chairman and in breach of Standing Order No. 29, says that it is irrelevant. If he considers it irrelevant when the Prime Minister says that for the purpose of this Head he may purchase a backup unit and come for a move-in later on, he should be in the Chair and we should not have a Parliament at all.

Mr. Chairman, I am dealing now with the same computer but on another point. Now the Prime Minister I do not think was in the House when we discussed the case of the unfortunate computer operator who had been resident in Barbados, married to a Barbadian woman with a daughter at Queen's College, given the assurance that he would have two three-year residence periods here and all that, and yet in the face of the fact that it is not possible to train a computer operator to service this machine, in the face of the fact that IBM had Barbadians trained to work the 360 in consideration of the rental, I

would be glad if the Prime Minister would elucidate, becuase as far as I was concerned, when he got up and talked about the engineer, he was making my speech. We could not agree with him more. If the engineer was genuinely told – I do not believe it was a subject of revocation or anything – that he could not have his expectation of residence and therefore has left, I think this was a disgraceful thing, a naked anti-foreigner act for the sake of being anti-foreign, and nothing would prevent me from saying that. Let us leave out even the question of the Barbadian wife.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to say in explanation that the hon. member for St. Peter mentioned training and I said that some training takes longer than others. We would like to see engineers trained because IBM rents us engineers, and the only engineer we really could rely on had been given one year. It does not mean that his permit would not have been extended, but he feels that his chances of promotion are prejudiced by being given one year. I was not commenting on work permits policy or anything like that. I was not in the House when the hon. member spoke, because if I had imagined that he had spoken on it so vehemently as a sort of federal case, I would not have mentioned it at all; but the hon. member asked about training and I pointed out that we could train key-punch operators and programmers probably in one case within four weeks and the other three months, not necessarily in that order. But when you come to things like engineers a good engineer is a man with a degree with collective experience including University training of about ten or fifteen years. That is the simple explanation about the difficulties of a training programme. It is not a corroboration of the hon. Leader of the Opposition or an indictment on the work permit policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is an observation.
7.25 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: I appreciate the hon. member's observation very much indeed. It is an observation which couches as politely as it is possible to couch an observation and says that the Opposition was right in its original contention. The Minister of Home Affairs is sitting down there smiling with fear in his heart lest the Prime Minister perhaps says something else that will embarrass him more, but we do not have to worry about all of that, I appreciate it, we know the price issued was wrong.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: If the hon. member will give way, I would like to assure him that I have absolutely no fear in my heart about anything that the Ministry of Home Affairs does under my direction, and I am prepared to stand up to anyone, including the Hon. Prime Minister of this country, to defend any actions taken by the Ministry under my direction.

Mr. ADAMS: I hope that the hon. member will get up and deny without hesitation that he was either refused admission to the Prime Minister's Office or sent out of the Prime Minister's Office, one of these unfortunate rumours that is circulating in connection with these matters, but let that pass, this is not work permits nor do I anticipate that work permits are going to come up. The point that I really was going to ask the Prime Minister was the engineer problem. I do not know any of the parties involved, I do not know the engineer, his wife or any of them, I would not know him if I saw him in the Gallery of the House or if I saw him in the street, I only know such information as I have received. It does not altogether add up to the engineer leaving because of prejudice to promotion, my information more adds up to IBM encouraging the engineer to come back because his work permit situation did not add up to what they or he either wanted or expected. That is the direction in which my information lies, but I have formed an impression – and some of what the Prime Minister says supports it – that IBM is indeed putting on some pressure for a 360 computer to be bought, and I believe that an impression may have been formed that because the Government would not buy this 360 computer some pressure was put on the IBM engineer and some embarrassment was occasioned as a deliberate thing by the Government because I think there was some dispute as a result of which the Government has put on this pressure on the man. I would not like to think that is true that IBM tried to put pressure on the Government, but there it is. Nonetheless, the fact is that the man had a daughter at Queen's College, his wife had medical advice that she should reside in Barbados, all of that and off he is again. That is what I call man's inhumanity to woman.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think I would have to be a doctor to advise anybody to come and live in Barbados if they could, it is a good place to live in under the present Government.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, normally it is the hon. member for St. Michael West, even indeed at certain times the hon. member for St.

Michael South Central who we invite to change sides. It looks as though I am going to have to ask the Prime Minister to change too, becausing he is expressing those humane principles which are so resolutely denied by so many members of his Government. Would that they could see him a little bit more, or what is it? When a mad dog bites you it gives you rabies, maybe the Prime Minister had better bite the Minister of Home Affairs and give him humanity, but that is all I would ask about the computer situation because I think it has been adequately cleared up in debate.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Item, but I should like very much to commend the members, both the former Director of the Data Processing Unit who I believe is Acting Accountant General also, and his Deputy as well as the Systems Analyst. I do not think it is recognised that we have managed to set up this Unit using almost completely local staff, and certainly bringing some of the qualified Barbadians from overseas. I do not know whether the Prime Minister's statement that it takes 15 years to train an engineer is correct, I doubt it very much. I am not saying he is not telling the truth.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I say that it will take 15 years, from my information, knowledge and what little acquaintance I have that it takes 10 to 15 years before you can consider him a top class man. As a matter of fact, I would say it takes 15 years to make a good lawyer and a lot of us have not had that exposure yet, but I am still learning.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, you know me well enough, I do not talk about myself as the Prime Minister sometimes likes to talk about himself, and I am really not out for comapring his merits with anybody else, I just want to make this point, that we should take steps – no matter whatever the members on my side might say – to provide if this is so for looking for the Barbadians who are trained and are overseas to bring back to these posts.

I am not one of those who have any particular friends when it comes to this matter, and I agree with the Minister of Home Affaris if he has to say at times that some people have to go because they are not taking adequate steps to train Barbadians. I believe that if we can set up a Data Processing Unit and get people of the level of Mr. Robert Williams who is a qualified Barbadian in lots of fields, as well as Mr. Redman and Mr. Lewis to show that in a short space of time they can operate this Unit adequately, I doubt very much whether we cannot find in a short space of time and train as well a qualified engineer, and I have seen in some of these IBM and ICL and all the establishments that some of the people who they are sending to tutor here have not got as much experience or exposure either in the engineer or in any other field that some of the qualified Barbadians who are in Canada or elsewhere have, and I should like very much this House to look carefully at the soft sell or hard sell or hard wear or whatever you like down the line when they are trying to sell themselves to residing in Barbados for longer than we consider necessary.

The question that the sum of $105,038 under Head 9 – Ministry of Finance (5) Data Processing Unit – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 – ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head 10 – Accountant General – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $99,316 under Head 10 – Accountant General – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $99,316 under Head 10 – Accountant General – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 – PENSIONS

Head 11 – Pensions – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,370,788 under Head 11 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $1,370,788 under Head 11 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 12 – CHARGES OF DEBT

Head 12 – Charges of Debt – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 12 – Charges of Debt – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 12 – Charges of Debt – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again, but before you leave the Chair I would just like to say that there is nothing under Head 12 to be appropriated.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, i.e., until 8.30 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.30 p.m.

On resumption

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee, and to that it automatically reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
CUSTOMS

Head 13- Customs - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $218,760 under Head 13 - Customs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think the time has come that the Officers who work in the Customs Department should cease being a body of forgotten people. I feel that a Department such as the Customs Department, with a staff working under conditions some of which we know are not satisfactory in every respect, bringing in something like $39 million, has achieved something which should be commended. When we consider the fact that the Department has been losing some of its most experienced staff year after year and knowing what a severe blow that must be to its proper function and what a headache it must be to the administration of the Department, I feel that the net result is something to be highly commended. We have seen of late where things like highjacking of aircraft is bringing so much to bear upon Customs and others where we see people passing through Customs with articles that are likely to cause national concern in its vilest sense when we look around to see that our limited staff with its limited knowledge are still carrying on, we have a lot for which we should be thankful.

Of late we have seen that there have been some detections, and cases brought before the Court involving people who have been caught in the dope racket. These are some of the things, Mr. Chairman, in which Customs Officers function most efficiently and prominently, but for which in the end result they get no commendation, whatsoever, because they operate more or less behind the scenes. When a person passes through the Customs and they discover that he is carrying certain pieces of equipment, say machinery and the Customs Officers are efficient in detecting this, a case might be brought before the Court, but it is never known to the general public what the Custom Officers had to do in bringing the offender to justice.

I note that the Customs' staff generally is doing a dood job. At Item 30 we are providing money to equip the Customs at the Airport and at the Bridgetown Harbour with metal detectors and so on. Undoubtedly, this is as a result of the following closely so much that has taken place in the outside world in very recent months. I understand that we were fortunate in having some of our customs Officers and others lectured here by a team from Scotland Yard and from the British Aircraft Industry.

Now, I remember hearing a denial from the Police that we did not have Scotland Yard men in the Island. I remember asking the present Minister of Home Affairs on the floor of the House about the matter, and the Minister got out of answering the question by absenting himself from his chair. It is a fact that Scotland men were down here, because we now know that whilst they were here they lectured to some of our Customs Officers on crime detection and what is involved in the present- day Customs work. We have nothing

against this whatsoever, but there is still the question of the shortage of staff. Even where it might be said by the Minister that conditions have been improved at the Customs and other Government Departments from time to time, what is of considerable importance at the Customs Department is the quality of the staff, and this is something which one can only get by being involved in Customs work over a very considerable period of time.
8.40 p.m.

There is not only the question of staff, but even where it might be said by the minister that additions have been made to the staff of Customs and other Government Departments from time to time, what is of some considerable importance at Customs is the quality of the staff. This, Mr. Chairman, is something which we can only get by being involved in customs work over a very considerable period of time. It is not something that can be learned from text books and merely applied like this.. There are some intricacies, there are the ramifications with which one has to become familiar in every phase of customs work, and the quality of the staff is what I think can cause problems at the Customs more than anything else. Now we have, Mr. Chairman, temporary staff. You will find, Sir, that there is an amount at Item 17 for Unestablished Staff and Item 18 to pay overtime. The sum of $16,470 - Unestablished Staff, and an amount of $46,000 to pay overtime. I have said already, Mr. Chairman, that this question of overtime is not something which officers like to become involved with on every occasion. There are times when an officer for the efficient functioning of a department will readily agree to accommodate his department by putting in a little overtime, but although they are paid for it, officers do not like to be under constant pressure weekend after weekend as now obtains, and we would counsel Government to take every step possible to make customs work a career, a type of specialist field where if you recruit staff to customs you are going to make provisions for promotion and retention of people after they become qualified so that their services will be retained for the speeding up of the work of the department. There are no two ways about it, Mr. Chairman, that our customs work now involves so much; we are exposed to so much. All along our seafront and along the west coast there are yachts patrolling up and down. There are yachtsmen pretending to come to the Island for all sorts of reasons. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that the coming of these yachts throw additional burdens upon the Customs Department. We have got to have our staff equipped whatever it calls for, to be able to measure up to detecting wherever there is a possibility of revenue being lost, because the Customs is mainly a revenue-earning Department. (Mr. WALCOTT: The Customs collects money not earns it.)

Mr. Chairman, I am being heckled.

I am on my feet, Mr. Chairman, and it is for me to draw it to your attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I will pay due attention to it.

Mr. HINDS: What we are saying, Mr. Chairman, that if we were to make Customs a career department, you will find people entering the Service with an assured future before them. What now happens is that an officer is recruited into the Customs and spends maybe four of five years there, and as soon as the Comptroller knows he is a qualified man for the department, that Officer goes into private enterprise which is a more lucrative field, because you cannot prevent people from going to look where the plums are. It is for the Government to appreciate what the Customs Department means to the economy of this country and what proper staffing of that department must mean, and set about to create conditions that would make it enticing for people to enter Customs and give a life of service to that department for the good of the nation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, you will find that at Seawell Airport there is still every possibility of goods being landed and a considerable amount of smuggling being carried on, because the Airport proper is not protected sufficiently to enable Customs to function effectively as we would like.
8.50 p.m.

The airport is not protected sufficiently to enable Customs to function as effectively as we would like. This is a matter which we would like to know is investigated and steps taken to remedy the situation so that customs will be able to tighten security measures there. There is, Mr. Chairman, the question of duty free shops at Seawell Airport. There have been losses from some of these shops, and there is in our view enough to cause a full scale investigation being carried on at Seawell Airport, because there is still an opportunity for some of the people who because of their psoition have reasons to believe that they would not be suspected of engaging in certain acts, and blame time and again is cast in directions which I am sure it could not and should not always be cast, and it would be worthwhile if this matter could be fully investigated with a view to clearing some people, because we have the bad habit whenever thieving is reported as having taken place from a duty free shop at Seawell Airport to say it is somebody who we believe it is not.

Mr. Chairman, we must stop telling ourselves that it is not in the country's best interest to expose this and expose that, we have got to take the bull by the horn at some stage or the other and try to put a stop to all this. there is some action which I hope will be taken at the appropriate time to bring somebody who is doing all this, because when this occurs the name of the country is blackened just the same, and we would like to see it stopped as soon as possible.

We must, Mr. Chairman, act on this matter of dope and Customs. There is a system in customs where certain articles arrive and for some reason the packages are carried away either from the sea port or airport to the premises, whether residence or business premises, of the person to whom they are consigned with Customs permisson, and it is then that officers from the Department must go to the spot and be on time to examine the goods when the crates are opened. I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that Barbados is getting its share of dope, and more than its share, and I want to say that I am convinced that some of our customs staff need some specialsied training in its detection. It is not as easy as may appear on the surface, but there can be no doubt that it is being peddled and that it is arriving in this country through the Airport and the sea port. I would like to see that everything humanly possible is done to assist the Customs Department, and we are quite prepared to support a provision such as this, and if it requires a supplementary to provide equipment to assist Customs in detecting any of the breaches of the law in this country, we on this side of the House are willing to do whatever is necessary, because we see, we know and appreciate the tremendous task that faces our Customs Department.
9.00 p.m.

As I have said, we feel on this side very grateful to those members of the staff who have functioned so ably and well. We would like to see them doing better, and we feel that they should have the fullest assistance from Government in providing them with the training and equipment which will be necessary in order to carry out Customs work to its fullest degree.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there are probably a few questions I should like to have answered before the question is put, and one of them concerns the removal of the Spirit Bond. I think we have been fortunate on numerous occasions so far to have escaped conflagration in the City, but it seems that the time has come when Government should, even ahead of the construction of a new Customs Warehouse, remove the Spirit bond from the City. I wonder whether the minister could give us some information about what active steps are being taken to achieve this end.

I know that in the Throne Speech Government promised the construction of a new Customs Warehouse in 1972. I understand that the removal of the Spirit Bond was being talked about some 20 years ago and on each occasion it has been shelved. I think that with our unfortunate experiences of the last two years, we should not try our luck any further. I certainly think that from the Fire Service's point of view and from the Customs' point of view it must have been very hazardous to have been exposed to the recent fire almost next door. Perhaps the Minister will let us know whether Government has any immediate plans, in these circumstances, for moving the Spirit Bond from within the confines of the City.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would not ask the Minister any question on this. This is a matter of commonsense. The Spirit Bond is a public danger, and it should be there no longer than is physically possible to allow it to remain. It has been a danger for many years, and I hope the Government is not thinking the same way as a man that I know. When there was a fire in Broad Street a man was told to increase his insurance premium, and he said that lightning does not strike the same place twice. Unfortunately, the next fire destroyed his business together with William Fogarty's and others. I do not know if the Government is thinking that lightening will not strike the same place twice.

Some years ago I was dealing with work at the Customs, and I know that the Spirit Bond is a hazard. If the Spirit Bond had been on fire two weeks ago - as a matter of fact, there was a rumour that the fire had started at the Spirit Bond - we would have been in for a lot of trouble. Many years ago other bonds were removed to places outside of Bridgetown. This is such a patent danger that I cannot understand why something has not been done about it before. There were two fires at Central Foundry before the Financial Building was constructed there. I will tell the Minister or the Government that the Spirit Bond must be removed, and that it should have been removed before the renovation of the new Customs building. A temporary building should be made available for the Spirit Bond outside of the city and it should be removed as early as possible. They should not be collecting and storing things in the Spirit Bond in the heart of the City, because if there is a conflagration a lot of damage will be done. Many years ago it was felt that the Spirit

Bond, gasolene, and so on should be stored down by the reef.

With regard to the question raised by the hon. member for St. Peter, he gets into a rambling state when he deals with any matter and lectures to everybody without making any point. He made a point about drugs coming into the Island and that is known. They have just blown up an aeroplane in Las Vagas, and we know that these things are happening. There is no point in saying that the Customs Department must be a career Department. If you are going to use common sense, and I do not think that should be directed to members of this House, because when you come in here common sense should not lead you - (Asides.) They have 107 Officers in a Department of 212. Now, 107 Officers went into the Customs Department at the age of 19. Are you going to tell me that there is a career for everybody that enters the Department? Are you going to make it a career for everybody who goes into the Income Tax Department? Every Policeman is not going to be a Deputy Commissioner of Police. You will have more constables than officers. You train a Policeman for six months. Do you mean to say that you are training him to make the Police Department a career and he will never leave it during his lifetime? You send him to the Training School, give him some rudimentary ideas about the law, and put him on the street to do duty.

I agree that you will have to retain some of the Customs Officers. You have the Police Service employing 1,000 people. Can you put a man in a little Department and tell him anything about looking for promotion in there? You have 107 people at the bottom in the place where you only have 20 people at the top, How can you make it a career for the other 107? Do you want them to stultify, or to go and poison the others at the top in order to get promotion? A man must go into the Customs Department just as a boy goes to school, and he should learn all of his subjects until he reaches the Sixth Form and then he can specialise. Can he specialise in the first Form and make himself a Doctor? A boy leaves school at the age of 19 and takes a job anywhere. It is not his intention to remain in that job permanently, and you will have to wait until a stage in the boy's life to know whether he will remain in the customs Department; if he is a mathematician, if he likes the work and so on, or if he wants to work in some other Department.

Now, you will find that a lot of Officers have left the Customs because promotion is too slow in that Department. The Inland Revenue Department is as specialised as or a more specialised Department than the Customs Department. Tax collection is a very important matter, and an officer is the Inland Revenue Department must know enough about income tax law as to be able to compete with the lawyer.

9.10 p.m.

It does not have to be a specialist department, but it is a specialist department in the sense that you can keep officers of a certain grade. There are customs officers who are trained men, but the structure of the Civil Service is such that we cannot keep all. The hon. member talked about people coming out of the Service, but what does he expect of a bright man in a little place like Barbados? You heard the Prime Minister say that members of the Civil Service should not look for an increase, so why should a person not look to private employment where he can get a better salary? I do not favour the idea that you can have a department of 212 people where you are going to take 107 as clerical staff and freeze them in the Department. It would not be fair to the men and they would look elsewhere. Now the hon. member is struck by the remarks by the Heads of Departments that they are losing men, but owing to the type of service you have, that is inevitable. You have a structure where a man is an Assistant Secretary or a Senior Assistant Secretary, but he leaves and goes into another stream. Until you have a complete metamorphosis, which is not easy in a Public Service, what are you going to do with the people you have? There are places like Income Tax, Customs, Department of Labour, Agricultural Department and a variety of other Departments where you require officers of that nature. You have to hold certain positions for some of them, but you cannot hold down 120 people because some of them are going to be Long Grade Clerks.

On the question about drugs, you will never be able to train people to the extent that they can detect people who escape Customs with thing like the weeds that people smoke because it can come hidden in a conventional looking package like a box of cigarettes, and Customs would have to hold up people for a whole day before it serviced a plane. Sometimes Customs has to rely on being tipped off. You cannot find all these people on a basis that Customs will search everybody. A woman was recently stopped in Paris with a teddybear laden with cocaine, but they have to be tipped off. Which customs officer in the north is going to search a teddy-bear to look for cocaine? A man may have an ordinary looking belt around his waist and no customs officer is going to undress him to see if it has a folder in it. I saw a man take off his belt last week in London to change foreign currency because this was from the point of view of safety, but in normal circumstances are you going to get a customs officer suspecting the belt

you have around your waist unless he has been tipped off? If your character is not suspect, he is not going to do that.

The other thing you have to bear in mind is that you cannot talk one thing in one breath and something else in another. Barbados relies on this tourist trade, and this is one of the consequences of tourism. If you begin to hold people too long at the airport, then the airlines and everybody will come down on us and say we do not expedite people getting through Customs, and people who are not in the racket do not like to be detained. It is only when there is talk about a bomb being on the plane that people do not mind having to wait, but people do not like being held up from going to the plane where you are looking to see if they have any hardware or metals. They have these metal detectors on the airlines, but it does not prevent a man from putting a revolver under a baby he is carrying and when he gets in a plane he puts the baby down and takes out the gun. When people are out to commit a crime, they can choose all kinds of ways. It is easier for a criminal to commit a crime than it is for law-abiding people to find the criminal. I do not think it is a matter of the Customs Officer being unaware of these things. There is always scope for more knowledge and training and by all means I would like to see more money spent not only on Customs but in the general training of the Public Service. I would like to see leave passages gradually diverted into training public servants. The hon. member spoke about smuggling. If I wanted the Government to investigate smuggling, I would be bold enough to name the area in which I wanted Government to act. If you know that people are smuggling, there is no point in saying what happens if they smuggle. We know in a general way that whenever anything goes wrong, we look for a scapegoat, the lowest fellow down. You go to Jack-My-Nanny Gap or somebody who lives down there, you are looking for the porter and not for Mr. So-and-So's son because it could not be him since father could help him. You do not feel that a fellow whose father is in a position to help him is a thief. You always feel that the person who is a thief is a person whose father did not have anything, that his father must be a thief and so stealing is congenital. The hon. member should be prepared to say what he wants the Government to investigate. He should state whether there is stealing before things go out of the Customs into a ship or stealing from the shops and the shops do not know anything about it. I have heard that stealing has been taking place at the Port and that some of the customs officers were involved in it because it was done on the basis of collusion. If you ask for anything to be investigated, you have to be bold enough to say what should be investigated because we know that all over the world there is smuggling coming through Customs and in big countries things are carried away by the lorry load. In Barbados you have petty stealing where people get on a bus and try to carry away a bus fare, but in big countries like England people carry away a whole bus or carry a whole load of things from the port. Here a person would carry away a pair of shoes or a bottle of whisky, but in England they would carry away a whole case of whisky. Look at the train robbery; they carried away all the mail bags because they could carry them somewhere and open them, and could dismantle the train or blow it up. We do not have that problem here. Northern Ireland is an example to show what people in other parts of the world do when it comes to violence. Our customs officers work in a place that is predominantly a tourist community, and the officers are not accustomed to dealing with people who are likely to be dope peddlars, because I have the sad experience of seeing even in the Police Department that our people have not reached the stage yet of arresting a white man, but they will have a black man on his toes as if he is reaching for a ledge, because you feel this is the sort of man that is a prisoner, but a white man is a respectable man and atleast you do not have to hold him so hard, he will go along without your holding him, and I believe this is one of the reasons.

9.20 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order Mr. Chairman, perhaps the hon. member is a little out of date. I was in Court the other morning when a most respected person of that ethnic description, not a Barbadian, appeared in Court being dragged up the steps barefoot by a policeman.

Mr. WALCOTT: Maybe because he was barefoot he qualified for that kind of treatment.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want to call his name, but I am sure the former Minister of Home Affairs will be most surprised to hear that he was barefoot, the man being who he is.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I listened quite attentively to the member for St. Michael West. I do not think that he paid much attention to the member for St. Peter, but as he would put it this way, the member for St. Peter said nothing so he really was not listening, but on the other hand he was still able to make reference to the contribution made by the member for St. Peter. I listened to the hon. member and what I have gathered from him so far is that you cannot trouble the tourism, do not hold on to them at the airport.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I have not said that nonsense at all. I would not be so silly as to say not to trouble the tourists, I said what will be worrying some of the

people at the customs is that this is a tourist community and that sort of atmosphere exists, but I never said not to trouble the tourists, I could not be such an idiot.

Mr. CRAIG: Put it this way then, do not delay them, I do not know if that is closer to what the hon. member said. Search the baggage occasionally because it is a tourist community, so they can bring in anything they feel like at any time. what I understood my colleague to say in his debate was to make the Customs Department a specialised Department - he might have used the term career department - but let us even look at it as a career department, do you mean that all the policemen should end up as Commissioner of Police? Somebody has to be at the bottom, but it does not necessarily mean that it should not be a specialised department. This is what the member is saying, he said he was hoping that they would supplement the vote later to give the Customs Officers even better training; this is what I understood, maybe the hon. member dislikes the term "career", but at the Hospital you can have a career too, do you think everybody is going to be the Superintendent at the hospital or you will have all Matrons? You might have all Sergeant Majors over there. I do not understand the hon. member's argument at all. I understood from my colleague that he was trying to minimise the theft, but you will never be able to control it, you will never be able to stop it. The hon. member said to try to minimise it, but that hon. member spoke about carrying away a lorry of things, but he is not really with it in truth. Sometimes they carry away motor cars from down there. (Mr. WALCOTT' Only one car). Only one, but if you do not nip it now you will soon hear two and then three. This is what the hon. member is trying to draw to Government's attention, to try and nip it in the bud, and therefore if you have a trained Customs Department that will be able to assist to minimise these dangers, then you will be better off and you will be earning more revenue.

Mr. Chairman, you will recall - and I made a note here - the Minister asked who would imagine somebody would bring in dope in a teddy bear, but that is because you are trained. The teddy bear is either pretty or too big or too small, so it creates a measure of suspicion, so you check the teddy bear no matter who the person is, and I do not know if I am right in saying this, Sir, but I feel that the Customs Officers, if he has not got it, should have the power to search anybody that he suspects from his socks back to his necktie. If he has the power, why should the hon. member be asking why he should take off a belt? You cannot give him that type of responsibility and not the authority too, so the whole argument which the member put up has fallen down because all my colleague was drawing to Government's attention was to give the Customs Officer better training and that he was prepared to support Government in bringing in a supplementary vote for more money to give them specialised training, and he drew to the attention of the committee that you have yachts.

Now the hon. member and I regularly bathe together in the sea. I would say the hon. member lives in a more sophisticated place, he lives in what you call a terrace or some fancy name, but I live near St. Lawrence Gap, and the hon. member knows that we would see repeatedly yachts coming in and out. All my colleague was saying, and I think he was batting on a very good wicket, I thought the member would have supported him, but I do not know if the taste of defeat for many years was making him try to bandy words in here. My view is this, that if you have a fully trained Customs - and the hon. member used the word "career", but when you go in the Public Service it is a career, but you cannot have all Permanent Secretaries somebody must be at the bottom. I do not believe that a friend of mine by the name of Leslie Parris would ever expect to be Comptroller of Customs, he is too old now, but he was in there long enough, he should be able to go in there backwards a morning and know what is going on in Customs, but on the other hand he may find a nineteen year old boy, fresh from school, hoping to remain and make a contribution, and that is the boy who needs the training, not merely send him to open a parcel. Sometimes the Customs Officers push their hands down in a corner; if I had to search I would not go into the corners because that is exactly where I would not put the thing. You put it in the middle because he is not going in the middle, he is going in the corners. You feel where you believe the person would not really put it, and that is why you need specialised training, and I would hope that Government would take this into consideration.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, he is not there as a Customs Officer, but he would know where to feel; that is all I say.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am saying where I would feel and I am not a trained Customs Officer, he is quite right. Suppose I was trained, what would be the position then? The hon. member went on to speak about not arresting certain people. I do not like to discuss this thing about colour as it is right now in here.

9.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with my colleague on this side of the House that we have to ask the Minister to do what we want. The hon.

member on the other side said that he would tell the Minister to remove the Spirit Bond. We can only ask the Minister to have the Spirit Bond removed because it is a fire hazard. The hon. member is in a position to say that he will tell the Minister what to do, but we are not in that fortunate position. We are asking the Minister to say what steps he has taken to have the Spirit Bond removed from the City. We are prepared to take the correct course, and I believe we are taking the correct course when we draw this matter to the attention of the Minister. We are drawing the Minister's attention to the fact that the Spirit Bond should be removed from the City.

We are fortunate, Mr. Chairman, in having a courageous Fire Service to control the fire and prevent a greater extent of damage. I understand that this was done as a result of the swift action of a public-spirited citizen and the swiftness of the Fire Service. As far as the Spirit Bond is concerned, I would say that when the vessels come in from the other territories it looks to me like a hiding place where you could take a few cans of milk.

I would like to see a new Customs Hall. The Government always has all of these things on paper. This Government is a paper Government; it brings in things on paper. The former Leader of the House would tell you that there would be a Civic Hall by Mr. Murray's Shop; have no fear, the young people would be living there; there would be resort houses for the workers and so on. I will never live long enough to hear the Prime Minister say on the platform that he would like to see 10% of the salaries paid to Civil Servants taken off. He can afford to say that now, but he would not say it in 1975. The memories of the people are short. That is why I say that democracy is a great thing. As long as you are over 21 years of age, you can pay your £30 and jump in the ring and any number can play.

I looked forward to hear a much more worthwhile contribution than the one which I heard from my old friend. It is only five years ago he did not say anything to me until he came back in here. On this occasion I cannot see his argument, because if you have a Customs Service in a community on which you are depending on your revenue from tourism, then one must only conclude that you must gear your Department to suit modern trends and you must have a highly trained and specialised Customs Service.

I am very close to the Airport and I observe a few things. I would not like to say that everything is the fault of the Customs Officers. When it comes to Civil Aviation I have a lot of things to say about the Airport. The Customs Officers are doing a good job. They are striving hard to do the best they can with the limited resources at their disposal. I would hate to sit here and hear the hon. member for St. Michael West go off at a tangent by saying that you cannot stop a train robbery and so on. If you have a fully trained Customs Department, you give the officers their increments yearly, I am certain that people will go there and make the Customs a career. A pin must have a head, and they will understand that everybody in the Department cannot be the Comptroller of Customs.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of joining in the debate, but the hon. member who has just taken his seat has accused the Government of being a paper Government. I want him to know that we are a paper Government because we believe in planning, and we do not believe in slapdash planning. We are putting ideas on paper. I want him to check all of the records, and he will see that we generally put our plans into execution.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister be able to tell us under what Head he is speaking? I do not know what he is talking about. He is talking about a paper Government, but there is no paper Government before the Committee.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there can be no doubt that the Government attaches very great importance to this Department. If you will look at the Estimates you will see that the establishment has risen from 1971-72 at 168 persons to 212 persons projected for the year 1972-72. When we look at the projected revenue the Department is estimated to bring in to contribute to the revenue of the Island any Minister of Finance must attach considerable importance to this Department. He must be seriously concerned with efficiency, and he must do everything in his power to see to it that the maximum revenues are collected to the benefit of the people of this country.

Let me first dispose of the question raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West. There is no doubt that the Spirit Bond has to go and quickly, too. It was mentioned in the Report of Sir Stanley Gomes in the Fire Inquiry in the City. The last fire had clearly indicated to the Government the potential danger that therein exists, and the Government is giving, not the usual Civil Service active consideration, but the Government is seriously concerned and is considering in general terms whether there is still the necessity in 1972 for the Government to store rum and that type of commodity for merchants any more. The whole position is being reviewed to

see whether some Customs arrangement cannot be made in order to get the Bond removed from the position in which it is situated.

Mr. Chairman, I do not join the member for St. James very often, but on this occasion I should like to join with him in paying tribute to the Fire Service for the very able and sterling work which they rendered in confining the last fire to the limited places which were consumed.
9.40

I think it is known that there is a basic problem in the structure of the Civil Service. Senator Walcott has not made the point which the hon. member for St. James thought he made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Senator in here.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am sorry. I realise that the people have given back to the hon. member for St. Michael-West and myself the rightful title which we formerly possessed and which was temporarily given in the Other Place. I appreciate that very much. It is really an insult to the people to refer to either the member for St. Michael-West or myself as "Senator". We are now "Mister." Be that as it may, what the member for St. Michael-West was simply saying is that in a Civil Service structured as Barbados is, it is extremely difficult to make of any single department the type of career which you would get in say, a big Civil Service like the United States or Canada. After all you have people in this country who join the Civil Service as clerical officers at some rung of the ladder and are assigned to a particular department. If they have gained any expertise, they would perhaps in due course reach a certain standard in that Service. Sometimes you send a man on a course, and when he comes back the Public Service Commission sends him to a department on promotion for which the course on which he went had no relevance at all, but you cannot stand in the way of a man's promotion. If he is a senior officer and there is a vacancy in another department, it is extremely hard to tell a man who is trying to move up in the Civil Service that he has attended a course in (a) and he cannot move to (b) because the course he has just done is suitable for the job which he has, and therefore he has to stay and watch John Brown, his junior, get promoted because John Brown is in that department. So the hon. member for St. Michael-West was saying that desirable as it is, if you can get your officers to grow up in a particular department whether it is Inland Revenue or Customs, the ideal position would be for them to learn every single aspect of Customs or of Inland Revenue and that would be applicable to the Department. If you could retain the people who have come up not only in the Inland Revenue Department, Customs or Ministry of Communications and Works, it would be an ideal situation, but the structure of the Civil Service and the need to cross fertilise, to shift on promotion to the Port, to Ministry of Communications and Works and other Departments so that a man would not see his juniors pitchforked over him makes it extremely difficult to retain in that particular field a man who entered it in the first place. I still think that we have a Civil Service for a colonial era and not for independent Barbados yet. I know this is something which the Prime Minister is seriously considering, because all our Civil Service is geared for is a period when a man would leave Barbados and go to Fiji, to Nigeria and then to Ghana, end up in Zambia or Rhodesia, then he would run over to the Seychelles and end up in England retired on a pension paid by the colonial people in a system where there are increments every year. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Or come back home as Attorney General.) Well you can't keep a good man down; that is the law of nature.

Be that as it may, Mr. Chairman, the position is that we have got to consider making this particular department as important as possible. It is a revenue-earning department, and sometimes when we look at the figures here we wonder if in a way the Customs are bringing in the revenue with the imports which this country is bringing in. The Minister of Finance was not here or he would have replied on that, but we are worried and we are looking at every aspect. We know the accommodation is not ideal, but we are as dedicated as anybody else is to see that this major department of revenue earning in Barbados is made to produce the maximum revenue for the use of the majority of people in this community.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, some mention was made about what is called the Government Spirit Bond and its present location and unsuitability. I think I will shock hon. members by telling them now that the laws of Barbados provide for gange, marijuana and cannabis to be housed in the Government Spirit Bond and to be re-exported out of this Island. Section 96 of the Trade Act says that all spirits, cordials, wines, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, snuff, opium, cannabis, indica and its extracts and preparations including bhang, gange, charas, and majoon, which is a shortened name for marijuana, entered to be warehoused shall be warehoused in the Government Spirit Bond, and such goods subject to ad valorem duties entered to be warehoused as the Comptroller may require to be warehoused in the Government Spirit Bond, shall be so warehoused; so it means that legally you can import gange into the country provided you put it down on the wharf. Now the Hon. Minister of

Communications and Works talked about colonial legislation, but if you compare this 1910 Act with what was going on in the Far East, you will realise that the British sent gun boats up the Yangtse-Kiang and Yanko Rivers to force the Chinese to sell opium to the British and the Americans also conducted a war against the Japanese for the same purpose, and someone has commented that history is now getting its revenge on Western European civilisation because they used their Navies to compel the people in the Far East to sell dope to the countries in the West, and this was then embodied and enshrined in legislation in Barbados making it compulsory to pay duty on gange, majoon, charas or cannabis. Cannabis is the term known to the medical profession in Great Britain. I just mention that as a matter of history to show you what ante-diluvian laws we have in Barbados; but what I am concerned about is that we should be providing warehousing for merchants at all because I personally feel that when the House was composed of merchants and planters, they then encumbranced the Government with the responsibility of providing warehousing for them so that they would not have to pay duty.

Now we have a system in this Island of customs drawbacks on goods re-exported, and what I would like to see is that everything coming into the country legally should be duty paid and the warehousing provided by the consignees and the people who import the commodities whether it is gange or Johnny Walker Gin. You must have heard about the Johnny Walker Gin. That is another story which I will tell you outside. A very well-known shopkeeper who was a political kingmaker in Christ Church showed a bottle of Beefeater Gin to a friend of mine and said "If it is not Johnny Walker Gin, what is the man in uniform doing on the Label?" And his name is not unconnected with a town in the North of Scotland. Whether it be Johnny Walker Gin or Chivas Regal Whisky, I personally feel that ever single item coming into this country should be duty paid and the Government should not be providing virtually free or low-cost warehousing anywhere in Barbados far less right in the middle of the business section, and if they re-export, then of course they would be entitled to customs drawback.
9.50 p.m.

What they are doing now is importing stuff both for local consumption and for ship-chandlering and so on, putting it in the middle of Bridgetown in the Government Spirit Bond, they are not paying any duty and they only pay duty when they draw it out of the Spirit Bond, so they save interest on all that money. My personal view is that they should duty pay everything coming in and they should not import more than they are prepared to carry as stocks to supply the provision merchants and so on, and even if they bring it in for supplying ships and so on, they should pay duty and get a refund or drawback on the duty when the liquor is exported. That is my personal view of the matter, so we do not need to have any spirit bonds at all, far less on the wharf in a very dangerous location. Apparently lightning not only strikes twice, it strikes three times, so I do not see any justification for keeping either the Queen's warehouse or the Government Spirit Bond, and I think both of those things ought to be abolished and I have already given instructions for steps to be taken in this direction.

You must understand the history of Parliaments all over the world. Parliament is there to protect special interests, and all the legislation of Barbados in the early twentieth century was geared to save people money, low income tax, low development going on in the country, low import duties, Government warehousing when they themselves should have provided warehouses, and now they want to rent you office space in Bridgetown at $20.00 per square foot - that is what they rent the Government - when they are using Government accommodation in the middle of Bridgetown and paying something like 3/ a year for storing a bottle of whisky. I do not know what the actual price is, but I am sure it works out at about 3 cents a year for a whole case of 24 bottles of whisky, probably the wholesale value of $90 or $95, so this is the kind of think that is going on, and we have seriously to look at all the legislation made particularly around this time - the Trade Act and all these things - to make sure that it is not a way of mulcting the consumers and the taxpayers of this island in order to protect these special interests of the commercial giants of this country. I just want to say that about moving it, I would like to move it out altogether and not provide any for them. If they want whisky imported into the country whether they are going to export or not, they should pay duty on it, let us use the money, and then when they are ready, to get back the drawback without any interest, because right now they are exploiting the community.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before you put the question, Sir, I would just like to cover a few points which were made by the hon. member for St. Peter. The replies have more or less been given by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, and the hon. member for St. Michael West, but the hon. member for St. Peter when he spoke paid tribute to the work of the Customs Department and the officers there, the quality of their work, but the quality of their work is high because most of the senior officers at the Customs have received training courses, but he just spoke of

the Department as being a forgotten Department; he would like to see the officers of that Department cease being a forgotten people. It is a specialised Department, they are not forgotten people, they are very highly trained and they perform very valuable work and very important work. It is the most important work in the country.

He spoke of the staff being transferred after a year, but that will happen to the junior staff, it is inevitable.

He spoke also about overtime, but in a Department like that, it is not understaffed but overtime is also inevitable. He suggested that some members were not prepared to work overtime, but in a Department like that overtime provision is made. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has already pointed out that the staff has been increased from 168 to 212, so that point has already been covered. It seems that attention is being paid to the Customs Department in that the staff has recently been increased and many officers who were just on a temporary basis have now been put on the regular established staff.

He mentioned that the officers patrolling the west coast might have been engaged in smuggling and that the Customs Officers will have to be more vigilant, but it is a matter for the Harbour Police to see that nothing lands on the west coast. He made some good points as far as Seawell Airport is concerned which have been noted and will be drawn to the attention of the appropriate authorities. The points made about the removal of the spirit bond have already been answered by the Prime Minister. I do not think there are many more points which have been raised, we all appreciate the valuable work done by the Customs Department, and most of the officers have been specially trained in this specialised department. It is not a forgotten department.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Minister to take a look at the staff structure and see if he can determine how many members of staff left after reaching the Assistant Supervisor level. That is exactly what has been interfering with the efficient functioning of this Department, that when you reach this level there are about a million juniors and this means nothing to the Department, but it is after spending some time there and reaching the Assistant Supervisor level that you cannot keep the men there.
10.00 p.m.

I have heard a lot of chat, but it is not worthwhile to reply to it, because every member, with the exception of the hon. member for St. Michael West, has realised that the Customs is a highly technical Department.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said that the Customs Department is an important Department, and it is for that reason you are not going to find a man to go in there and go to the top because the Department is not big enough to absorb more than one man at a time. When he reaches the grade of Assistant Supervisor he has to get promotion in another Department because there is no room for him at the top.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am very concerned about the efficiency of the Customs Department; I am very concerned about the attitude of of the Public Service Commission towards the Customs Department, and I am concerned about the holding up with the Customs Department, and I am concerned about the holding up with the Customs in clearing warrants. I am not going to say everything that has been told to me, but I am keeping a very close eye on things. I do not see why any importer in this Island should pay over and above the statutory duties in order to get his goods cleared. I am concerned with the transit sheds being used as warehouses for the merchants in Bridgetown, and all of these things we are trying to tackle. We see the bad things and we will have to try and clear them up.

I should like to say that we cannot stagnate people in Barbados. The firms in Bridgetown now have had to abandon their prejudices, because they cannot function unless they recruit people with a certain amount of expertise. The days when they could take a cash-boy from St. John and put him in charge of Customs are gone; so they are easily seeking people who have been trained for fifteen or sixteen years in Customs work and recruiting them into the firms of Bridgetown.

Now, I will repeat what I said two or three years ago when I was speaking to the Police Association. There was a big hue and cry at one time that policemen were leaving the Force. I said in front of the Police Commissioner and everybody that the Government welcomes the idea of people leaving the Police Force and coming into the general stream of the Government Service, going to America, or going to private firms. I do not think that once you have given a man six months training at the Regional Police Training School that you should expect him to do his duty in that state of life to which it has pleased the Commissioner of Police and the Police Service Commission to tell him, and he should spend 32 years in the Police Force. That is nonsense.

Similarly, if anybody goes into the Customs, gets this experienceand a firm in Bridgetown offers him a job as Customs Broker or Customs Clerk at twice the salary, you cannot expect to keep him,

and I do not want to keep him. We are a sort of training ground now for the private sector. I welcome this trend, because it means that our people are moving into positions where one of these days they will become directors of the firm and will know more about the workings of import and export business than the present directors themsleves. *(Asides)* We will not save on pensions because I am introducing a National Pensions Plan whereby we can bring back some of those people to work with the Government and freeze their benefits until they reach retiring age. I am not looking at the point of view of service; I am looking at the point of view of efficiency in the community altogether.

It is therefore necessary to have a high turnover in the Departments and in the Customs every year. In the Customs Department in Barbados we have over 200 officers at work, and we should have some kind of turnover rate. You cannot normally expect to keep them any more than you can expect to keep people in the Police Force forever. That is my philosophy on the matter.

I beg to move that Head 13 - Customs - stand part.

The question that the sum of $218,760 under Head 13 - Customs - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 - INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Head 14 - Inland Revenue Department - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $68,550 under Head 14 - Inland Revenue Department - stand part. There is an amendment to this Head.

> - Insert New Item 24A - Refund of Land Development Duty Insert figure "5000" under column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments. Insert note to read as follows:- "To make refunds where necessary subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance.

I should like to say that since we introduced the Land Development Duty that over 90% of the duty has come from one lady down by the Cave Hill Development Site. We hope that we will get some more along the East Coast Road, because I understand that the Royal Bank is trying to get some of their money back down there and the development is going up. One lady over the past 4 years has been paying all of the Land Development Duty, and I have decided to reduce the rate from, I think, 50% to either 30% or 33 1/3%. All the duty we have received has come from an old lady called Mrs. Branch. *(Asides)* I refer to all the Land Development Duty all over this country with so many plantations and everything exchanging from time to time.

I beg to move that the sum of $68,550 under Head 14 - Inland Revenue Department as amended - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I think the Prime Minister calling her an old lady may not meet with her approval, as he has specifically stated to whom he referred. I know the lady and I do not think the nomenclature will meet with her approval.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, she is a lady and a landowner. I accept that amendment.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, is it not the remedy to have a look and see where Development Schemes have come on and, if possible, institute other development areas? If only one lady has paid, I can think of places in St. Philip which would be most appropriate.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I see under Item 25 - Furniture and Equipment, and I wonder whether any representations have been made to the Minister of Finance on the point which I am about to make. Certainly for people who do business with the Inland Revenue Department in the afternoon, as a result of the position of the West sun it is highly inconvenient to sit on that side of the building and conduct any business. I hope that some provision will be made this year for air conditioning that side, particularly the Commissioner's Office and the downstairs in the general Administration section where there is the collection of taxes. I should like to draw this to the Minister's attention. *(Asides)* I now hear that provision has been made for this, and I am glad that this is so.

I should also like to mention that, I think, in past years they have underestimated the amount of money needed for even things like toilet requisites, and there have been some difficulties in the Department. Sometimes civil servants do not want to speak of these things themselves, but I want to draw this to the attention of the Minister because it has embarrassed some the female staff on several occasions. When you have a Department

performing as well as this one, I think you should give them every encouragement.

The question that the sum of $68,550 under Head 14 - Inland Revenue, as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until tomorrow Wednesday, 15th March, 1972, at 10 a.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
10.10 p.m.

On resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 15 - STATISTICAL SERVICE

Head 15 - Statistical Service - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $102,685 under Head 15 - Statistical Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, what I want to talk about under Head 15 either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Home Affairs will have to answer. This is Item 20, and I wonder if the Leader of the House is prepared either to wait or to give the answer now because this is to do with an emergency visit of I.B.M. engineer. I would like it confirmed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has embarrassed a resident engineer so that we have a special vote for an emergency visit of an I.B.M engineer when there had been one resident here until the Ministry of Home Affairs got to work with him, because you will find that Item 20 is projecting a vote for an emergency visit of an I.B.M. Engineer. We said in here that the Ministry of Home Affairs had put pressure on Mr. Price, married to a Barbadian and so on, children at Queens College, and that they would still have to get a foreigner to come and do the work, and Mr. Price is not a person to whom any agrument could apply that you do not want him to be here too long because he would qualify for citizenship.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would like the appropriate Minister to be present, I happen to be Leader of the House for the time being and I will grant his request. We will defer this Head until the Prime Minister or the appropriate Minister happens to be here to answer the specific questions since I am not in a position to answer them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that further consideration of Head 15 be postponed.

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

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

HEAD 16 - CABINET OFFICE

Head 16 - Cabinet Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before moving the passing of Head 16, there are a few amendments:

Page 32 - Insert the following reference at the top of the page of notes. "(e) the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order 1972.

Page 32 - Insert New Item 5A - Assistant Secretary (Z9-1)
Insert figure "7500" under column "Statutory Expenditure" and make consequential amendments.

Page 32 - Insert New Item 6A - Senior Clerk (Z17-16) Insert figure "5760" under column "Statutory Expenditure" and make consequential amendments.

Page 32 - Item 8 - Secretary
Delete figure "5080" under column "Statutory Expenditure" insert figure "10,160" and make consequential amendments.
Delete figure "7250" under column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments.

Delete existing note to item 8 and insert letters (C) and (E)-

Page 32 - Insert New Item 8A
Secretary for Personal Assistant and Parliamentary Secretary.

Insert figure "7250" under column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments.

Insert new note to read as follows:-
"Provision for a Secretary for the Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister in the salary Scale $6,720x240 - 7,200x300 - $8,100

Page 32 - Item 14 - Compensation
Delete figure "3600" under column "Other Expenditure" insert figure "6100" and make consequential amendments.

With these amendments being incorporated in their respective positions, I beg to move that the sum of $480,515 under Head 16 - Cabinet Office as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 8A, yesterday earlier in this session I questioned not the purpose and desirability of a vote now categorised as item 8A, but the balance between the amount of the vote as set out here and the vote for the Secretary of the Leader of the Opposition, and if the Prime Minister or the Leader of the House has had any thought about it, I would be very glad if he could let us know now. We are not in a position on this side of the House to ask for a vote to be increased; we can merely request that the Government give favourable consideration to such an idea. I think that all hon. members will see a disparity of 100% where the person who is doing the political and other work of the Prime Minister is getting more than twice as much as the Secretary who is doing the political work for the Leader of the Opposition. I am sure hon. members will feel that this disparity is perhaps not one that could be placed upon any logical or reasonable basis, and I would be glad of the Prime Minister's thoughts on this matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if I can answer the hon. member on this since I have got a short memory, there is no comparison whatsoever between the status, the education and the work-load of the Secretary to the Personal Assistant and Parliamentary Secretary in my office and the one in the hon. member's office. The Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition is a messenger in a law office. I do not know whether he is still doing his substantive job. It is a kind of reward for party affiliation I respectfully suggest, but both the former Leader of the Opposition and the present Leader of the Opposition were aware that this was the kind of salary which was being paid to what was glorified by the name of a Secretary. I have a Private Secretary for myself, but there were difficulties in deeming the additional Secretary that I have "Secretary to the Prime Minister" because there would be a jurisdictional kind of confusion, and the Public Service would not like that; so that the new Secretary in my office is designated Secretary to the Personal Assistant who is clearly a political appointment and the Parliamentary Secretary who is also a political appointment, has been nominated to the Senate and who deals with my parliamentary papers and keeps in touch with the Ministers on matters relating to Parliament. So you cannot compare them with a part-time Secretary. The allowance was given to the Leader of the Opposition to pay somebody to help in the office. Now whether that person sweeps the office or cleans the typewriter is entirely a matter for him. I am not aware if the gentleman is a shorthand writer, that he has been to England as my Secretaries have done and done secretarial courses, that he knows about filing systems or has one-tenth of the volume of work to carry out that is carried out in my office. It is as simple as that. The hon. member cannot compare my secretaries with a messenger from Cottle, Catford and the hon. member can inform me if he is still doing his job as messenger for Cottle Catford and whether he gets the $300 that is allotted to the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member can take that money and pay it to whom he feels like, but he cannot equate the two functions.

As a matter of fact, I asked for three additional secretaries, not stenographers, in my office and I got one and a stenographer, because it

impossible even now to index and bring up to date the average of thirty-three letters a day that I receive from the general public, complaints about Public Works Department, Public Utilities, lighting, somebody emigrating to America, somebody being sent back here from England, matters which it is impossible fully to deal with through the Public Service in Barbados, because they do not regard it as their function even to answer a letter written by the general public. It is as bad as that; so I just want to get the distinction clear. You cannot possibly come in here after agreeing that $300 a month was the average salary paid to people of that level, real true-true secretaries, not party hacks. I challenge the hon. member - he does not have to disclose his private business - to say that he pays his secretary in his office $300 a month, if he has one, and every lawyer should have one. I did not pay my secretary (who kept my books and was very competent as well, gave receipts to my clients, gave them back money when I did not do the work, and I had to beg him for $15 at the end of the week to buy cigarettes and so on because he looked after all my work) $300 a month; so how can the hon. member compare a secretary in his office who can go to work when he likes, go and do some work at Cottle, Catford when he likes, create confusion in the Credit Union Organisation when he likes and is a completely free agent with a secretary who has to report at 8.30 in the morning, and who has been trained overseas and is competent in every respect and can work in any organisation in any part of the world.

10.10 p.m.

We came in here and asked for the money, and as a matter of fact I still need another Secretary but I do not have the physical accommodation to put her. I have 24 out of 46 subjects in these Estimates under my jurisdiction, and the two Secretaries and a Stenographer whom I share with my Permanent Secretary cannot possibly cope with half of the volume of work which has to be done, and we are trying to put some of the volume of work on my Personal Assistant, my Parliamentary Secretary and the Secretary who is provided for under them, and if they think that this is too much money to pay my Secretary I will tell them they do not pay me enough and they do not pay any of my staff nearly enough for the amount of work that they have to do.

Mr. ADAMS: What a pity it is, Mr. Chairman, that when the Prime Minister wishes to make a point he cannot always make it in a polite way, irrespective of what he says about not calling names in here, he still finds it necessary to identify the person to whom he is referring.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never called any name at all, I merely pointed out that the person that he appointed and it was his freedom to do so, was a Messenger from Cottle, Catford.

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, although he says he did not call names in here, yet he is prepared to identify somebody, denigrating falsely - he is not a Messenger at Cottle, Catford, he is a Trustee Clerk at Carrington & Sealy, a person dealing with large and substantial million dollar trusts, as it happens a person who is, I believe, the Vice President of the Amateur Football Association, has been President of the Amateur Athletic Association, is a high official in the Credit Union in this island, has been an Insurance Salesman, and yet he is to be categorised by the Prime Minister as a Party hack working as a Messenger for Cottle, Catford, quite falsely.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, he is a member of the hon. member's Party. I would not expect him to appoint anybody else, but during all of these offices he has carried out wherever he could run down the Government, in the Credit Union and in the Football Association, he has gone out to the utmost limit to do so, but the hon. member is welcome to him. All I am saying, do not compare a person like that with the Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office of Barbados, in an independent nation, and I explained why the person was designated Secretary to my Personal Assistant rather than Secretary to me, because I made it clear that they were under the direction and control, not of the Public Service Commission but under my control, and what I would like to ask the hon. member, apart from the honorary offices with which he has been endowed, if the person who is acting as his Secretary has given up the job of the management of the Trustee Division of Carrington & Sealy. I said Cottle, Catford, but that was a mistake. I always heard the people at Carrington & Sealy refer to him as the Office Messenger, and as such he has brought papers over to my office and has been given papers to take back as the Office Messenger. Has he given up that job?

Mr. ADAMS: I believe that some 22 years ago he was employed as the Office Messenger at Carrington & Sealy, and he subsequently left Carrington & Sealy to better his position. I am surprised at the Prime Minister insulting people in this way; there are people on his side of the House who I would not look at and say they are Office Messengers or whatever, although it might be possible to say it. I would not myself, despite anything you might say about Tom Adams, look at anybody and denigrate them for being a cane cutter, office messenger, barefoot, primary education or anything else. When this person was a young man he was an Office Messenger.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I have not denigrated him for being an Office Messenger, I asked if he has given up the job, whatever title now they have bestowed upon him. That is question number one, maybe he has, but secondly I was merely pointing out that this post of Secretary was agreed upon with the Opposition, it is not necessarily a full time job, and the person need not have any training as a Secretary, and I was merely pointing out that my Secretaries all have had training both in Barbados and abroad, so you cannot compare the qualifications of the two people. I am not denigrating anybody for being a Messenger, everybody could be a Messenger.

Mr. ADAMS: Hon. members who heard, and those members of the public who read the debate in the official Gazette, will be able to judge whether the Prime Minister's description of the person concerned as an Office Messenger was intended to elevate him or to denigrate him. They can choose what was meant and what was intended and what any ordinary human being understood and was meant to understand by describing him as an Office Messenger from Cottle, Catford, who used to bring papers and deliver them to the Prime Minister's Office. I have not heard anything like this since the planters were in power and used to describe Mr. Lloyd Smith as Josh Haynes' chauffeur.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is a statement of fact, and the hon. member's immediate antecedent referred to Mr. B. L. Barrow of St. John as a man who sold salt fish and flour, so do not let us start getting into that. He also went into St. John and said the former Leader of the House was a merchant selling salt fish, so when we start talking about descriptions of people let us start, and he said things about the members of his Party, even the hon. member immediately on his left, but I would not try to stir up any strife or confusion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have had sufficient and the matter is closed. Let us get back directly to the Item we are dealing with, I do not wish to hear anything more about it.

Mr. ADAMS: Nonetheless, Sir, the Item 8A needs to be dealt with, because it is very probable that the Prime Minister did not hear last night and was not present this morning when I specifically said that we cannot quarrel with payment of that amount to a Secretary who is obviously a political Secretary not to be under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. All that he said I said yesterday, and this morning before he came perhaps, I said we are not quarrelling with the amount, just let us get that clear, because that in itself will be attacked, and if Mr. Jemmott as my Secretary who draws the whole amount, $300 a month, since that seems to be asked for, I do not ask him for a drawvack, I do not know what the suggestion is in that, since the $300 a month is so small.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to clear the air, I said the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, could dispose of the salary as he likes and pay it to whom he likes. I do not know whether Mr. Jemmott is doing the job part time or whether he is doing it whole time. That is all I said, so I do not know whether he is paid on a full time basis or on a part time basis.

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, he is in fact doing it on a part time basis, the reason being that for $300 a month the work that has to be done cannot adequately be discharged. It is a simple straightforward matter. $300 a month is so small that what work has to be done, what kind of political work has to be done by a Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition - and incidentally he has just been elected General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party, the principal candidates being the former Secretary to the former Leader of the Opposition and he - what work has to be done cannot be done by a person of Mr. Jemmott's calibre. If we are going to have attacks on the Secretaries to the Leader of the Opposition, let the public know whom we have appointed. We appointed a young man who is a school teacher - Senator St. John appointed him - he is a journalist and is a very able young man who discharged the work perfectly satisfactorily and is teaching at Christ Church Boys' School now, and in succession to him Mr. Jemmott was appointed, and we feel that Mr. Jemmott is a good citizen of Barbados, that attacks on him as a Messenger at Cottle, Catford, as a troublemaker, are attacks on the Amateur Athletic Association, the Credit Union, the Football Association, the Parent Teachers Association.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why the hon. member is going on because he cannot make Jemmott hate me any more than he hates me now, he does not go out for me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not prepared to hear anything more relative to that matter. I said the matter is closed, so do not let me hear anything more about it from either side.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry, Sir, I will try to confine my remarks to the Item, Item 8A.

10.20 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that hon. members on the other side have a greater capacity for getting on bad than we have, if that is what is desired. Can the Leader of the House tell us something about Item 17 - Government Hospitality? We have questioned this for very long and we had a great deal of information about it some years ago, but we have never, in fact, seen any chart showing the breakdown on how it is paid out. We would like to be assured that there is no longer the distribution of $100 a month to each Minister and $400 to the Prime Minister tax free. I wonder if the Leader of the House can tell us in the same details as Mr. Tudor told us some years ago. Can you still vouch for amounts over $25, or are you still paid a flat rate?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the position is very clear. No Government Minister receives any money out of Government Hospitality. No Permanent Secretary or anyone in that rank for whom an entertainment allowance is voted receives any money from that vote. If Ministers have to host a luncheon or something of that nature, they will have to submit it to the Cabinet. The Minister, Permanent Secretary, Commissioner of Police or people of similar rank or Heads of Department cannot entertain people at Mr. Mayhew's place or at the Hilton out of Government Hospitality vote. Money spent at the Airport will be paid from the Government Hospitality vote, because the Ministry of External Affairs have to be meeting people and Ministers sometimes at the Airport. If a big delegation is entertained up there the money will be taken from Government Hospitality Vote, but if somebody buys two or three drinks we do not entertain it either. No Minister receives anything from the Government Hospitality vote, and I hope that answers the hon. member's question.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister concerned for his information.

The question that the sum of $470,765 under Head 16 - Cabinet Office - as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 - STATISTICAL SERVICE

Resumption of Head 15 - Statistical Service.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We will now revert to Head 15.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 - Statistical Service - be now resumed.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the confirmation of the Prime Minister on Item 20. Is this projected vote anything to do with the gentleman we spoke of last night, the IBM engineer, who could not obtain the necessary resident permission and therefore it will be necessary from time to time to bring another foreigner here, but this time at greater inconvenience because he has to come from Trinidad to repair the various IBM machines from time to time?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is no magic in this. This item has nothing to do with what the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting. The original contract between the Government and IBM was entered into in 1956 for the payment by the Government for emergency visits of an IBM engineer resident in Trinidad, which is the servicing headquarters. At the moment the machines are serviced by a local engineer, but the Government has to make provision in case the local engineer, who services the machines for one reason or another, is incapable of dealing with a serious breakdown. This has nothing to do with any work permit. The money is merely here to be voted. I know of firms that have engineers, but they still bring in experts from England. They have architects and they bring in other people to give them advice at times. This is merely here so that we can bring in a more experienced man to give us advice.

The question that the sum of $102,685 under Head 15 - Statistical Service - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following amendment:

- Item 23 - Furniture and Equipment Delete figure "2908" under Column "Other Expenditure" insert figure "4883" and make consequential amendments. Amend note to item by adding the letter "s" to the word "typewriter" appearing in the notes thereto.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, with reference to Item 14 - Culloden Farm, now that Culloden Farm appears to be a place of private entertainment, Is it paying any tax as such?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the question of tax is a matter for the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. First, I want to deny that it is a place of public entertainment. I do not want anybody to think that they can have any cold pone dances and fairs or things like that at the private residence, but various National Organisations from time to ask for permission to use the grounds such as the Y.W.C.A., the Business and Professional Women; 5 Service Clubs such as the Savannah Club, Cruising Club and so on. I feel that, if the organisations are of a sufficiently national character and not for private money making, that people should have access. I think there are four Football Clubs there, and the hon. member for St. Michael South and I are now organising a league. We have so many people playing there now that we are organising a league inside the grounds from the constituency of the member for St. Michael South of which I am a member and a voter. We are organising a league, because I believe when you have four acres of land in the middle of Bridgetown it should not be reserved exclusively for the use of the residence. We want a fair amount of peaceful occupation, but I see no harm in letting young people use the grounds as well as organisations of a national character. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that if at any time they want to hold a function on the grounds, and not to tear down the curtains or to fumigate the place or anything like that, I would be very glad to offer the same facilities even to his party.
10.30 a.m.

I am very serious about that because I feel that some 30 percent of the people of Barbados voted for the party and they could be considered sufficiently national and they are recognising the constitution. I am very serious about that. I am serious because I control it, that even if the Barbados Labour Party wants to hold a function, I would consider them a national organisation. I do not see anything wrong with that. You can hardly expect them to go to Roebuck Street because no self-respecting person would pay to go in there.

Mr. ADAMS: I will tell Mr. Jemmott to get in touch with the Prime Minister and take him up on that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not deal with secretaries. The Leader will have to deal with me directly. I advised one of my colleagues the other day, to quote the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, that Prime Ministers do not deal with the foot, they deal with the head.

Mr. ADAMS: We welcome the Prime Minister's offer; and last year I recall that a former Leader of the Opposition, not Senator St. John, Sir Grantley Adams, made available his premises on more than one occasion for certain organisations in St. Thomas which turned out to be organisations connected with the Democratic Labour Party, and I had the pleasure of seeing some of them whom I last saw at "Tyrol Cot" enjoying themselves on the lawn at a fair wearing hats calling for votes for Mr. Boxill. But nonetheless maybe they will learn the errors of their ways in the fullness of time.

The subject we would ask something about, Mr. Chairman, is your Air Registration Board. First of all, how many aircraft are registered in Barbados? I wonder if the Prime Minister could give that sort of detail, because there are two Air Surveyors for the number of aircraft at the light aeroclub and Carib West. I wonder if there is work enough for the two of them. I remember in a law suit some years ago in which an aeroplane belonging to a gentleman who is now the Venezuelan Minister of Finance was damaged at Seawell Airport, it proved impossible for him to use the services of the local surveyors. Of course that may be because the plane was a Venezuelan registered aircraft, and although it was repaired here it had to be doubly surveyed; it had to be surveyed to get off the ground and be test flown and land here and so on after it had been repaired, and we also had to send to Venezuela to get an Air Force Colonel who was a Venezuelan surveyor to come here to deal with it before it could be taken away. I wonder if the Prime Minister could give some assistance on that? Two surveyors at $4,800 a year seem a lot. You are providing for two air surveyors to ensure that all Barbados registered aircraft are maintained in a state of air worthiness. As I understand it, when an aircraft has a crash or suffers any damage, before it can fly again it has to be surveyed and I understand there is also a system of regular surveys and air registration. I am not familiar with this as the Prime Minister would be.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It would be very much more expensive, Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member, for us to set up our own Air Registration Board. For every single aircraft registered in Barbados or if there is any accident we have to refer to the Air Registration Board in Trinidad in order to give certificates of air worthiness, and the engineers are highly qualified persons. It takes a very long time to train an

aircraft engineer. They are British personnel as far as I can remember and the central authority is in Trinidad. Whether it is in Port-of-Spain or Piarco I am not sure, but that is where the Air Registration Board is, and this is merely our contribution. The alternative to that would be sending aircraft to the United States probably at a charge of $300 or $400 an hour on each and every occasion that a certificate of air worthiness would have to be issued. As to the number of aircraft registered in Barbados, I am making a rough count of actually seven and eight now, but very soon we are going to have jet aircraft registered in Barbados where this service will become even more necessary.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under this Head I would like to say something about the amount of $120,000 for the independence celebrations. I think the Minister of Education will agree with me on this because on one occasion he went down to St. James when he was appointed Minister to take the salute one morning about 10 o'clock. I am never satisfied how the actual celebrations are held across the country. Most of the activities are centred in St. Michael and the City as one would expect, but what about the people and the kids who live in the rural areas? They do not even know what is going on. I remember a friend of mine once told me that the people in Dark Hole, St. Joseph, did not know that there was World War II, and it is only after one of my colleagues spent some time in Dark Hole during an election that they heard that Sir Grantley Adams had resigned from the Barbados Labour Party and was Prime Minister of a Federation. I say that because in places like Dark Hole or Hillaby people do not see anything, although in Hillaby most of the money would be spent around Mr. Moore's shop. I would like to know if it is worth the while to be putting in a vote for $120,000 each year. It has been increased from $100,000, but you might well abandon the idea or decide to let us have something big and good because we are independent, and we are going to change it. We cannot, like the Prime Minister would try to tell the country, change it if we come into power and go back to the Colonial Office and sit down on the door step, when we long ago had internal self-government which was only a stepping stone to independence. I would like to see a wider area covered by the independence celebrations at least during the coming year.

I can tell you for sure, Mr. Chairman, that in St. James nothing goes on unless I pull my pockets or go to various clubs and arrange something, and it is not fair to the people of St. James or to me for that matter. I come in here year after year asking for something. I remember in 1966 some Scouts went down there and sang one or two tunes for the Minister of Education and he took the Royal Salute and that was the end of it; but I had to organise a cricket match. I feel that the people concerned with the independence celebrations should make sure that a wider area of the country is covered, especially the remote areas. All of those who represent agricultural districts would know what I am saying is true.

10.40 a.m.

I will go further, Sir. I believe that you should have an individual, whoever it may be male or female, a representative from each parish sitting on this Committee so that they will be in a position to give a better breakdown of what should be done in a particular area in a particular parish, but when you have some of these Welfare Officers who only want to hear they are getting a day off, you get nothing, you simply hear a lot of nonsense in one or two areas or you hear of the Merrymen or the Troubadours going up at Glendairy Prison playing, a Bajan bandstand at Glendairy Prison, and then you have to pay $5.00 to go into Darnley Greenidge's place, The Pepperpot, to hear the same people, and honest, well thinking people you will not find going to any of the areas during the Independence Celebrations to bring a little cheer to these areas. I sincerely hope that I will see more advantage taken of the $120,000 which you have here.

I do not think there is much more I can say on this Head, I see a vote for $18,900 for Culloden Farm, but I would like to know if the Prime Minister is still prepared to move the powder magazine from Powder Road and put it on the grounds of Culloden Farm.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I cannot remember saying that, I said it would be safer at Culloden Farm than at Powder Road, and it has been removed from Powder Road a long time ago and is now at Gun Hill. I said I would prefer to see it at Culloden Farm where I can put it down in a corner away from the house rather than at Powder Road under the people's houses; what is wrong with that? If they wanted to put it there it would be all right with me, but I would make sure that nobody would get detonators; the detonators would have to be kept in St. Lucy, but the big problem here is that we are keeping detonators and the high explosives together, and I pointed this out to the Commissioner of Police.

While we are on the subject, Mr. Chairman, it is not really relevant and I hope you will give me just two minutes to explain to the hon.

member. I would like to see all sales of high explosives in Barbados and any blowing to be done should be done by the Police, under the supervision of the Police, because we are killing our marine life. I was out diving up to this morning, I went to water-ski but the water was too rough so I had to do a little diving, and there is no marine life on the west coast of Barbados at all. There is no marine life because any rock blaster can take dynamite and give it to a fisherman, but we will deal with that under Communications and Works. It is only because the hon. member got up and said that I wanted the magazine moved to Culloden Farm that I had to correct him, I said I would prefer to see it there where there is at least 8 acres of land; then you can put it a safer place than beneath the people's houses at Bank Hall. What is wrong with that?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I did not know the Prime Minister still used to go diving on mornings, do you think it is fair for him to come back up all the time? It is time he should remain there. I agree with the Prime Minister that explosives should be under the supervision of the Police, because not only is it dangerous to marine life but it is dangerous to one or two property owners as well. He said he would like to see the detonators kept in St. Lucy, but St. Andrew is not a bad place for them either, or you can go in the Farm Road and find out how they get into St. Andrew.

Another thing, Mr. Chairman, if there is one thing I will always remember the Prime Minister for is when he said that as from 5th November there would be no more fireworks in Barbados for celebrating Guy Fawkes Day. I would say I would not like to see any more fireworks at all; I am not saying you are to agree with it, this is just my view. I would not give a child a $1 to send a rocket in the air, I could smoke out that dollar or buy a tin of corned beef between the boys; that is what you call burning money, and I have never agreed with this, and as far as the Independence Celebrations are concerned I would like to see some of the fireworks cut out and give the old age pensioners an additional piece of change. I would rather see the old age pensioners get an increase out of this $120,000, and I hope the Prime Minister will give this serious thought.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know what Item the hon. member is on, but the old age pensioners do get an additional amount of money out of the $120,000 even if we decide to have celebrations, and it does not mean that because this money is here that it is to be spent on the kind of festivities that the hon. member mentioned, but the Government has never bought any fireworks. If the hon. member feels so strongly about fireworks and things pyrotechnic he should the name of the Flash 'N to the Damp Squib.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with Item 17 – Independence Celebrations. I believe it was only after my comments last year about the situation which exists in the country districts that the Government decided to sort of spread some of the glee up the road. What I would like the Government to know is that these last decisions to include the country districts cause more disruption than anything else. They have not been giving them anything, and because of a plea they made a late decision. I remember last year that it was two weeks I believe before the Independence Celebrations that the Social Welfare Department sent out and asked certain persons in St. Joseph to hurriedly put together something for the Celebrations, and the thing about it is this, Mr. Chairman, that the way it was supposed to have been done was such that I am sure nobody enjoyed the money which was spent.

In the first place they had to go around and they were told exactly what they had to do. A fashion parade and something else, they were limited to a small amount of money, they had to go into town and shop for prizes, see what they cost, and then send a list to the Central Purchasing Department who would then attempt to go and purchase and send up the gifts, and it could not have been properly carried out in two weeks' time. I agree with the hon. member for St. James, if you are going to have national celebrations in respect of Independence Day you should have representatives drawn from all the parishes and not a few persons sitting down in Bridgetown and deciding what they would like to see done in the country districts. In this way if you have your representatives on a national basis you can come to a decision on what you will do in respect of parts of the country and then something can be planned effectively starting from a long time, but just to wait until the last minute because the representative of an area asks that something be done to send out hurried letters telling you to do this and do that, it cannot be properly done, and I hope that the Government will take this into consideration and that Independence Celebrations will be planned well in advance so that persons can know exactly what is going to happen and when it will take place.

10.50 a.m.

Another point is this, Mr. Chairman, when you wait until the last minute and you ask a

particular parish or a district to do something, when you have cycling at the National Stadium, something going on at the Garrison, something at Bay Street Esplanade and so on, you will run into conflict. Sometimes the very persons who are asked to organise the celebrations in other places will find that they are invited in an official capacity to take part in something going on elsewhere and they cannot be at both places at the same time.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues will deal extensively with the Justices of the Peace which appear under Item 19. It is listed as office expenses, but in the note it states:

> "Includes token provision for purchase of name plates for J.P.'s."

I wonder if the Government is now planning to issue name plates to J.P.'s to put on their residences.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, yes. That is what we are considering, but the offers which we have had from various firms seem slightly unrealistic. We have made people J.P.'s so that the public can have access to them. There is no point in a Justice of the Peace getting letters from his personal friends unless he is prepared to let the public know that he is a Justice of the Peace and is there to serve the public. We are trying to get a standardised type of plate, so that we can distribute name plates to these people. They do not get paid for their services, and this is the least that we can do.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this might be a good idea for party associates to put name plates on their houses to show that they have been recognised for their affiliation. I should like the Prime Minister to think about some of the persons who are now J.P.'s.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The question of getting name plates for J.P.'s is a token provision and has nothing to do with the appointment of J.P.'s. We have a regular procedure for the appointment of J.P.'s. The Opposition has, on occasions, been invited to submit the names of persons who have been considered and elected as J.P.'s, and we have to be satisfied that the persons are of good character. The police are consulted in this matter. I respectfully suggest that this is not the place for discussing the appointment of J.P.'s. There is no money here for appointing J.P.'s.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I have realised, he is not discussing the appointment of J.P.'s. All he is stating now, as far as I can understand, is that since we are getting plates for J.P.'s he is saying something relative to the personnel who have already been appointed as J.P.'s.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Prime Minister must understand that. Earlier in the year he said that when the Estimates came before the House we could talk on them. Now that the Estimates are here, he does not want to hear anything about them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of persons who have been appointed as J.P.'s who are not fit to fill that position. They may have a good character, but the importance of this position today, particularly where people are continually writing from England, America, etc., to have documents certified . . . *(Asides.)* You will take a passport form to some of these J.P.'s, and some of them will tell you that they are not going to sign it, although they are supposed to be appointed in areas to facilitate the public in this kind of exercise.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If the hon. member has a single example of anybody who has been appointed a Justice of the Peace and who refuses to sign a document for political or any other reasons, I will remove him from the role, but this is not the place to get up and make a general slanderous allegation against all the gentlemen or ladies who have been appointed J.P.'s.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am objecting to that. I am objecting to the words "slanderous allegation". This is the second time it has been done, and I am taking serious objection to it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is taking objection to the words "slanderous allegation". It is not fair. *(Pause)* I have been instructed by the Clerk at the Table that it is nothing to be withdrawn. Please carry on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will allow me to explain, if you say that a person is unfit to be a J.P. and then go on to say that J.P.'s have refused to sign passport froms – now you, Sir, I believe, are a J.P.; I believe the Marshal of the House is a J.P., if any stranger went to them and asked them to certify a document when they were seeing the person for the first time, then they are entitled not to sign the document. You cannot say that they are unfit for office, because they refused to commit perjury.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I can call names of J.P.'s... *(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: "Not in here.")* I know that you are going to say not in here. You tell us to give evidence here, and now you are saying not in here.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I have not asked them to bring the evidence in here. I have explained to members of the Opposition from time to time that, if they have any investigations that they want carried out or any complaints to be made, the proper thing to do is not to come in here and call people's names and having got it off their chests to be satisfied with that. If they really believe it, they should write the appropriate Minister, go and interview the Minister and present the facts. You cannot come in here where people cannot defend themselves and say that you can call names.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am accused of making a slanderous allegation, and the Prime Minister should not twist people's statements. If he is a past master at twisting, then I can take him up on that. He said that I started out by saying that they were not fit to be made J.P.'s, and then went on to say so. I have the evidence, and I can call the name of J.P.'s. He knows about them, too, in St. John. You know those in St. John who would look at people who lived next door to them and tell them that they are not going to sign passport forms, and I have had to sign them. I can call the names if you want to hear them, and you know that I am afraid to do that. The *Democrat* can go and say that I have used slanderous remarks again. I am saying that there are J.P.'s who are refusing to sign vital documents. I am saying that these are political appointments, and I do not care whether the Prime Minister likes it or not.

I am saying to the Prime Minister that the time has come when Government should consider making Notaries Public. As far as I know, there is only one Notary Public in Barbados and he is the Deputy Registrar. There is also the need for more Commissioners for Oaths.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The Registrar is a Notary Public.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I say that when you jump into a pool you will always dirty it up. There are times when you approach J.P.'s and they are unable to understand the documents placed before them, and in giving them name plates the Government should consider increasing the number of Notaries Public. The signatures of J.P.'s are not accepted on documents in England and America.
11.00 a.m.

Everyday somebody comes into your office and wants an affidavit that her daughter sends her so much money per week so that she would get it off her income tax returns, but when it is signed by a J.P. a couple of months later she returns and tells you that it is not accepted, that they want the signatute of a Commissioner for Oaths or a Notary Public.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I am a little aware of the matter he is speaking on and if I were not aware I would be a little confused in that the function of a Justice of the Peace is different from that of a Notary. The signature of a Notary is required in respect of documents which are to become operative abroad, but the signature of a Justice of the Peace is for affidavits done locally but not to become operative abroad. A document to be operative abroad has to be signed by a Notary Public and duly authenticated. In cases where there is a change of name or having a name registered, this can be signed by a Justice of the Peace. Some these cases come from abroad too, but these are to be operative here; but of course the hon. member has in mind the question of income tax refunds. Anyhow I merely got up to try to explain to the Committee that there are different functions and the ones which the Justice of the Peace do are for local purposes. Another thing is that you have to pay a Notary for anything he does, but you do not have to pay a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, after all the talk you have heard, I can say that the Minister is wrong. He talks about your having to pay somebody, but Mr. Chairman, the person who comes to you seeking an affidavit for someone to get a rebate of tax is not against paying a Notary Public or a Commissioner for Oaths a bank-note to get the signature and a status of office which will be accepted in England. I can tell you that many of the J.P.'s will tell you that they do not understand what they have to sign to. One or two of them have phoned me and asked if I thought it was right for them to sign certain documents. Instead of creating all these Justices of the Peace and having all these name plates, you should consider the question of Notaries Public. Instead of getting up and criticising, Government can go and find out.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I must confess that the vote for name plates for Justices of the Peace has temporarily escaped me, and I am very

glad that the Learned member for St. Joseph has raised the point. A cetain amount of realism has to enter the debate. There has been a great expansion in the number of Justices of the Peace, and a large number of persons, local worthies, have been appointed to this position in recent years partly for the sake of the prestige that can be obtained in country districts by holding the title and not only in country districts, but by supporters of the ruling Party. We really must be honest. I remember in St. Thomas when they were appointing Justices of the Peace, the police nominated two persons, I also nominated those two and some others and objection was taken, – I have had a vivid description of it – at Cabinet to one of these persons, a former local councillor, the first choice of the police and indeed the first choice of Tom Adams. One of those persons was objected to and he was not made a Justice of the Peace. At the other extreme, there is a person in the City of Bridgetown whom I have twice been in Court and heard ... I will say what the occasions were, but I am not going to call the name in here .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member sit. I have stated that we are not dealing with personnel as J.P.'s. We are dealing strictly with the provision of name plates. The hon. member for St. Joseph dealt with personnel, the Prime Minister objected and I upheld that objection; so let us get back to dealing with the question of providing name plates for J.P.'s.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I am dealing with one who is a J.P. and who when he gets a name plate would put it up outside his premises. I am not calling names. *(Asides.)* I believe that he would put it up outside his business premises, but I cannot speak for him obviously nor would I want to.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am not rising on a point of order, but I like to deal with these points as they arise in Committee. I do not see anything wrong with a person putting "J.P." outside his business premises, because that is where he is most likely to be found during the course of the day. We are not issuing two, so he would have to decide whether he wants it at his business or at his home. As a matter of fact, it is reported that one Justice of the Peace has the sign "Justice of the Peace" larger than the shop sign on the building, about 12 feet long.

Mr. ADAMS: A very interesting point, but wherever he puts it, I agree with the Prime Minister it is up to him. I was just saying that you have to consider giving a man whom I can assure the House I have heard a Court tell him he was guilty of perjury and on another occasion warn him. . . . . .

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I do not think that should be allowed in here. No Court can tell a person he is guilty of perjury unless it convicts him of perjury, and I do not think that it is appropriate for anybody to come in here and make statements like that about anybody outside whether he is a J.P. or otherwise. That is about the fifth time the hon. member has done that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is why I made the statement that we are not dealing with personnel.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, obviously this morning is not going to be carried out in the same harmony as yesterday. Do you mean to say that an hon. member cannot say he objects to a vote for name plates for J.P.'s because there is a J.P. whom a court said to his face it was going to take action under the Perjury Act? The Prime Minister is wrong. A court can tell somebody that it deems him guilty of perjury and commit him there and then under the Perjury Act to be tried later. Let him go and read the Perjury Act; it is since his time. I once had to advise a magistrate on this point. I can obviously say I object to a person having a name plate ..... *(Asides.)* There is no Perjury Act? Was the Perjury Act, 1911, as amended by 1963?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we do not need this research because there is nothing about the Perjury Act in the vote we are dealing with. There is all this legal research and lawyers arguing about whether the Act was 1905 or 1975.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is one of the evils I realise among lawyers.
11.10 a.m.

Mr. ADAMS: I have not heard the lawyers say that there is no Perjury Act since the Prime Minister's time. I remember long ago a comment being made by my late father and certain people that there are persons who have passed the Bar examination that are not lawyers, but I am just hoping that hon. members will see the relevance of saying that certain people perhaps should not be allowed to advertise themselves as J.P's when there are such honourable Justices of the Peace as yourself, the Marshal of the House, the hon. member for St. Philip North and others. That could be my argument, that there are one or two people who I am so ashamed to see as J.P's that I could not vote for them to have a plate outside

their premises. Anyway, Sir, what I am saying about the vote is this.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would just ask the Hon. Leader of the Opposition if he would vote for the old ignorant planters they had with big dogs in the yard that the poor people could not walk in to get something from, and they were appointed J.P's. Let him answer that.

Mr. ADAMS: That is why Mr. Boxill recommended Mr. Stanford, one of the most reactionary of all people, from Hopewell Plantation to be a J.P. One of the most disgusting of all, if you want me to call a name. You go and try to get to Stanford with his dogs at Clermont to sign something for you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I realise I will have to stand again, and I am standing now. I want to hear absolutely nothing more about J.P's residences and big dogs.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, there are valid points to be made on this matter, and some were made by the hon. member for St. Joseph. There are not sufficient Notaries Public in Barbados. It is disgraceful that for example the Prime Minister and myself should be Notaries Royal of St. Lucia; I believe that both our names are on the St. Lucia Register of Notaries Royal, we can take St. Lucian oaths and certify St. Lucian documents but the only person who can do the same in Barbados are the Registrar and the Deputy Registrars. There needs to be a Commission of Notaries Public in Barbados with the system of seals as prevails in Trinidad and other parts of the West Indies with a proper review annually or whatever the licensing period is and a scale of notarial fees instituted. It is a necessary thing for documents going to the United States, not so much to England but documents going to Scotland in many cases have to be notarised.

There are no Commissioners for oaths in Barbados, there are Commissioners for probates. There is a Commissioner for Probates Act under which only the most senior and respected solicitors are appointed. I should not think you have five now.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of explanation, in fact there are more than five. I remember recently, within the last two or three years, we added about three when Mr. Norman Niles, who is not really a solicitor, Mr. Daniel who was the Chief Clerk in the Registry for a long time, Mr. Boyce from Yearwood & Boyce, Mr. Gill. There are about six to eight of them now. Mr. Haynes and Mr. Banfield, but there are about nine or so nowadays.

Mr. ADAMS: Many firms of solicitors do not have a Commissioner for Probates in them. The office of Commissioner for Probates is in any case one which I cannot find in the law of England or in the law of many countries with which I have to deal, and I think that an oath taken before a Commissioner for Probates might appear strange when it goes abroad. That is one aspect of the problem.

Another aspect of the problem is that Justices of the Peace, appointed as I suggest they are, Sir – I am not saying this is anything bad – appointed in many cases on non-legal grounds, because I do not know if political grounds can be called legal, do not always understand their duties. This begins first of all in the Police Department. The *ex officio* Justices of the Peace in Central Police Station – I would not like to say what the present situation is – but I have known that some of them believe that they are only there to take oaths from Policemen. I do not mean in a pejorative sense, their conception of their duties, the instructions of their duties are that they are only allowed to take oaths from Policemen, and if you go to them in a hurry – like some years ago when I dealt with this – if you go to them in a hurry to get oaths taken, they say no, they can only swear affidavits for Writ Servers. This is wrong. There are one or two important and respected businessmen in the City of Bridgetown who I think many people would be afraid to go and ask to take oaths as Justices of the Peace. They regard "J.P." as being letters after their names like if they had "C.B.E" I am not referring to any former member of this House, of course, Sir. They should also understand that J.P. carries with it some obligations. If you want to carry the status you must be prepared to discharge you duties.

I do not concieve that you can force a Justice of the Peace to say that he knows you to be a fit and proper person to receive a passport, even if he lives next door to you, with great respect to the hon. member for St. Joseph, it might very well be that he might think he would be straining his conscience to say that you are a fit and proper person. He might feel that he knows you for so long that he knows you are not, and I do not consider that one of the duties; I think that is only a favour that a lawyer, doctor or J.P. does you, and I do not even see why it cannot be charged for. I do not myself charge for certifying in that way, but I understand that some barristers charge. I believe it might not be correct for a barrister to charge because he is not

doing legal work, but that is a matter of propriety rather than what can legally be right, but I do not see myself why a Justice of the Peace cannot charge $5.00 for his trouble in helping with a passport form. What I think is highly undesirable is, as has happened recently to my Messengers, is to go to Justices of the Peace and have them flatly refuse to take the oaths.

A man comes, wishes an Estate Duty affidavit certified, he is accompanied by a lawyer's messenger, they can all be identified, they can all produce identification cards, and the Justice of the Peace says "I do not understand anything about these, I am not signing them". I did not worry upon the last occasion it was reported to me because I did not want any contention, but if the Prime Minister can assure me that every Justice of the Peace who clearly refuses to do his duty of taking oaths upon request will be investigated, I will start writing letters, I will start writing to those Justices of the Peace who I know like the title for the sake of the title and do not want to do the work, especially if their politics are such that I sometimes get a little personal feeling that if they see my name on a document they do not want to take the oath for it, I will start writing letters about that, we would not have to mention any names in here.
11.20 a.m.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I suppose that Item 19 raises the subject that every lawyer is going to jump into, and I am sure, as you have commented, laymen sometimes wonder why we labour and belabour points such as this. I should like to take what I think is a much broader view of the debate, and say that I see nothing wrong with providing some sort of recognition for people who hold offices such as the Justice of the Peace, and to that extent I think we can vote for the amount set out in the Draft Estimates.

Having said that, I think one should advance the argument a bit further and say that the Government really is looking at the form rather than substance of this question. I doubt whether there are many members on both sides of the House who recognise that J.P's have several functions to perform other than the mere signing of affidavits in this country. There is a very distinguished and retired policeman, the former Captain Grant, who has collected a list of the statutes in this Island under which Justices of the Peace have functions to perform, and I believe there are something in the region of over 160 Acts where they have very many diverse functions to undertake and to carry out.

I believe also the criticism is quite true that the Justices of the Peace are not aware that they have these functions to perform under the Acts.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should like to correct the hon. member on that. During the past six or seven years when we consulted the Opposition and appointed Justices of the Peace who would be available to the people – I do not mean through a kitchen window after waiting 2½ hours. In every village in the Island we tried to appoint Justices of the Peace. Some members of the House were appointed Justices of the Peace, usually because they were members of local Government and not *ex officio* as members of the House. The Attorney General and the Minister of Home Affairs have held lectures in batches, and they have been issued with pamphlets. I should like, publicly, to acknowledge the invaluable assistance which Captain Grant has given. This was a kind of hobby of his going through the laws of Barbados and putting things together. Even our Law Revision Commissioners, Dr. Marshall and Mr. Pathcett, were given all of Captain Grant's research in this matter. I really rose to correct the hon. member's statement that Justices of the Peace do not know what they have to do. What I would like to see, of course, is that they are given a little booklet on the functions of a Justice of a Peace. Probably one of the private practitioners would like to do this as a labour of love, because our Crown Counsel Office is busy. Anyway, we have notes for them.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Prime Minister has come to one of the points. I would have thought that, since he is aware of the necessity for the booklet, these should have been some provision in the Estimates for the production of such a booklet. I think that if people who have been in contact with the Justices of the Peace – I am not talking about political purposes, I will deal with that a little later – really speak to them they would discover that many of them are frequently asking what are their duties and how they should go about them.

I believe that on two occasions – I believe on the two occasions some sessions were held. I am saying that there should be a regular form of training for people who are being elevated to this high office, that a booklet should be frequently revised and brought up to date and made available to them of their duties and not merely that they should be given a name plate.

In my view that is only one of the means of making them properly available for their offices. That is why I am surprised at the nature of a

token vote when, to me, there is this fundamental duty resting on the people who appoint them.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, there is a bit more that should be done. The time is ripe when we should collect and have on the Statute Book all of the rules, Laws and Regulations governing Justices of the Peace. We are still depending on an English Statute as long ago as 1341. In our Statute Book no Justice of the Peace can refer to one Statute where he can find the manner of his appointment, his duties, his remuneration, his obligations, or his powers properly set out. I think that members should be aware of this. I am not sure whether it comes under the aegis of the Prime Minister so far as the appointment is concerned or the Minister of Home Affairs, but I should very much like to draw this to the Minister's attention. I am sure that the Prime Minister has publicly acknowledged Captain Grant's knowledge on this point, and I am sure he will make a draft act, which he has already done himself, available to the Legal Draftsmen.

Mr. Chairman, any Prime Minister of any Government who happens to make appointments will make some political appointments and will give some political honours. I am deeply conscious of the fact that there are some appointments that have been based on political grounds. I am an infant in politics, but let me say that I am already aware that this is how politicians operate. I am not concerned with whether some of the appointments were politically motivated, but I think there should be some means of checking to see whether the appointees are sticking to the duties which they have. I do not believe that everyone of them, because of his politics, is not going to carry out the duties which he has to perform. Some people like these status symbols; others do it as a public duty, and I recognise that there are some people, who despite their political views have carried out their duties fearlessly.

I believe that my hon. and learned friend the member for St. Joseph has stated a point, and as a point of substance I think he should have put the point this way: That not only should there have been a method of appointment, but there should also be the facilities for dismissing them on a process of giving them an opportunity to defend themselves when allegations have been made against them. I am hoping that next year when we see it in the vote we will have advanced beyond the stage of making political capital by talking about people with big dogs, black people or white people or that sort of thing. I believe that all of our citizens, regardless of the colour of their skins, if they are eligible for appointment, should be appointed.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to go back to another Item. It is Item 17 – Independence Celebrations. I raised in this House on the Supplementary Resolution in this Session the question of National Honours. I am not going to debate this issue any further, but I wonder whether the Government is in a position yet to make any concrete statement on this matter. I believe it is a matter of great urgency; I believe it is a matter on which we should have a broadly based group or representative body advising the Prime Minister and the Cabinet on this question, and that we should move on to having our system of honours. I feel deeply on this, despite all the diatribe and labels that I get.

With me, Mr. Chairman, I deal with substance, and I believe that, substantively as a Barbadian, who has always felt myself independent, we should act that way. I believe the Government might have plans on this, but they should let the public know how far we are advancing in this respect. Next year we do not want to see that the only honours that are being awarded in this country are O.B.E's. That is one that I would not take at this time. The British Empire has long since disappeared and I do not believe that, at any stage, people should be talking in terms of honours from the British Empire in Barbados in 1972, or indeed in any part of the West Indies.

Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Government for information. I get the impression sometimes that, when we ask for information, the Ministers think that we are stepping on their corns or criticising them. I am saying this in all fairness, so that the Government can take us into their confidence on this matter. I hope that the Minister will see it fit to reply on this point.

Hon. F . G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say one or two things. It is often said that you can take a man out of colonialism, but you cannot take colonialism out of a man. The Government on this question of Independence Celebrations, Item 17, would certainly prefer to see the broad mass of the people, including the young, becoming more aware of what this new dignified status means.

11.30 a.m.

We certainly do not intend to go back to May 24 celebrations – I do not think this is what the hon. member for St. Joseph had in mind – of a bun, a sweet drink and a picture of Her

Majesty the Queen or King or whoever it was at the time, and singing "Rule Britannia, Britannia rule the waves". I am going to give a breakdown of expenditure to show that the Government endeavours to spread the net as widely as possible. Some time in June or July every year depending on the nature and quality of the celebrations, the Government establishes a broadly based Committee of representatives of the Lions, the Jaycees, Social Welfare, various Ministries, distinguished members of the community, and asks them to recommend to us what form the celebrations are to take so that we will have some idea of the amount of money involved. I want to give you a breakdown of the figures you saw in 1970 to give you some idea of our endeavours to spread the net as widely as possible and to limit the expenditure within such means as sounds reasonable.

The Ministry of Communications was given $5,500 to put up decorations on Government buildings and extra lighting in Independence Square. Under the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport, we gave $1,000 to the University for celebrations by Barbados University students. We gave to the Independence games which were conducted by the Olympic Association for cycling, football, judo, track and field, a sum of $30,000; to goat races we gave $337.50. Goat races are the poor man's sport which he used of course to entertain and to earn a living by. To community activities, and this is based on the broad recommendation of the Community, we gave $13,350 for such forms of celebrations as might have been organised by members of Parliament in conjunction with the Civil Service etc. We have to go further afield and have activities at Overseas Missions. A country that is independent on its national day has got to entertain certain other diplomatic colleagues in the country in which you have your Missions, and that amounts to $33,420 which is not much because in America you are dealing with American currency and depending on where you hold it, you cannot talk in terms of getting the same as you get here. You have London, you have America, you have the Consulate, you have Canada, and we also give some of this money to our honorary Consuls in Miami, Boston, Chicago and wherever they are. I am only giving an idea to show that this Government does not operate without some proper plan so that thepeople can see, even if it characterised as inadequate, how we endeavour to see that every Barbadian both at home and abroad is aware of the significance of November 30, 1966. For me, when I hear the National Anthem, my heart stops beating for almost two minutes. It is a great thing. People in Barbados do not seem to appreciate what Independence means. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Why didn't it stop for the next minute?) Because it was known that if it had stopped I would not be able to make the contribution to my country that I am making, but the Lord is a good God and that is why it did not stop. Under the Ministry of Health, we had tours for patients and other entertainment at the Mental Hospital, $970; the illumination of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, special lunches for patients, toys for children and decorations, $1,600; tours for inmates, musical entertainment, special dinner, decorations and lighting at the District Hospitals, $1,140; decoration and lighting of the Maternity Hospital, $120; special grant of $2 to all recipients of national assistance, $21,400; special grant of $2 for all Old Age Pensioners, $26,056; special grant to ex-lepers and ex-T.B. patients was also made.

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs we purchased poultry, animals and materials for making of hobbies for distribution to juvenile probationers, $600. You can say that we can spend more, but a country has got to relate the money it spends on its Independence to the total economy of the country. The cost of extra duty by members of the Police Force during the period of the celebrations, $400. Under the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, garden competition in housing estates, $1,000; Arts and Craft and Home Economics competition in housing estates, $2,000; children's parties in the housing estates, $4,000; competitions for renaming of the twenty housing estates, $1,000. This competition because this Government feels that people of a certain class should not live in Pine Gardens and Prior Park whereas the working class and the less well-to-do live in the Pine Housing Area, Farm Housing Area and Lodge Hill Housing Area. We have decided that if you are going to call where the hon. member for Christ Church-West lives Pine Gardens, let us call that area Pine Gardens West and call the area above where the people live Pine Gardens East.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, I live in Pine Hill and my representative happens to be the hon. member; so I hope he will carry out his duties properly.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Even in spite of the fact that I do not think I got the vote from the hon. member for Christ Church-West, having been elected, I can pledge to be his representative in Parliament. We are going to rename these areas and we want the housing areas to name them themselves. Why should people abroad writing from Canada, America and New York say he lives

in the Pine Housing Area? We want to call it Pine Gardens East and Pine Hill East, but they will decide the name they want. An essay competition on life in a housing estate and suggest improvements, $100; folk songs by residents of housing estates, $800; flags, lights, bunting for the estates, $2,500; transportation including overtime and music etc., $1,000; rental of public address system, $200; decoration and illumination and cleaning of prescribed sites by the Parks and Beaches Commission, $163,000. Obviously the Head of Government on Independence Day has got to give a reception.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the Hon. Minister is doing this for the benefit of this side of the House, he can hand the paper to us and we can look at it, because all he is doing is wasting pencil and paper. This is nonsense he is getting on with all the time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not want to be very long, but the hon. member for St. James in particular got up and said that he had to pull money out of his own pocket, how nothing was done for the country, and I want to refute that allegation.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, it is not fair for the Minister to say that I said that nothing was done for the country. I said nothing was done for the parish of St. James which the Hon. Minister of Education who is my constituent, can prove.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All right, Mr. Chairman, his constituency. I am only giving a general breakdown. I just want to say that the Prime Minister must hold a reception on Independence Day; there is a vote for $3,000 for contingencies; there is the question of the ceremonial parade; but this Government again showed its respect for a Parliamentarian when in some way some of the celebrations were temporarily postponed at the death of Sir Grantley Adams. It shows how broad-minded a Government can be that even at that moment we were prepared, in spite of the commitments and the inconvenience which the planned celebrations would cause, to postpone them.
11.40 a.m.

Now on the question of the Justices of the Peace, I will be brief on this. I was involved and I was partly responsible as Attorney General for the appointments. Naturally, any professional body or any group of people at any time can be criticised. Lawyers can be criticised, doctors can be criticised for not coming out on calls, and there is no professional body or body of persons whether they are merchants, carpenters, masons who cannot at some time get criticism, but when we came into power we found, looking through the list of Justices of the Peace, that they were mainly big people in town or they were plantation owners with the big red tops that you see as you drive through the country. Occasionally there would be a schoolmaster, and the type of person who had been appointed and who existed for donkeys years as a Justice of the Peace was the type that this Government could no longer tolerate and we wrote to the Members of Parliament, we got nominations – some members probably gave about 100 but naturally you could not make 100 residents of a constituency J.P.'s and naturally you had to scale it down, and in the question of scaling down all the names submitted by Members of Parliament lost some and they lost some for obvious reasons, that the Government had to allocate J.P.'s to areas and villages where no J.P.'s existed, that is, if you had three J.P.'s and there were three supporters of a member whoever he was we could not appoint three J.P.'s in one village and leave another village out, so we tried to spread the net.

Naturally they are not as aware of their responsibilities for obvious reasons. It is a new thing thrust upon them, they are humble folk in the community, they are people who are not lawyers despite the adage that every man is presumed to know the law, but this is no greater accusation against them than has occurred when the former people appointed their Justices of the Peace. Are we going to condemn and kill these people because of what they are and the colour of their skins? Have you met some more ignorant people than those who were before? Naturally in due course as the office settles in, as they are made aware of what their responsibilities are, I feel from the quality and persons we have appointed that they will justify the honour which has been thrust upon them, and I have every reason to feel that this criticism you are making today...

Mr. FORDE: If the Hon. Minister would give way, I suppose he is directing his remarks to the Chair, but what one is saying to the Hon. Minister – I know he must make a little bit of political capital out of this – is really that there is no training scheme except the limited scheme of which the Prime Minister spoke for these persons, there is no proper book to guide them. We need not belabour the point, the point has been well taken by the Minister of Home Affairs, and he is so sagacious that he does not even have to reply on the matter. The point is well taken

by the Prime Minister who makes the reply, but since the Hon. Minister seems to be Minister for everything, I expect he has to make a long speech on this.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not Minister for everything, I ran in the election on 9th September and the people in South Central elected me, and I came up in this House to make my contribution, and my contribution to this debate or to any debate does not depend on encomiums from any member of the Opposition or on this side. I am a member of a Party and I am going to stick to what the Party's policy is, but my parliamentary representation is the representation of the member for St. Michael South Central, and I want that clear now and for all time. As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, on this particular matter, I know, as the Prime Minister says, that Justices of the Peace when they were first created were given some idea of some of the duties which they were to perform, and I have had discussions with Captain Grant for a long time – and as the Prime Minister has publicly paid tribute to him – he is very keen on this matter, and it would not be a very difficult task for the new Attorney General to see to it that, in conjunction with such interested parties as have indicated their willingness, such a booklet is forthcoming. I think it is a very good idea, just as lawyers put up name plates with LL.B. (Oxon) and LL.B. (Cambridge), and everybody puts up L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., M.B. B.S., F.R.C.S.; that there is no reason why a person on whom this honour of being a Justice of the Peace is conferred, if he so desires, why the members in his district should not know that he has been appointed by the Governor-General as one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and that is why that token vote is here, so that he can show that some recognition has been given to him for his services and some contribution to his community.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to commend the Government on providing name plates for J.P.'s. It is no small thing in this country of Barbados, we needed in those days and in these present years an increase in the number of J.P's, for this reason. Fifteen years ago in this country any poor clerk would tell you this about J.P's, when we had Mental Boards in this country you could not get a J.P. to sit on these Mental Boards, and it was a good thing when the Government increased the number of J.P's in this country, and when they included people who went to school and who had basic common sense to carry out the duties of J.P. It does not require any highly technical knowledge to be a J.P., anybody who can read and write and who understands the Queen's English can become a J.P., because a J.P. is supposed to read through that same document and take that oath. The one who has got to make the oath before the J.P. is the one who is swearing to the information in that oath, so you do not have to be a lawyer or a legally trained man to administer the oath, because J.P's are in no worse position than Registrars even serving as Notaries Public in this island of Barbados, and we see that Registrars have got to contact people before they sign certain documents in the High Court.

A poor J.P. does not have the legal knowledge to call upon, he does not have the Barristers' Association to fall back on, and the poor J.P. with his common sense does a good job. As a matter of fact, yesterday in this Chamber I heard the hon. member for St. James talking about the jury system, and he was trying to tell us that the jury system is such that he would like to see it abolished, but this would be very bad for Barbados. If you want to remove from the poor commonsense man the ability of having a say in training his equals, if you put it in the hands of trained barristers or a tribunal of men with legal training they are not going to agree; too much learning, too much legal knowledge.

11.50 a.m.

It does not solve anything, and the same way that in this democratic country you have to go to poor people to get their votes to send you to the House of Assembly, why is it that they have suddenly become so ignorant that they cannot sit on juries?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this stage I must interrupt. There is no Head dealing with Jurors or Judges at this moment. I should like you to keep to Item 17.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I was talking about the ability of the poor seventh standard boy who has basic common sense to be a J.P. I merely referred to the hon. member for St. James who said yesterday that the jury system should be abolished. I am saying that the same background it takes to become a juror, the same democratic right which the people in Barbados exercise to make this Party or that Party the Government of Barbados is what we are now doing by making honest people, who have worked and contributed towards the economy of Barbados and cannot show one cent for their labours, responsible people in this community. That is the point I desire to make in this Chamber.

Everybody is talking about this thing and that thing, but there must be somebody to carry

the cross of the poor, common man in this society. I have taken on that job. If I am to be Jesus Christ, then crucify me. This talk about the jury is all nonsense. All a J.P. has to do is to be able to read and write. He has to be able to read the documents that are placed before him, and he must be able to administer the oath. It does not take any Jesus Christ to be able to administer an oath. He does not have to be a Registrar or Notary Public to administer that oath. The only difference between the Justice of the Peace, the Registrar and the Notary Public is that the poor Justice of the Peace does not have a seat of office; he does not issue a certificate for the document which he signs, but the Ministry of Home Affairs is there to support the Justice of the Peace. The Ministry of Home Affairs has a list of the Justices of the Peace, and it is for them to authenticate the signature of Justices of the Peace.

As a matter of fact, a Notary Public has his seal of office; he has to affix it on a document to identify his post, and in some cases he issues a certificate saying "I so and so as Notary Public of Barbados hereby do so and so." We do not want a Justice of the Peace to be equipped with all of these things to do what I would term as showing off. When everything is done it is the same oath. Get this straight there is no difference in the oath taken before the Registrar, Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner of Oaths. They all administer oaths, but whereas in one office one has something to identify his office to protect him, and if it is not sufficient he can type a certificate which has to be paid for to the effect that "I, so and so, Registrar of Barbados hereby do so and so," it is left to the Ministry of Home Affairs to support a J.P. by saying "John Smith is a Justice of a Peace in Barbados and has the power to administer oaths." It is something for a poor man to adopt.

There is no point in saying that Justices of the Peace are inadequate in Barbados, because I am convinced that J.P.'s in this country are adequate to do the job. They have common sense and they do a good job. Now, the Barristers in this country go into the Registrar's Office and copy stereotyped affidavits, submit them to the Registrar and get money for them. It is a question of your spitting in my mouth and my spitting in yours. The poor Justice of the Peace is not paid for the service he renders to the community, and he should not be condemned in here by members on the other side of the House. These people have the knowledge to vote and put a Party in power to run the Government at the time of an election, but when it comes to their own everyday business it is said that they are unfit to do it. During the election campaign people go around and say: "I like poor people; you belong to me," but it appears as though a poor man has no sense after election time.

When we had Payne and the plantation owners in Christ Church as Justices of the Peace, I never heard that Justices of the Peace were foolish. As soon as a poor man becomes a Justice of the Peace, other poor men will join with him and say: "Look Peanuts, he is a Justice of the Peace." We are living in a snobbish society which looks down on poor people because of their poverty and where they live as though wall houses are a God-given right to common sense. If you do not live in a big house you are not supposed to be wise. That is what some people are saying. They are talking about the very people who provide you with sustenance.

I have seen Registrars in office, and when lawyers bring documents to swear to before them they are just as much in the open as any ignorant man in the street. They have to ring up other lawyers to find out what to do. Now a Registrar is supposed to be a trained lawyer, and if he does not know what to do at times, why should you get angry with a Justice of the Peace who tells you that he cannot understand something? When the Registrar is at a loss to know what to do about something nobody says anything about it, but when a poor Justice of the Peace says he cannot understand something everybody says that he is a fool.

Now, a Justice of the Peace is a man who has his business to look after; he has to tell you sometimes that he cannot see you; he has to work for his living, and he does not get paid for his service. What is the position when a Head of a Department cannot see you for a whole week? People who are paid by the Government say that they cannot see you for a whole week. If topnotch Civil servants, who are the servants of the community, can tell you that they cannot see you now, how much moreso can a man who is not paid for his services? He should be able to tell you that he cannot see you for a whole year.

With regard to the Independence Celebrations, I have my own views on this. I feel that Independence should be celebrated by two groups of people. I would suggest that we give the schools a free hand to plan their own programme for the children; you should give the poor old people a free hand to have their own programme for the Independence Celebrations, but the middle group should be made to provide their own Independence Celebrations. I am against this big turn out at Culloden Farm where

people masquerade in different things and are not all there. I am not going back to Culloden Farm to any other Independence Celebrations after the last one. I was asked by a man why he was not given sufficient rum, and he was a man who should not have asked me one question.
12.00 noon.

I am not going back to such a function to be asked such a question because people ease in to these things and make a mess of them. To my mind it is all nonsense and the people can be served otherwise. We should give the money to the headmasters and headmistresses and let them plan their own programme for the children; let my child and your child feel smart, let the old people feel smart, but let the other people go and do what they want to do. The Leader of the Opposition said that there were people whom he found out were on the other side attending a function at his father's residence, but there were people on the other side who approached me for drinks at Culloden Farm on the night of celebrations; so this is where you have it on both sides. The man who came and asked me to get more rum for him could only be asking to be poisoned. Let us forget celebrations; let us deal with the things that are in hand; let us help those poor people out there. There is nobody at all who is conscious enough to remember what the poor man undergoes in this society. The poor man is down-trodden, and everything is tailor-made for people to play it big, and people do not remember that poor people exist and that they have their commonsense. They are only thought to be wise when they do what people want, otherwise they are not supposed to be thinking human-beings, they know not what is good for themselves; but we must come good and do things for them.

Mr. Chairman, I think that by making Justices of the Peace available from men of humble origin and character, Barbados is on the upstream. It is not fair for any member of this society to attack a Justice of the Peace appointment and say that a particular J.P. is not a worthwhile J.P., because he is a son of the soil, and in his own way he has merited this. He is supposed to be a respected person. We do not want the trappings and the sweet language of lawyers; we want honest and true men, men who speak from their hearts, and there are not many men like this to be found in our society. When a poor man who shouts D.L.P. or B.L.P. has got nothing to show why he is shouting, when he gets an honour like this it means more to him than what it means to the head of a Government to be Prime Minister, because the more any man has in society, the more he might want, but it is the poor in this society who are humble and contented; so when you say he is not a good J.P., it is not fair to that poor man who has contributed all his work years to making somebody rich, while he cannot show anything for the time he was working hard.

Mr. Chairman, those are my views on the question of Justices of the Peace and on the independence celebrations, and I hope that members of this House will see things as I have been trying to put them. Perhaps some of them might laugh and make sport, but we have got to take these things as a warning, because the poor people of this country are not going to remain poor and loyal. I want to warn hon. members that they must be careful how they treat poor people in 1972 and onwards. Do not think that all poor people are humble and dead; some live and hate, so be careful in the future.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, democracy is either a good thing or a bad thing. The hon. member who has just sat down can rest assured that I believe that what he has said came from his heart. I believe that other members of this Chamber may be under the impression that I got up to attack the hon. member, but far be that from me. I can fool a lot of them all the time. The hon. member gave a good view to that side when he said "take warning", and that the poor people are not going to be content all the time. (Mr. WALCOTT: That is why he is here.) This session was going very good all morning. He is my representative and I am going to respect him as such. I feel quite happy to see the manner in which he has put his point, but I saw members on the other side sniggering when he was speaking. They were laughing in their throats at him, but I am not like that. As I said, I believe that what the hon. member said was said from his heart, but I think he missed the points which members on this side were making. What we said on this side is that it is the quality of the person to be made a J.P. and not whether he is rich or poor. The hon. member talked about making poor people Justices of the Peace and said that this was a reward for hard work. Now I am going to call a name. I would rather not see Michael Adams being a Justice of the Peace, and the Prime Minister will agree with this, because they had to dismiss him from the Democratic Labour Party for fiddling with their funds.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think this is absolutely untrue. The gentleman to whom he refers has never been dismissed from any Party to which I belonged and I have belonged to two: The Barbados Labour Party of which he was a member, and he resigned voluntarily the same way

I did, and he has always been a member of the Party of which I have the honour to be Chairman from its inception and he has never been dismissed from any office; so I do not see how he can bring that in here because it is absolutely untrue.

Mr. CRAIG: If that is not true, then he was asked to retire from his post. *(Asides.)* The hon. member on my left to whom the hon. member for St. Michael-West is referring run him about. He has to defend himself against the member for St. Peter because he is quite able to take care of himself. (Mr. HINDS: A piece of goal would do the hon. member for St. Michael-West good.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member sit. In my opinion sufficient has been said on this Head and I will put the question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have not spoken yet on this Head so please do not deny me my right to speak on it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you and any other member to speak on the Head, but I am not prepared to allow this debate to get out of hand.
12.10 p.m.

I am speaking and I demand silence. This is what I want you to understand, we will carry on the people's business as it should be carried on, if not I will use the appropriate Standing Order to deal with those people who are not prepared to allow this business to go on.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not prepared to address the Chair at any length, but there are two points I would like to make. The hon. member for Christ Church West said that he would like to see these O.B.E's and so removed, because this is an independent nation, but I will go a step further and say that the Barbados Government can take the lead in recommending to the Commonwealth the granting of Commonwealth honours instead of British Empire honours since there is no longer a British Empire.

Secondly, the other point I would like to make is that it is of great inconvenience to a number of people – I think all of us on both sides recognise this – to be travelling from out of the country in search of J.P's to have a passport form signed. Many people are given the impression that the only duty of a J.P. is to passport forms, but I believe this could relieve the people whom I believe are greatly inconvenienced, some of them must lose a day's work, they have to pay bus fare to come to town some of them cannot find the J.P.'s to have this form signed, some of them have to go to some lawyers I am told and have these lawyers sign these forms, and the lawyers charge them as much as $5.00. I have heard this, and I know of this and I will call the man's name if I have to who is a friend of mine whom I know charged a woman $5.00 to sign a passport form. He left the passport with his Secretary asking the Secretary to deliver it to the woman when she turned up and to tell her it was $5.00 for that. I believe a lot of these problems can be solved. I believe that I should know my constituents better than Mr. Lisle Carmichael who is a J.P. for St. James. I believe I should know, if not all, the majority of the people in St. James; I am in the position whenever I am out during the weekends or when I am visiting that people come and ask me to sign forms for them, but I have to tell them to come to my office on Thursday, and then I have to carry them upstairs to Mr. St. John or Billie Millar or Cheltenham or Dear or any of them for the purpose of signing these. I know that at this particular stage I am dishonest, because if I have to go and tell a J.P. to sign a passport form for this woman, the J.P. should know of the woman, but here am I acting dishonestly and calling on the J.P. to do me this favour so as to save the person great inconvenience. I would therefore like the Government to put to Cabinet and recommend to this House that instead of only J.P's signing passport forms, that members of Parliament should also have the right to sign passport forms, and that would save the public a lot of inconvenience.

I have heard a lot of this idea of who was a J.P. when we were in power, but I want to be serious about this, do you think I would run down the hon. member for St. Michael West and rip off a J.P. off his chest? He is doing the public a service, and that is all we are concerned with.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member is addressing the member for St. Michael West. There is only one member in here for St. Michael West and I happen to be that member. I am not a J.P. and I have no interest in becoming a J.P.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I never addressed the member for St. Michael West, I was addressing the Chair, I cannot address the member for St. Michael West.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, he said the hon member for St. Michael West, but he said earlier that he acted dishonestly. That will go down in the records, he has said that for himself.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am not even going to ask to have it removed, because I speak from my heart. I say when I have to bring people from the country to Bridgetown and ask a J.P . to sign a form for them and the J.P. does not know the person, only I know the person therefore I am acting dishonestly as well as the J.P., so I do not care what goes down in the records, a lot of them act dishonestly and pretend they do not act dishonestly.

Further, Sir, I feel that it would be a good idea if the Government would look into this matter and allow members of Parliament to become J.P's, and when they are no longer members of Parliament it can be withdrawn. What I am interested in, as the member for Christ Church South Central says, that you have to cater to the needs of the poor man in the community. It is all right if my son can get in my car and go down and get somebody to sign a form, but what about these people that the member spoke about, who have to give up a day's work on the farms, catch a bus, come to town, they have to buy lunch, then to be told that they cannot find the J.P., and this is my honest view and I hope it will not fall on deaf ears.

I again say that Barbados can now take the lead that instead of all of us having honours for our own country, as long as we are members of the Commonwealth that we can have Commonwealth honours so that it can be known that a Barbadian has made a contribution to the Commonwealth of which we are a member. I sincerely hope what I have just said will not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, although I have spoken, and I do not want to prolong this, I just want to say that all I have heard from hon. members, despite the heat which is generated by these debates (and if I may say in parenthesis sometimes I wish that hon. members would learn the knack of ignoring asides) it seems that there is a large measure of agreement on both sides, and that despite the poses which each side has taken, because it is not unusual for all politicians to take a side, and I have never heard a politician yet who does not say he is on the side of the poor man, the point remains that a strong case has been made out by the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, my friend of many years' standing, for some form of remuneration of Justices of the Peace who have many and varied functions to Peace who have many and varied functions to perform, but let me go on to advance the point again and to restate it, there is a strong case for giving the person some form of training. I am not talking, and I have never got in here to talk about who should be appointed and where, I have never yet believed that poverty is a passport to nonenity nor that poverty is a passport to success, I believe that a man's basic honesty and human dignity are the final test in these matters, and I am not only speaking about appointments of Justices of the Peace, I am speaking on a broader level, but I would say that having listened to the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, having listened to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, and the hon. members on this side, it underscores the point that I was drawing to the attention of the Hon. Minister, there must be proper Act on this matter, there must be regulations governing it, there must be a proper system of training and most important of all there must be a system by which people are being appointed on a broad basis and on a basis of availability to the community. I think we can say that besides the asides, Mr. Chairman, I know you have a rather difficult task with us in this House when everybody is trying to score a political point.
12.20 p.m.

I do not consider the appointment of Justices of the Peace, although they have been political appointments, as a political measure at all. I consider it on the level of availability of people who have to perform public duties and that is the high level on which it should be put once and for all. That is why I am appealing to the Government to bring down the necessary legislation and take a broad view of these matters.

The question that the sum of $227,919 under Head 17 – Prime Minister's Office – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD – 18 TRAINING DIVISION

Head 18 – Training Division – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $349,515 under Head 18 – Training Division – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like the Minister to tell us when the last Report on this Department was published. If he has a copy handy, I should certainly like to see it even at this late moment. With regard to Item 13 – Training Scheme Fund – $328,000, the final paragraph of the Notes states: "Includes provision

for a special type of Loan Fund." I should certainly like to hear any explanation that the Minister can give as to the functioning of the Training Scheme Fund, particularly with reference to the last sentence of the Note.

Mr. Chairman, I have just received a copy of what appears to be the last Report from 1st April, 1970, to the 21st March, 1971. Paragraph 13 says that $180,848.61 had been committed for 12 courses which had not been completed by the 31st March, 1970. Undoubtedly, the Minister would have something to say about these courses that had not been completed by 31st March, 1970, hearing in mind that we are now bearing the 31st March, 1972. It would be of interest to note what is the position of the Fund since the publication of this Report, because one would expect that in the preparation of the Estimates an idea would have to be given to the Estimates Committee as to the true position of the whole Scheme of things.

Now, there are a number of students undergoing study under the Buckley Training Scheme. We believe that, bearing in mind the requirements of the various Departments particularly the Ministry of Communications and Works, it would be of interest to know how many of the students who have been in training as at 31st March, 1969, have since returned. As I have explained, even this Report that has been published does not give enough details to bring us up to date as to what is the true position in respect to this. We know quite well that at the Training Centre there are quite a number of exercises. The field of training is very wide indeed, and we are wondering if the continuance of part-time tutors for which we are asked to pay at Item 15 which provides $6,519.

When we look at the Programme and the wide field of courses that are offered in the Government Training Programme – I speak with reference to the local Schemes – we wonder if it is in the best interest of the students and of the Scheme as a whole to continue employing part-time tutors, or whether we have reached the point where the demand is such that whole-time tutors would be the answer to Government's problems. As one would see, there are some courses which have only been conducted three times a week and they are run over a period of 16 weeks. As we understand it, it is not that the students could not be available to receive the instructions, but it is on account of employing only part-time tutors. We are wondering if it is not time that the whole matter be gone into to see whether some better arrangement could be made.

12.30 p.m.

The training scheme is now a permanent programme of Government; it is no longer a hodge-podge affair, and the Minister should be in a position to tell us if there has not been some difficulty even with these part-time tutors seeking a revision of their rate of fees, and whether, looking at what relation this request bears to the cost of what other institutions are paying for whole-time officers, it would not be better to re-examine the whole scheme and see if Government could not have something more to its lasting credit for the amount of money that is spent in this manner.

I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that there is much under this Head except with regard to the training that is given for the Shorthand Writers. I think that was a scheme that was formerly conducted and where students are sent for training at Duffs Business College. It would be good to know how many students have been trained up to the moment, and whether we have been able to place these trained people in the service, because I think that it was in the Courts at one time that experiments were attempted with one of these trainees, and we would like to know if it has proven satisfactorily at that end, because we in Parliament might one day find ourselves up against a similar situation, and we might very well look into the matter and see how successful this machine shorthand training has been in having these people take their respective places in employment in the Government Service. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that there is any other point to be raised, but we would like to hear the Minister explain what he has on the training scheme fund.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I have a copy of the most recent training report for the year 1st April, 1970, to 31st March, 1971, and the next report will be laid on the Table of the House by the end of June 1972. If the hon. member has a copy of this report, he will see on the very first page that in paragraph 4 – Accounting, the Training Unit conducted a twelve week course in accountancy for eighteen officers. This was the first in a series of such courses aimed at ensuring that officers in accounting positions are acquainted with the basic practices and principles of bookkeeping and commercial and Government accounting. The hon. member would agree that this is a very good course especially for Government officers in the various accounting sections. The training loans are limited to $5,000 each and these loans are controlled so that the maximum will not exceed $5,000 and are repayable within five years. At present there is no definite maximum for the period of repayment, and it is felt that the loan fund

should be self-supporting in about six years' time.

With respect to Item 15, the Training Unit at present has five full-time training officers. Part-time tutors include University lecturers and other persons who have special contributions to make, presumably retired teachers and others who are fitted for this course. In addition to what I have just said, some courses last for as long as three years. This means that a commitment taken at the beginning of this course goes on into the next two years. The training scheme fund does not lapse because it is an underline account. At the present time there is a sum of about $43,000 available to continue outstanding training commitments.

The hon. member also asked about local training activities for the current year 1972-73. These include six induction courses for new entrants, four courses in public administration for administrative assistants, two courses for registry clerks, three courses for accounts clerks, one course for subordinate grades, and one course in international relations. These are some of the answers and I hope the hon. member is satisfied.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has not told us about the machine shorthand courses, if any, and whether he has been able to place these people who have qualified as machine shorthand operators.
12.40 p.m.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few observations on training in the Civil Service. It is true that we have training courses for Civil Servants, but I would like to confine my remarks to courses in administration at the University of the West Indies and in Canada. We have been sending abroad four Civil Servants a year in administration; this makes the gap a bit narrow, and my view of the whole thing is that the training programme as at present administered tends to select these same people who are able to get training courses to be the obvious promotees when the time of promotion comes, because the programme is so limited. In other words, all you have to do now is to get a training course, and this means that from there onward you keep going up, because you are not exposing sufficient Civil Servants in the particular Departments to training, so that in actual fact you will be able to get a better choice of Civil Servant from the great number of people who get training so that you will get a better administrator in the future.

Perhaps the talk you hear about Civil Servants not doing their work might be a defect of this same system, because only the ones who get training are the ones who keep moving up by promotion. Take the Customs Department which is the main revenue earner in this country and which is Government's bread basket. You send two people a year to Trinidad on six months' courses, when one comes back the other one goes, one from January to June and the other from July to December, but the biggest insult that these Customs Officers get when they get to Trinidad is to find that they have to sit down next to a Customs Clerk from Trinidad who has only done three years, when they have done about twelve years and have reached the rank of Assistant Supervisor. You should make sure that you get as many Customs people with even three or five years' service involved in proper training to prepare them for the future and not wait until a man becomes an Assistant Supervisor with about twelve or fourteen years' service and give him a six months' course to make him feel he has got something, and when he gets to Trinidad he sits down with people from the other islands who have only three or four years' service and who could tell him more about Customs than he ever knew in his fourteen years in Barbados.

We must get to the stage where we involve more of our officers in training, because training has created a gap between the fortunate and the unfortunate in the Civil Service. This is the big thing that has happened in Barbados, and we must be able to make more money available to train more Civil Servants so that the best will tell in the long run, but not that when you have gained that selection as a trainee and go on a one-year Public Administration course that promotion to the post of Administrative Assistant becomes automatic more or less and then you go on, and the other fellow who is working hard in the Department and who has never had a training course will never come up. My good friend the hon. member for Christ Church West is a member of the Public Service Commission and he would know how they arrive at their verdict in making promotions, but I think that this training course which a fellow has puts the particular officer in a better position to get promotion than a man who has never had training, and I would like to see that more training courses are available to the general public.

I heard certain hon. members speak about people getting one and two subjects, but more money should be provided in that scheme to encourage young school leavers who have not got the necessary qualifications, to pay for them to do the subjects whether at the Evening Institute or wherever they can to make themselves more qualified at Government expense. Since they

come in with two or three subjects, now it is imperative on the Government to make sure that we are providing training schemes to build up the bottom of the Civil Service by making it possible for them to study and to pay for the courses for them. The training scheme as it is would tend to operate against the majority of Civil Servants. As a matter of fact, if you are fortunate to get a training course, you are on the road to promotion. I do not know if the Heads of Departments in submitting reports on officers under their jurisdiction report to the Public Service Commission truthfully. I do not blame the Public Service Commission, the Public Service Commission is a general body with some power and the Public Service Commission can only act on the information it gets. If Heads of Departments withhold information on some officers and highlight information on other officers, naturally you know how the promotion will go, but these are things we must throw out to this Chamber.

We expect that every Gvil Servant when he joins the Civil Service should be told at some time during his career whether it makes sense to remain. There should be some means by which he should know that his service is no longer appreciated so that he can come out and look for something else to do. Do not keep him in the Service getting false reports made on him, making him slave for you for about fifteen years without any hope of promotion, he should be told his prospects at some time in the Service so that he will know what to do, but not to select the chosen few for training. There should be a comprehensive training programme, and it should be spread over a wide area so that as many as come can be received and only on the merits of the ones who have successfully completed our courses then we can select the best officers.

I have known that people go on courses who have not passed the examination but it still puts them in good stead, so you will see that once you get a training course this is a prerequisite to promotion and it puts the other Civil Servants at a disadvantage. As a matter of fact, it would appear to me that when you go into the Service and you rise as far as Senior Clerk level and are not then given an administration course that you will remain a Senior Clerk for the rest of your life, so therefore there is no incentive for a man nowadays to choose the Civil Service as a career, and that is why you have been losing people all the time to private enterprise. It is said that because private enterprise pays better people leave the Service; that was said in here by the Prime Minister, but they would not tell you that these same men who have gone to private enterprise are the ones who have been given bad reports by Heads of Departments and did not get promotion, but the same private enterprise sometimes has to pay people three times as much to do their work because they are properly qualified.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to confine himself to Item 13.

Mr. MORRISON: I am dealing with the training programme and the reason why some people leave the Service. I do not say that it operates this way, but it appears to my mind that people who get training courses are the ones who get promotion.
12.50 p.m.

All you have to do is to get a Training Course and then you are a success. What are you going to do with the ignorant people who have worked hard in the Department and were not recommended for a Training Course? Those people who leave the Department and work in private enterprise are the same people who got their experience in the Department, and they have carried their expertise with them to private enterprise. These were men who were condemned by the Head of the Department and could not get promotion. This is very relevant to what I am trying to say, Mr. Chairman. These were men who have been selected time and time again to go on Training Courses for the upliftment and the welfare of the Department concerned. This is not a personal recommendation as to whether I like you or not. It seems to me that the Barbados Civil Service has been losing men every year, and these men have become prominent men in private enterprise and have given yeoman's service, but they were just Senior Clerks in the Civil Service and were not even consulted on matters pertaining to a special nature.

This is the situation we have, Sir, and that is why I will reiterate that training is very important in the Civil Service. You can never spend too much money on training. You must give the Training Officer a free hand and a full programme to train as many people as possible. Promising material disappoints, and good material comes to the top. How can I say that you will never be an administrator without exposing you to the necessary training which may make you an administrator? It is only by making your Training Programme as wide as possible in all Departments that you can pick out the true leaders of tomorrow. Man is not a static animal; when man is exposed to certain things, he moves on.

Now, the Customs Department is a very specialised Department; it is Government's bread

basket, and an officer must have a flair for figures in order to progress in that Department. You may have a good man in the Customs preparing invoices and so on, but the Head of the Department thinks he is nobody and, therefore, he will never get promotion. I have seen officers passing invoices when they are very much afraid of figures. If you have an officer in that Department who does not like figures, then he will throw away a lot of revenue. I should like to see the Government take a more positive step when it comes to the training of civil servants. Government should provide more In-Service Training, equip the Training Department and make the Administration Courses available to more people in the Service, because we do not know who will eventually blossom out when attending these Courses to be a first-class Administrator. The position is that those officers who are fortunate to get a Course are the ones who will get the promotion, and the others will be condemned to stagnation in the Department.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the mistake I have been making is not speaking in time, and it looks as though this item will drag on for a long time. If the hon. member will give me an opportunity to make a few points, I will try to provide the answers to what he intends to say. The present policy of the Government is to expand the Training Programme by arranging for a considerable increase in the number of personnel who have been trained on the local scene and from the approach to the Civil Service, and there is a request at present for increased staff in order to cater and allow for this.

Now, some of the hon. members who have spoken do not seem to have remembered the contents of this Report. I think, in fairness to the Training Officer and the Training Department of the Government as well as the present Government, that I get certain things on the record. I am going to read certain extracts from the Training Report for the 1st April, 1970, to the 1st March, 1971.

"Numbers Trained

This year training of one kind or another was arranged for a total of 440 officers. The training took place Overseas in respect of 124 of these officers and was financed either by the Training Scheme Fund or by External Agencies. The remaining 316 officers were trained locally. It is to be noted that these figures do not include officers who received In-Service Training in their particular Departments.

Management Training

Six officers participated in the second 5-day seminar on Caribbean Background held at Cave Hill in September by the Centre for Multi-racial Studies.

Induction Courses

This Unit continued to hold Induction Courses for new entrants in the Public Service and 141 Clerical Officers and 56 Stenographers attended such Courses during the year. This is in keeping with the existing policy which is to train Officers as soon as they are appointed.

Accountancy

The Unit conducted a 12-week Course in Accountancy for 18 Officers. This was the first in a series of such Courses aimed at ensuring that Officers in accounting positions are acquainted with the basic practices and principles of bookkeeping and commercial and Government accounting.

Data Processing and Computerisation

Eleven Officers were selected for a 2-month Course in Programmer Training conducted by the Data Processing Unit. Four of the Officers, however, could not be released by their respective Departments and the fith resigned. Two of the remaining six assumed duty in the Data Processing Department on completion of the training, and the other four returned to their various Departments.

Twelve Officers from the Data Processing Unit and two from the Audit Office attended a Course on Cumputer Science organised by the University of the West Indies. The Course was held at the Cave Hill Campus and lasted for three weeks two days each week.

Seventeen Officers undertook a 3-month Course in Data Processing and Computerisation conducted by the Data Processing Unit at the Treasury Building.

Project Planning and Analyses

The Evening Institute

All of these things give you an idea of what we are doing, and I need not read any more. All of these Courses are given especially to the young

civil servants who are entering the Service for the first time.

The hon. member for St. Peter asked a question in connection with Machine Shorthand Trainees. These Machine Shorthand Trainees have for the most part remained in their Ministries, and it is felt that training is needed to be backed up by opportunities for constant practice.
1 p.m.

In other words, they must have the opportunities in order to keep up the training. This has been available in some but not in all courses. Mr. Chairman, I think in June when we get the next copy of the Training Report, it would be as well for us to have a good look at it so that when next we meet we would be more *au fait* with the work of the Training Department in that they seem to be doing a very useful work. The report is quite full, and it has several appendices which set out a list of the various Ministries and so on which take advantage of this training.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear the Minister say that six machine shorthand trainees remained with their respective department, but that the basic training they had needed some backing up. In other words, there was no point training these people and not giving them constant practice. Now if the Government is really wide awake . . .

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member has quoted me more or less correctly, but this does not happen in all cases. There are cases where the opportunities do not arise, but in other cases sometimes the opportunity is available. I do not want the hon. member to feel that it is never available.

Mr. HINDS: I am not saying the opportunity is not available, but I am making it abundantly clear to the Minister that no better opportunity could be made available to these people than to have them come to this House. This House could provide them with all the back-up training because the 1968-69 Report said that Government's specific aim in having these people trained was with a view to fitting them to perform at conferences. What goes on here, Mr. Chairman, week after week is exactly what takes place at various conferences in any part of the world, and this is the training ground and I am sure that you, Mr. Chairman, would like to see them come inside here and get all the training they want so that you yourself would be satisfied at a later stage to know whether or not the training they had in the first instance is the type of training we must insist on a greater number of people getting, because we have seen that when an advertisement goes out from here for a Shorthand Writer, the response is not as encouraging as we would like, and here the Government has a nucleus upon which to build to let us see exactly where we stand in a matter such as this and is doing absolutely nothing about it. No doubt the training programme of Government is a good one, but the time has come when we believe a complete re-examination of the schedule of the service, curriculum whatever one might call it is absolutely necessary, and in the case where you have your machine Shorthand trainees requiring further assistance to back up their basic training, I am sure that every hon. member of this House is willing to throw the doors open to let them come here and get their training free, gratis and for nothing because we feel that in the long run the Government would benefit and we too would benefit because we would know a source from which we can draw when we cannot meet our own requirements from Shorthand Reporters here.

I would like the Government to re-examine the whole scheme especially now that mention has been made of it here that this Chamber can provide this back-up training and that the Minister will not let it fall on deaf ears, but will take some sort of action to bring it into fruition.

Mr. ADAMS: It was the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central which prompted me to rise because I would not like to think that this training scheme which has been going on so long has been the subject of any misunderstanding. This scheme was instituted by the Barbados Labour Party Government some 19 years ago as a form of improving the quality of the Public Service of this Island, and certainly speaking for myself, I have always thought that it worked beautifully, and just in passing, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the present Director of the Scheme, Mr. Miller, for the assistance he gave the Committee in his evidence on another point which he was kind enough to vouchsafe though he was not summoned to the Committee for that purpose.

I think that we may lose sight of what a training scheme is meant to be. It is good for us to hear the point of view of a former member of the Public Service who perhaps may have been one of the submerged majority who, so to speak, had not caught the eyes of the selectors during his service in the Civil Establishment of this Island and who therefore might well feel there is certain dissatisfaction that deserves a voice in

here. But I have always understood that at its higher level the training scheme was limited to those whom their superiors in the Service thought could benefit from it, and therefore that essentially at the higher reaches – the Minister can correct me on this point – overseas training and advanced training courses are given to people who it is thought have shown ability in their past work to make it likely that they would rise in the Service. I think the analogy perhaps is this: the military services of nearly every major country in the world has a serious army. All officers when they reach the rank of Captain or so in almost every army which I know are considered for training at a Staff College, and it will be found that very few people become General and hardly ever except in time of war, unless they have had the opportunity of passing through the Staff College places and scholarships to which are limited to officers that have shown a certain amount of talent, because we have to face the fact that everybody who enters the Public Service is not going to become a Permanent Secretary, or even an Assistant Secretary. You cannot expect that everybody will go in, and we heard the Prime Minister set this out very well yesterday; as a matter of fact it was the member for St. Michael-West who set it out better. You cannot expect everybody to go in as a clerical officer and hope that by the end of the service he would have been a Permanent Secretary. It is not like a Lodge where everybody can expect to go in and be the Master some day. The Public Service of this Island is not that type of organisation and though I am not a member of the Government and should not be defending the Government – I am sure it needs no defence – yet when I see the Government attacked by one of its own members for, as far as I can understand his speech, limiting the training of Civil Servants to those who can best benefit from it, I think it would be unreasonable for any hon. member with commonsense to sit down and let it be thought that this is a valid ground for assault. 1.10 p.m.

Everybody who goes into the Public Service I believe receives some sort of training at some stage. If that is wrong the Minister will obviously correct me, but I believe the Clerical Officers, the Stenographers, the Receptionists, all of them get some kind of in-service training which teaches them something about their jobs - I suppose after they are on probation and as soon as they are appointed they get something like this - but the training scheme of the higher level, the overseas courses and so on, the upper courses leading to administrative promotions, I do not know but I suppose they are limited to people who have done well in the Service, and glancing at the report, of which incidentally I am quite sure I have never received a copy - I will advert to that in a moment - but glancing at the report I observe that the Chief Training Officer himself had a training award during the last period, the Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Manager of one of the Agricultural Banks, and many Assistant Secretaries, the Chief Town Planner; all those persons received training, and it is right and proper that persons even at the top of the Service who are newly appointed to different posts should receive some training, and I am not for one going to attack the administration of the Training Division or the administration of the Training Scheme Fund under Item 13 for selecting persons who are known to be bright boys.

How I would look at the loss to private enterprise is this way. I would tend to prefer the Prime Minister's approach to it, that he has nothing against somebody who has been in the Service for a certain number of years leaving to work for twice their salary; that the existence of the Service itself at a time of expansion in Barbados has to operate as a large training pool of persons who acquire some skill after 15 years, or whatever the period may be, and if they cannot get on in the Service make that skill available to private enterprise. I do not see any reason for attacking the training scheme at all. You cannot train all, there must be privates, there must be corporals and there must be sergeants; in times of crisis they get promoted to be generals. In Barbados former sergeants become generals in times of political crisis, but in the British Army, the Russian Army or the German Army they become generals in times of war. These are things that happen, but it does not mean that because they can become generals that the system was bad in keeping them as sergeants, sergeants must exist. This is how I believe the whole situation should be viewed, and speaking for myself, I think that this is a vote that seems to me to be adequate in the light of the general responsibilities of the Government to provide peace, order and development for the island of Barbados. This vote seems to be perfectly adequate when we see what has been turned out in the Public Service under the Training Scheme Fund over the years.

There is another reason why I would say it is adequate, Sir, Public Service is the most potent lobby of all in this island. It can be called an army of occupation, abused and reviled by the head of the Government at certain times, it can be told that far from getting an increase of pay it should get a reduction.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I do not think the Prime Minister did actually say

so, I think he made some kind of comparison. He said that in other developed countries in order to find the $12 million deficit, in a more advanced community that 10% would be taken off of certain categories, including Ministers. Let us try and get it straight, do not twist it.

Mr. ADAMS: I am repeating what I heard the Prime Minister say, not what I read in the Press the Prime Minister said, and when the debates come out hon. members can judge which representation is the more accurate. That is all I say. I am not repeating what I read in the newspaper, because if I believed everything I read in the newspaper I would be in as sad a state as some hon. members opposite.

There is a final point I want to add here about the training service report if the Leader of the House would hearken for a moment. Earlier this morning I made a search amony my papers, which I try to keep carefully together and carefully indexed, and I was quite unable to find a copy of the training service report which the Leader of the House was kind enough to pass to the hon. member for St. Peter who is dealing with this subject on our behalf. I found two copies of the previous reports, and I found all the other reports for a number of years, but I was quite unable to find the last, and I must suggest that that is because it was not distributed - I do not know to which hon. member - but certainly not to me. I have noticed this omission before, because when I went to look for it I told the hon. member I did not think I had the most recent one, and I would be much obliged if I could have a copy of the last report such as has been sent to the hon. member, since it is required to be laid on the Table of the House and distributed to hon. members. Perhaps I was not in the House and no copy was left for me.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir, I have just borrowed this copy from one of the Government officials who has been kind enough to lend me. I may have one at home, I have not passed on a copy to anybody. This must have been laid, it is just that this particular copy which I have here is not my copy, it is a copy which has been lent to me.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister knows the one I mean, I mean the one that was laid last year. A copy was passed to the hon. member for St. Peter, and this is the first time that he or I have seen one.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman, immediately I began my address I asked that if there was a report later than the 1968-69 report if I could be supplied with a copy, and whilst continuing my address these copies of the 1969-70 and 1970-71 reports were handed to me. I do not really remember who placed them here, but whilst I was on my feet they were placed here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This is not a big point, the hon. member actually got a copy before I got one. I got one eventually. He wanted to know when the last report for this Department was published and he immediately got a copy but I got one subsequently. I just want to show you how things are moving in here; the Opposition gets information before the Government.

Mr. ADAMS: I must appreciate that when the Leader of the House says something like that he does not say it in a way that is grossly defamatory of any public servant. He calls no names, nor does he say that the Public Service Commission should look into it, but if the Leader of the House would be kind enough to see if we could get those copies, if even there is only one copy for the Opposition, I can assure hon. members on my side that it will be kept in my office and made available to them when they need it.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you that I was not attacking the policy of training, what I did in fact was to bring out and submit points which should be borne in mind when recommendations are made for training. I was not in any way attacking the training programme, and I made the point that I do not know what information is sent to the Public Service Commission, that the Public Service Commission is a body which has power and that it can only act on the information which it receives.

1.20 p.m.

I made the point that the Public Service is a very august body and it really acts on the information it receives. I know certain things from experience. I was not one of those submerged people you will find in the Civil Service. I am a plain, blunt man. I was not submerged in the Civil Service, because the Civil Service, as I know it in Barbados, is a cut-throat Civil Service. I know right from wrong, and I knew that my attitude would not allow me to go to the top of the Civil Service. I took the only step that I should, and that step has today made you one one the leaders in the Opposition. I was more instrumental than anybody else in putting you there.

I am not saying that training is not good. I am saying that when two people are available for

a Training Course, when they return from that Course they will always get the promotion. They will have the prescriptive right to get promotion, and when the others go before the Public Service Commission in connection with a post they will not have an equal chance. When I came into the Civil Service Higher School Certificates were not demanded, but I entered the Service with a Higher School Certificate. I have told you that the Civil Service works in a cut-throat fashion, but I do not want to go into that at the moment. That is why I left the Civil Service when it did not suit me.

Now that I am in the House of Assembly, I do not think I have any right to be here longer than I think I should remain. I do not believe in any power. The people have sent me here, and when I feel that what I want is not being done, I could very well do without being here in the House of Assembly. I have come to do the people's work, and I do not have any mind for big processions and so on. I am a plain, blunt man, and when I feel that I do not like this any more I will tell my constituents that I do not want to be in the House of Assembly any longer. I have brought nothing into this world and I will carry out nothing. I want to live and die like a man. I want to be able to feed my children, and I do not want any possessions. I left the Civil Service for that very reason. The Civil Service has given me character. I was not submerged in the Civil Service, but when I left there I was an Accountant. I did not know how the campaign would have gone, otherwise I might have been in the Civil Service now. I was supposed to be a freshman a labourer, and things of that nature.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there is a very small point that I desire to raise. This has absolutely nothing to do with the constituency in which I live and for which the hon. member who has just sat down is the member. It has nothing to do with that; it has something to do with the point about Accountant. I think hon. members should be aware that – and this is something of which I do not think the hon. member for Christ Church South Central could be aware of – there is at present some pressure on the Public Accounts Committee coming from various Heads of the Departments: The Training Scheme, the Audit Department and so on, and in the direction for improved opportunities for Accountants. No amount of Training Schemes are going to help the Accountants as they stand at present except to put them in the general Administrative stream of the Service where they have to compete with people who have come up in the Administrative stream. It is considered that a lot of the bad accounting in the Public Service at this time is due to the fact that the best accountants cannot be promoted within that Service, and they have to leave because the opportunities to become Auditor General, Deputy Auditor General and so on are very limited, and several persons are moved out of the Accounting stream as soon as they show enough ability and have enough years in the Service to be promoted out of the Accounting Department. Perhaps, although the hon. member for Christ Church South Central will not for some five years at least have the opportunity to benefit from this, in all probability the Government is going to be invited to improve opportunities for Accountants generally, to improve in-service training and also give some Overseas training in the Accountancy stream to improve the general quality of Accountancy in the Public Service. This is something on which I can speak, Sir. Even though I am not a member of the Government, I have some responsibility for making the recommendations which, I anticipate, will be forwarded over the next few months.

The question that the sum of $349,515 under Head 18 – Training Division – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19 – ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

Head 19 – Economic Planning Unit – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $186,720 under Head 19 – Economic Planning Unit – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully submit that we suspend now, but we want to hear something about the Bureau of Standards.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, we can get through Head 19 and then suspend for an hour or an hour and a quarter for lunch.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we are glad to see that a Bureau of Standards has at long last been set up to meet expenses in connection with the Establishment of Bureau of Standards. The greatest indictment of the new Industrial Developments taking place in developing countries generally has been in respect of manufacturing industries that you encourage manufacturers to come, you keep out products

which compete with the products that they are making, but they make such bad domestic consumer goods that, I have to call it, the standard of living of the population goes down notwithstanding the fact that a few people get work. Indeed, Sir, sometimes I seriously think that when a factory comes into a place like Barbados, say, to make razor blades, and it makes razor blade of a type that previously sold for 30¢ a packet. . . .

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I wish to inform the hon. member that we do not have a razor blade Factory in Barbados. I know that they have one in Trinidad and the product is particularly bad, but we do not have one in Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister and I are *ad idem*. There is one in Trinidad, but we do not have one in Barbados. I am talking about it, because we do not have a razor blade Factory in Barbados, and we have a bad one in Trinidad. That is precisely why I have chosen razor blades as my example. To take an analogy, you make razor blades which previously, when imported were 30¢ a packet, but you sell them at 65¢ a packet and you cannot get the quality for which you preciously paid 30¢ a packet. Perhaps four people may be employed at the Factory. I believe that the Government would do better to give the four employees the wages that they get every year, and let the people get imported razor blades rather than pay an exorbitant amount of money for an inferior product for the sake of a few employees.
1.30 p.m.

We have not run up against it so much in Barbados. We have run up against it in the West Indies constantly with the razor blades in Trinidad and the matches in Jamaica. I can talk about some articles of clothing in Barbados as well. Under clothing made in Barbados strips into ribbons after three or four goes through a washing machine. Mind you, I think you can import things of just as shoddy a quality as you can make. Nonetheless a Bureau of Standards firmly established and working properly which is going to apply all the common form standards existing in Great Britain, Western Europe and North America, there is every encouragement to the sort of thing to which I referred so far in my speech. I have not got before me the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for the 1966 general elections but that was the first one of any Party in which so far as I know a Bureau of Standards formed part of the policy of one of the political parties seeking election to run the Government of this country. We have had to say, Mr. Chairman without being too partisan that whatever may be said of our manifesto on the platform at the time of the election, immediately the election is passed, we see the thoughts and sentiments which occurred in ours that did not occur on the other side turning into the other side's policy. I believe that is what you call...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to correct the hon. member on this. If he had been reading his newspaper carefully, he would see that this is no post-election decision of Government. We have been advertising for a period of over three years for a manager of the Bureau of Standards; so if he writes in 1971 that they would establish a Bureau of Standards, a Bureau of Standards was established and we have an overseas expert, but we wanted a Barbadian national with preferably an engineering degree to train to take over the Bureau. It was a question of staffing. This House voted money over three years ago for this Bureau, so how could that be in your manifesto in 1971. You all are living behind the times.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: I remember on some occasion the Minister of Home Affairs informed me that I should clean my ears. Well I am not going to be so vulgar. I have just this minute said that it was in our manifesto of 1966. I cannot even find it in the one for 1971. I am glad that whoever is responsible for that part of it was sufficiently up-to-date to be aware that money had already been voted for it. Have I got to call for words, Mr. Chairman, to prove that I said that I do not have the 1966 manifesto, but I think that was the first manifesto of any political party in which a Bureau of Standards was discussed? I wonder why we bother about speaking at all.

Sir, we look forward to seeing a Bureau of Standards work properly and hope we will not be suborned by the manufacturers and other persons who have an interest in putting out shoddy goods. Let us hope that at some stage criminal penalties will be attached to a breach of whatever standards legislation we are going to choose to pass. I see a lot of things to which criminal penalties are attached in the realm of a better life for Barbadians and nothing is ever done about it.

Mr. Chairman, I see that under Head 13 – Research, the sum of $5,000 is being voted. I think that only a couple of hundreds of dollars is normally spent. I would be very glad if the Minister could give some assistance on Item 13 as to what research projects the Economic Planning Unit envisages could be assisted under this Head

if so little money is spent. Could the Prime Minister give some clue as to what is anticipated at the present time and why the figure of $5,000 was chosen when only $319 were spent during the last year for which accurate estimates of expenditure are available?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The amount includes contributions to Regional and other Research Centres. As to what projects they have in mind, I really do not know, but it is a token figure and if the money is not spent, it will lapse. It is difficult to know the precise amount of money we will need to spend on various Heads of research. This does not include of course agricultural research and research for which other departments may be responsible but it is a vote put in here instead of coming back to the House because we do have to make these contributions and instead of putting the precise amount of the contributions, we put in a little more for projects which we may have to undertake, let us say, metaphorically speaking, at a moment's notice. I really do not have any list of any projects.

The question that the sum of $186,720 under Head 19 – Economic Planning Unit – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.45 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.40p.m.

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 20 - BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head 20 - Barbados Regiment - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $119,834 under Head 20 - Regiment - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear what the Minister would have to say about the Regiment as a whole. I think the Prime Minister mentioned some time ago that he was going to bring out a White Paper pertaining to having an army or to upgrade the Regiment, or whatever he was going to do, so that they would look after ceremonial parades and so on, but it was also hinted that he was also contemplating that this would be the training ground for young people for the purpose of teaching them certain skills. It is all right for us to teach our people skills, and we are satisfied that the Regiment or the Army or the Battalion as it was once called is the place where young people can find a form of employment, and in the meantime you can teach them skills and be more disciplined and have trained minds, but what I would like to find out from the Minister is how many months this is going to take, if it is going to be by way of enlisting these young men, if it is something we are going to have over a period of weeks or months, if we are going to have the Army as a career place, and what provision we are going to have for these young people after training them in these skills.

There is a great need for employment. It is all right to say you are training people, but after training and you cannot find anywhere to place them, I think they will become frustrated, and I would like to hear from the Minister what proposals the Government has at this stage for having this Army or Battalion as the Minister of Finance sometimes refers to it.

Another thing, Sir, you have here at Item 19 - Grant to Cadet Corps, an amount of $24,300. I could never understand why only places like Harrison College, Lodge and Combermere should have Cadet Corps. I feel we should have a national cadet scheme where all the schools come

together as one national cadet corps, but to have Lodge, Combermere and Harrison College only I feel gives the impression that there is a case of discrimination against other schools who might be interested in having such a scheme. Places like Boys' Foundation, Coleridge & Parry, the Alleyne School - a school I think sometimes which is forgotten - you have places like West St. Joseph which is supposed to be a very good school. I do not know how the Minister would refer to it, but the only time I hear about it is when it is holding athletic meetings, but there is a figure of $24,300 to provide for clothing, uniforms, accoutrements for all ranks of the Cadet Corps as well as local camp expenses.

You are only spending $24,300 on three schools, but what about the other schools? I should like to find out from the Minister if there are any plans for extending this scheme, if they are going to let it remain as it is or abolish it once and for all after you have the Army, so to speak.

Here again under this Item the note says that it also includes provision for Exchange Camp Scheme, but again you will only find boys from Combermere, Harrison College and Lodge having the opportunity to go overseas to these Exchange Camps, while there might be boys at the other Government-aided secondary schools who might be quite interested in doing this type of thing, but they are not afforded the opportunity to go overseas where they could have a disciplined life. I should say at this point that there is great need for more Scouting in the country, and many of the schools which had Scout troops have fallen off badly within recent years, and I would like to hear the Minister in charge or even the Minister of Education on this, what provision there is for them and what Government intends to do towards a scheme of this nature.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has made a point in relation to the Cadet Corps, but he is a bit late, because Government is already considering proposals to establish a national Cadet Corps where all the children of secondary schools, private or Government will be able to participate, and we will have the Corps divided on a regional basis. We are already discussing these proposals, and in the very near future we will be coming to the House for money for the establishment of a national Cadet Corps.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, apart from the Item dealing with the Cadet Corps, you will observe in looking through the Estimates under this particular Head, there are very few significant changes from last year's votes, so that although there are plans to reorganise the Barbados Regiment as such, which I think the Prime Minister did touch on some time ago, yet the plans are not quite finalised or else the provision would have been made here for the proposals. Until such time as the final plans have been crystallised and finalised, the position is that we are just carrying on on the old basis until we are ready to reorganise the Barbados Regiment as such.

The Minister for Home Affairs has replied about the Cadet Corps, so the children of all schools will be incorporated into the scheme and will be eligible to join the Cadet Corps in the areas in which they live. As far as the Scouts are concerned, I am not in a position to say precisely what the position is, so that is about all I can tell you for now in the absence of the Prime Minister.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to say on the question of Scouts that this Head has nothing to do with scouting, and that the hon. member for St. James can take this matter up under Head 35 where there is a grant for the Boy Scouts Association, and I can supply the information if I can get it for him at that time.

Mr. CRAIG: I was not pressing that point, Sir, it was merely an observation at the time. At Item 26 there is an amount of $500 for the upkeep of War Graves and Military Cemetry. I take it this is the cemetery at Graves End, but believe me, Sir, I have passed through there and I really see no upkeep being carried on, the only thing I see in there is grass. You are either going to vote money for the upkeep of the graves of those who served their country faithfully, or you are not going to vote money for them.

I am a rather observant person, and I walk through Graves End and it is only a name now. I am quite sure the person or persons who are responsible for this have not gone to Graves End for quite some time. If you are thinking of having upkeep for the military graves, I feel that they should be kept in a manner that anybody can go and say "here is the resting place of some of the soldiers who served the country at the time of the British war" or whatever you feel like calling it. I believe it is either a wasted vote or you should increase the vote and have it properly kept or put it under the Parks and Beaches Commission and let them look after it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, as an ex-soldier who served my country during a period of very national emergency, perhaps one of the few members of this Hon. Chamber who has had the distinction of having served with the Army during the crucial period of World War II, it is but fair and thank Heavens that I escaped having to hear the hon. member for St. James argue as to whether my grave should be cleaned or not. Be that as it may, this is not only for Graves End, there are about six or eight graves in the cemetery, we have ten to eleven graves at Graves End, we have a grave of a person who served his country and died in battle at St. Matthew's, one in St. Lucy, one at Boscobel and one at St. Barnabas.
2.55 p.m.
It is not only for Graves End, but it is for wherever we are upkeeping the grave of somebody who died in the Service of the Mother country.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have to refer to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central as the hon. and gallant Minister of all Affairs, because all along I was under the impression that the only thing I have ever heard about the Minister of Communications and Works serving his country is when a policeman failed to salute him, and he asked him if he did not know that he was a Lieutenant.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have just been instructed further that the War Office also contributes to the upkeep of war graves. This is a part of the contribution by us, but the War Office itself contributes to the upkeep of graves of persons who served the Mother country.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think my friend and hon. learned and gallant Minister can be now described as the Hon. Minister of all Affairs catching the eye of the Judge, but I believe he will be nosed out just around the bend. I have my eyes on a dark horse, and it is not "Quiet Gentleman" either. If the graves at Graves End bear any resemblance to the manner in which other graves are kept, I can rest assured that the hon. learned and gallant member would not be happy to know that his colleagues lie in an almost forgotten state. I would call on the hon. learned and gallant member to give us some voluntary support by coming out and giving assistance in order to get these war graves in a proper state.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I must on this occasion agree with the hon. member for St. James, because the last time I was down that way the graves were in a deplorable state. I wonder if they have not gone so far that they cannot be put back in decent order again. This matter should not be beyond recall, I hope, because in all things, even in graves, there are experts. There was an organisation which was called the Imperial War Graves Commission. I suppose it was called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or just the War Graves Commission now which maintains, for example, in Flanders the graves of the people who died in the First World War as well as the Second World War, and these are some of the most beautifully laid out cemeteries that one can see. If we were to apply for assistance to put these graves back in order, I believe we should be able to get some assistance in this very difficult, delicate but nonetheless very serious matter.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, as the member for my adjoining constituency of Christ Church North Central, I think like the member for St. Michael South Central, he can be referred to as the hon. and gallant member. Unfortunately for him, he cannot be referred to as the learned member at the same time. I do not particularly want to speak about the graves, although I have been brought up part of my time near to the Graves End area. I agree that the State of upkeep leaves much to be desired, particularly in that area.

I should like to hear whether the Government is in a position to give us some more definite statements, rather than bits and pieces from time to time, concerning the formation of a regiment or army for Barbados. The last time that we were discussing the acquisition of land at Abergeldie in Dayrells Road, the Prime Minister mentioned that people were being removed from the Garrison area with a view to having barracks for the army. I remember, since I came into this House, that we have been promised some sort of paper on this. I want to know whether we can have a very definite statement at this stage from the Minister. Has Government formulated its views on exactly what this army will do? What is going to be the strength of the army and so on? I understand that the hon. member for St. James asked the same questions, but I am only underscoring the point that I have not yet heard a reply on the matter. I do not know whether the Government is mute of malice; mute of ignorance, or mute of plans. At some point we should very much like to hear something from the Government on this matter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, whether I am called the Minister of All Affairs or No Affairs does not matter. I am here to give answers, and a member of a Government who is

running a Government must be *au fait*, even if not in detail, at least in basic aspects of his country's policy. When I get up it is merely because I have taken an interest in everything whether it is the regiment, education or something else. That is the simple answer. If you look at the Capital Estimates, you will see $10,000 for getting the accommodation and the barracks ready. The Prime Minister has definite plans which are not really financial, but they will come in due course because there is very little money in here for the establishment of what he plans to do.

Now, I have the document here in which the basic plans are set out. These plans are not finalised, and they are not even confidential. We are getting the barracks ready; there is $100,000 in the Capital Estimates for getting the barracks; we are trying to shift accommodation and so on. It is planned to have a regiment by 1976; so do not rush it. The House will be informed at every stage of its composition, and you will be entitled to comment on the recommendations.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member says that we expect to have an army in 1976. Would he care to say if he means fully trained or just established? Will we be ready for battle?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am talking about the initial expenditure and we will have to phase it out. You must have accomodation; you have to train officers by sending them abroad; the regiment will be viable for the purpose in which we intend to establish it and so on. *(Asides)* Let us be fair to the Government. An Independent country must have a nucleus of a permanent force. It will not be on the same scale as Trinidad and Jamaica. When the Opposition hear the proposals they will join with us and say that we should have done this since 1966. In the meantime we will get officers trained at schools abroad between now and 1976. At this stage I hope the Opposition will not ask for details, because they need some modification. You will have an opportunity when the Prime Minister is here to find out what he wants the $100,000 for.

The question that the sum of $119,834 under Head 20 – Regiment – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21 – CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Head 21 – Civil Aviation Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $119,813 under Head 21. – Civil Aviation Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Civil Aviation is a very technical field. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Why are you dealing with it?) I am like your Minister. He has an interest in the country, and I am inclined to ask questions. I do not make statements. There is, I think, radar equipment at Seawell Airport, and I am told that it is seldom in operation; it is never properly maintained, and they cannot get anybody to train the people to take over the operation of this equipment.
3.05 p.m.

I am told that there is a retired Sergeant Major, Captain or Lieutenant who is training these officers to man this particular bit of equipment in a few months, but the equipment is either too modern or too old for the man, and because of this the trainees do not understand what is going on, because the man himself does not understand. I am told from a reliable source that the men who are working there are quite anxious to be taught to use this piece of equipment and that the gentleman who is assisting them may be ill at sometime or probably may decide to go out of Barbados. I am quite sure the Minister of Home Affairs will not send him out because he is here doing a service; but the crux of the matter is that the equipment is either too modern for the man or the man is ahead of the equipment. I would like the Minister to tell the Committee if such a problem has been drawn to the attention of his Ministry.

There is an amount of $148,000 for maintenance of roads, and there is an increase of $110,500. That is a big increase. I wonder if this is because of the additional car park following the extension of the Airport. I should like some information on this from the Minister because I have a few questions to ask specially when we come to the Ministry of Communications and Works. I would like the Minister to tell us how he is going to spend $110,000 more as against $37,000 last year.

There is something which I would in the meantime like to draw to the attention of the Minister. I have observed on several occasions when I have been to the Airport to meet some friends that the layout in the incoming lounge leaves much to be desired. One should first go to the Health Officer and then to the Immigration

Authorities and finally to Customs. I am laying no blame on the Port Health Officer because this is something that the authorities at Seawell should pay some attention to. People come off an aircraft and instead of going to the Port Health Officer, walk straight to the Immigration Authorities without the Port Health Officer being able to determine whether their Health Card is in order or not. I believe we will have to do like other places where Immigration checks the Health Card and your passport to see if they are in order. You cannot pass the Immigration Officer because you are barred off. Here you can come off an aircraft and enter the incoming passenger lounge and there is no guide to direct you to the Health Officer, and on many occasions people pass in without realising he is there. When a person gets off a plane tired from travelling, he does not look up to see Port Health Officer and they simply walk in and go to the Immigration Officer. I had to direct a passenger to the Port Health Officer and he was very polite and thanked me for doing this. I am not critical of the Department, but this is something which the authorities themselves might have overlooked, and it could be a very dangerous thing if you pass in without having your Health certificate in order. A house guest of mine who has just returned to the United States told me that he has never presented his Health certificate, not because he is trying to duck it but because there is no proper guide to the Health Officer. I think the Ministry should ask the authorities to pay some attention to this aspect of the airport.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not speaking in that manner because the hon. member for St. James seems to be in an immigration mood today. I believe that if he arrived here for the first time in that jacket he might not be able to land because of its quarantine colours; so I am wondering if it would have any effect on his landing certificate. I am a bit worried about Items 20 and 31 under this Head, Investigation of Accidents. Now there are more lawyers on the other side than anything else, four out of six. In Barbados we have a lot of lawyers but very few of them seem to pay any attention to industrial law, and in Barbados people's lives are taken easily and maybe a little bit of workmen's compensation is paid and that is about the end of it. I do not know if the lawyers are too lazy or they are working for too much money, but they have not done anything in which better information is given in fatal accidents, and this is more so among lawyers who are aspiring to become politicians and Prime Ministers.

I have spoken to the Prime Minister about a serious matter which took place at Seawell Airport on the 31st December, 1970, where a man lost his life through a LIAT aircraft, and I do not accept the report that I received. I do not accept that you can have on an air-field a man walking into the blades of an aeroplane. No man has any right to be alone on an airfield attending to an aircraft; there should be at least another person to give a warning if you have those blades going and the aircraft is still expected to be attended to. He was killed because the engines of the plane had not come to a halt. You have a situation in Barbados that if there is not anything criminal about the case, that is the end of it. When is the last time any of the lawyers here investigated a fatal case where there was nothing criminal? If I enter a case with a fatal accident and I see a lawyer on the other side I am sure that the interest of the employer is represented more so than not.

3.15 p.m.

Invariably the employers would send these to a Coroner's inquest. Very rarely you find in a fatal accident the relatives of the deceased there, but what you find that interested parties either representing the firm or somebody else. We had a case recently where a member of our Union and a former adherent of the Labour Party, when the man was killed at the Barbados Foundry, we found that one of the Chairmen of the Labour Party was there, not as Chairman of the Party, but as a lawyer holding papers for one of the people. I say this because the Government has a responsibility at Seawell Airport and at Civil Aviation to see to it that the aircraft arriving here or operating from Barbados will have the responsibility to see that maximum security and safety can be employed at the airport, so that a recurrence like this should not take place.

This was a bad case, and again I am satisfied that there was a lot of hushing up with this matter, not by any ordinary person, but by some officials who tired to hush up the matter and make it appear as if nothing was wrong. Somebody even wanted to assume that he was drunk and that was the reason why he walked under the blades. When you get the operation of big companies, sometimes officials feel that they are more inclined to associate with the companies; the workman is going to be an ordinary man without any friends at court, a man without any social ambitions, he is only working for a living, and an ordinary line crewman working for $45 or $50 a week has to keep friends within that region, so the officials are not going to be his friends. I saw the report on this, but nobody could tell you why the man was killed or why the engines were not shut off before the man was asked to put the blocks under the aircraft, and he walked under the

aircraft and got cut up to bits and the only consideration there was then was Workmen's Compensation.

I am sorry that the Prime Minister is not here, because I have informed the Prime Minister already, and in another debate in here I have mentioned that even on the basis of fatal accidents the laws of Barbados should be updated, and I hope that there will be more exposure by the Minister of Labour to international affairs and international conferences so that little Barbados will get into the main stream of international affairs and know what has happened on the international scene about fatal accidents and injuries, and that injuries are not looked upon merely as a matter of getting a reward after the injury has taken place but that injuries should be avoided in the future. I hope that these two areas where there is this public liability at the airport will be gone into.

The other thing I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, is that Seawell Airport is expanding and an effort was made to have an Airport Manager at the airport to bring the facilities and the airport up to date, but I would not like to see this airport become an airport like some I have visited in the Caribbean, some of them become very shabby quickly, there is no proper attention paid to cleaning, the urinals sometimes are broken and odorous, and I understand that they have given the job of cleaning at Seawell Airport out to a cleaner, but I am not satisfied with the general cleanliness of Seawell Airport. It is a place which thousands of people use daily. I go into the public men's room and there is something shabby about that place and something should be done about it. The concept in Barbados is that a urinal or latrine must be a shabby place; this is something which seems to be endemic, and I go there and I find that you must do something about it. You can have it tiled in such a way that it can be cleaned and look clean easily rather than having it look so dirty, and I should like to see something done about it and about the general upkeep of the place so that it will be worthy of the money we spend on it.

It is true that Seawell Airport at times can be very hard on the people who work there, because Seawell Airport is becoming a picnic ground where people have picnics, but again there will have to be certain measures which will have to be drawn up, because if you leave an open ground people just throw the stuff all about the place and abuse it. It is good that you have a place where people can go and take their children to see aircraft land, people want to see relatives off, and Barbados has not make any charges for this sort of thing, I do not think the sort of economy in Barbados is of such that people regard this as a thing you pay for. You get more problems about having a collection of money for this, and the money would be worth itself for the breaking down of the equipment and everything. I would not advocate the payment for going up to the airport even for parking because I do not believe there are enough parking areas that would make the cost for parking worthy of the overall income that you would get from paying people in a shift system. You would find that the money would be all taken up in the payment of people, so you could as well allow people to park and use the facilities as they are, but I think that inside the building itself should be kept clean at all times so that there would not be any question about it.

People should be employed there on an eight-hour basis so that the paper and refuse can be taken up and the place kept clean at all times. The Government must set a standard in this kind of cleanliness. I know it is true that the very Government buildings are not kept clean; Government Headquarters does not set a standard, a lot of cigarette butts can be seen all over the place, but I think Seawell Airport should be kept clean, and I would like to see efforts made by the contractors, whoever they are, to see to it that they do a good job for the money we intend to pay them.

3.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad the hon. member touched on that, but I thought the Minister was going to give replies to some of your questions I had asked and I did not want to burden him with too many questions at one time. There is a vote in here for $52,000 to meet the cost of professional cleaning and maintenance services. I should like to hear more on this. Does this include the grounds? There is an additional $3,000 provided at Item 25 for the maintenance of grounds. I should like the Minister to tell us something about this. From the other side we have heard constructive criticism of the cleanliness of the Airport and it leaves much to be desired.

There is another criticism I should like to make about the public address system. Sometimes you are at the Airport and you only know that your flight is ready to leave when you see people going out to the aircraft. I believe that the public address system either needs a complete overhauling or it should be replaced by a new one. It is said that a Barbadian's accent is rather flat, and some people find it difficult to understand when the girls or boys are calling the flight number. I, personally, believe that the

system should be replaced by a new one. I should like to hear what the Minister has to say on this matter. I am also very much concerned about this $52,000 for professional cleaning and the additional $3,000 for maintenance of grounds. As a matter of fact, it is an increase of $8,240, and we are still hearing complaints. I thought that, with this increase, the standard would have increased.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I rise - I will speak later on in the debate - as a lawyer upon hearing the hon. member for St. Michael West. He must not be too hard on lawyers in respect of fatal accidents. First of all, he may be wrong. So far as the lawyers on this side of the House are concerned, I think more of us appear for the relatives of dead persons than for the employers with the Insurance Companies. I myself have appeared in numerous fatal - accident cases for many members of the Barbados Workers Union when, perhaps, the Union's representation with the Insurance Companies was insufficient to get any results and before the year was out the relatives had the good sense and, in the long run, obtained compensation through the law courts.

I would suggest to the hon. member that in such a matter as the Seawell Airport accident - I do not know the facts, Sir, for all I know the matter may have been settled with an Insurance Company - that in any establishment, Civil Aviation or otherwise, if he feels that the legal rights of one of his members needs to be protected, then he should send them to a lawyer. There are numerous lawyers in Barbados who are fully capable of carrying on matters such as accidents at the Airport through the Courts. I myself remember a case where no death occurred, but which I think illustrates the point of the hon. member admirably. I mentioned it briefly in here yesterday and, indeed, perhaps today. A client of mine was preparing his aircraft to go back to Venezuela. He was working on one side of his aeroplane doing something to the wing, and, according to conditions as they transpired subsequently, a gentleman driving a mobile air conditioner got out of the mobile air conditioner, looked at the aeroplane, got back into the mobile air conditioner and reversed straight into the aeroplane and knocked off the wing.

Now, death could easily have occurred. I would have to say that I agree with the hon. member, because the system of working was such that you should not allow a heavy vehicle like that to be parked so close to light aeroplanes. There should be some control, because my client's aeroplane was in that position because he was told to remain there by the Control Tower preparatory to taking off. There should be some control over the movement of motor cars and heavy lorries in the parking aprons. Fortunately, the person concerned was a Venezuelan who happened to be well enough off to employ lawyers. Eventually, a new wing was flown down from Canada; he rented an aeroplane at $60 (US) an hour while his plane was being repaired and the cost of flying test pilots from Venezuela together with alternative hotel accommodation for his wife and family and so on had to be taken care of. Of course, all of that was arranged. It happened to be a very expensive accident, but I believe in the long run it did the Airport some good, because it must have cost that Insurance Company so much that they would not in the future allow something like that to take place. The moral of it is that if the man had not been willing and actively interested in pursuing this matter to the end, it might have been a different matter. He was prepared to go to any length at all in a matter such as this. In a matter such as this he may not have got anything out of it.

As the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, the hon. member should tell his members and their families that when they have accidents or fatal accidents they should seek legal advice. Some people depend on the Government to do too much. *(Asides)* With all due respect to the hon. member for Christ Church West, he may have been one of the lawyers for the Barbados Workers' Union, but if the Barbados Workers' Union was not in a position to pay him a sufficiently large retainer to do its work, how can the hon. member complain? We all have to live. I may not be a favourite of the Insurance Companies, and when accidents come my ways on the plaintiff's side, such fees as I may earn come from appearing against Insurance Compaines. The hon. member for Christ Church West earns his money hy appearing for them. The point I am making is that there are enough lawyers in Barbados to whom people can resort. You cannot depend all the time on the Government.

I wish the hon. member for St. James was in his seat, but perhaps he will hear me as I speak. I remember hearing him once say that some constructions in St. James were throwing water on to the premises of his clients and the Government should do something about it. The Government should tell him to be off, as far as I am concerned. He should send his clients to lawyers, who are quite capable of carrying on a nuisance case, and let us crucify whoever is committing the wrong through the Court. You cannot depend on the Government for everything. I think that the hon. member, is

talking about things that are essentially matters for the Law Court and saying that the Government should do this and that, must understand that the Government's duty stops at providing a safe system of work. I just heard the hon. member say that the man was told to put the chocks under the aircraft's wheel while the propeller was still going around.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, I intend to reply to him because I am Minister responsible for Aviation and unfortunately I am also a lawyer, but on a question of fact the Government is not responsible for ramp-handling at Seawell Airport, and I have explained that to him. When he speaks about providing a safe system of work, I have a lot to say about some of the people who employed them on the other side. Barbados Shipping and Trading will be the chief target of my attack as well as Searles Factory and the Labour Department on which I spent a two-hour lecture at Codrington College lecturing to the Trade Union on the attitude of the Labour Department towards fatal accidents. I do not want the hon. member to go on speaking about the Government failing to provide a safe system of work, because the duty is not on us.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, again I have to say that the Prime Minister and I are *ad idem.* What I am saying is that if there is a situation where the Government has to provide a safe system of work let that be done, but the dispute, in my mind, is not with the Government. Perhaps, the Prime Minister was not here early enough to hear what I have been saying.
3.35 p.m.

I cannot see how the Government is responsible if a man is told to go under an airplane and the propellers are still going. That is a straightforward matter of liability, and I would have thought that the lawyers in Barbados would be happy in the interest of justice to conduct a case such as that, and lawyers to whom perhaps the hon. member for St. Michael-West would be surprised to know that I might be referring. Leading counsel of the highest reputation in Barbados are happy to take cases of that sort against the biggest and smallest. I am not speaking about myself now because I mean counsel in the technical sense, not even Senator St. John — without telling anybody to sell a chattel house and pay them in advance to start a case. If those are the facts, that is a simple matter. I believe that something such as that within the facts in decided cases have gone against aircraft owners and otherwise. I do not think that an attack should be made upon the lawyers in the case or in the Government. If anything the attack should be made upon the Workers' Union for not telling the people to go and insist on their rights at the earliest possible opportunity because if the hon. member knows that things in the report were whitewashed, what are we to do with the report. In the case which I had to do I didn't give anything. I appreciated the report which was given to me, but I did not give anything for it. What was it worth in the Courts? The Air Traffic Controller could come and say what he saw and that would be the value of it. Suppose there had been a report saying that the air-conditioner was in the correct place and it had a right to reverse as it did, do you think any lawyer or court would care about that? That is the attitude to take and I would be glad to see a little more self-help and a little less dependence on the Government in matters such as this. If people annoy you with noise nuisances, with fatal accidents or throw water on your premises, go to a lawyer; that is what lawyers are for. We in this House especially should remember because it was Mr. Garfield Sargeant who carried on a most succesful case against the Housing Authority on an occasion when very grandly, importantly, they decided they were going to alter a water course in Grazettes and throw water on somebody's land, and Mr. Sargeant carried on the case and got substantial damages for his client.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Before any more misrepresentations are made, we are in Committee of Supply, and I think I can answer some of these things now in order to prevent any unnecessary extension of the debate because every lawyer has to get a little advertisement during the course of the Estimates it would appear. First I want to make my position clear. I speak as a citizen of Barbados. I have already said that I am going to repeat on every possible occasion that when I took the oath at Government House of secrecy, that was about Cabinet matters and not in respect of misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance and even the Trappist Monks who took this oath do not always find themselves constrained to keep silent. I remember just parenthetically and for a little amusement that I once went to a place called Et de L' Ayrolle on a high speed air-sea rescue launch in the Mediterranean and this is next door to where Mr. Somerset Maugham had his house on another island and I was escorted around the Monastery by one of the Trappist Monks. He did not say a word to me, he showed me the pictures, all the sacred relics, he showed me the history in a book and everything else, and then he ushered me through the back gate after about an hour, and as I was stepping off the jetty

on to the air-sea rescue launch, which had come back for me, I heard a loud "phsssst" over the wall and the same monk who was silent all the time said "Got any cigarettes?" and he was a Trappist Monk that had taken the vow of silence for the rest of his life. I have taken no such vow but I want to make my position clear. I am dealing with these accidents one by one.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to talk about the Labour Department because I have lectured for two hours at Codrington College as the hon. member knows on Labour Relations and Trade Unions. There was a man killed at Searles Factory. He fell into a tache. There was no hand rail, no screening or anything as required by law. I took this up with the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and I told him that this was not a case of compensation between a private citizen and a private company, this was a matter of public interest. Shortly before this accident happened, there was 73 breaches of the Factories Legislation before Searles Factory had been opened. I will tell you how their minds operate. I did not know about the breaches before, but after the accident I wrote back the Labour Department and asked why weren't these people prosecuted before the season started and prevented from opening the factory. I am calling names. The Government has shares in Searles Factory, and I will tell you the aftermath of that, by ownership of Dodds, I believe, and one or two other plantations; so I asked the Labour Department why nothing was done, and they said that after the accident they telephoned the manager and he promised to put up some rails. Now these were 73 convictions in which somebody should have gone to gaol. He promised to speak to the manager, so I went to the General Secretary of the Workers' Union and said that one of his workers was killed. He said that he had been carrying out an investigation – he is there behind me – but not one of the workers would give evidence against the Factory although it was clear that there is a law that says all the gangways have to be screened and railed, and this was a gangway between two taches, so the man was boiled to death. A clear case of *res ipsa loquitur* if there ever was one and you do not even have to provide witnesses. I wrote back to the Labour Department and told them I was nothing to do with anybody in here speaking to the manager and the manager promising to see what he could do, that I wanted legal action.

Now instead of sending me the opinion of the Attorney General, they sent back and told me that they had talked to one of the Crown Law Officers. This is how a Government is supposed to run its business. I can produce the file with the permission of the Governor General, the Cabinet or whoever has to give me permission and verify everything I said; and I lectured for two hours on safety and matters relating to fatal accidents, workmen's compensation and so on. This is one of the things in which I was specially interested. They said that you could not bring a case against the Crown because the Government had shares in Searles Factory. I have never heard so much arrant nonsense in my life, and if any Crown Law Officer had committed that on paper I would have brought him up before the Judicial Service Commission and ask them to relieve him of his duties for saying that because the Government had shares you could not bring any action against Searles Factory. It was after eighteen months that they wrote back and told me that because the Crown Proceedings Act says that actions have to be brought within a year. I just want to say that that opinion, if it was an opinion, was nonsense that because the Government had shares you could not bring proceedings and that it would fall under the restrictions of the Crown Proceedings Act. I said that no Crown Law Officer put it in writing, but the Labour Department told me that they had discussed it, and that if I had seen it in writing I would have sent the matter to the Judicial Service Commission and ask them to relieve the man of his job whoever he was. I am not in a position to say that any legally qualified person gave such an opinion. Our problem from time immemorial with the Labour Department from the time that Mr. Perrin left and Mr. Burrowes was appointed Financial Secretary was that every single officer in the higher echelons in the Labour Department is so busy making his peace with the business community to get a job when he retires, and this is classic in Barbados, that they cannot really exercise their function as Labour Commissioner including the present incumbents. 3.45 p.m.

They cannot properly discharge their duties, and the last three Labour Officers have gone straight from the Labour Department to work with the other side, and by the other side I mean the employers. There is something fundamentally wrong in a system where you are training Labour Officers to fight the Workers' Union. Not one of them that I can remember - I think one of them attempted to get into the Workers' Union, and although I am not their legal adviser now, I believe that was taken over by the member for Christ Church West, I told the General Secretary that he would have to be out of his cotton-picking mind to employ a person like that inside the Workers' Union because he was not

really with them, and he immediately went over and worked with ...*(Asides)*. I am not calling any names, I am a citizen of Barbados, I did not call any names, I do not call names inside here, but I know when the Labour Department was set up, and I know every Labour Officer that we have had. I think there was Mr. Guy Perrin who was the first one, and I know every one and their history and their inclinations, their politics and everything all the way down the line, and we have never had a democratically minded person as a Labour Commissioner, or any socialist as a Labour Commissioner in this island.

Anybody who understands industrial law and industrial relations as a Labour Commissioner, despite all the exposures they have had, including the present incumbents, they are all going in there so that they can get on a first-hand name calling with the Employers' Confederation and get jobs with the employers. I am speaking as a citizen now and a person who is interested in Labour relations. You have syrup factories committing seventy three breaches of the Factories Act, and they will tell you they will ring up the Manager and say "Hello Clyde" or whatever his name is, "man, see if you can do something about those 73 breaches". Let us talk about the United States now. If that Manager - and I am not referring to Mr. Bullen - was in the United States he would have from 99 to 999 years in gaol and there would not be any evidence called because he is in flagrant breach of the Act.

Let me go now to a staunch supporter of the Barbados Labour Party. I know he is a staunch supporter because we used to have friendly arguments about three times a week in King Street when I used to drink rum. I do not drink rum any more, my standard of living has gone up and my stomach has gone down, and I cannot take it, I am strictly on Chivas Regal now since the Democratic Labour Party has gained power, but in the days when I used to be in James Street I used to go over and see my friend Prior three times a week at least. Prior is a staunch member of the Barbados Labour Party, he is sent down into a pit with burning metals by the Barbados Foundry in Whitepark Road with nobody around at all, and I am saying that the Director of the Foundry should be in goal because the law provides that if you fail to provide a safe system of work you can be sent to gaol, and I say that in cases where workmen meet their deaths prematurely under these conditions that there should be no talk about Workmen's Compensation in the amount of $12,000 – we have raised it from $1,800 to $12,000 – it should be $120,000 for breach of statutory duty.

For an accident the amount of is $12,000 because there is the question of compensation the insurance premiums getting too high, but where a firm like that has committed a gross and flagrant breach of statutory duties, all the Directors should be in goal and they should pay $120,000 that is the way I feel about it. In the same way that the hon. member for St. James feels that capital punishment should be visited nearly every time in Barbados – and I am against that – I feel that breaches of statutory duty in relation to safety of workers should be no alternative but gaol. That is the way I feel about it, unless you have a good excuse, but 73 breaches at Searles Factory notified to the Commissioner before the accident and he said he telephoned the Manager – and I presume called him by his first name, they get on first name terms and then they get into the offices of these big firms in Bridgetown – so how can you get social justice in a community when you have people who are only looking for supplementary incomes when they retire from the Public Service? Like the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I find he has really reformed since the elimination of most of his comrades in September last year, he is beginning to see the light.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir, it is the Prime Minister who has reformed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I can afford to reform, but you cannot help but reform. You remind me of Sir Alexander Bustamante telling Mr. Tavares when Mr. Tavares said that between Barbados rum and Jamaica rum Mr. Bustamante said Barbados rum was the best, Sir Alexander turned to Mr. Tavares in my hotel room in 1963 and said "listen, Mr. Tavares, you have to say Jamaica rum is the better. I can say Barbados rum", so I am in the same position with the hon. member, he has to reform but I do not have to, so I can say these things with impunity.

The position is this. There is no point in our putting laws on the Statute Book unless the people who are responsible for the administration of those laws, generally speaking, but particularly when they relate to the safety of workers, observe them there is no excuse and the people who do not do their jobs should be fired.

Let us come to Seawell Airport. Barbados Shipping and Trading owns a firm called Seawell Air Services. They pay us virtually nothing for the services for which they have almost a monopoly up there. They handle all the ramp services for most of the airlines, that is, getting the steps at the aircraft and loading the aircraft and putting blocks under the wheels and so on. We call these

ramp services. I am not exposing any of their business, I got it from England BOAC pays them over $1 million a year for using facilities provided by the Government of Barbados. That is one airline. One morning I had a meeting with the team when Mr. Wason was there....*(Asides).* I am speaking the truth now, I do not conceal anything, I have no conspiracy as far as Government business is concerned. I went into the office of Seawell Air Services by a mistake – and they have the largest office up there – I was really looking for the Director of Civil Aviation and the Director of the Airport Project Team, at that time Mr. Wason, we were to have a meeting with a Canadian firm about the general operation of Seawell Airport, and when I went in there I thought I was in a foreign country. I went straight to the Director and asked him what new Dutch firm they have rented space to in Seawell building, because all the people in there looked to me – there were about 17 of them and there was not one face I could recognise as Barbadian, although I understand that some of them were Barbadians – but they were not as obviously Barbadians as most of us in this Chamber, and there were at least 15 to 17 people in there and they all looked like Dutch people to me. I was so shocked that I did not think there was any firm operating in Barbados with that kind of setup – I did not know who they had outside at the counter or who they had on the ramp, I am talking about 17 inside the office – and when he told me it was Seawell Air Services I was shocked.
3.55p.m.

Now let me tell you of my experience. Some fishermen at Bathsheba lost their boats. I wrote four letters to the Barbados Salvage Association about compensation for these fishermen. I rang up a gentleman at the Salvage Association – I am not going to call his name, but he was the Manager – and said: I thought I would ring you, because I have written you four letters on this matter and I have not received a reply. He told me: "Man, Barrow, I do not have to reply to you." Suppose he had told the hon. member for St. James that. *(Asides.)* This is about fishermen losing their boats. I was not a Minister at the time; I was practising as a lawyer, It happened during 1960 when two of the boats went to Puerto Rico, and this is the kind of bigotry that we find in Barbados. There are people in Barbados worse that any of the foreigners you can bring in here, when it comes to manners and their social relations as well as economic relations with other people. As far as I am concerned, a firm like Shipping and Trading is an alien firm; a firm like Dowding Trading Estates is an alien firm.

I remember when I first ran for St. George, I had the effrontery to get up at Ellerton and remind the people that I went to buy a $400-car from Mr. Millar, who worked at Dowding Trading Estates in Bay Street, and I could not see anybody in the office looking like me out of about fifty people. I merely asked the people how it could be that Captain Dowding could be representing them when he was not representing them in his office. The Leader of my Party at the time – if the hon. member will listen he will hear something – summoned me to Knights Limited the next morning and told me that Mr. Dowding complained that I was preaching race hatred. *(Asides.)* I was merely asked a question as to why Mr. Dowding could not employ a few black people in the office.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is that the same night when the Prime Minister said that all the white people should be taken out to sea and drowned, and you will have to hit them on the head because they are hard to kill?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member is very good at slander. He was not in the island; I never made any such statement. I was at King George V Park – *(Asides.)* That is not so. The members of the Party and I can tell you what was the position. They then started a campaign that capital and labour should work together, and give one to capital, meaning Mr. Dowding, and give one to labour, meaning either Freddie Millar or me. I said that if capital and labour had to work together, and you took all the capitalists in Barbados, put them on the *Lord Combermere* and they never came back, the Island would not submerge because we would still be able to run the Government. That is all I said. The hon. member for Christ Church and other people were there.. All of you have now come, and you do not know anything about politics and the history of this matter.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Is this before the Prime Minister had Mr. Douglas Lynch as a member of his Party in 1956 or after?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand what that has to do with this. Any person of any colour can join our Party. We have a Minister who is an Englishman and is not of African descent. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Once you

are a socialist you can join this Party. That is all the qualification for which we ask, so it is a gross and malicious slander to say that I ever said on a platform anything about taking white people out and drowning them by hitting them over the head. I never said so in this House or anywhere else, and it is a gross and deliberate lie. I would not have to say so, but in the minds of some people when you talk about capitalists you mean white people, because there are not supposed to be any black capitalists. Now one of the Leaders of that Party was Mr. Ernest Deighton Mottley.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given sufficient latitude on both sides. I want to hear something relevant to fatal accidents under the Head of Civil Aviation. Get along, Mr. Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: A gentleman told me one day, Mr. Chairman, that we have too much democracy in this country and we need a little more guided democracy. I do not entirely agree with him, but when you hear some of the things from the people from the other side you should think that they should have some more fatal accidents. Well, I hope that their dependants will be properly compensated.

I want to deal now with a breach of a statutory duty as I was dealing, and what I have just said is just an aside, because I was referring to something which was said and which was untrue. With reference to capital and labour, Mr. Winston Churchill tried that in 1945 and was lambasted by Mr. Clement Attlee, Mr. Ernest Bevin and Mr. Aneurin Bevan when he said that capital and labour must live together. Labour is something that you do with your hands; capital is money that you may never have worked for. I still believe that this country can exist without capitalists. We are working towards a socialist state, and I have never apologised for my political ideology either to the United States of America or people in Barbados. That is my philosophy. The same way the hon. member for St. James believes in capital punishment, I believe in socialism. I believe that we can do without capitalists and that we can do without capital. All of the capitalists who can tell you that they did this and that have hardly had a Second Form Education, and they tell you that the country cannot do without them. They are lucky to be here. There are few countries that they can get away with the things that they get on with in Barbados. *(Asides.)* I am glad I have the support of the hon. member for St. James.

With regard to the question of statutory duty, the Government have a higher duty than anybody else and, therefore, we try to conform with the laws. But when you have public employees telling you that they are going to talk to somebody over drinks about a breach of a statutory duty, I do not agree with that. I have discussed this at length with the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, so what can we do with them? I want to make it clear, as far as Seawell is concerned, that the accidents that have occurred up there are due to no negligence or breach of statutory duty on the part of the Government. There are breaches and severe breaches like the gentleman walking into the propeller. I understand that he was a very diligent worker and that he would work overtime. When a man is working overtime he gets a bit more careless, because he is tired. The point is that you should have supervisors on the ramp who should be giving orders as if they were on a barracks' square. You cannot jump in an aeroplane and take off without a drill of vital actions, because you will be endangering the lives of all the passengers. Similarly, when the plane has not come to a final stop with the engines cut off, everybody having anything to do with that plane should be acting in a manner as if he were on a barracks' square. There is no proper supervision on the ramp at Seawell by the private contractors, and we have been drawing that to their attention.

We have had two investigations carried out by the Director of Civil Aviation on the particular accident. We sent all the Reports to the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney General or both. The General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union can tell you this, too. This is a kind of patriarchal as distinct from matriarchal or a kind of patronage society where everybody is looking for the next job he can get out of the person with whom he is employed. When some of the same colleagues and close friends of workers who are injured or fatally injured are called upon to give evidence – this is what the General Secretary says about the matter. I am not challenging him to deny this, because I think it was a statement made in the normal execution of his duty as General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union that he ran into this difficulty. People look around and say that they are not quite sure what took place. However, when they are on the scene of the accident they are ready to give proper information, but as soon as a week goes by they are nothing to do with the matter.

4.05 p.m.

Some of our own people let us down in this respect like the accident at Searles. Three men went down into a tache at Mount Gay with sulphuric acid or the fumes from sulphuric acid,

and within five seconds each one was dead one after the other. Is that providing a safe system of work? No prosecution was made to the Law Courts of Barbados. You are not going to get any prosecutions from the Labour Department in Barbados until you send all of them home. To put it graphically, what one public officer told me about another public Department, is that all of them want going home a long time ago. I feel that strongly about it because they trifle with people's lives and when there is a real labour dispute in this Island nowadays, nobody in the Labour Department has the prestige or the stature to be able to talk to either the General Secretary or the Employers' Confederation to see what is good for the community. Each one has his own peculiar point of view and when the economy is ready to collapse, then they come to the Prime Minister and I have to tell them if they come to me they have got to take the medicine that I give them. I am not asking anybody's opinion and I am going to tell you what I am going to do when you read it in the papers or when you see it on CBC television. That is how I have had to prevent the economy of this Island from breaking down. The Labour Department is so busy making out things about who is going to get a pick on a team to go and cut canes for the people in Florida – they cannot get people to cut canes in Barbados – but there is high selectivity now when it comes to going up to Connecticut to shade tobacco or you are going to Dresden, Ontario to pick fruit for the companies out there. There are members of this House who have been on these expeditions and they know what I am talking about, and in the old days people have got professions out of patronage. *(Asides.)* I do not want canes any more than the hon. member who just said he does not want canes. He represents St. James and you do not want canes down there. Do you know what I say about sugar cane cultivation? It is not farming to begin with, and genuine farming is where a person and his family go and cultivate the land and watch the fruits of their labours come up with the assistance of a few hired helpers who are working alongside them. If sugar cane is all this great kind of thing to the economy of Barbados, let a few of the plantation owners go and cut the canes. Unfortunately we have been caught in a trap with that kind of thing because there was no forward thinking. No self-respecting person should see the mothers and grandmothers in this nation heading canes in dung baskets out in the fields. When I see the wives of the plantation owners doing that, I am going to be happy because I know they will be doing honest work; but I do not see the perpetuation of this system as being salutory for the mental or physical health and stamina for this community and I have never apologised for that. I do not care how much Mr. E. R. La Tourette Ward attacks me or the Sugar Producers' Federation or the members on the other side. That is the way I feel about it and we are trying our best to eliminate our dependence on sugar cane growing in this country, and it is the only way we will get an egalitarian society; because if you like it so much, you send your family to head a dung basket with the waist tied up with a big geordie bundle and a crocus bag around the waist. It is demoralising, and no self-respecting country ought to be content that its woman folk are being used as beasts of burden.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, is the Prime Minister objecting to the way the people dress while they are harvesting the canes, or to the harvesting of the canes. He is talking about having your waist tied up with a dung basket on the head. Are you saying they should not cut the canes at all? I want to get this straight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would treat the hon. member's interruption with the contempt that it deserves, the way you have treated it Sir. *(Asides.)* Whatever you do or say is a matter for you. I have a basic philosophy; I am not an opportunist. I ask the hon. member a simple question now: what is there in his ideology that if he was offered some position on this side he would not take it? What would be repugnant to the Government's social philosophy that he could not accept it? *(Asides.)* I would have it signed by the General Secretary. I will send you an offer to suit your ability of course. Can I get on with the debate, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I only hope you will. *(Laughter)*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will just end up by saying I know of no single instance in which the Government failed to provide such a system. We are very careful about that. We provide our workers with gloves; even the cleaners in the Ministerial Buildings are provided with gloves so that their manicured fingernails do not get spoiled or any caustic interferes with their skin because you can get skin diseases by using these cleaning materials. We provide them with gloves, and with rubber aprons, we provide all our construction workers with safety helmets, and it is only in the private sector that you find these breaches being committed. We provide all our gardeners and people like that with big wellington rubber boots so that they do not step on nails in circumstances when they are gardening

and can pick up tetanus. So far as the Government operation is concerned, I am satisfied that our rules are being followed. I am not satisfied that the people in the private sector even begin to care about the workers in this country, and I think the only thing that will bring them up with a jolt is if some of their directors can be prosecuted, criminally convicted without option of a fine, and even if it is only twenty-eight days, I think it would bring up some of them in their tracks. That is the way I feel about it.

Mr. Chairman, they say that the radar at Seawell is seldom in operation. We get technical aid from the Canadian Government and a gentleman was sent down here to train the radar operators most of whom are air traffic control officers. Now the gentleman was in military aviation. I do not know if this is his problem, but I am aware that some of the students up there complain that they are not learning at the rate at which they would like to learn. I would be a hypocrite to say that was not true. We are trying to rectify that situation. We had no trained instructors in Barbados and we applied for assistance from abroad and the students are not satisfied. Whether their dissatisfaction is justified or not I am not in a position to say because my knowledge of radar was limited to a thing called "G" and "Ran" and a few other small radar instruments which I am not in a position to talk about because I am under the Official Secrets Act as far as they are concerned. I know nothing about aerodrome control radar; I know how it works but I do not know how to work it. I would like to go up there and do the course myself if I had time to find out whether their allegations are correct or not, but naturally if I was in the class things might change; so I would have to get somebody who is a radar expert and put him in the class to find out whether these complaints are justified, but it is true that the students are complaining that they are not progressing at the rate they expected to progress. That is all I can say on the matter. I cannot criticise anybody because I am not in a position to do so. I am not going to denigrate anybody's character, and I think the students have the right attitude if they complain they are not learning fast enough through no fault of their own. It shows they are keen on their job, so I cannot criticise them either. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I can disclose now that the person who calibrated the radar at Seawell is me. One Saturday morning I went out for four hours over the Atlantic in bad weather to allow the instructor to calibrate the radar and he found it three degrees out, which can be corrected. I had four hours non-stop over the Atlantic; I take that interest in my work to check on its accuracy. I will tell you now that if they had left it as it was and had brought down somebody in a rain shower, they would touch down right at the base of South Point Lighthouse.

4.15 p.m.

I am taking an interest in what is going on. I am aware of these complaints, the calibration is an error in the instrument and not a human error as such, but since I have been flying to the calibration I am in a position to say that it was three degrees out and the Instructor agreed with me that it needed a correction which I believe has been done, but we are now one of the most modern airports anywhere in the region, and under the Airport Development Plan we will be, I think, a grade 10 airport which is equal to any in any part of the world because there are not many other airports that have the facilities that we have.

We would like to put in closed circuit television so that you can see the time of departure of the plane, and these would be changed every so often, every minute or so as the case may be, if there are any changes to be done, and in every room we will have where there are passengers and the Manager's room and so we will have closed circuit television. What I find distracting about the public address system is not the system itself but the voices of some of the people that Seawell Air Services employ; they are poor advertisement for Barbados. I regret to say that some of them sound as if they come from my constituency, but some of them have migrated to Bridgetown and Christ Church, but this is something we have to watch, we cannot allow these private people to have such poor advertisement for Barbados, because we really cannot understand them. The system itself probably needs a little renovation here and there, but since we are going into a new airport project we do not want to spend too much money on things that will be discarded. There will be no second-hand value for items of that kind, very little.

Maintenance of roads. I should explain that the Ministry of Communications and Works used to look after this and it will be under their Head, but now we have set up a team at Seawell with its own equipment, whether they be rollers or graders or bucket loaders and that kind of thing, having nothing to do with Communications and Works, because we found it very inconvenient to have interruptions in the programme if M.C.W. will be calling for this and calling for that, and when you expect a man on the job you found that somebody had sent him somewhere to fix a bridge or something like that, so we have our

own equipment. This is really a transfer from the Ministry of Communications and Works vote to the project at Seawell.

As far as I am concerned, the cleaning is not satisfactory and representations have been made to the Airport Manager and to the people responsible for cleaning to see that it is done more satisfactorily.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister probably did not make a note of the question I asked. I drew to the attention of the Minister that people coming off the aircraft into the terminal building by-passed the Port Health Officer, not intentionally, but there are times when you may have two or three flights on the ground, and I have seen with my own eyes that people do this. I have had to stop an individual from by-passing the Port Health Officer and going straight to Immigration, and I would suggest that there should be a clear indication whereby one would realise that one must see the Port Health Officer first, but put that job in the hands of the Immigration Officers who can examine all the documents at one time. I have seen this done in other countries and I think it is an easier way to speed up the assistance to the passengers.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, as far as I remember – and the Hon. Minister would also know – this is going to be amalgamated soon, but this is nothing strange, I will tell you an experience I had on the 20th December, in winter. I arrived at J.F.K. International Airport, I went through the door with all the other passengers, and after walking for about 12 minutes I found myself outside on the car park. Then a whole plane load of passengers from SAS did the same thing and there was nobody there to marshal, and we had to spend an hour and a half trying to convince the Immigration Authorities that we should get back inside. They told us we could not come back in, so we could have disappeared into the wilds of America and nobody would have known anything about us, and that is America where their immigration is so tight. The only thing we did not have to do was to swear affidavits before a Notary Public to get inside to get our bags from the Customs and Immigration. We did not clear Customs, Health Immigration or anything, and if any of us had had just hand luggage we could have called a taxi and gone out west and lived there for ever happily after and nobody would have known a thing, so if it can happen at J.F.K. where they are so tight on their controls, what about at Seawell? When we get a lot of people a few will stray past the Health people, and the other problem is with the intransit passengers who do not have to go through Health, so when the Health Officers see people by-passing them they feel they are intransit passengers.

This is another respect in which the airlines are delinquent, because the airlines ought to have officers of the airlines shepherding the passengers from point to point, and they should have facilitation agents at the out-going passengers lounge when people arrive there with their baggage and tickets to tell them where to go. They do none of that, they are delinquents. They are not juveniles but they are delinquent.

Mr. CRAIG: I think this will also be of paramount interest to the Prime Minister. As far as the V.I.P. lounge is concerned, that is no big thing to me because I am just another person, but I will say this in the interest of people who at times must use it. There is a lack of proper security there. I have been there on one occasion and pushed the door by accident and found it wide open, and if you are going to use this place where you, the Prime Minister, must have the right to go in there and discuss with your Personal Aide and your Ministers or whoever you care to sit down and discuss private business with before you go out of the airport, I feel there should be some measure of security there. I have a friend, who is also a friend of the Prime Minsiter, and I have seen him take a short-cut from his office, going through the V.I.P. lounge to get out on the tarmac. I believe that there is still a lack of security even on the entire airport, but when we come on to the Ministry of Home Affairs I will deal with the actual security there.

I know the Prime Minister is well aware of this. I think one of his friends who is also a friend of the hon. member for St. Michael West is now serving some gaol term in London or somewhere, and I saw him in there sitting down on one of the carpets having a drink. I feel if you are going to use the V.I.P. lounge to have a degree of privacy you should also have a degree of security, and this is in the interest of the public.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure, I do not think I remember where the friend of the hon. member for St. James came from nor of course am I aware of the circumstances, but I would just point out that since November last year Barbados does not require vaccination certificates from citizens of the United States or Canada, so that this may have been the reason for it. This is just for information, but, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the opportunity on the occasion under this Head to say a word of commendation and

public thanks to the various officials at Seawell Airport who have been working there under extremely difficult circumstances during this current winter season.
4.25 p.m.

Even the most modern Airports are not built for peak periods, and some of the week-end periods, particularly during the past few months before Christmas, have been exceedingly hectic at Seawell Airport. At times there were seven or eight jets including some of the big ones on the ground at one time as well as a smaller plane like the Liat. This is despite the fact that I know the Director of Civil Aviation has done what he can to try to arrange that some of the chartered flights do not arrive at these peak periods. Naturally, one hears criticism of things that go on with public officials on various sides of the Government. This is frequent but, unfortunately, one does not hear enough of the better aspects of administration of this kind. I do believe that the officials at Seawell do a wonderful job under the circumstances at peak days during the Christmas season. One Saturday afternoon, for example, I tried to see whether there was any real justification for the complaints that there were about delays with regard to the Immigration Officials, and the average length of time taken to process one passenger with the Entry Card was 35 seconds. I watched what was going on, and the officers were under extremely great pressure. Unfortunately, what happens frequently is that you get visitors arriving perhaps, exhilarated, they perhaps may have had a few more drinks on the plane than they are accustomed to; they arrive at a time when it is still hot as compared to where they have left, they still have not only their own clothes on, but they are carrying suitcases, overcoats and packages, and everybody tends to be a bit irritable.

You have, on the other hand, a Customs Official, who has been standing on his feet for a number of hours, dealing constantly with a mass of people passing through. He, too, is a little tired by this time, and this situation sometimes can be combustible. Generally speaking, I think that our officials at Seawell have done a wonderful job during this winter season. I think it is our job as well as the people who are responsible for what happens up there to try and see what we can do to improve conditions before the next peak winter season.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like to go back to the statements made by the hon. member for St. Michael West when he dealt with the accident which took place at Seawell. Now, the hon. member who is also the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union seeks to condemn lawyers by saying that, whenever there is an accident of this sort, the lawyers are always on the side of the employers. The first thing I should like the hon. member to understand is that the problem does not lie with lawyers.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said that, invariably when lawyers are on the scene of a fatal accident, they are on the side of the employers. That is what I said.

Mr. BOLDEN: Even that, Mr. Chairman, is not correct. The problem is with the persons themselves or with the relatives of the person involved. Too many people presume things against lawyers in this society. They believe that if you belong to the Barbados Labour Party you will only represent people who belong to the Barbados Labour Party. I can tell the hon. member this....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I used to practise, too, Sir. I just want to tell the hon. member that if he had to depend on the people who believe in the Barbados Labour Party none of them could live, so they must have some of our people to support them.

Mr. BOLDEN: I believe that the Hon. Minister was dozing half-way through my speech. I do not want to be rude, Mr. Chairman, but in cases like this it is common knowledge that if anybody approaches a Barrister and says that there is an enquiry in which his brother, sister, father, or mother was killed, and asked the Barrister to sit in and hold a brief, 90% of the lawyers in Barbados, whether they belong to the B.L.P. or D.L.P., will go and sit in without a fee, because 10—1 there will always arise out of that a case of negligence in which Counsel will be able to recover his costs. There are two problems involved here: one is that the Trade Union should ask the Government why it amended the Act to prevent one from bringing a case in relation to a fatal accident after one year. Many Insurance Companies in Barbados sit down, dilly dally and agree with you to settle cases, and the morning the year is up you are told that the year has gone. The Union and Government should know this. I warned the Prime Minister about this, and he told me that he did not believe the Government should be treated more fairly than anybody else. Why did he change the Act to put the Transport Board and other Boards in a position in which they could not be sued after one year?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have given instructions over four

years ago that the Fatal Accidents Act in that respect, Transport Board Act – some of these Statutory Boards have this specifically written in them – should be amended the Crown Proceedings Act is another one, but I do not believe in it, It was so in England when we passed our Crown Proceedings Act, but in England today the Government is in the same postion as anybody else. I am in the Government, and I say that the Government should not be in any more favourable position than the ordinary citizen. The people who are benefiting from this restriction are not the Government, because the Government do not insure our vehicles with Insurance Companies. We insure our own vehicles and we pay out of our own fund, but the people who benefit are the Insurance Companies 99% of which are foreign companies. I do not think anything like that should be on the Statute Book of Barbados, but when I asked the Crown Law Officers about the matter, I was told that the Ministry of Trade or some other Department had given instructions that something should take priority. That is the position. It was always my intention to have the law changed, because nobody has suffered more than myself and my clients as a result of that restriction.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Tenantry Bill is a new Bill, and it has in the same provision. When the Medical Practitioners Bill came here, I fought tooth and nail to get the same provision changed, and several members sitting on the other side condemned me for opposing it. It was only after the Bill was rejected in the Other Place that the Prime Minister brought it back to this House and had it amended. That is the problem. The hon. member for St. Michael West cannot sit down and pontificate about lawyers when he employs in his own organisation two Assistant Secretaries. Ask him why he does not retain a lawyer even for a nominal retainer to sit down and watch the interest of his workers? *(Asides.)* If he does that, then he should not come in here and say that lawyers line up on the side of employers.

I have told lawyers this, whether they like it or not, that every lawyer is like a prostitute in Nelson Street. He is picking a fare, and the more fares he picks, the more prominence he gets. The hon. member must not say that the lawyers line up on the side of employers. Where there is an Insurance Company involved, there are a lot of us who would like to shut down some of the Insurance Companies in Barbados.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I cannot sit here and allow that to pass. I just want to come to the defence of the Attorney General and other members of the Legal Profession on the side of the Government that when we were practising we never picked any fares. If they have to pick fares, things must be very bad with them.

4.35 p.m.

I am no ambulance chaser and nobody who worked with me, and I see two in here, went after accidents chasing ambulances. In supporting the hon. member who has just say down, he has not advanced the most cogent reasons. If he was listening to what the hon. member for St. Michael West had said, he would have heard him say that on the scene of the accident the people who are represented are the employers, meaning the Insurance Companies. This is true, because the relatives of the person who is injured or is killed sometimes do not know about it at all, and when they do know about it they are more concerned about the victim of the accident than about legal proceedings. They usually go on the Monday morning when they rush down to James Street but the Insurance Companies are very vigilant to get somebody on the spot at the time; so I do not see what the two of them are quarrelling about because this is a mere statement of fact that invariably it is only the employers that are represented at the scene.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the entire afternoon I have seen nothing to quarrel about, and I think we should have had this Head passed long ago.

Mr. BOLDEN: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to keep you there sitting for too long. I know it is a bit boring at this point, but let us forget the argument about lawyers representing people.

Mr. Chairman, what I would like to say under this Head is that I would like to see the fencing at Seawell Airport properly extended and become tighter, because there is now an entrance or exit, however you want to look at it, which has been opened on the northern side of the airport going towards the east, and in my opinion there is a lot of traffic using that passage into the airport. I remember when the 747 Jumbo Jet came here I myself drove in there after I saw a line of cars proceeding along there, and when I got to the fencing I saw people swarming all over the airport, there was a door wide open and people were circling around this big aircraft. In my opinion this was not the correct thing to happen at a place like Seawell Airport where people may wander on to the tarmac. I would like to see the security in respect of that area of Seawell tightened considerably more than it appears at the present moment.

The next thing I would like to see done is the provision of some sort of transport to and from aircraft. I came in from Antigua about three or four weeks ago on the LIAT BAC111 and apparently it was going to overnight here, so it taxied probably half-way up the strip and stopped, it was raining and the passengers who came on that flight had to struggle their way down to the terminal. There was nobody to give any directions if you did not know where the Customs were, and I thought in circumstances like these you should have some sort of passenger transport to and from the aircraft.

Coming back to what the Hon. Prime Minister said about the Labour Department, I have always contended that although you have the Crown Law Office, there should be Counsel attached to some of the more important Government Departments, and in particular since the Prime Minister is so dissatisfied with the operations of the Labour Department because technically what the Prime Minister has said today is a condemnation of the Labour Department *in toto* – he has got a justifiable case to attach a Counsel directly to the Labour Department whose function would be to advise on Labour laws, factories legislation, etc. and then we would not have these problems. The question of prosecution would not then lie with the Labour Officer telephoning some manager and having a private arrangement between the two, because the Counsel in question would have the right to look at every file and decide whether or not the law has been broken and institute the necessary proceedings. Take for instance the Price Control Board. You have got officers who file complaints in the Magistrates' Courts in Bridgetown and go in to prosecute themselves, but in very many cases they have not drawn the complaint right. This is something I have been saying for years. Important departments of Government like this should have a counsel directly attached to them, and if something goes wrong as the Prime Minister says, call them up and invite them to go home peaceably without any compensation thereafter. I would hope that the Prime Minister would take these points into consideration and rather than constantly condemn the various departments, rectify the situation.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to prolong the debate, but I only want to say that I hold no brief for lawyers. I do not believe that lawyers are any different in the community from anybody else, so I can speak quite openly on that. What I can say is that the Barbados Workers' Union has demonstrated long years ago that when it required legal advice it sought legal advice. Moreover we have a very good record, if I may say so, of taking the young barristers before they become eminent. The Hon. Prime Minister in his early days and before he was as eminent as he is now was one of the Union's lawyers. The hon. member for Christ Church West was also engaged by the Union. We take legal advice but we do not ask lawyers about industrial safety, because we do not regard it as a legal matter; we regard industrial safety as a social matter and this is what is our contention. The hon. member for St. Michael West and I have agreed already in this House on the question of industrial fatal accidents and the question of investigation, and we even pointed out that in West Germany and Austria the laws in so far as investigation of these matters is concerned are not left solely to a barrister to investigate. It is left open so that the Trade Unions in these places – and they will take a lawyer – can investigate the matter. What I said here is that only if the fatal accident has something criminal would you find evidence coming forward, but if there is no criminal evidence the thing is washed out

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems we have is that people do not like to give evidence. They regard the man as dead already, his family is going to get a little money, and they are not getting mixed up in it. Why are you worrying so much about it, do you want to close down the people's factory now and prevent all of them from getting a job? I raise that because if you have this kind of investigation, it obviates the feeling that there is anything criminal, but you are investigating a fatal accident not only with a view to recovery of damages, but with a view to providing safer methods for the workers who have to earn their living there. The Union is looking at it not from the point of view of recovering damages because the man is dead already and his family will get some money, but the important thing is that you want to save some other worker from dying say by some carelessness or negligence on behalf of the employee. That was the whole gravamen of my argument.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I understand what the hon. member is saying, but the hon. member must remember that his position in getting the necessary evidence to increase the safety of the average worker is so much better than that of counsel, because he should know very well that counsel might have the best intention and go out to some person to get this information, and the first thing you would hear is that counsel is scouting, but where the Union is concerned it has got the facility of collecting this evidence from amongst its own members, and if the

members do not give the evidence to the Union, the counsel cannot do anything.
4.45 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of entering into this debate lest it be said that I am holding any brief for lawyers as such. I just want to say that a lot of what the hon. member for St. Michael West has said about fatal accidents is true, particularly because after a fatal accident the person left alive is the person who is really concerned with his liability and therefore he tends to rush to a lawyer, and to that extent he informs the Insurance Company and the Insurance Company sends a lawyer, and perhaps the family of the deceased are more concerned at that stage over the death of the person and do not really get lawyers. I think that in the case of industrial accidents some change could be made in this, because if you are working at a factory or even at the airport, certainly once an accident occurs somebody from the Union – perhaps a Shop Steward – could be in touch with one of the Union officials, and I have no doubt that if the Union official got in touch with any lawyer in Barbados and asked him to go to the scene of this accident on behalf of the Union that lawyer would go, and I think this would help the Union, because at this stage the lawyer would be able to see the position and would be able to get in at that stage and talk to witnesses and ask them to come forward, so that not only would the Union assist in providing a lawyer - I do not suggest that the Union should pay the lawyer - but perhaps when the lawyer represents the family of the deceased and the money is recovered the lawyer could be paid that way.

The important thing is, particularly in industrial accidents, if when the person is injured some representative of the Union, even if he does not get on to a Union official, should make some attempt to get on to a lawyer and the lawyer would be able to assist the Union. What was said about the Labour Department by the Prime Minister is also true, and I had the experience of sitting in a Magistrate's Court on a post mortem where the Insurance Company was represented by Counsel to see that the Labour Department was represented not even by the Chief Labour Officer but by one of the other persons in the Labour Department who had absolutely no knowledge about Court procedure and what was going on in Court, and who pretended to cross-examine a witness but was not doing a very good job. In circumstances like this one would have expected that the Labour Officer, if he deemed it so important that an officer of his Ministry should attend, that he should have consulted the Attorney General's Chambers to have the requisite legal representation made in Court.

I know the other aspect of it, even outside of dealing with fatal accidents and in other cases, I remember when I was in Chambers in England I happened to be in the Chambers of Mr. Ralph Milner and Mr. Bernard Marder who worked then for the Electrical Trades Union, and they had quite a number of cases on behalf of the ETU of persons who were involved in various injuries, so that I do not see any difficulty once the Union establishes the principle of getting one of their officers at the scene of an industrial accident to notify the Union of it, and I have no doubt that if the Union should request legal representation even at that stage that the Union would get the adequate representation and it would not be a question of any lawyer asking in those circumstances who will pay the fee or anything like that; and I would like to throw out the suggestion to the Union that in such cases the Shop Steward get on to the Union official and for the Union lawyer to be contacted in those circumstances. I am not asking for any brief for any lawyer.

Mr. FORDE: Before you put the question, Sir, although it is usual where a debate involving questions of references to lawyers is concerned you would expect the lawyers to rise to each other's defence, I do not intend at all to really talk about the lawyers, I believe that we will have enough time in the debate on the Legal Practitioners Act to restate the case for the legal profession in this country who have made tremendous sacrifices, even including the persons of the Prime Minister and the late Sir Grantley Adams. People do not recognise that the lawyers do undertake a tremendous amount of public duty, sometimes gratuitously and sometimes thanklessly, but enough of that, Sir, I should like to get back to some of the Items we have been discussing.

I should like particularly to deal with the Item of cleaning since the hon. member for St. Michael West has spoken briefly on this, and since there is now a Director responsible for Seawell Airport who is there and this comes directly under him, and I am sure that with the division of functions the technical experts are no longer taken away from their technical duties. I should like to emphasise the plea for a higher standard of cleanliness at this airport. I believe that there has been some improvement but only slight and I think that the officials concerned should see to it that our Airport which is supposed to be progressing and expanding and being planned for 1990 should have a more up to date character, a better atmosphere and be a symbol of outstanding amenities. In this respect I think it is incumbent on us as public figures to appeal to the public to treat the airport as though it is some aspect of their own homes which they want to keep clean.

Very frequently I have seen people abusing the airport, abusing furniture around the place, rushing into the V.I.P room when they have nothing to do there and treating it as though because it is our money and our country they have no respect for it, and I think we as politicians and as public figures must on occasions such as these appeal to the nation jointly, not on any basis of political division, for showing a bit of appreciation of their own investment and of their own national heritage.

I should like to possibly move on to the question of investigation of accidents and make a few points. All the members have so far approached this as though the vote is concerned solely with the investigation of industrial accidents or concerned at all with the question of fatal accidents occurring on land, but this vote really extends to a much wider head, it also covers the investigation and the disappearance of aircraft which are registered in this island,and I wonder if the Minister is totally satisfied that the legislation governing this has been brought adequately up to date. Perhaps this is another opportunity where he can take some counsel given by the member for St. Michael West and involve, not on the accidents involving aircraft alone, but workers' representatives as I have pleaded before in discussing the amendment to the Labour Department Bill, for them to be represented in instances where there are these types of accidents whether by aircraft or otherwise, involving people with whom they are intimately concerned.

The other plea that I should like to make, Mr. Chairman, is in relation to some of the remarks which the Prime Minister has made. I think it is really a very seriousindictment on the Labour Department - and he probably has his figures and is probably justified in making this indictment - but certainly within my experience I have seen the Labour Department prosecuting under the existing Factories Act, sometimes winning and sometimes losing the cases, on some grounds sometimes because of lack of evidence and on other grounds because they have no skilled counsel appearing on their behalf, and sometimes simply because the legislation is outmoded and should be brought up to date.

4.55 p.m.

I do not think it is fair to lay at the feet of Civil Servants the fact that legislation has not kept apace with the development in the country, and in this respect I think we should make it clear that that is the duty of the Government; therefore, if this indictment has come in a 10-year period, I do not think it should be laid at the feet of the Civil servant only without the Government in its process of collective responsibility taking some share of the blame.

I should like to move to another point which the Minister has made. If there are any persons abusing their contracts at Seawell Airport or any other Government contract, then the Government has a duty to the country to make sure that their contracts are revoked regardless of whom they are. In this respect, may I draw the Minister's attention to the Government Labour Organisation standards. I know that these have been incorporated into Government contracts, but we must not fall down in our duty regardless of what company or individual is concerned. As a matter of principle, if they are not performing well, then the Minister has the powers to revoke their contracts inasmuch as the Minister of Home Affairs has the power to revoke their permit if they happen to be people from overseas. This should be done particularly with the development that is going on in this country.

I do not think it is enough to make attacking statements which might be attacking statements against an individual. In some instances the Government has the power, and all I am asking the Government to do is to use it and stop complaining in circumstances such as these. Sometimes the Government is not using the power, and there is no point coming in here and complaining when the Government had the power in its hands and was not using it for 10 years.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to assure the hon. member that I would not be complaining any more; I am just serving notice, but one feature which I want to draw to the attention of the House is the increase in the revenue from the Airport. People are always talking about the amount of money we are spending on the Airport. The Airport is the gateway to Barbados; it is the gateway to G.N.P.; it is the gateway to the Tourist Industry and everything else. I remember when I came here in 1961, Antigua was receiving about the same revenue as Barbados - about $186,000 a year. I am not going back to 1961, but if you look at the revenue from the Airport from 1970 alone it has more than doubled in three years. That is why I have attached very great priority and I am spending the largest capital sums yearly now for the next seven or eight years on the Airport improvement, because the rate of growth here has been fantastic. What we are trying to do is to make the concession fees and so on keep pace with the work on Air Traffic. I think I should serve notice that things will not continue on the same

dimensions. I do not think that some people will have the kind of facilities and privileges that they now have unless they are prepared to pay some portion of their gross revenue to the Government in respect of their services.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I know it has been a long time, but when I rose originally I said that I rose to deal with the point made by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I have some items now to ask questions about. Now, Insurance Liability has gone from $4,000 up to $50,000 actual expenditure projected for next year. Can the Prime Minister say how much has been actually paid out? Have there been any claims under public liability insurance for Seawell and, if so, what are they? Why should the premiums go up from $4,000 to $50,000 in two years? This is a very substantial rise.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, speaking off the cuff as it were, we have increased the public liability at Seawell considerably, because we did not consider that the coverage was adequate and, as far as I can remember, we had the firm of Stewart-Smith examine everything that was going on at Seawell and it was on their advice that we increased it considerably. I do not know if the hon. member will appreciate this, but I think he knows something about the cost of an aircraft. If, for instance, there was a collapse of the runway or the parking apron, it may be damage to the tune of $10 million or $12 million against the Government. Now, when one thinks in respect of the public liability and the large number of people who go up there and use the waiting platform, then I do not think that $50,000 is too much to pay. The Lawn Tennis Association got coverage for $50,000 for $15. I do not think the hon. member is suggesting that we should be in the same position in the Government. We have increased the coverage, and that is a simple answer. We are dealing with expensive equipment and so on.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I can tell the Government that, to my personal knowledge, Stewart-Smith are not going to press on you unreasonably. I know them to be a competent and reliable Insurance firm who, in my personal dealings indeed, have advised people not to have so much insurance upon occasions. I hope and trust that they have given the Government solid advice in this matter. Nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, if there never has been a claim, I would prefer to think that the runway was securely constructed rather than we look forward to its collapse and the destruction of an aeroplane.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, under the former Government regime a lot of funny things happened to that runway. I am not saying that the Government was responsible. There was no Minister of Aviation at that stage. There was Mr. Egglesfield or somebody who was the sole governor-general, and what was happening up there, as far as I can remember, was that they were digging out the clay soil in the day and filling it back during the night. It was a Canadian firm who had the contract. I can assure you that, since we have been in charge of things, we have been exercising due care.

Mr. ADAMS: We do get these situations with ex-Air Force people who are appealed to as authorities on subjects which, perhaps, their service during war time did not qualify them to pontificate on. I am neither talking about the Prime Minister nor the Director of Civil Aviation. I think the member for St. Michael West had something to say about it, some 20 years ago, and I was, perhaps, harking back to that.

With regard to the baggage conveyors, I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell us whether the rents which the airlines pay for the use of the Airport include an amount that is indeed adequate to keep these conveyors going? In my experience I have never known anything worse at the Airport then the conveyors, and the waiting for the baggage is an important matter;

I do not want to dwell at length on Seawell Airport since it has been dealt with by so many persons. Nonetheless, I would like to go on record - I am sure hon. members on this side agree with me - as saying that the idea of having an organisation such as Seawell Air Services that is prepared to handle the ramp arrangements and the counter arrangements for a large number of airlines is one that makes for efficiency. That is my view. Barbados may never reach the stage where the individual airlines have to have separate terminals, but until we get that I believe that a uniform ramp and counter service is one of the best things you can get.

We in here have been pressing the Government, when West Indies Hospital Sweep and First National City Bank matters came up, to ask for increased rents; so it lies ill in the mouth of the Government to say that we are charging Air Services too little rent when we in the Opposition have been saying that users of the Airport generally are not paying enough rent. That has been the burden of our plea on numerous occasions. If Seawell Air Services and

the other airlines, which maintain their own traffic counter at Seawell Airport, are not being charged enough rent, then things like maintenance I would regard as recoverable expenditure; that should be an expenditure which is thoroughly covered by the rents paid by the 5.05 p.m.
airlines which move the baggage. I do not know if hon. members dealt with Item 30 – Utilities, $141,600 to meet the payment for the supply of electricity and water. All of those should be reflected in the rent normally paid by Seawell Air Services, by City Bank which says it is the only Bank at the Airport as far as I can recall, by West Indies Hospital Sweep and so on.

Now the aircraft landing fees are $3.7 million. The Government pays out for telephone $38,400 and gets back $30,000 in exchange, yet as hon. members will be aware, it is the Government's switchboard that all the airlines at Seawell appear to use. If you want any airline you ring the Government's number and they put you on to the airline. I cannot conceive that the Government's use of the telephone at Seawell is $8,000 compared to only $30,000 for all the airlines' and the other organisations' use. All the concessions and the rentals at Seawell amount to $350,000, yet we are paying out for furniture and equipment $3,000, maintenance of buildings $42,000, maintenance of roads $148,000, maintenance of equipment $4,000, Utilities $141,000. That rent includes the rent from Texaco...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way, I was looking all through the Head for telephones, and I could not find any such item, and the hon. member is suggesting that the Government is paying out $38,400 which appears under Item 19, but that is not telephones; that is communications, because if he reads the note, it says: "To meet the cost of Service Charge for the maintenance of the Automatic Telephone exchange and telephones for officers. Increase due to additional services and increase in maintenance charges." So it is not only the telephones at Seawell but the officers' telephones as well that have to be paid for, and if we are renting any teleprint service, I presume that would have to come out of that too because our telex is rented from the Telephone Company. We do not rent telex from Cable & Wireless; we rent telex from the Telephone Company as such.

Mr. ADAMS: I was reading the note to Item 19 and obviously I was misled because the note to Item 19 says "To meet the cost of the Service Charge for the maintenance of the Automatic Telephone exchange." It does not say anything about telex. The Item is Communications and the note says it is for telephones. I am sure that having it drawn to his attention and having had Item 19 pointed out, the Prime Minister will look into that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Hon. Minister and I were looking for telephones under the Head and could not find it, and eventually I found the figure under Communications; so I do not think that remark is really carrying the debate any further.

Mr. ADAMS: I meant the cost of the telephones as pointed out and he found the item under Communications. The main renters are Texaco, Shell Antilles & Guianas Ltd., Esso, B.W.I.A. and Seawell Air Services, and one would think that Texaco, Shell Antilles & Guianas Ltd, paying for a concession to supply aeroplanes with expensive aviation fuel and Seawell Air Services and B.W.I.A, should be able between them to pay more than $350,000, especially if B.O.A.C. is paying Seawell Air Services $1 million a year as the Prime Minister says. $1 million a year is a lot of money. If they are paying Seawell Air Services $1 million a year, I do not know how much Seawell Air Services are paying the Government; I know the gross figure but I do not know what the individual Seawell Air Services figure is; but all of that we would feel should be reflected in some additional revenue.

While it is true that these rentals have gone up by $70,000, we have heard the Prime Minister say today that he thinks it should be doubled and not gone up by that amount. Electricity brings in $66,000, but for electricity and water we have to pay out $141,600. There is no charge to reflect the fact that if you have a night landing that the airline making the night landing would have to pay a little more than a day landing. Is there no greater landing charge to land at night than to land in the day?

Now the Prime Minister has not found it necessary to deal with Pan American this year, so I suppose that means good news and that without arresting the 707 we have been able to collect the money from Pan American World Airways. I will give the Prime Minister the chance, if he cares, to say if there is anything to say about Pan Am. It seems that Pan Am is paying the increase. Has Pan Am restored the flight that they took away when the dispute was at its height?

Now the professional cleaning and maintenance services cost $52,000. I do not know who has the contract, but whoever has the cleaning service we are satisfied is doing a good

job, but they are also cleaning the counter . . . *(Asides)* Well I have not fallen down at the Airport recently, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Since the hon. member has heard who the Chief Director is, he seems to be satisfied, but none of the rest of us is satisfied. I think he is the only one in the House who is satisfied. I am glad to hear that because one of his candidates is the managing director of the firm; so we do not discriminate in contracts, we are concerned about performance, and I honestly do not think that we are getting the job done that we want done. I am not really criticising but it is a big job and you should not undertake these things unless you can do them.

Mr. ADAMS: At least they are cleaning in front of the counter and all these matters should be reflected in increased rentals. I think only one member of this Honourable House has recently fallen down at the Airport; that is when the cleaning is done to too high a standard.
5.15 p.m.

What we would like also to know on this side is to have some idea of it there is going to be a report published by the Airport Development Project team. This is a matter that concerns us all, and we would like to know exactly what plans and projections there are for the development of the airport. I will not go over what has been said in past Estimates but there was a very general dissatisfaction three years ago with the then extensions at the airport, and some work has been done since. I myself am not even satisfied with the new extensions, but I am not dealing with that at the moment.

We would be glad to know if a report has been published. I will suggest to the Government that this is a matter, bearing in mind all the bad piece-meal work that has been done at that airport in the past under both regimes, this is a matter which deserves the very fullest public attention. They can have a public enquiry for the development plan of the roads going in and through Bridgetown, you should have a public enquiry about airport development. A lot more money is going to be spent on this airport than is going to be spent on the roads. I have not seen any politician brave enough to say we should be looking about double tracking highway 1 and highway 7. It will have to come, but at the moment nobody has yet put forward any suggestion for doing it, and yet I do not believe that the double tracking or putting at least another lane into highway 7 will cost as much as the necessary work to be done at the airport, and that would be a matter upon which there would be the greatest public investigation and consideration before it was undertaken, so I would seriously suggest that any airport development project should come before the public in the most open possible way.

There is also another point in connection with the airport development. I am informed that there has been a general freezing of certain land developments right down as far as Oistins in connection with airport development. Certainly persons making applications to Town Planning...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to correct the hon. member. The freezing of applications is in respect of land between, let us say, Charnocks and going up that way. We have acquired the land on what we call Zero 9 which is the threshold of the runway where you take off and so, that is Thyme Bottom where there are something like 38 individual owners. We have acquired that land – I think we brought the notice in here two weeks ago – but I held a Press Conference, as far as I can remember – I have so many things to do I cannot even remember what happened yesterday, I am concerned with what is going to happen tomorrow – and I explained in the rough outline what the plans were for an additional runway, to see if hon. members can remember, parallel with the existing runway.

There are some proposed developments from Oldbury Woods through north of Penny Hole going all the way up to a bay with a funny name. *(Asides)* I opened the district and it is still marked Penny Hole on the map so I prefer to call it so. I understand the district is now called Gemswick, but I am calling the name which is familiar to me, better known as Penny Hole, St. Philip. The place which used to be known as Penny Hole, and there is a little bay to the east of that, the name of which I cannot remember. The runway will affect, not that the runway will run actually into the sea, it will start approximately at Charnocks, which means the road from St. Bartholomew's Church has to be diverted to the north and it will run 12,000 feet, but this is for 1978, 1980 or somewhere around there when we will need the two runways.

The plan will be presented to the House in due course, but the plan is a study done by the Inter-American Development Bank and it is not strictly our property; when they have vetted it and we have put forward to them our amendments which we have done – like last week because it was only presented to me in December – at that time I will lay it before the House, but on the question of roads, as far as

I remember again, we laid the Physical Development Plan of the island which has been the subject of an enquiry by a Judge of the High Court before the members of this House, and it shows clearly that there is to be a road from the airport right away down skirting Bridgetown and continuing along the west of the island as far north as Speightstown. We are aware of this, but the estimated cost of that road is something like, two years ago, $51 million. The total projected cost of the airport up to now including the new runway is only in the order of something like $33 million in rough figures.

Mr. ADAMS: So half of the road which I said will be duplicating Highway 7 will cost less than the airport, this is what I am speaking of. In 1978-79, in the fullness of time we will consider how far past Charnocks we wish the runway to go. I appreciate what the Prime Minister has said about the plan in fact being a private plan.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: All plans which we get from international agencies can only be released when they say they can be released, but the first people who will see it are members of Parliament. As a matter of fact, I have stated in outline what the plans are, and when I get permission I will be willing to bring all the maps and plans and let the members of the House see them because there is no secrecy about it, the reason why I held the Press Conference was that there are various developers and people who are seeking to buy land. Ocean City, I think, is one area, somewhere around the Kirton's area, between Oldbury Woods parallel with the runway you can see a lot of people will be affected not only by the actual construction, but a question of access. How are they going to get into their developments?

Then there is the question of the noise zones and so on, so we are merely warning people if they are going to build up there. A couple of weeks ago I had Sir Clyde Archer in, he owns some land up there, and he asked my advice and I told him that he should check out the noise zones and so on, because I, personally, seeing where his land is although the runway does not run through it, would find it very uncomfortable to live at a point just where the planes rotate and begin to take off with their full power, so we have been trying to warn people about building and so up there. If they do build we have to compensate them; this is the big problem, so we have had to ask the Chief Town Planner to warn people that he is not willing in their own interest to give permission to build anywhere within the zone which we consider might lay the Government open to paying for private or public nuisance as the case may be, but if people do build and we put the runway there, then we will have to compensate them, but we are not freezing any development down to the Lighthouse or Gibbons Bogs, or Pegwell Bogs, and we are not really freezing development there for that reason, the development there has been frozen until the Rising Sun reservoir and the new well at Hampton is complete for water supply reasons, I want to make that clear, not for the aerodrome extension. All of that will be in the area for reconstruction for water reasons.

5.25 p.m.

Now, the new extension which has already commenced at Zero 9 down to Thyme Bottom will not cause any diversion to the road that comes from the Gas Station, formerly managed and owned by a former Vice President of the people on the other side, coming down towards Wilcox. There will be no diversion to that road. At first we thought we had to bridge it at a cost of $50,000, but the runway is not going to come as far as that. There will be no diversion there, and there is no reason to freeze any land beyond that road to the West. *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, St. Bartholomew's school is already sited outside of the noise zone; it is to the North of it, and I think the former Leader of the Opposition was here when I brought a plan to show him that all of that had been considered in the siting of the St. Bartholomew school. It is not in the noise zone, because the aircrafts are quieter when they are coming in to land, but it is when they are taking off over St. Philip that you have to start worrying because the noise increases.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister has answered the question of the land frozen in Oistin, but he has said something that alarms me a bit. I will have to go and look it up. No doubt he has been legally advised, and I would certainly need legal advice, too, because I am unfamiliar that when you have an airport you necessarily have to give compensation for noise. I know the law of nuisance, but I was unfamiliar that there was any special rule. I wonder if this was known to householders in Christ Church all along. While it is true that they do not have the same amount of noise coming in, there are a lot of householders who will be affected by the noise. I can think of the hon. member for St. Philip South, because 12,000 feet from Charnocks will render his new mansion uninhabitable when aeroplanes begin to take off next door.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Philip South

may be able to convert his residence into a "Flash In" at one end and the "Flash Out" at the other end.

Mr. ADAMS: Might it not be better to suggest to the Town Planner that, to avoid any possibility of the Government having to give compensation, no permission is given at all to build in the area concerned? That is common sense. It would only be a way of people applying to build, putting up something as cheap as you can put it up, and, when the runway is built in 10 years' time, let it fall down and say that the noise threw it down.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the real problem is that outline permission has been given to all of those areas in St. Philip for development. When people come for detailed planning permission to the Town Planner, he cannot tell them they cannot build, but he is suggesting to them that they had better hold off until things are defined. You cannot tell who is on one side of the line and who is on the other side of the line by looking at the 50,000 Map of Barbados. When we get this well surveyed and defined, we will be in a position to say with accuracy who are in or out of the zone. We are trying to assist the people, but the outline permission for development has already been given. That is the big problem, and we cannot say that we are not going to give them permission. All we can do is warn them that if they build they might put the Government in financial embarrassment.

The question that the sum of $1,199,813 under Head 21 – Civil Aviation Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 – ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION

Head 22 – Establishments Division – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $557,420 under Head 22 – Establishments Division – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 23 – PRINTING OFFICE

Head 23 – Printing Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move thatthe sum of $198,598 under Head 23 – Printing Office – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is agreed that a very considerable saving can be effected by maintaining the Government Printery. If we are to think in terms of maintaining it at the present cost to effect a saving that is an entirely different matter for us, but what we on this side of the House are prepared to maintain is that no private concern whatsoever could find the money to pour into the Government Printery year after year as we find this House has been called upon to do. We learned, I think, only yesterday when there was a bit of information proffered about the Government Printery that there are plans for providing additional space. I think I am right in saying that it was then said that it was depending more or less on the Department of Town and Country Planning vacating its present premises.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I believe that, if we could be told at this stage when there is any semblance of a likelihood of Town and Country Planning moving out, it would help us in very great measure, because one of our problems in Parliament is that we have work which we want done. Every member of Parliament has agreed that we want to see the Government Printery functioning at its best, but we on this side want to know that the work of Parliament is speeded up.

You will find here today when we were debating Head 18 – Training Division – it was after I got up to speak that I had the benefit, if benefit I can say, of this copy of the Report handed to me at my request. Since I have been presented with this document, I have carried out investigations to learn that this Report had been in the hands of the Government Printers for two years, and not for printing. All the Government Printery has done with this Report is to print the covers. It took the Government Printery two years to print the covers only. We either have to be serious about this Government Printery, or be hypocrites for the rest of our lives.

5.35 p.m.

It is a question of the taxpayers' money being spent, and we know that every development by Government means extra load being thrown upon the Government Printery. Nobody will deny this. We have from time to time been asked to vote money to re-equip the Government Printery, but, Mr. Chairman, the machines do not usually man themselves, and if we were to look at the staff of

the Government Printery, what we are going to see is that if we were to take up all the machinery that is to be found in the United States of America and elsewhere and house it wherever it should be housed to do the Government's printing, that is not going to be the answer. Now you have the post of a Government Printer; the Government Printer is acting; the Assistant Government Printer is acting; the post of Plant Superintendant is vacant; the Supervisor of the composing section is acting; we have got to ask if the post of Proof Reader has ever been filled. We would like to know if they advertised for a Proof Reader, and if the post has never been filled, what is the difficulty.

Our reasons for going down to these levels, Mr. Chairman, is that we are serious in our approach to this matter of Government printing. We want to know that we get the best out of the Government Printery; we want to know that the various Government Departments do not have to wait two years to get a little covering paper put on a report, because you will understand that when this has got to remain for two years in the hands of the Government Printer, it would mean that the Ministry could not be in possession of it, and as a consequence it could not have been laid on the Table of the House for circulation to hon. members, so that we turned up here today, Mr. Chairman, to do the people's business without having the necessary reports upon which to base any arguments. The work of Parliament is delayed through all this. We are trying to get away from all this and that is the reason for adopting this method of approach in dealing with the Government Printery at least once more.

Now the Assistant Supervisor of the composing section is acting; my information is that the post of Copy Holder has never been filled, and we would like to know if advertisements ever went out. One cannot understand that at a place like the Government Printery where a store keeper is of the utmost importance to the Government, the post has been vacant for over two years.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is also the question of varitypists. You will find that the Government Printery has not been able to retain quite a number of its temporary staff. The girls are leaving and this is a matter which needs investigating. There is the question, Mr. Chairman, of spending $18,000 at Item 31 - Overtime. How are you going to tell me that any business is going to set about planning to spend $18,000 in overtime for any one year? It means that if you have supervisors that they are not doing the job, or if the supervisors are doing the job it means you do not have enough staff to turn out the work you are taking in, but if on the other hand it is found that your supervisors are doing their best, that all members of staff are doing their best, it would mean that you have got to look now to see the equipment that these people are using in doing their best to assess what their best amounts to. The Government Printery has had the experience of having three new varitype machines breaking down in the space of one month. I see the Minister is laughing; I believe he is laughing because he does not care what is happening. What has happened is that quite a bit of the machinery that the Government Printery has been toying around with from its inception comes into this island with no tools for servicing because the manufacturers stipulate that whenever something goes wrong with certain parts of these machines they must be repaired in the factory and tested, and the Government Printery has been saddled with the cost of flying these machines back out to the manufacturers. All of this, Mr. Chairman, has got to be borne by the poor taxpayers of this country.
5.45 p.m.

No private individual could or would stand for it, not even Lord Thomson, and it is known that Lord Thomson, rich as he is, is not prepared to spend a penny badly. That is why he is rich, and the same thing that the Government Printery has been advised to get away from is the very thing that Lord Thomson is prepared with all his money, with all his widsom, with all his desire to become richer and richer and to own everything that can be owned where printing is concerned, he is prepared to see to it that linotype machines be kept running in any Printery which he owns. The Government Printery has been advised to shy away from this. I do not mind who studied in depth, in length, or in whatever else, but the person who made the report gave bad advice.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, of this $18,000 Overtime, a Plant Superintendent is engaged on such a basis that he gets an extra allowance out of the overtime money for making night checks or after hour checks periodically. What we are saying is this, Mr. Chairman, if there is need for this type of thing at the Government Printery, if the volume of work is there, why not equip the Government Printery to do a two-shift system? The work is there, the various Departments of Government are crying out, but instead of this - and I heard the Prime Minister today talking about working people overtime in the case of Seawell Airport, and I have already made mention of it in dealing with the Customs - that when you call on people who have given or are supposed to have already given a full day's work to go on further and produce overtime merely because you are increasing their pay, they cannot increase their production because they are the people who are supposed to have given a full day's work already.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I think the hon. member has at last made a very valid point, and in view of these facts the physical space at the Government Printery is such that they suffer from lack of accommodation, and the question of increasing the staff is one that without having the physical space to put them would entail a certain amount of difficulty at present, but the two-shift is a good suggestion, and apart from the other points made that is a very good one which I will investigate.

Mr. HINDS: When the Minister was on his feet, Mr. Chairman, I thought he was going to tell us when the Town and Country Planning Department will move out, because it is one that we may be able to put forward some argument on for the Government Printery.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The position is, Sir, that certain Government Offices are being transferred after these Estimates have been passed in which provision is made for converting certain buildings at the Garrison for the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the present Minister for Home Affairs has suggested that the Town Planning Department could be more ideally and conveniently placed at the Garrison, so I can tell you exactly when this will be but it is a matter which is being worked on, and I would suspect that in another five or six months at the outside this plan should be in operation. The question of converting the Government buildings around the Garrison into offices is a big one, and there are spacious rooms there, but the question of lighting and ventilation and so on will have to be looked at.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I have been invited to say something here. It is not easy to set target dates on a matter like this. We want to start work immediately on the conversion of a large block which is now being used for residential purposes, housing public officers and so on, into Government accommodation. The plans have been prepared and we are about to proceed, but of course as you will appreciate, Sir, it will require substantial alterations, putting in the requisite amount of toilets and so on, and it is not easy to say how soon these plans will be completed, but I will state that it will commerce very shortly, and I have the assurance of the Minister responsible for Communications and Works that this work will be given top priority. I cannot say more than this, and I do not think I am in a position to help the hon. member any further as to when the Town Planning Department will be moved from its present site elsewhere.

5.55 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I have been advised that the plans have been submitted only yesterday by M.C.W. to provide space to house additional staff which will include offices for the Proof Reader, Copy Holder, and the Assistant Government Printer. This is the outcome of an inquiry carried out during this financial year, so that progress is being made. The position is that the existing building is congested, and, until we get more space to accommodate additional officers, there will always be a certain amount of embarrassment. The suggestion made by the hon. member for St. Peter in having a two-shift system seems to be a good solution. In any case the workers are using a fair amount of overtime, and it would be better to get greater production from a new staff coming in at four o'clock to take over from where the others have left off. I feel that will be a means of speeding up the entire printing business.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I did not expect to hear from the Minister that on any specific date the Town and Country Planning Office would be moved out, but I believe I have received enough information to make me understand that, perhaps, at least one year from today all of this will have been completed and we will be making some sort of progress. The Leader of the House mentioned the question of congestion, and he went on to say that as long as congestion remains there will be a certain amount of embarrassment. I take it that when he says that he means that it will be embarrassment to the various Government Departments that are depending upon the Government Printery to keep them supplied with their printing material for the execution of their various functions.

Now, in admitting the present congestion; in admitting that the Government Printery is being faced with a situation where it cannot cope or expect to cope with things for another year with the demands from the various Government Departments, would it not be safe for the Government to try wherever possible to allow some of the Departments to get some of their work printed elsewhere so that the public will not be inconvenienced?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I am sure he will remember that we came here with a Resolution for $300,000 which made provision for certain immediate work in order to provide more space on the existing site. When I referred to plans a few minutes ago, it was those plans to give immediate relief or assistance. In other words, some structural alteration would have to be carried out, for an additional structure would have to be put up at the

Government Printery. These are the plans to which I refer and for which money has been voted.

Mr. Chairman, there are two sets of plans; one plan is to improve conditions there, and there is a final plan to find more space. Those are the plans to which I referred when I spoke and which have been submitted only yesterday by the M.C.W. to provide space for additional staff which will include the offices for the Proof Reader, Copy Holder, and the Assistant Government Printer. Plan B provides for a new building which we want to put up on proper lines in order to permit proper supervision of work by the Government Printer and his Assistant. We were then told that we could probably get the Town and Country Planning building, and that is the reason for the delay.

The fact is that the Town and Country Planning Building is already in existence, and as soon as they move out we can move in and effect a big saving instead of spending $250,000 or more in providing a new building for the Government Printery. Although we were trying to provide something streamlined and built along modern lines and this might not be an ideal building for the persons concerned to have proper supervision over the work done, the fact that an existing building adjoining the Government Printery will be available must be taken into consideration and there is nothing more I can do in the matter. Any criticism of this would be out of place, because it is not my private business. If it is a question of saving $¼ million of the taxpayers' money; by having an existing building which could be used for that purpose, we would be saving a lot of money. As soon as the flats at the Garrison are renovated the Town and Country Planning Department with the appropriate Minister, the Attorney General and the Minister of Home Affairs will all go to the Garrison.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to tell the Minister that Government's plan is really to house the Town and Country Planning Department in a building to be erected at Fairchild Street. That is where the Government has earmarked to house the Town and Country Planning Department, and I challenge the Minister to deny that. All of this talk about getting the Town and Country Planning Department building in another month or so is merely a red herring across the trail.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I can only say what I have been told by the appropriate Minister of Housing and Lands who is in charge of accommodation. We were looking for a site to construct the new Government Printery, and we were told to hold our hands because the Town Planning Office which is adjacent would soon be vacant.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is to be appreciated that with the Town and Country Planning building being adjacent to the Government Printery it would, perhaps with some conversions here and there, be a better short-term investment than going to buy expensive land on which to construct a new Government Printery.
6.05 p.m.

The Government's problem is indeed a pressing one and this is what we want to get the Minister to become aware of. It is much more pressing, perhaps, Mr. Chairman, than the words of any hon. member in this House may be able to describe.We have Civil Servants who have got to serve the public and you will get one who feels that no responsibility rests on his shoulders when he cannot write a receipt or whatever it might be at the Courts because the Government Printery did not send down the receipt book. I have been able to give this Committee the benefit of the experience of mothers of children going to the courts and not being able to get the allowance that the fathers of the children were to pay to the Courts because the money could not have been received since there were no receipt books and other documents to do the necessary notations for the receiving of the money. Mr. Chairman, I am telling you that this is a crime against those poor little children whose parents have got to return home without anything to feed them.

It is admitted by each and every one of us that there is congestion and the Government Printery cannot turn out the work. We must accept it that the various departments are suffering. Are we going to go on fooling ourselves like this forever and ever Amen, Mr. Chairman? If members of Parliament would become much more serious about their own parliamentary affairs they would not go on and allow their own state of affairs where parliamentary printing is concerned to be as it is.

What do we find, Mr. Chairman? If a check was made we would find that the services of our Clerk and possibly two Clerks are lost for several hours during the week going to the Government Printery, we are maintaining that this is not good for Parliament or for the public's business, and that is why I am putting all of this behind us because I want to see something really and truly done. I do not want to know that we are getting this streamlined building, because in the same Government Printery there is no training scheme.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that I would never have become angry unless I had heard that this Head was to be debated today and this morning or half an hour before the Minister got

the plans. What were they doing during the past months when this situation obtained?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is speaking as though he is a total stranger. He was a member of the House when we passed a Resolution recently for $300,000 which included an appropriate sum for these immediate improvements. Within two months I have come back and said that the plans have been submitted by the Ministry of Communications and Works. Do you think you can get a plan in a week or a month? Plans were submitted for the specific purpose of providing accommodation for the offices. I will read the note for the third time because apparently the hon. member was not listening "Plans have been submitted only yesterday by M.C.W. to provide space to house additional staff which include offices for the Proof Reader, Copy Holder and Assistant Government Printer. This is all the outcome of an enquiry carried out during the financial year". You are saying that this is just a red herring and that nothing is being done. What more can we do? We have voted the money already, we have got the plans, and immediate extension will take place there, but we have plans for something on a bigger scale.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we on this side want. the Government to accept that it needs increased space. What Government should do then would be to get a plan for the increased accommodation, an estimate of what it would cost to put up the structure and then come to Parliament and say that you have a plan for doing so and so and that it would cost $300,000, $100,000 or what ever it might be; but do not come and tell us that you want $300,000 and you do not know what you are going to do with it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member is taking everything out of context. There was a Committee set up, I think under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. A. Burton who was knowledgeable in these matters, competent Government officials, and they submitted a report on the Government Printing Plant and Government Printing. That report will reach here eventually, but when I came for the $300,000, I gave the highlights of that report. The position is that it included not only money for alteration and addition to the existing building, but it included money for a new government Printing building and equipment. It was recommended in the report that it should be done in two phases, but realising the urgency of the matter we are trying to do the entire thing in one phase. Instead of coming for $100,000 or $150,000 now, and another $150,000 in 1973, we came for $300,000 some time in December or January as the hon. member knows.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the report that is so much referred to enabled the Government in any way to determine how the foreman-mechanic and a junior mechanic must be employed on the staff and then at Item 34 you have a vote of $8,000 for maintenance of equipment. These two officers are receiving $5,760 and $3,390 respectively. I wonder if the report has gone into this and what this sum of $8,000 is for if you have these two men. Are these not maintenance men?
6.15 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear from the Minister of a single spare part that has been bought by the Government Printery during the last financial year. I have a reason for asking this. For instance, as you will find throughout, what I will say here, I have no complaint that you are going to vote $127,300 as at Item 32 to purchase paper, inks, chemicals and the like, I have no complaints about that. If you are running a Printery you must carry stock, but Mr. Chairman,I could not stay here as a member of this Hon. House and see that the Government is content to be spending $127,000 buying material and do not care whether or not they have a Storekeeper; for two years? Do you mean there is nobody to be found in Barbados who is capable with all the unemployment we have about the place, to fill the post of Storekeeper at the Government Printery for a period of two years? They are making a mockery of all this. Does the report tell the Government not to spend $127,000 to buy material unless you have a qualified Storekeeper? What are we doing? On the other hand we may hear that somebody has been acting in the post. My submission is this now, if that could be advanced and the person has been giving satisfaction over a period of years, whatever time it might be, Government is doing an injustice to the person not to have the post filled after satisfaction has been given all along.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that irrespective of who carried out a survey at the Government Printery, unless you have before you specimens of the type of work that must come before the Government Printery from time to time you cannot become familiar with all of this overnight, and even then it is the method of approach by some people that will cause Government to get the type of report that they get each time when I maintain that they are being badly advised. The Government Printery is

badly in need of another rolling unit. If the Government knew this and it set about equipping the plant with this, you will find that Government will become more fully aware of what it is losing by not having a full staff of bookbinders attached to the Government Printery, and Government will then realise that when on the floor of this House Government was advised to use the Polytechnic as a place for providing all of these people with training in the basic skills for fitting into these positions, that the Government was getting the best possible advice, but they ignored it. As a result, Sir, the Government is still content after having established a Printery for so many years and seeing that it is not able to meet the requirements of the various Government Departments, including Parliament, day in and day out, week in and week out, the Government is still content to be employing staff on a catch as catch can basis, that is, catching a bookbinder from here and there, and from wherever it can. That, Mr. Chairman, could not convince you or make anybody feel that this must be the approach of a Government that is serious about its printing and about an institution such as this that we are now asked to spend something like $412,073 on in this financial year, let alone the supplementaries that are going to come from time to time.

What we are saying is this, what Government puts into the Government Printery is enough to cause Government to be much more serious and to take a broader view of all things surrounding the Government Printery and we would get better results. That is what we want. One must understand, Mr. Chairman – and this is something that is known – when the Head is acting, the second, the third, the fourth, all the way down the line everybody is acting, people cannot give of their best. It is a known fact, and the attitude of people today is that they are holding on until they appoint somebody else, but if an officer knows that he is going to be appointed in this post he is more likely to look at it with a much more serious view. He will throw more into it, and if the officer puts more into it it is true that more will eventually come out of it, and that is what we want. We want to see production increased, we want to see that the workers at the Government Printery are happy, that they work with greater ease, we want to know that the avenues for promotion are there, and we want to know, Mr. Chairman, than when a Department places its order the Government Printery can be so equipped that it can execute a full order and keep other Government Departments functioning. What we understand is going on, this hotch-potch approach, when you find Government having two or three machines and something goes wrong and you have to take the machines off the premises to get them fixed, that is not good enough. It would be much better if you had equipped yourself with machinery which could be serviced locally, unless in certain circumstances when a breakdown is major that you have to call in somebody from outside.

6.25 p.m.

Who knows, Mr. Chairman? We are convinced that the type of machinery that the Government has been encouraged from time to time to embark upon is too costly. The servicing and maintenance of these machines is too great when compared with any other printery that is doing similar work in any part of the Caribbean. Mr. Chairman, you will find quite a number of printeries in Barbados now becoming crazy with this offset printing. I remember there was a Hydleburgh craze in Barbados at one time. I remember passing Marhill Street where the late Mr. Dan Blackett has his show windows decorated and, as a man in the same business, I used to feel nervous when I passed there. On investigating the matter you will find that a man had taken $36,000 to buy a machine that is going to work fewer than 36 hours in a whole week, and in some cases fewer than 36 hours in a whole month, to print 500 handbills. That is nonsense, and that is what the Government has to be aware of.

In the Government Printery offset printing can be an asset, except in the case where the various Departments are going to change their formats regularly. The Government Printery ought to be equipped that if the courts of this Island are using standard forms – in other words, it is the function of the Government Printery to have a Government Printer who knows what he is about to have all of the Courts using a standard form.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, what sort of aspersion is that? What does the hon. member means by "a Government Printer who knows what he is about?" Is it the inference that the present Government Printer does not know what he is about? I think he is doing a very good job under the present circumstances.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Who says he is not? He is doing things according to his ability to do them. The point I was making, Mr. Chairman, is that you have the firm of Lands & Fargan who have been doing the bulk of printing for our Bridgetown firms, and they saw to it that the Bridgetown firms all carried one set size of forms. In the circumstances, when they started to print

for Barbados they could set up a machine and run it for a week or two weeks and turn out enough work to supply Barbados for nearly five years. All they had to do would be to change the heading, but the body of the form will be the same size, the same number of lines and so on. If the Government had somebody to discuss this matter in detail with the various Departments, a lot of this unnecessary delay could be avoided. Of course, the Customs is a sort of international set up and forms would have to be printed in accordance with international requirements in some cases.

Now, if all the Courts in the Island were using a complaint form of the same size and the same format, then the Government Printery could decide to print complaint forms or whatever it might be for the Courts, and in one day run off enough complaint forms to serve the Courts for six months or a year. After the job is completed, they could put away the plate until it is needed again. It is a question of liaison between the Government Printery and the various Government Departments. You will find the Welfare Department having little cards printed for pensions and so on, and that the monthly card is different from the weekly card. In my opinion all that is needed to distinguish them is to have cards of a different colour. The cards could be the same size with the different colour; the printing of the cards could be done in a day or two, and the Departments would have a good supply of cards at all times.

Of course, I appreciate that when the Government Printery is trying to meet the demands of a particular Department every other Head of Department or Permanent Secretary is also pressing to have his Department functioning properly. However, if things could be streamlined a lot of improvement could be made, if the people who are familiar with this type of thing are given an opportunity to prove their worth. That is why I believe that the Minister rose so quickly just now to catch at what he believes was some sort of aspersion towards the Acting Government Printer. I believe that the Government Printer would talk to the Minister privately and tell him whether or not what I have been saying could be found workable and to the lasting benefit of the Printery as a whole.
6.35 p.m.

I believe Mr. Chairman, that if attempts are made to fill these various fancies and to correct the staff structure at the Government Printery as soon as possible, and if they would set about encouraging Government to start a training scheme for printers at the Polytechnic from which they can draw...What one has got to determine is that if printers are trained they can demand their price. They are not now trained, some of them, and they are demanding their price. They are very scarce and they are taking advantage of the situation such as this, and you have got to pay them if you want them. I have had an experience at my own printery. I had a linotype operator from Trinidad and I was called upon if I wanted to keep him here to pay him $13 a week more than the Advocate has ever paid a linotype operator. I have a copy of the agreement between the Advocate and the Barbados Workers' Union and if I wanted to keep this second-rate man from Trinidad in Barbados, I would have to pay him $13 a week more than the Advocate paid their senior linotype operator; but that is not the worse. There are two other men in Trinidad willing to come over but their price is $130 a week as a start. If we had a training school for printers there is a field where they could be employed in the country because more and more printing is done in Barbados today than in years past and as our various industries are set up, there is no doubt that an increase in the volume of printing and consequently an increased job opportunity will be there. If we have neglected in the past to do it, the time has come when it must be faced. I feel, Sir, that undoubtedly the Head will be passed, but I would be glad to know that Government take to heart all that has been said on this Head and let us see if we can get something more out of the Government Printery from this money we are spending here today.

The question that the sum of $192,598 under Head 23 – Printing Office – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 24 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,256,045 under Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Leader of the House can tell me who is the Minister who is going to answer questions on this point. I wonder to whom I should direct my questions in the absence of the hon. member for St. Michael South-Central.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I would like him to indicate what item he is on and I think I may be in a position to give him additional information.

Mr. ADAMS: Item 16 is the first one. What sort of cypher officer works for $25 a month in the Barbados Government Service. You have Overtime $29,000 – to provide overtime. Includes remuneration at the rate of $25 a month each for Cypher Officer and Assistant Cypher Officer in respect of duties outside of normal official working hours. Does this mean that if the Prime Minister sends a telegram at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning or they had to decipher at that hour that $25 a month is considered sufficient. We would like to know how many Cypher Officers there are and how many Cypher telegrams are received monthly outside normal working hours at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since the hon. member for St. Michael North West says to ask all questions perhaps he will be able to answer that one.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On Item 16, in 1971-72 the sum of $28,645 was voted; in 1972-73 the amount is $29,000 which is an increase of $355. The breakdown is Headquarters, $600, High Commission in the United Kingdom, $6,400, Permanent Mission to the United Nations, $9,000, High Commission in Canada, $4,000 , Embassy at Washington, $4,000, Consulate General at New York, $5,000. Provision is made to pay for hours of work by the non-established staff of the Missions outside of normal working hours. Overtime rates are time and a half for normal week days and double time on Sundays and Bank holidays. Provision is also made for payment of the Cypher Officer and Assistant Cypher Officer at Headquarters in respect of duties performed outside of normal official working hours.

Mr. ADAMS: What we are saying is that it seems that $25 a month is such a frivolous amount that either there is no work and these are really allowances for the Cypher Officer just in case there might be work, or there may be work and the Cypher Officers are underpaid. What we are asking about here is the amount of work there is. What is $20 a month in 1972? I am sure the hon. member for Christ Church South Central would tell you that even in his days in the Registry anybody who had been offered $20 a month to come out even one day outside normal working hours to do something would prefer to stay home and enjoy himself in other more rewarding fields. What I would really ask for is a volume of the work being done.

Sir, there are a number of points that hon. members on this side are going to deal with, but I would like to deal with the house in London. I think it is Item 54, because I do not see a specific vote. The most disquieting reports are reaching Barbados about the condition of the house in London. Hon. members will recall that when the original vote came up in the House for this house in London, I commented at the time that it was a nice house; it lay on the river. I knew the house and on occasion had sailed past it and observed its qualities. It is,I believe, next to a much larger house which I believe is now used as an institution for the mentally unwell, and there is a little island close by it; but I commented that it did not seem a suitable house for a High Commissioner. It is a house for a retired person who likes sailing about in a boat on the river.
6.45 p.m.

I commented on this, and the then Leader of the House said that he thought that at the price it was a gift, that a more suitable house on a better site could hardly be found and so on. We understood later it was in the market for some seven years until Sir Lionel Luckhoo decided that it would be suitable. We understood that since then the boat which was one of its main attractions has been sunk, that the chandeliers have disappeared, that a car that was bought with the house, or a station wagon whatever it was, has vanished, that there had been television sets in the house which cannot now be found, we observed that this house which was a gift which had lawns going down the river – and I can assure hon. members from my memory of it that it did have lawns going down the river when I last saw it, which was some time in 1968...

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of explanation, I was observing that it was seen by the hon. member before it was acquired. He saw it in 1968 and the Government began negotiations for it in 1969; it was acquired in late 1969.

Mr. ADAMS: I said in the House that perhaps I knew the house before any member of the Government. Perhaps the hon. member had been reading my speech; I am glad he can remember so well the gist of what I said on that occasion. I have been familiar with that stretch on the river for some number of years. Not for one moment would I say I have not seen it before it was acquired; I have not seen it since it was acquired because I visited London on a C.P.A. course some years ago and I cannot recall the occasion of seeing it arising in 1970 when I was last in London. In 1968 I was there on a

private visit and therefore I reckon I was free to go where I wanted, but in addition to this $138,000 for general upkeep of these properties I see that we are also going to be asked to vote $142,000 for renovations to this house. The house cost L37,500, I think, the Capital Estimates - Head 110 - will reveal that renovations to Iverta, the official residence of the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, plus the purchase of Kitchen equipment for 6, Upper Belgrave Street is going to cost the sum of $142,000.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way I could probably assist him. With reference to Item 54 - Maintenance and Upkeep of Government Property, the amount if $138,483. In last year's Estimates we voted $114,100, an increase of $24,383. I will give a breakdown as I go through. The High Commission in the United Kingdom $26,199, Permanent Mission in the United Nations $48,926, High Commission in Canada $16,682, Embassy at Washington $33,300, Consulate General in New York $13,376, making a total of $138,483. It includes air conditioning at Pelham $2,450, maintenance of furniture, appliances, etc. $6,554, insurance $6,884, repairs $26,992, cleaning $5,370. (Asides). This is provision to carry out repairs and painting to the house at Pelham.

The exterior of the house requires painting, the front porch needs repairs, tiles are to be replaced, kitchen units and cupboards need to be replaced, the roadway leading to the car park and garage is in need of repair, and repairs to the gate are also necessary. Provision is also made for cleaning the buildings at the Overseas Missions and for the upkeep of gardens and grounds, including snow removal. Also included is provision for wages for domestic staff. The increase here is due mainly to the necessity for repairs to be done at Pelham and especially painting which is long overdue. I am drawing the member's attention to the big amounts which relate more to Pelham and not to the other place to which the hon. member referred on the bank of the Thames.

Mr. CRAIG: Would the Minister be in a position to tell us about the upkeep of Iverta for last year and for this year?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The High Commission in the United Kingdom, $26,199. That is the office.

Mr. ADAMS: We are not dealing with the office, we are trying to deal with Iverta. Is it true the station wagon has gone, is it true that the chandeliers have been taken away, is it true that the television sets are missing, is it true that the boat has sunk? I have to ask these questions. Three Civil Servants have made a tour recently we understand, and this may be one of the things about which they can give information. All these things we want to know about. Is it true that a complaint was made about the duty free concession in respect of liquor, that junior members of staff made a complaint about the High Commissioner cutting off their liquor? Have accusations been made of the sale of duty free liquor by persons who appear to be consuming large quantities but in fact were not consuming? All these are things we want to hear about.
6.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to know whether the hon. member is addressing the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: They are all talking, and I cannot hear myself for the instructions . . .

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The fact remains that I, as Chairman, can hear you; so you will continue addressing the Chairman.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I doubt whether you can hear me if I am not actually speaking. Anyway, we want to hear all of these things about the condition of this residence, its occupants, its furniture, its equipment, its beautiful lands leading down to the river, the boat, the Island and all of that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is probably beating the gun. If he will wait until we reach Capital Estimates, he will get an opportunity to deal with the question. I can tell you how this $138,000 will be spent. I can give you the breakdown. Do you want me to read something different from what I have been instructed to read? I have given you the breakdown and none of the money is for the purpose of sinking or recovering a boat, or taking people for a ride along the Thames or anything like that. All I see here is the various amounts which make up the sum of $138,483 which is the total amount. I have given you all the information on this particular item.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, no more has been spent on the maintenance of the building than has been voted by Parliament last year.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister must leave it for the Auditor General and the Public Accounts Committee to say whether more money was spent on a particular item than was

voted last year. It will be for the member for St. Michael West, the member for St. Michael South East, the member for St. Joseph, the member for Christ Church West and me to tell the Minister whether more money was spent or not. He does not have to worry about that. Let the Auditor General discuss it with whom he has to discuss it. That is not the information that we seek. We can get that information if we can get a quorum to come out. *(Asides.)* I know that you will come out now, because we are not doing the Housing Authority. You will come out and give us a quorum, because we do not have to hide anything. *(Asides.)* I am not referring to the hon. member for St. Michael West, because he has attended every meeting to which he has been summoned. Let me put it that way.

Mr. Chairman, we are hearing of these irregularities in connection with the house in London. The Capital Estimates obviously must be dealt with, and we are going to fire some very powerful guns when we get to that. I cannot believe that the replacement of a boat, a T.V. set, or a chandelier is going to come under Capital Estimates. It would not seem to me to be capital; it would seem to me to be a replacement or a non-recurrent vote under Current Estimates under Maintenance and Upkeep. If you can replace lawn mowers at Government House, then one would think that you can replace boats in London. We want to hear from the Minister if it is true that the boat is sunk. It is Government property, and we want to hear about it. Does the Minister have an inventory of what was in the house? Was an inventory ever supplied when the house was bought? Was an inventory taken when Sir Lionel Luckhoo left? Did Mr. Ramsay move in? Did Mr. Ramsay ever make any? Was an inventory taken when he moved in? Was an inventory taken when he moved out? Those are the things at which we are looking. I am indicating to the Minister some of the questions that he must ask the Permanent Secretary. A note will be taken of my questions and he can cross-examine the Permanent Secretary in exactly the same way. I have no access to any of the Permanent Secretaries. All of these are things that we have to worry about.

Mr. Chairman, it is known that there is a lot of disquiet over the Overseas vote. A Permanent Secretary has been removed from the establishment, and we have always said it was too big. We are now vindicated by seeing the reduction of a Permanent Secretary. It is considered by a reliable source that the votes for entertainment, the duty free concessions and so on are more than enough, and disquiet exist in may quarters as to these matters.

Now, there is a vote under Auditor General for the audit of the accounts of Overseas Missions overseas. A commission, I believe, has recently been around these Overseas Departments. We would like to know if that commission of civil servants is going to submit a Report to the Minister, and if that Report will be made available to us. There are other means of investigating financial infelicities, and I will not at this stage say irregularities. There are other means of investigating them, and I can assure hon. members that those means will be pursued. We want to know if the Government hears the disquiet of hon. members on this side of the House, or if a whitewashed job is going to be done on this.

I do not think that Barbados has been well represented in Europe. I have nothing but good reports of our representation in Washington and Canada, but in New York at all levels and in London I do not have such good reports, and so far as I have been able to form my own opinions those opinions coincide with the reports. We have a vote here; it is not a statutory expenditure, and I can talk on it. I refer to Item 18. How do you think I, as a Barbadian, feel when I hear an interview being broadcast with a person who enjoyed a position at the head of one of our Diplomatic Missions – *(Asides.)* At one time it was Item 18 and at another it was Item 27 – and I hear an interview with him in New York in which he says that so great is his charisma that when he speaks at the United Nations you can hear a pin drop, and not only are his contributions on Afro-Asian matters listened to with keen attention by all members, but even when he speaks on the Middle East every delegate flocks to the hall to hear what he has to say? I heard this with my own ears. *(Asides.)* It was over a broadcast interview. I have never yet heard in my entire life any man before him say or write that he possessed such charisma and that every word he said was listened to with great attention. Never have I heard that from anybody. *(Asides.)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. members on my right to adhere to Standing Order 29(6).

Mr. ADAMS: Nor has anybody that I have ever seen head a Political Party in this House or in Barbados said that sort of thing. I do not know anybody in this House, apart from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, who tells people how important he is – *(Asides.)* You all sit in the Cabinet with him, and you are obviously aware of the power with which he blows his own trumpet, but he is a boy in the

yard when compared with this Item 18 and Item 27 person. I have never heard anything like it, and I would ask the Government to consider the suitability of having such a man as Barbados' representative. *(Asides.)* I am serious about this, and it is not a personal attack. Are you telling me that I cannot discuss the personalities of our country's representatives abroad? Do not tell me that. *(Asides.)* Can you tell me when he joined the Public Service of this Island? Where was he ever a clerical or administrative officer in Barbados? Tell me what grade he was in in the Civil Service.

Mr. Chairman, a few days ago we heard the Prime Minister attack officers of the entire Labour Department; attack those persons who have joined private industries from the Labour Department; refer to a particular one who joined the Barbados Workers' Union, and say that he advised the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union not to employ him.
7.05 p.m.

We have heard the Prime Minister say that he had advised the hon. member not to employ him.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union does not seek advice from the Prime Minister on whom to employ. However, he never said he advised me whom to employ, he said that I must be out of my cotton-picking mind to have a man like that employed. He was already employed, so I do not have to seek the advice of the Prime Minister.

Mr. ADAMS: I am glad I have given the hon. member for St. Michael-West the opportunity of saying that. I am sorry he did not have the courage to say that when the Prime Minister made the original statements in the first place.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, it is nothing on which to say I did not have the courage. I am saying it now that the hon. member is misquoting because you said he advised me whom we should employ, but we had already employed the officer, and he said he was opposed to the officer that was employed and that I must have gone out of my cotton- picking mind. You are talking about not having courage, but you could not bait me into saying things. The Prime Minister and I share views because both of us are socialists. None of you could ever possess the courage I have because I fought against your late father and all the powers that be in this country, and will fight against any of them again. *(Asides.)* Don't worry with him. I do not have to fight against him; I would have to wait until I go to prison to do that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I do not think it is in order for one hon. member to refer to another hon. member as "him" and making remarks derogatory. Obviously they are out of order in the circumstances. I know that hon. members' tempers are getting a bit high, but perhaps hon. members could help you by restraining themselves a bit.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not intend to restrain myself except along the lines which the hon. member suggested. You can turn down the personalities, but do not let anybody accuse me of dealing in personalities. When we have had the christian name of the manager of Searles Factory called and a statement made that 73 offences were committed for which conviction should lie and tell me anything about personality coming from this side of the House. We have had all that this afternoon. Let us be realistic and honest with ourselves; let us examine self before we sit down and heckle honest straightforward constructive debate whether you want to admit it is constructive or not, because I repeat this country's representation abroad at any level, the personality of the man, his competence, all of it, is called in question on this vote particularly where it relates to the High Commissioner, the Permanent Representative, because money has to be specifically appropriated for those positions no matter who holds them. It is not a question of statutory expenditure and it is good debate in here to question the suitability of who is to draw the money, and I do not think that Barbados can make itself other than ridiculous when a man gets in New York and tells a newspaper reporter and it is broadcast, and I am going to repeat . . . . *(Asides)* Only I heard it? I am sorry that nobody on the opposite side listens to C.B.C. If nobody wishes to be educated by the voice of education and information, it is a matter for the Minister over there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking hon. members once again who are not addressing the Chair to speak in undertones. I am not supposed to hear any sound whatsoever coming from any side when an hon. member is speaking. I want this debate to remain at the highest level and let us get through the Head. I do not want to hear about personalities; I want to hear the Head discussed so that we can get through with these Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to say something. It is easy to attack people

for inaccuracy; I believe that you can just say he is inaccurate and does not quote correctly and so on when you feel secure in the knowledge at the time that the reports of Parliament or the documents you are referring to will not be published or that a broadcast interview is not going to be presented.

I think on the last Estimates when I spoke on this Head or it may have been the Estimates before the last, I spoke of the allegation of fraud in the Guyana elections. It is a very small point, and there was a general howl when I referred to Dr. Jagan talking about a ballot box being opened and the votes were still tied together; they had not been untied yet when the box was packed and so on. On that occasion I said I had a document which was circulated and hon. members did not believe it. I had even taken the trouble of bringing the document here, but I did not worry to contradict those people who shouted and suggested that I was not telling the truth. If hon. members are going to say that I am the only person who heard this broadcast, they have the Minister of Broadcasting there. The hon. member for the City of Bridgetown heard it. Ask him before any hon. member dare tell me that I am saying anything false to get a transcript of the interview between Mr. Waldo Ramsey and Mr. Tony Best and see if in a short passage the words "charismatic carry-over", the words "you could hear a pin drop when I spoke" the words "they listened with rapt attention to my contribution on the Middle Eastern debate" do not occur on that tape. If any hon. member wishes to contradict me let him bring that in here and make it a document of the House and contradict me by it. I am getting thoroughly tired of having my powers of recall such as they are questioned.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, I would really like to know what this has to do with the matter we are discussing because Standing Order No. 60(10) which deals with the Appropriation Bill reads:-

"On the question "that the sum of $ for Head stand part", the debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided....."

In fact clearly we are going way outside the policy of the service and discussing what a Mr. Ramsey may have said to Mr. Tony Best. My suggestion, Mr. Chairman, is that the hon. member is going beyond the bounds of what he is allowed by the Standing Order, and for that reason he is out of order. Hon. members should get their Standing Orders and refer to that Order.

Mr. ADAMS: This afternoon the hon. member could not be found to get up and ask what Mr. Clyde Bullen and the Labour Department had to do with Civil Aviation, but he can get up to ask what I am saying has to do with the policy of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I want to get this point clear. I did not do it just now, but since the hon. member has raised it a second time, I want to say that the only reference made to Mr. Bullen's name this afternoon that I heard was the reference by the Prime Minister when he said he was not referring to Mr.Bullen.

Mr. ADAMS: He said the Labour Officer got on the telephone and said "Hello Clyde" because he believes he calls him by his first name.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, that is not true. He said you can get on a telephone and call up a person and you can call him by his first name and say "Hello Clyde", and then he said he was not referring to Mr. Bullen.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point properly made.

Mr. ADAMS: I say that it was irrelevant to mention Mr. Bullen's name at all, and two hon. members have now said that Mr. Bullen's name was mentioned and they criticised me for saying that Mr. Bullen's name was mentioned, and the first name "Clyde" too. What are you going to do with people like this? Mr. Chairman, anyway the point is this: those of us who have been in here a little time know that the policy of a department embraces such things in a Head such as this as who is representing Barbados. We know that.

7.15 p.m.

We well know that the policy of a Department although it may say in the details that the expenditure should not be questioned, in the policy of a Department you ask for maintenance and upkeep of Government property, you do in fact say how is the policy of the Department exemplified under this Item in the spending. We know that that is how business is done. I do not believe that I have given you any trouble yet in these Estimates, Mr. Chairman, by going outside what should be gone outside of, certainly you have not had to ask me to confine my remarks to the Head so far, and I believe it is only you who can call on me to confine myself to the Head being discussed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is why I am asking you to carry on and stick to the Head.

Mr. ADAMS: Thank you, Sir. *(Asides.)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to decide what any hon. member in this Chamber must stick to and what asides I am prepared to accept.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I was merely suggesting to the hon. member that in fact the Chairman has no more power than is allowed to him under the Standing Orders.

Mr. ADAMS: Are he and I debating now what power the Chair has? I could not be so presumptuous as to tell an hon. member what power the Chairman has.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already stated today in this Chamber that I know where the trouble is, all lawyers.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to you, you said you know where the trouble is, but you cannot classify lawyers as all lawyers. *(Asides.)* Mr. Chairman, I thought the Pope was in the Vatican; we had to remove a Pope from in here already, I would like you to remind the Pope that you can put him outside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We have no Pope in here; we have one Chairman, and all the rest are hon. members.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would never classify the lawyers as picking fares, I think the profession should be more dignified.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is why I have already made a statement relating to the lawyers.

Mr. ADAMS: I think that the hon. member for St. Michael North West – and I am going to be very provoking – in his well-known capacity for mis-understanding the printed word has, I think, taken too narrow a view of what is meant by Standing Order 60(10). We in this House get to know what it means, but I will say then on his narrow view it is not the intention of the Opposition to re-open the 1965 debate for independence alone or independence with the Eastern Caribbean, we are not in fact going to be talking this year about the larger policy in its widest sense, we are not talking about foreign policy in other words, but I do not think that any hon. member construes the purpose of Estimates to be that we are only allowed to say, for instance, should the Foreign Office of Barbados take this or that line in the Middle East.

We do not intend on this side to press too much on that, and therefore hon. members must expect that it is the administration policy of the Department, it is the expenditure policy of the Department, it is the entertainment policy of the Department, the maintenance and upkeep policy of the Department, the utilities policy of the Department, the radio interview policy of the Department that we are talking about today. My view is that diplomats should be subject to the same restrictions with respect to radio interviews as Civil Servants are in Barbados. Nobody would like a Barbados in which the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs went on the air and told you that Barbados is very lucky to have him because he is a highly qualified man and he has experience abroad, people rely on him and look on him as a trustworthy man. All that happens to be true, but not one of us in here would like to hear it said on a radio broadcast, we would think it impertinent, and I do not believe that this sort of thing enhances Barbados. They say it is not fair to the man, I feel it is not fair to Barbados for the man to be so grandiose.

I do not know if the man really said that the Prime Minister is a Battle of Britain pilot, I only read that in the papers, but that would be a ridiculous and absurd thing to say, it is not anything that the Prime Minister has even remotely claimed for himself. You have never heard the Prime Minister say that he saw war action, so to speak, which is also true, because I believe that the Prime Minister's service was limited to one mission and that mission was to drop leaflets, but when a man goes abroad and stands up and tells the United Nations that the Prime Minister of his country was a Battle of Britain pilot and would not be allowed to re-enter Britain to settle there, that is a gross misrepresentation of the truth, and it is the sort of misrepresentation that makes Barbados look ridiculous. No hon. member need fool himself about that, it makes Barbados look ridiculous. That is my purpose in dealing with that particular point.

Now, Sir, Entertainment $23,000, over and above the ordinary cost. What can I say about that, Sir? I believe that we should leave that part out until we see an Auditor General's report upon the expenditure of money that is actually spent overseas.

I want to deal with something that was raised in here on the last supplementary dealing with this Department, that is, the Newsletter. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central after accusing the Opposition of lying in saying that they had not seen copies of the Newsletter,

promised that Newsletters would be made available. I do not believe that the House of Assembly has received one from Canada, London or wherever these Newsletters are printed. Some were to have been brought down for us to look at. I understood the hon. member to be saying on that occasion that they would be made available to the House. I believe we should get them. Every member gets appropriate documentation from the Government Information Department, we get reports and so on, something like this which is not available to us in Barbados, because as far as I know you cannot go to the Information kiosk and buy them, the Minister of Information will no doubt be able to elucidate that if it is thought necessary. Where documents are being published in the name of Barbados abroad they should be subject to the scrutiny of a body such as the House of Assembly, and I think the Committee should call on the Minister of Information and the Leader of the House to see that this is done as promised. That comes under Public Relations, Item 59. We recently had a vote on that.

I want to ask about Item 64. I want it to be clearly understood that in questioning Item 64 we are not questioning the competence or indeed one may say the brilliance which the report says the officer at West Palm Beach carries out his affairs. This is the report we get. We get good reports and we get bad reports; maybe both are wrong, but we only get good reports from Palm Beach, but we would like to have a breakdown. 7.25 p.m.

Sir, under Item 64, we are not questioning the competence or the brilliance with which report says the officer at West Palm Beach carries out his affairs. We get good reports and we get bad reports. Maybe both are wrong, but we have had good reports from Palm Beach. We would like to have a breakdown on West Palm Beach. Is the officer concerned expected to provide his own secretarial services out of the grant that he gets?

Personally, I must say nothing but praise for the one occasion in which I came in the contract with this office. A lady in my own constituency wished to trace her son whom she heard was in the Mental Hospital in Florida. An enquiry was sent off to Washington and, apparently it reached West Palm Beach on a Monday and by Wednesday afternoon the officer had found the young man, had spoken to him, and made other enquiries and prepared a report which he sent back to Washington. I said yesterday that I wish the Prime Minister could bite the Minister of Home Affairs. I wish that that officer at West Palm Beach could bite some of our civil servants in Barbados and get them to work as quickly, as usefully and expeditiously. The matter was settled and he did everything that had to be done in a day and a half. I wish that that state of affairs could extend to other Departments of the Public Service. Of course, that particular officer was trained in the hard school of the Law Court where, if you did not do something in 14 days, you may find that you have to pull your own pocket, if you are not alert.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I will give the information on Item /$ – Consulate, West Palm Beach. In 1971-72 the vote was $28,620; in 1972-73 it was increased to $30,400 an increase of $1,800. The breakdown the hon. member asked for is:

Allowance to Consul in respect of travelling, entertainment, and other out-of-pocket expenses	$ 9,120
Rental of office accommodation	5,322
Secretarial Services..	10,032
Office expenses	5,926
Total	$ 30,400

Provision to meet the cost of operating the Consulate at West Palm Beach and includes expenses of the Consul himself, the cost of renting office accommodation, the salary paid to the secretary, and funds for stationery, newspapers and other items necessary for the operation of the office. That is the information.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I can only congratulate the Government on having a Consulate operating at actually less than that of a Secretarial service. I am going to make a suggestion. West Palm Beach is the only place where I see this type of organisation existing. West Palm Beach is a centre for a certain number of migrant and transitory Barbadians, but there are other places in Britain in the North of England and in Wales. I wonder if the Government would consider reducing the High Commissioner's vote and having a Consulate of this type in the North of England. It is something in the long run which might pay us better than having people travelling to and from London into a locality to deal with local problems on the basis of local experience. It is that which I would urge on the Minister of External Affairs through his representatives in this House.

There are a lot of Barbadians living in Britain. It is true that many of them do not call to be represented by Barbados' High

Commissioner, because they have qualified for British citizenship. I can remember many disputes in the past in the days before Independence. Perhaps they may have diminished, but I imagine there are still a number of Barbadians who have been there for 5 years and are registered as British citizens, and having dual nationality are not entitled to claim the nationality of their first country rather than their nationality in the prelude of the second. Nonetheless, there might still be a large number of Barbadians in England who do not have dual nationality and who, therefore, require strict Consular Services. I would suggest some decentralisation of the Consular Services in respect of England. I do not know enough about Barbadian citizens in the United States of America and their geographical distribution to know whether this house ought to pursue an expansion of the Consular Services in Boston and Chicago. You will hear more about this in due course, but I will argue that on the Government.

From what we have heard of West Palm Beach, $30,000 is nothing in the field of $3.6 million. The actual expenditure on foreign affairs last year is $3.8 million compared with the $500,000 that the Prime Minister promised us when he was preparing us to abandon our brethren in the Eastern Caribbean.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer to the request by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition concerning the Newsletters which have been sent from the Overseas Mission. I will undertake to assure him that I will see that the Shadow Minister of Information who, I believe, is the hon. member for Christ Church West, is supplied with a copy of all of these Newsletters as they come to hand.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad for the assurance of the hon. member who has just sat down. I much prefer it to that of his normal right hand colleague who is not now in his place.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to get into any argument with lawyers. I shall try to confine the remarks which I shall make under this Head to broad principles and in some respects to try to be constructive in dealing with the Government. It is an undoubted fact that any Independent country must carry some form of overseas representation if simply because it has to defend its various nationals abroad, its vital interest, and the vital interest of this country must of necessity be primarily in trade matters. I do not think we can have any luxury Missions; I do not think we can have any luxury Commissioners. I believe that this broad principle is accepted by the Government, but I think that there are areas in which we should like to get a bit more mileage out of the money which we spend. I think there are areas in which we should try as much as possible to advertise what services are being given by the Ministry of External Affairs, and I am deeply indebted to the hon. Minister of Tourism and Information for undertaking to pass on to us on this side any Newsletters which are published by the Department.

There is, however, one sphere in which I would like to throw to him and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs a very important thing that I think the Ministry should do, and this comes under the Head of Public Relations. I believe that an Independent country like Barbados, after 5 years of Independence, must begin to make its citizens aware of what is involved in foreign relations. If you look at countries like Canada and India, you will find that there is a regular bulletin on foreign affairs which is published by the Ministry from time to time which contains very vital information on the treaty relations of the Government, which contains very vital information on various aspects of foreign affairs and the services rendered to its nationals.

7.35 p.m.

It is not really restricted to a newsletter which conveys to nationals what they have been doing at home. I think that the Government should consider this as an important Head. It is not I believe an immediate vote-catching Head, but I think it is an important Head in the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs. You will recall that yesterday in talking on the revision of the laws I drew the attention of the House to the fact that there is no Treaty Register available to the Public, but the Prime Minister assured us that there is a Treaty Register up in the Department. That is of no use to citizens who want to know what are the vital interests of this country in relation to dealing with people. It must not only be up there that I must phone up a Civil Servant, it must be public knowledge. I still contend very seriously that if you take a census in Barbados there are probably only something like three or four people who would know what are the economic Treaty arrangements which we have with other countries, what are the visa arrangements and what are the reciprocal enforcement arrangements in relation to judgements and maintenance orders we have with other countries, and I feel the time has long since past when we must refer to a telephone conversation to find out from somebody in the Ministry what is the position on these vital

matters. I think that Public Relations under this Head should have a broader scope and a broader function to perform, and I should hope that next year when we come back on this vote that the New Minister of Information will extend his hand into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and try to draw this to their attention.

I should like to move on under the Head to Consular Service. I think it is true to say that the breakdown given by the Leader of the House in relation to the Consulate at West Palm Beach, Florida, shows it is not being run at an exorbitant cost for the services which are available, but let me go on to say this: I think the time has again long since past when Government should have looked at other areas where our citizens are finding it difficult to communicate, when there are problems and difficulties, with our representatives. Let me take an instance. I think that Cuba contains a significant number of our citizens. I believe we have no permanent representative in places like Jamaica where we have a growing student population and quite a number of Barbadians, and if you look throughout the whole Caribbean our comment is true. It is very difficult to ask a limited staff at Headquarters who are performing very well indeed and working very hard, and working overtime – and I wish hon. members will bear this in mind – to keep hopping on planes going to international conferences and at the same time to service the day to day needs of our citizens in the West Indies, and the Government must make up its mind whether it is going to go into the luxury thing of having High Commissioners in each territory, which I am against, or try to be much more functional and have a lower type of representative, lower in status, but who could perform and provide Headquarters with very vital information. Now I think this is a necessity, and I think the Ministry of External Affairs and West Indian Affairs will function better if it could at least use the type of consular official in a dual capacity within the West Indies in particular.

Mr. Chairman, Barbados' vital interest in the first instance is obviously our contact with the Caribbean regardless of whether we do it in a federal system or regardless of whether we do it by means of regional cooperation on a functional level. We have to cooperate with them in relation to CARIFTA and all of these matters and the information is not going to come simply by hoping that one or two officials in External Affairs can manage this Department. I believe this is a neglected area and I must appeal to the Minister on this point to give some thought to it. I am not saying that my view is perhaps the only view or the correct view, but it is a view and an idea that should be explored, a proper Committee should look into this and a proper report given and try to see how we can be efficient at a minimum cost.

I should like to go a little further. I believe that the hon. member for St. Michael West is quite *au fait* with what has been happening in the realm of the European Economic Community and I think that regardless of whether we go into a position of association with the European Economic Community, it is very vital that we should be in step with what is happening. Now several years ago even before I believe Britain decided seriously to go into the Community, people like myself and others who are interested in this subject realise that there was William Demas for instance and there was some effect on our relations. I know that Trinidad keeps a Charge d'Affaires at Brussels, I believe Jamaica had someone of a higher status in Brussels, we have tried to use our High Commissioner in London and we have tried to use him by assigning him at different levels, but we are still not getting all of the information that we should get at this vital stage where our sugar interest is concerned, and regardless of whether we want to see a blade of sugar in the country, for years to come this country must and will depend on sugar, and I think it is important therefore that foreign representation must reflect this vital interest, and when we are being asked to vote under the Item, for instance, of general Overseas Representation, we want to see that there is somebody who has much more direct contact than the occasional visit which is being given by a High Commissioner from London. This is very important in 1972 and should be important for some years to come. We rely to a large extent on exchange of information between ourselves and the United Kingdom High Commission and other High Commissions, but that is not good enough in my view. Eventually we must be able to make up our minds, and we make a sad mistake if we believe that Britain or any other foreign country is going to bear the interests of Barbados in mind before it bears the interest of itself in mind.

On a wider level too we are being asked to vote various sums, for instance, on instances like the United Nations and our Embassy in Washington, our High Commissioner in Canada, and this brings to mind I think an important thing so far as the relationship between this House and that Ministry is concerned. I believe that we need at times Ministers to recognise that the place to make very important statements is on the floor of this House and not by means of a Press Conference. For instance, the recognition of

Bangladesh is an important thing, and you will notice in most countries that the statement was made on the floor of the House and some release given, not that there should be any debate on this. Now the absence of a Foreign Affairs Committee in this House which has been referred to by the former Leader of the House, the Honourable Senator and Minister of External Affairs, is something that is much regretted, and I would think that it is about time that we look at this wider issue, and that policy statements on external affairs when necessary and when considered important should be made to the House not necessarily for a debate immediately, but so that the House would be cognisant as representatives of the people of what is happening in this sphere.

Likewise for instance I am told we should debate policy. Up to now we do not understand on the question of the recognition of Communist China what is the Government doing about it; we know nothing abouts its policy on foreign affairs other than what comes out in the press from time to time. We understand that at United Nations our Ambassador abstained on the vote about the expulsion of Formosa and yet we expect a statement through the press that the Ministry expresses regret over the issue. These are contradictions in policy that this House must demand an explanation for so that we can debate it. Perhaps the Minister has vital information on it, but I do not think it is enough simply to get up as we are doing from to time in Estimates and ask how much you are spending on this, how much you are doing in that. I believe there are times when we need a full-scale debate so that Government may have the benefit of our assistance.

In this respect, Mr. Chairman, I must ask what has happened, for instance, to the monies that were voted, I think, last year on services of retaining lawyers – I see there is a fee here for retainers – to look at the whole Treaty relationships of Barbados. What has happened to this report? Have the people reported? If so, is the information being made available to us in this country?

I am not going to ask for a break-down under Item 63, but I believe it is difficult under a Draft Estimate to give all the details, so if the reports and the statements for which I ask are being given from time to time, we would not waste time having a member of the Opposition or indeed a backbencher asking for details like how much is spent on consular services and a breakdown of it or even under Item 63 giving us details of what international organisations we are subscribing to, and what payments are being made. Before I close I would like to say that we have to watch carefully the international organisations which we join. We do not have to go in for window-dressing. There are some that are very vital. For instance, I believe that the contribution under Item 63 to the International Labour Organisation is an extremely vital contribution, and I would like to see the reports of that body and of conferences and of our attendance there being made available here.
7.45 p.m.

For instance, I believe that the contribution under Item 63 to the International Labour Organisation is an extremely vital contribution, and I would like to see the reports of that body and of conferences and our attendance being made available here. I join with the member for St. Michael West in making a plea under this Head to ensure that these workers and employers delegations are not merely window dressing persons taken to those conferences.

Under this Head I will go further and make a plea again to the Government. There are in this country people who are knowledgeable on these subjects who may not necessarily belong to the Government Party but who can make a contribution to Barbados without disclosing State secrets or undermining the Government. Use those people and take them to conferences so that they can help you, and do not look on international affairs as a question of reward simply for people who are your Party supporters. Wherever you can find in this country anyone who can make a contribution, use him. If he is not honest to you then you will have to get rid of him if he is not doing any work, but under this Head I would stress this because I see a lot of delegations going out, I see a lot of people going for window dressing purposes, but many of them I know have not and cannot make a contribution on these subjects when they go abroad, and the Civil Servants are no better off because they spend a lot of time nurse-maiding them without getting anything that is useful. In this respect I would like to say that I have had very good reports from the delegation from persons in Italy who have written to me about the delegation to the Food and Agriculture Organisation. That is a very vital body that has recently performed, but again we must know what it has been doing and what it can do for Barbados, just as, for instance, we should be told from time to time what mileage we are getting out of the Organisation of American States. We want to know this.

We want to know what loans we are getting from the Inter-American Development Bank. We have very vital needs for housing here and they can make soft loans all over the place but no soft loans to Barbados in this field. I am not satisfied that we are merely getting feasibility studies out of these window dressing international organisations and who are by-passing this country when it comes to putting up the money that we need, and on this point the Technical Assistance vote should be properly examined to see if we really are getting money sufficient for joining these organisations. I do not want to say too much in this debate on this at this stage although it is not my portfolio which I shadow, but I intend with the approval of the Parliamentary Party to which I belong and the Leader of the Opposition to introduce a specific motion in this House on the question of foreign affairs, and I will appeal to the Leader of the House through my parliamentary Leader to allow time for this, so that we can hear Government's view on many aspects of this, and we will know where we are going, how we are going, when we are going and what we are getting for where we are going.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I must say that we have had a very good contribution from the member who has just sat down, and the points he made are being noted. Before moving that Your Honour report progress I would like to give a breakdown under Head 63 – Contributions and Voluntary Pledges to International and Regional Organisations:

Regional Organisations –

ICAO $19,000, ILO $42,000, UPU $5,100, ITU $14,500, INCO $4,000, WISC $140,000, Regional Research Centre $80,000, WMO $7,000, PAHO $26,214, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau $8,000, FAO $12,776, Commonwealth Scientific Committee $1,440 UNICEF $4,000, WHO $67,220, ISO $2,500, UNDP – Upkeep of Office in Trinidad $5,000, IAECOSOC $22,000, UNIDO $2,000, UNITAR $500, making a total of $916,658.

Voluntary Pledges –

$30,000 and Contingencies $52,342 making a grand total of $1 million.

I have given the bigger amounts.

Mr. FORDE: I am much indebted to the Minister for this. I will in due course write to the Minister concerned for any further details under this Head.

The question that the sum of $3,256,045 under Head 24 – Ministry of External Affairs stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour, that is until 9.00 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.55p.m.

On resumption --

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Head 25 -Ministry of Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In moving the passing of Head 25 - Ministry of Home Affairs - I should like to make the following amendment:

Item 25 - Registration of Electors-Amend note to item by deleting the words "Also includes provision for an enumeration programme" appearing in the note thereto.

I beg to move that the sum of $518,248 under Head 25 - Ministry of Home Affairs - as amended,stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister should turn to Item 15A and amend it by

substituting the words "Ophthalmic Surgeon" for the words "Opthalmic Surgeon."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is a typographical error, and will be taken care of.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the general policy of the Department, a couple of weeks ago I asked the Minister of Home Affairs to give us some answers which he did at great and comprehensible length about the immigration policy, and it now turns out that this policy of expelling people from Barbados has resulted in hardly anybody leaving the country so far and, perhaps - *(Asides.)* - The former Minister of Home Affairs should not be denying this, and he should be glad he is not the person who is receiving the body blows.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this an arena?

Mr. ADAMS: That is all I can say, Sir. As it turns out, the only person who has been forcibily evicted is one of the clients of one of the lawyers on this side of the House. The mountain has laboured and laboured and brought forth several soft, squeakly and noisy mice but mice nonetheless and, therefore, I am not taking it quite so seriously as the Minister may have intended it before the heat was on his head in this respect and in this regard, and as many of the recipients of the illegal 72 - hour notices had taken it when we were first alarmed. However, a legal battle will be joined in one or two respects over the next few months, and I will not anticipate any of that. I should point out that we have never had an answer on this immigration policy as to whether there is a deliberate policy of reducing the work permits from 900 to 200. We have never had a direct answer as to whether that statement attributed to the Minister of Home Affairs is correct. I know that in a Parliamentary question I cannot ask him if it is correct, and therefore the only opportunity for asking him that is in a debate such as this. Does he really intend to reduce the number of work permits granted by the former Minister from 900 to 200? I think I had better sit down and let the Minister of Communications and Works tell the Minister what to say.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am not telling the Minister what to say. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition... .

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what are you speaking?

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: To what?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: To what he has said concerning me. Did you hear him mention the Minister of Communications and Works?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, with reference to what has been said outside and attributed to the Minister of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs took up the matter with *Reuters* and we have been given an apology. I have already stated this in here.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister must forgive me. I listened to what he said and I tried hard to hear what he said, because it concerns a lot of poor people trying to go about their daily bread in Barbados. It is a form of humanity. I really did not hear it. I really did hear something about *Reuters,* but I was not able to understand from his verbiage what was the position. I am glad to hear specifically that he has never said so. Perhaps he will also tell us whether he has ever intended to carry out the policy as set out.

Now, I am very happy on this matter of immigration for certain reasons. I heard the Prime Minister in here yesterday complain because a Computer Engineer who needs 15 years to be trained and, therefore, implicitly accepted what I said about IBM finding it impossible to train a Barbadian as a replacement. I have heard the Prime Minister say that he had only been given a year to stay even though he is married to a Barbadian woman, too. I heard that, and to me that means something. Those who do not have ears to hear or minds to understand will not either be able to hear or comprehend what that means. To sensible members of this Honourable House it means something.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, those remarks are offensive to members of this House. From the moment members sit in this Chamber all are sensible.

Mr. ADAMS: I withdraw that unreservedly. Every member of this House is sensible - even the hon. member for St. Michael South Central!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must withdraw that.

Mr. ADAMS: I withdraw it unreservedly, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When I was a lawyer, you were studying to be a Judge. How do you mean even me? You did not get through your Bar examinations quicker than I did. That is very impertinent.

Mr. ADAMS: Now I am a lawyer the hon. member is not even a Judge, far less a lawyer. I am

making a living, and he is not even an Attorney General.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am a Minister of the Government, and the salary is the same.

Mr. ADAMS: I remember once a female member of the House of Commons looked at Sir Winston Churchill and said he was drunk. He looked at her and said: "I am drunk and you are ugly, but in the morning I will be sober." That is what I say to the hon. member. He may be able to say this, that and the other.....

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to draw your attention to Standing Order 60(10).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am well aware of that Standing Order.
9.10 p.m.

I am still aware of that Standing Order. Let the hon. member continue.

Mr. ADAMS: I am like the beleaguered King's German Legion at the Battle of Waterloo, guns to the right, guns to the left. On the one hand when I go into detail, one Minister draws attention to Standing Order No. 60 (10) and says I should be talking about policy, and now I talk about policy another Minister draws attention to Standing Order No. 60 (10) and says I should be talking about what? detail? Let the Minister of Home Affairs tell me what he wants me to talk about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member prepared to carry on with Head 25? Otherwise I will put the question.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on the question of wives of Barbadians, I was not on the last occasion when I addressed the House putting forward alternative policies; that was more in the nature of a search for truth on the particular debate, but I have seen that this argument about proxy marriages and certain sorts of marriages is being revived and dusted off in connection with the whole emigration issue which is administered by this department and forms a part of the policy of this department and for which it has to use Items, 26, 27, 28, 29, I dare say, and I hope Item 32 to get some law books and to assist it with the administration of an Act which so few of its officers seem to understand. I should like to put this forward again for the Minister's consideration, and I should at this stage tell hon. members that on the last occasion when I assured them, discussing the question of reciprocity, that the husbands of English women were allowed to reside in England, I have since discovered that a new Command Paper has come out within the last year and a half in which this concession does not apply except to persons who were married before 1969, and it is not as general a concession as existed until a couple of years ago. I would like the records to be quite straight, because I did hear that applications for husbands of Barbadian women are dealt with on the basis of reciprocity. When I heard the Minister, I was understanding him to say this was a major consideration. I have since been told by the Minister that this is only one consideration. I did assure the House that the husbands of English women, based on my own knowledge, or experience perhaps I should say, could live in England. I am told that this concession has been amended due to the same question of proxy marriages.

Now I am going to suggest to the Minister that if one of the arguments which his department and his departmental officers and other persons interested are constantly putting up against giving Barbadian wives the same right to reside in their own country with their husbands as Barbadian men at present have to reside with their wives, that you may get marriages that are marriages in name only entered into for the purpose of obtaining residence permission, there are two things that could be done. The first is to do what the United States does and say that if the marriage is entered into for the purpose of remaining in the United States, then it will not avail; but another and more important point which I am going to suggest to the Minister, and I am going to wait for a little bit, Mr. Chairman, but you can be absolutely sure that everybody will have to stand up and be counted on this issue at some time, because if the Government does not within six or seven months or whatever time is convenient in their parliamentary timetable give some indication of recognising the wish and the desire of Barbadian women for this concession, it will be introduced as a private member's amendment to the Immigration Act and let the Government vote against the rights of Barbadian women. But what I am suggesting, Sir, is that if this question of proxy marriages is a stumbling block, put a proviso into any concession and say that only those husbands, because the Constitution would not allow you to say the wives, who are married in such a ceremony which if it has taken place in Barbados would be recognised as a lawful marriage, be admitted. Proxy marriages are not allowed in Barbados. Nobody in Barbados can stay here and marry a woman in Bombay, but you can stay in Bombay and marry a woman in Barbados. You can stay in Bombay - I do not know if it is true or not but I have heard it from other Benches at some time or other - and marry a fourteen year old school girl at Queen's College whom he has

never seen. I am told this has happened; I do not know how accurate it is. It may be with the same level of truth as I was given to an enquiry as to why one husband of a Barbadian woman is considered undesirable and is considered ripe for deportation although he has lived here for more than seven years and is therefore within the residential qualifications of the Immigration Act. I was told that a certain firm in Bridgetown transferred $70,000 to this man's account in England. I do not know the man; I could not recognise the man if I saw him. I know his name, but I do not know him or his wife; I know his wife's father, and she is not a Barbadian. I have had an investigation made and I am assured that this is quite untrue, and I was told by the person who carried out the investigation that the Ministry of Home Affairs listens to too much gossip, reads too many anonymous letters and even signed letters, and does not check their accuracy before they conceive prejudices against particular persons.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to object to the statement which the hon. member is making about the Ministry of Home Affairs. He seems to indicate or imply that the Ministry of Home Affairs does not have any responsibility or sense of duty to the interests of this country, and I cannot accept that. I will ask him to withdraw the remarks.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not aware you have to withdraw remarks about non-members of this House.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is saying that the Ministry of Home Affairs pays attention to anonymous letters. Are you not aware of what you said? Are you saying we do not check the accuracy of these things, we just get complaints and act on them? Are you trying to suggest that we have some vengeance to reap against people? This is not so.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Minister understands what is going on. I have not said the Minister, and even if I said the Minister it would not be offensive. There is no ground ..ask him under which Standing Order he is objecting?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Standing Order. I have asked the Clerk at the Table, as I always do, to inform me that the statement was relative to the Ministry and not to the Minister directly.

Mr. ADAMS: Truthfully, Sir, I would argue that even if I had said the Minister listens to too much gossip and does not check, it is not offensive; but even if I had said that, I believe that upon a proper consideration both members on that side and on this side will realise that if you cannot come in the House and advise a Minister in his own interest that he listens to too much gossip and he is having unreliable advice or he is not being guided in the best respect, that you are not being offensive about that. I am going to repeat, and the Minister well knows what I am talking about, I have had a check made about this allegation of the transfer of $70,000 and it is not true. The Minister knows what I am talking about; let him go back to his sources of information. The first thing I ever heard about him was that he was stealing from an overseas organisation which employs him here. I have discovered also in respect of this matter - and I believe that was also informed to the Ministry - that he was stealing from an organisation here which employed him, an organisation based overseas. A check was made by the organisation itself and it was discovered not to be true. He then is said to have opened certain shops here although his work permit did not permit him to do that; that is also not true.

9.20 p.m.

All these things I have heard from Home Affairs sources. His father-in-law opened certain establishments here and invited him to be a partner. He has not as far as I know even got money, and I do not know the man, I have never spoken to him on the telephone, I do not know whether he is red, white, blue or pink. I know nothing about him except his name, his political affiliation, which is not with our Party, and the name of his father-in-law. I have not discussed any of the matters with his father-in-law, my sole sources of information have been the people that the Minister wants me to make certain withdrawals about and with one other source that I cannot reveal.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I know whom you are talking about, the figure is not $70,000, it is $28,900 approximately which he got in commission, and I have seen a document signed by a Director of the firm to which he has gone. It was more than the Prime Minister of this country receives as salary that he got in commission, I am not talking about his salary and other perks.

Mr. ADAMS: What is the allegation against him? I know nothing about the man, you could put him out because it would save our Party a vote, it would take a vote off our backs. As far as I am concerned you could put him out, he and his family, if you really want my opinion. I do not care anything for them, they do not vote for us, I have no interest in them except as human beings. I care nothing for them. I believe the man worked for some commission. I also believe he had to borrow some money from his brother in Ireland to

pay for a house here and money was sent to England out of his commission that he had earned to repay his brother. I am as aware of the facts, I believe, as members on that side. Money has come into Barbados and gone back out of Barbados, because it came in when he needed it and it went back out when he had it. That is my belief.

I hear somebody telling me I am on weak ground here. Hon. members must understand that of these people whose careers I have brought in here, I have taken pains to deal only with those people whom I do not know, so that the personal element will be entirely removed from any of it. I do not know the evangelist gentleman, I do not know this gentleman, I do not know the computer engineer. If they were sitting in the House of Assembly now I could not recognise them, they or their wives. I know nothing of all these people, so do not think this is any special plea, I hold no brief for any of these people, the only person for whom I hold a brief I do not discuss in here.

I am suggesting to hon. members that if it sticks in their crop that proxy marriages and racketeering marriages and marriages of convenience will become a means through the back door into Barbados, then eliminate this by suitable drafting of a Bill which will allow Barbadian women the same right as Barbadian men to live in their own country with their spouses. I repeat, and I want the National Organisation of Woman and the other Woman's Organisations, the leader writer of the Democrat and other persons to understand that I am not advocating automatic citizenship for the husbands of women in so far as the reactionary antediluvian nineteenth century sentiments have been expressed in and out of Barbados by the Minister of Communications and Works on this point are concerned, I have to accept the few legal threads of truth that run through them. A wife stands to her husband in a different legal sense than a husband stands to his wife.

I am not prepared to advocate automatic citizenship for the husbands of Barbadian women at this time *(Asides)* I am glad for that intervention from the Minister. They may be advocating citizenship because politics is so bound up in so many things in this country that non-political organisations are perhaps afraid to go to one or two people, who have given both political and social service, at the same time bringing a little legal knowledge to bear on those subjects for advice. I am not advocating citizenship because citizenship is not necessary nor on general legal grounds perhaps desirable, but I am saying that in exactly the same way as children, officers of the Crown, and all the other permitted categories under the Immigration Act are permitted to reside in Barbados without the attentions of the Act, so should husbands. That is what I am putting forward.

The problem is that too many of us are looking at the few European and North American husbands of the few persons of that ethnic strain, or nearly that ethnic strain, in Barbados as being the whole of this problem. This is not the whole of the problem. There are a large number of Barbadian girls who have been to England to work as nurses, they have married Dominicans, St. Lucians and Trinidadians and so on and may want to come back here. There are, as I said already, in the countryside of Barbados - and I am going to enlist the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union in this - there are large numbers of girls in the countryside of Barbados who are looking to marry St. Lucians and Vincentians who have come to work in our sugar industry. To my mind we should be encouraging the Vincentians to marry their girlfriends and rationalise the liaison, give them an incentive to marry the young ladies and not perhaps run back to St. Vincent and leave two or three little Barbadian children behind.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Is he suggesting that they marry Vincentians during the crop, raise a big family out of crop, and place on the public charge of this country a lot of children they can scarcely feed?

Mr. ADAMS: Does the Minister believe that not marrying them will stop them from getting children if they want to get children? Does he live in Barbados at all? What kind of man is he? They must have family planning; I agree with that, but does he believe that the Vincentians will come here and if the young lady is a young lady who does not believe in family planning that she is going to be restricted from sexual intercourse by the knowledge that she is not married? Does he live in Barbados? I shall be appealing to the Minister of Home Affairs, he should be encouraging this if it is going to raise the general incidence of health of Barbados and reduce heart disease. He is the Minister now, he does not have to practise, he does not have to wake up at 6 o'clock in the morning, he can get up at 8 o'clock and get to work, so he has not got to worry about doctors losing work.

I am urging the Government to give consideration to this. Put out of your mind the timing, the miniscule minority of well-placed rich persons at the top of the economic ladder. Do not throw out the mass of hard working, honest Barbadian wives married to foreigners for the sake of throwing out a few persons who are highly visible and concerning whom there may be the envy - because, truthfully, when I hear an attack

on a man for earning $28,000 in commission, I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is envy. It may not be meant to be, but as you hear the Prime Minister is not making so much, why should he make it, so send him out, that is what it is. I am sorry to use a hard adjective. It would not worry the Minister of Home Affairs, he used to make a lot more and makes more still, so it is not going to worry him, he is not going to look at it in that sense.

Let us look into our hearts. What we resent about these people really is that they are well paid and a different colour from us. All of us are open to it, Mr. Chairman; do not think that when I go, as I go sometimes perhaps to social functions in this island, that I do not feel a stranger in my own country, because I can feel that sometimes, do not doubt it, it must be within the experience of many of us on this side and on that side of the House, whether we have foreign connections or not.
9.30 p.m.

It must be very much in the experience of the Prime Minister to be invited, perhaps, to find himself at the West Coast functions where he is like a stranger in his own land, as the gentleman in the newspaper said today. I have been thinking of it for a long time, since we have not seen a letter supporting the Minister of Home Affairs. I admire his timing; it is just in time for Estimates, Sir. *(Asides)* The letter writer's time I mean. Do you think I am suggesting that the Minister of Home Affairs would get his friends to write letters in the newspapers from time to time supporting him? I would not suggest something like that in here. *(Asides)* Sarcasm is really wasted on him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is why I do not want any sarcasm in here.

Mr. ADAMS: I appreciate your reproof. Sarcasm is really wasted on the hon. member. Dealing with him, I will have to eliminate it from my repertoire altogether. He understands the bludgeon and nothing else.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I know the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He will get somebody to write it close to him, if necessary. If you do not write it yourself you will get somebody very close to you to write it.

Mr. ADAMS: What is he talking about, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have warned the lawyers already today. Do not allow me to warn them for the second time.

Mr. ADAMS: I only know of one.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Did I hear right when you say that you have warned lawyers already today and you hope you will not have to warn them a second time? If you have done that, it means that you have given a general warning to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I made a statement that I have warned lawyers. Have I warned the hon. member? I am going to tell you now that I have warned three hon. members who are lawyers today, and I am not prepared to warn them again.

Mr. ADAMS: The real trouble, Sir, is that the hon. member is so buried in importance as the Chairman of the Estimates Committee that he is not really understanding...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it is irrelevant whether or not I am Chairman of the Estimates Committee. Let him go on with the debate. There is nothing here to do with the Estimates Committee. We are discussing Home Affairs, and I move that he is irrelevant.

Mr. ADAMS: Can you move that?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The member is irrelevant. Whether or not I am Chairman of the Estimates Committee has nothing to do with the discussion on Home Affairs.

Mr. ADAMS: I withdraw that, Sir. I did not know he was ashamed of being the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, otherwise I would not have mentioned it. I withdraw that, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I want the Leader of the Opposition to understand that I am not afraid of serving my people in any capacity. If money meant anything to me, I would not have been in Barbados either. Get that straight in your head; I can give you figures.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if I want to praise the Minister of Home Affairs, I am going to come in here and praise him. I do not have to get anybody to write letters to the newspapers praising him, because that is what the hon. member is suggesting I was going to do. I give you the absolute assurance that any time I want to praise this Department or its political head or its Civil Service head, I will come in here and praise them. I will not either write to the *Advocate* or get somebody to write to the

Advocate praising them. I will leave that to whoever finds it necessary.

Mr. Chairman, the point has been canvassed a great deal, and I would ask hon. members to remember this. I am going to say something in closing, but it is just a personal point relating to that Ministry. One of the officials of the Ministry has told me: "Do not expect that I like this policy. I have a sister who has married a Guyanese, and he would be glad for her to come back here to live and help look after his mother." Do not think this is anything that is confined to the small number of highly visible foreigners. If a person is undesirable he can be dealt with. I would deplore seeing any recourse to the Expulsion of Undesirables Act. The last time there was recourse to it, Broad Street was burnt down, and eleven or twelve persons were killed and so on. That was the last time anybody was expelled from Barbados as an undesirable. I would not like to see recourse to it, but it is a long-stop. *(Asides)* You must put in the *Democrat* that I threatened that. If you think that is a threat, then you put in the *Democrat* that I have threatened to burn down Broad Street and kill eleven people, if anybody is expelled. The *Democrat* has enough libel actions. I maintain that Mr. Freddie Millar did not get enough money when foolishness was published about his threatening to burn down the cane fields. If you believe it is a threat, then you write a letter to somebody on an unprivileged occasion and say that I threatened that. That is all I ask you to do, or put it in the newspaper. I need money, too, and I will be glad for some. I am just suggesting that the Expulsion of Undesirables Act is something to be used only sparingly. Past experience has not been kind to Barbados in respect of this particular Act. That is on general policy.

I shall now speak on specific policy in one or two respects, Mr. Chairman. With regard to Item 13, I wish to make a special pleading in respect of maps of Barbados. Anyway, I think I had better wait until I reach Lands and Surveys, because it will be better to deal with it under that Head. I am going to suggest that what is being taken as the accepted map of Barbados has not in fact, got the accuracy required by statute. What brings it back to mind is the item of Registration of Electors, because some day I fear that the current one in the 50,000 map, or even the one in the 20,000 map, is going to be taken as authoritative by the Chief Electoral Officer, and certain villages which are shown in the current map as being in one constituency when in reality there are in another will cause electoral disputes.

Hon. members may not be aware that after the by-election in the City of Bridgetown – certain hon. members should be aware of it, but many will not – that in one polling station where the successful candidate was decisively beaten, objection was made of three-quarters of the electors in that station after the election and all were proved not be resident in the City.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is not correct. The hon. member himself, who is the Leader of the Opposition, made objection to certain voters who were registered at one time before the election in the St. Michael area in the area of St. Michael's Infirmary. Before the elections we put the Chief Land Surveyor on it and had the matter rectified. 9.40 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the real trouble with the Hon. Minister who has just sat down is his sincerity, but sincerity is not a substitute for truth, nor even less is it a substitute for fact. The Hon. Minister obviously believes every word of what he has just said, but he is in fact wrong. He has put it forward as a statement of fact, but he is in fact wrong.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, what I am saying I know to be correct because the Hon. Leader of the Opposition himself wrote to the Chief Registering Officer and pointed out what he considered to be this error in the mapping. We drew the matter to the attention of the Department of Lands and Surveys, the Chief Land Surveyor, I repeat, worked on the matter, and what we had before the by-election was the correct thing.

Mr. ADAMS: Let the Leader of the Opposition give the facts, and I amnot casting any aspersions because all that has happened is that the Minister got it wrong. The fact that certain areas were not in the City of Bridgetown was noted before the by-election. Nothing was done before the by-election; the Leader of the Opposition is not a City voter and therefore cannot object to any voter in the City; only a voter in the constituency can object to the inclusion of any other name on the list. After the by-election when the candidate was decisively beaten, I said "But look at this thing! I noted this thing, let it pass, and look now the voters have sent him through the eddoes!" And an elector for the City got a number of duplicated forms in which there is a standard objection – the objection itself I believe was duplicated, he ran out of forms because he must have used all the forms that existed at the Registration

Department and he did not have any more; so he could not even object to all the voters who should have been objected to. He objected to three-quarters or perhaps two-thirds, and three-quarters in all were struck off after the by-election, and subsequently the whole district was transferred into St. Michael South to the great benefit of the Minister of Education. This is what I mean, Sir, about the dangers of sincerity on the part of the former Minister of Home Affairs. If in some way I had been unable to correct that, he would have gone outside and said what a liar Tom Adams was. He is wrong and I am right, and I am not being our High Commissioner when I put it that way. I would beg hon. members to give a little more respect both to the truth of my remarks and the likelihood of their accuracy. He has never been right in a correction he has attempted to make of me in here, and I am actually getting tired of it because it is always this Minister and the Minister of Communications and Works who attempt to correct me in here, and neither of them are persons whose memory has the power of recall that alone enables a man to be sure of his facts when he gets up to correct somebody else. You would not find the Minister of Health correcting people easily, but when he does, he is always right. If he gets up to correct me, I know I am wrong. If the member for St. Michael North-West gets up to correct me, I am almost sure I am right and I have been proved right so far. Anybody can make a mistake. I am never sure I am always right. Other hon. members on my side have contributions.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, now that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is finished, I am going to be very brief, and he will not speak again. We have to demolish hypocrites in this country. On this question of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the emigration policy and sending people out, it has taken some Barbadians a long time to identify themselves and know where they are. Some Barbadians are neither black, brown, grey, gristle-gruntled, pink. The hon. member has been making out a case against the Government sending people out of this country, but nothing has happened in this country since this Government came into power in so far as the emigration laws are concerned and when his father was in power. The hon. member is getting on as if he has brought in a number of law books in his hip pocket about emigration law; he has forgotten that when his party was in power Jagan was debarred from coming to this country, not his wife; so this is not a question of Daniel come to Judgment. Let it be quite clear that a man married a woman, but he cannot put her in court for support. If you want to emancipate women, they have to be emancipated right through. If you marry to a woman, she can sue you for support, if does not matter if you have a cent. On the converse, she can be a millionaire and you have not earned a penny in the last fifty years, you cannot sue her for a penny. She can come in and watch you there and see you die, that is your business. Unfortunately the law still stands that way, a woman is your responsibility, and you are not the woman's responsibility; so when a woman married a man, it is not an automatic position that you get all these things.

In Barbados emigration laws and work laws are not conditioned by any legal technicalities or legal niceties; they are conditioned by economic facts. In the United States tonight President Nixon is worried about an unemployment figure of 5½ per cent. and we have to be happy if we have one of 12½ per cent, more than twice. Do you want to tell me that because a woman married a man in the United States that we must open our gates and we are not to watch our employment situation? Men can go to the United States and have these hook-ups in Miami, come back to Barbados and get the Consul to give them visas to go back to the United States to these women, and then they can kick you out after six weeks. We have people who have done this on immigration. Why should we follow the United States that has a per capita income of over $3,000 when in Barbados it is $800 EC? Are you asking use to gear our social and economic position with the richest country in the world. When you are dealing with the economics of a country, you have to deal with realities, and that is why I say I will attack the lawyers again.

Mr. Chairman, lawyers have from time immemorial, based on the Roman law and the French law subjugated communities to legal niceties. I have heard lawyers talk about severance pay, but we would never have had severance pay had it been for the concept of lawyers. Do you know what is the legal concept? That as long as you work for a person and he pays you, he is finished with you. They have no social conscience; they have a legal conscience. They can see that I pay you if I hire you, and that is the end of it; but when it comes to social conscience, somebody else has to do it and then they will come in; so do not come and tell us that we have to watch any legal position in the United Kingdom.

9.50 p.m.

I am not vex with a man for marrying whom he feels, I feel that is his own choice. I feel if a man feels like marrying a white woman he can marry a white woman; if you feel more

comfortable with a white woman than with a black woman do not have any misery by having a black woman messing up your life, because marriage is too long a journey and although you can shorten it if you feel like shortening it it is sometimes very expensive for a man to shorten it, because the lawyers tell you that even if a wife wants to divorce you you have to pay the costs. One lawyer told me that, because he says it is your responsibility and you are not going to get out as easily as that. However, I am not opposed to a man marrying whom he pleases, I feel that is his choice, but do not ask the Government of Barbados to allow a man to come in here and look for a job on the basis that he took up a Barbadian woman in England and married her. If you go to a rich country and you marry a man and you cannot keep the man in that rich country, you have married the wrong man in the wrong country.

If you can take a man to a poor country like this, it is like a man marrying to a woman, he has nowhere to carry her and he is looking for his grandmother to tell her that he is ready to go into the grave. Barbados is a poor country, so you cannot ignore the facts of life. There was a time when some old water-washed Englishmen came around here and the plantation owners were looking for husbands for their daughters because things were tight, they did not want to marry to black men because men were scarce and women were plentiful, and therefore they imported a lot of water-washed Englishmen and planted them here on us, and the next thing we knew they were Directors in the various businesses because the plantation owners wanted husbands for their daughters. That was all right then, but now are you going to tell me that if these girls were sent to universities and they found men up there and married them, they brought them here looking for jobs on that basis? If you marry a man there, stay there with him, but if we accept a wife we do this because we expect that the husband is a Barbadian working here, but do you want husband and wife too? Do you want us to have this multiplication problem?

We have to protect the people of Barbados in jobs, we cannot fool around with this any more. You have limited jobs in Barbados, the job situation is Barbados is not like the job situation in the United Kingdom, the job situation in Barbados is not like the job situation in the United States, and there is no point in reducing this to any position where you say because a Barbadian woman has married to a man that he must come here. If she wants to marry an Englishman, marry an Englishman but live in England with him. The thing I cannot understand is that you want to work this thing in reverse in Barbados. The woman cannot find a job, the husband cannot find a job for his wife in his country or origin, do you mean he is coming here for his health because the doctor says he must live in a warm climate, why can he not remain in England?

We have some West Indians in England catching hell – and the Leader of the Opposition said something that I agree with – I do not believe in this stark nationalism like Mr. Enoch Powell or Hitler or Mussolini, but you must be realistic if you are a politician. If you want to protect the interest of the people of St. Thomas and the people of Barbados you must see in the context of the Barbados employment situation that it cannot meet a situation where we can allow unlimited openings for even marriages and bringing people here, because this is another wedge.

I will tell you something, Mr. Chairman, there are people here in Barbados who feel that certain jobs should not be done by Barbadians. Some of the businesses have the idea that Accountancy, looking in their books, is not anything for black people. A lot of these foreign operations come here, you will get somebody who does not want a black man as a husband, and we will revert to the old-time days where you would not marry a black woman because you feel she has no colour and you feel that your son would not be able to get along in life, that at least if he has a little colour he will get along, he has a passport. I am old enough to have been born in the era where your qualifications first had to be colour and hair to get a job. You do not have to comb good hair you only have to shake it out. You used to hear that the boy was only black but his mother was a brown skinned woman so he has a little bit of his mother's colour in him. All those old-time phrases you hear, and therefore if he is black, for him to get anything he has to go to Harrison College, he has to win a scholarship and he has to eat up all the books, but if he is red he can join the Sea Scouts, all the Sea Scouts were red-skinned boys living on the concrete and could not spell "Ada" backwards. A black boy either had to go to Harrison College or his father had to be a lawyer or a dentist or something along that line for him to get into the Sea Scouts. If he was an ordinary black boy running about on the concrete catching crabs like a red-skinned boy. . .

10.00 p.m.

You will get this situation in Barbados. You could get a red-skin boy getting a job in Braod Street, but the black boy had to go to Harrison

College. When the Hon. Leader of the Opposition comes here today and wants to put us in reverse, he is taking us back to that same position. The hon. member is not pleading any case for down-to-the-earth Barbadians nationals married to any West Indian and so on. He is pleading a case for some of these red-skin people around here who want to hold down certain jobs in Barbados at the exclusion of Barbadians. I know you were going to rise on that.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not pleading a case for anybody. If I were pleading a case the few people I am pleading for are a St. Lucian married to a girl in Arch Hall, some people who live in Martins Bay, and an Englishman. There are the only persons for whom I am pleading cases, and I have not talked about them. Whoever cares to come to me can have his case pleaded.

Mr. WALCOTT: You have St. Lucians in Barbados like peas. If you want to find St. Lucians, you can go to Nelson Street. You can also go to St. James and find a lot of St. Lucians. You have certain jobs in Barbados for looking in people's books. Call the number of black accountants in Barbados who are working in any of the big firms! You can count them on five fingers. Do you know why?

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member saying that there are not more than 5 black accountants in Barbados working in big firms?

Mr. WALCOTT: Call the names of the black ones. They might have had a job in the Government and then went to the firms. I know you will say that they have a lot of white ones.

Mr. ADAMS: You have about five white ones and several black ones.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir Archibald Cuke was the Prince of accountants around here; he was not a Chartered Accountant, but he did all of the accounts for all of the plantations. Bovell & Skeete, before his son came, here did all of the accounts for all of the plantations. Call a black man that you have known who has worked in Bovell & Skeete's office and reached a stage of eminence. When F.A.C. Clairmonte, the first black man who ever worked near them, was given a job, he was pushed so far in the back that people did not realise he was working in there. They are promising one of them a job now, too, because you can always find black people in this Island whom they can use. I do not want to offend any of the susceptibilities of hon. members. I know the hon. member for Christ Church West is a good lodge man. Sometimes these people misuse these fraternal organisations. You can make a man a Grand Master – I do not want to offend any of my friends here – and these things are likely to be very sensitive, and therefore you find that these people are upgraded in the establishment, and for that reason people are kept out. Do not get the idea that black people are taken into these companies in positions of responsibility. Do not tell me that we do not have any black accountants. It is a question of not employing them in these big firms.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. This will go down in the records and, perhaps, because it is ten o'clock nobody will contradict the hon member. We have made a very brief investigation over here with the assistance of a little cross-talk. There are three black accountants as far as we know: One is the Financial Controller of Hanschell & Larsen; one works with the Life of Barbados, and one is in private practice. The hon. member must not tell untruths to the House.

Mr. WALCOTT: It is not an untruth. It maybe that the hon. member has not yet been emancipated from what is happening. I have no compunction; I do not have to pretend that I am black; I don not have to tell anybody that I am black, because everybody can see that. Now, I am a member of the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society and I am qualified to be a director, but I am not going to be mixed up in any business like that. I am qualified to be a director, but my money is paid in there for other purposes. *(Asides)* You are comparing Cummins' policy with mine. At the time Cummins could buy the type you were selling and I could not buy it. My time will come. I like to wait.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member says that his time did not come on that occasion. He did not say that he saw Denis Atkinson, and he gave it to Denis Atkinson.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: It was not Denis Atkinson; it was another man that I thought was black. I would have bought it from the hon. member as a friend, but the accounts branch is in Canada and they do not have anybody looking like me up there. In the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society they bend over backwards to find people of one ethnic group. The hon member for Christ Church West was a director or is a director, but that is to placate the community

into feeling that there is a man looking like me there.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, Sir. I intend to enter this debate not to get down to personalities. I will enter the debate because I have decided views. Some of my views do not accord with my leader on this point nor do they accord with the other gentleman. Let me tell the hon. member that I am a director, and I declare my interest straightaway in the Barbados Mutual. Furthermore, I should like to say that since I have been on that Board along with the assistance of people like Mr. Noel Symmonds – I do not want to embarrass his brother who may be in this House – who behind the score has done a lot of work on this, that people will notice a lot of changes. I am no tokenism. I want to get it absolutely clear in this House. I have said this on the platform and I will say it anywhere. I make no apologies for the fact that if there is any position that I can hold, I am going on the Board for the simple reason to prove that black people can have a settled policy, stand up besides them, come in the House and justify it, too, and get elected. I want to make it quite clear that we will get elected again in the next five years. If the members of the other side are not careful, we will come and lead the whole of that Government bench in due course.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am glad to hear the hon. member for Christ Church say so. I did not have to be elected to hold these views. I am a member of the Barbados Mutual Life, and I am aware that they never employed black people in the accounting department either. They will go around the periphery, but you will never get into the centre. The moment they bring you into the centre you will know what money they are making. In order to hide these things, they keep our people out.

I see some rude people coming to Barbados nowadays and putting advertisements in the newspapers. One man says that he is selling something; he wants to get a manager, but the manager must be able to sweep the floor and so on. They can put a lot of insulting advertisements in our newspapers when they want to ridicule our people. All I am saying is that we must not let the Leader of the Opposition make us believe that the Minister of Home Affairs is carrying on a vendetta against people coming to Barbados, and wives having poor, innocent husbands are being chased out of this place without paying any attention to the social and economic conditions in Barbados. Barbados is a country with one of the highest densities in the world. It has 250,000 people to 166 square miles; it is not the richest place in the world and, therefore, any man running a country like this cannot be selling jobs and importing unemployment. We cannot encourage wives to bring unemployment to this country. If a woman marries a man and he cannot support her in the country of her origin, and she has to return to Barbados she is also bringing a charge to you. If she can bring a man that we require that is a different matter. If you require a man to come here and do special service that is all right. We must reach a stage where every job in Barbados must be filled by Barbadians.

10.10 p.m.

I am very pleased the hon. member for Christ Church-West has made that statement. We have produced him; we have produced the hon. member for St. Joseph; the hon. member for Bridgetown has been produced by Barbados; the hon. member for St. Thomas has been produced by Barbados. If Barbados can produce you all to work in Barbados, why is it that Barbados cannot produce other people to work in Barbados *(Asides)* The hon. member asks me about Christ Church North Central. It is true that all lawyers are not idiots. What do I draw from that question? Because Barbados has produced the four of you, therefore Barbados must produce him. I thought you would learn some logic in law, but what sort of idiotic analogy is that? What I am saying is that if there were more people with our views, the hon. member for Christ Church North Central would be redundant. *(Asides)* That is no insult. You could not get a seat in the British House of Commons, otherwise you would not be sitting down there. For ten years the Leader of the Opposition went out of Barbados with no intention of coming back, but now that he has returned to Barbados, it is only that Barbadians are a forgiving people, and he has been accorded a position. What kind of identification he has shown? Here is a man who left Barbados ten years ago, Barbados' money has educated him, and as I said already I am not vex with whom he has married, but it does show that if you are a national in the true sense of the word, then you could find some national to identify your life with; but if you cannot find a national, you do not come back here and try...

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, is he going to insult the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Minister of Education, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Communications and Works, the Minister of Tourism, the Attorney General by saying that we are not true nationals because we could not find nationals to marry to?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: One-quarter of the membership of this House is not married to Barbadians, two are married to white women. Are we all to be insulted in this manner? I object to that; it is insulting to tell us we are not nationals because we are not married to Barbadians. If he is not Enoch Powell, who is he?

Mr. WALCOTT: Why are my remarks going to be insulting and his remarks are not insulting to the whole Ministry of Home Affairs in relation to this question of not employing the husbands of these Barbadians who have married to these non-nationals? All I am saying is that there are some Barbadians who have not yet found their identity – black identity then. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If there is any misbehaviour again for the remainder of the night, I will kindly ask the hon. member to leave this Chamber.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman,...

Mr. WALCOTT: Do you think I have finished? You are wrong. The only things that could make me cut short is that I have respect for the staff, and the time has gone and I do not intend, Mr. Chairman, to proceed any longer. However, I will close by saying that I do not think it is fair for the Leader. of the Opposition to say all he has been trotting out against the Ministry of Home Affairs as if it has been doing something vicious. We have to watch the employment situation in a small place like Barbados where every job is important, and for any Minister or any Government which has to see after jobs for its nationals, there can be no boundaries on any flimsy basis, this must come first.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member for St. Michael West rose to address the Committee, he said that when he is finished the Leader of the Opposition would not say another word. Well that is a pet phrase. When the member for St. Michael West finishes speaking, the earth remains still, but not with Craig around. I am very happy to see that this debate has boiled down to a black and white debate. The debate on Head 25 Ministry of Home Affairs has boiled down to a black and white debate and I regret...

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I object to the remarks that the Ministry of Home Affairs has come down to a black and white debate.

Mr. CRAIG: I said the debate on the Ministry of Home Affairs. You take it easy; I will laud you and give you what is yours. Mr. Chairman, it would be really embarrassing for me to be in the shoes of the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, but I am glad he has got these blows this evening. It is very interesting to hear that a Barbadian married to a non-national is not a national. What do you call the hon. member for Christ Church North Central? I am sure that if the Minister of Home Affairs was Chairman of that Party that the member for Christ Church North Central and Douglas Lynch could not remain in Barbados for three days from the attitude he has shown within the past weeks since he has been made Minister of Home Affairs; but now I am hearing this nonsense this evening from the member for St. Michael West. I regret to have to say that because he has made a contribution to the debates in here before. He is critical of a man who is married to a woman of his choice when in his speech he said that if a man feels happy to marry a black, gristle-grey, pink or blue woman, it should be accepted because marriage is a long journey. In another breath he comes back and says that a national married to a non-national, is not a national. What sort of double-breasted nonsense I am hearing?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member should realise that what he is saying is nonsense, because he is saying that I said that a national married to a non-national is not a national. That is pure foolishness. (Mr. CRAIG: That is what you said.) I could not say he is not a national, because when you are a national of Barbados you are a national forever. So what foolishness are you talking?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, at this stage I should say there is a general agreement that we should sit from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. until the Estimates are fully considered, and bearing in mind that the Reporters have been doing their best to comply with these arrangements, I think the time has come when the sitting should be suspended.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 16th March, 1972.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
10.20 p.m.

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply discussing Head 25 of the Estimates. To that it now reverts for that purpose.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Head 25 – Ministry of Home Affairs – was resumed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, when the sitting was suspended last night the hon. member for St. James was making his contribution to the debate on the matters under Home Affairs. I would like to start my contribution to this debate to take up a different aspect of the operation of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The aspect I want to deal with, which I would hope the Hon. Minister could at least enlighten most of us in this country today who are rather concerned about it, is the visiting Evangelist. With the permission of the Committee I want to read from a book called "The Martyrdom of Man", but unfortunately I cannot make it a document of the House because it already belongs to the House, and I refer to page 173 which deals with religion.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that what is written here in a publication which was made in 1948, written by one Wynwood Reade applies aptly to the situation which has befallen this country and which I know the Government has got to step warily on, because several people have told me that they agree with me but it is a ticklish subject and they do not want their names to be called as supporting me. The article says: ".... but it was among the Jews from the time of Samuel to the captivity that the prophets or dervishes were most abundant. They were then as plentiful as politicians, and politicians in fact they were, and prophesied against each other."

We have had a gentleman from the Other Place coming out and prophesying against some of the Evangelists in this country, and he is only fulfilling the very words which are written here, that they are nothing more than politicians, and if politicians had walked around collecting money in the way these Evangelists are collecting money, the whole country would come out in outrage, the Police would be asking if you had a licence to collect alms, and I would like to know why the Government cannot do something with the local and visiting Evangelists. It is time somebody puts a stop to this masquerading under the Bible, and if the Government is afraid to come out and do it, I have pledged to create sufficient disturbance in this country that these Evangelists, local and foreign, shall not operate any more. I will tell you why, Mr. Chairman, the visiting Evangelists and the Grady Crusade operate like this. *(Asides).* They collect more than me, they collect more than you as a doctor, they prophesy saying they will heal people, they collect money on this basis, it is false pretences, and when people are not healed they say the person has no faith.

The Grady Crusade has been trying to sidetrack the issue by bringing racialism into it. As I said in my letter to the Press, I am nothing to do with Billy Graham and his racist tendencies, whether he is so or not, what I am worried about is the financial implication of this whole thing and what it is costing the people and the community. The Crusade has been wicked enough to publish statements in the newspapers saying it is costing this country nothing, but I can tell you one of the agents from the Crusade got in Eagle Hall and pulled out a $5 bill from his pocket and said he wanted all the collection to look like that during the Crusade.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am a bit at a loss to find out what Item the hon. member is speaking on.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am dealing with the policy on immigration under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member on my right to know that I am well aware of what is going on, but since giving the necessary scope to other members on this particular subject, I will do so until I have

obtained the gist of the complete argument and then I will put everybody back on the subject.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am not saying that the hon. member is out of order, what I am trying to ascertain from you, Sir, is under what Item he is speaking so that I can check my Estimates and find out how much money we are talking about and what is the amount of money to which he is objecting.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to have just awakened from slumber. Am I objecting to money in here? I am dealing with the policy of Home Affairs on work permits. I heard the hon. member for St. Michael North West last night say he does not like to see these water-washed Englishmen come in here in the Navy. I heard him last night with this, and he was talking on the policy of work permits but because I am talking about water-washed Americans or water-washed Canadians should I not talk? Do you want me to keep talking about Englishmen? I am dealing with the whole policy of the Home Affairs Ministry on which the hon. member for St. Michael North West spoke about, and he said when you are dealing with these things you have to deal with them from an economic point of view.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr.Chairman, I have not spoken on this Head at all.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, I mean the hon. member for St. Michael West; I do not understand why the other members are so nervous.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to carry on; we are dealing with Home Affairs and work permits.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am just pointing out to the Committee that I believe that the Minister has got to be careful with the system, and I agree with the hon. member who spoke last night that you have to analyse the persons who are coming in. As I was saying, the Grady Crusade has been publishing facts that it is costing this country nothing, but up to this morning two Anglican Priests telephoned me and told me they had just received through the mail letters from the same Grady Crusade asking them to tell the Crusade how many members of their congregation will pledge $5.00 a week to support the Crusade which is coming here.

I want hon. members on the other side to know I am not against religion, but I want the Minister to know that it is time we teach those around us who cannot think for themselves what is going on. At this point I will finish my contribution to Home Affairs because everything else I want to say will fall under Ecclesiastical when it comes.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before I am challenged on what Item I am speaking, I am speaking under the general Head of the General Administration of Home Affairs, and the comments which I make will therefore be relevant to the money which is to be expended under Head 25, because it is by paying towards the general administration of this Department that it can carry out its relevant policy.
2.40 p.m.

Now, so that the hon. member for St. Andrew may not be mislead, I think we should do so.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to drag on this debate on the question of what policy the Ministry of Home Affairs should follow in relation to immigration. I do not want to delay the matter for a lot of reasons, one of which I think is that the policy has been stated, and it is obvious that in any particular application of that policy there will be room for argument. There will always be hard cases; there will always be unpalatable decisions to be made on this issue, but in my view those decisions have to be made regardless of whoever is the Minister of Home Affairs.

I should like, however, before I set out what I think should be some of the relevant considerations to say a word of commendation to those officers in the Government who have to administer this policy. I myself have dealt with them on many occasions in relation to my own clients, and have known other persons seeking work permits who have dealt with them. I will say that those officers at the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the Superintendents at the Immigration Department who have to administer this policy have shown tremendous courtesy and efficiency. I am sure that sometimes they find it hard to tell a person that he must leave in 72 hours. They are human beings, too, but as good civil servants let me place this on record: they have done their duty with the maximum amount of courtesy without disclosing Government policy or abusing Government policy, and I certainly would not like any remarks that have been made in this House as being interpreted as attacking the integrity of any of those officers.

I should certainly like to say that on numerous occasions they have given the

maximum co-operation to people; they have told them how to put in their applications so that the Minister may be aware of all of the considerations that affect the matter, and I think that in doing this they have done so as good civil servants. As a general statement, obviously they have a difficult task to perform. I should not like the civil servants in this country to believe that they cannot talk reasonably to people without doing so in confidence and without giving out State secrets, or matters of policy which have not yet been approved or made public by the Cabinet.

Having said that, let me state that at one stage last night I was afraid that this debate may degenerate into a debate concerning racial characteristics. I do not believe that, in a society like Barbados in the twentieth century where we have people of many races, the sole criteria on which Parliamentarians can debate this issue is on the question of race. I accept the Minsiter's word when he says that he is looking at this in the wider context of Barbadians, and that there is, therefore, the issue of nationalism and the issue of economic development in the country which happen to be at stake. I think that these are relevant current considerations that must be borne in mind.

Now, although there has been a dissension between the hon. member for St. Michael West and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, both of them are in their way advancing part of the case in this issue. The Minister must not only bear in mind the question of the economic conditions facing Barbados and the issue of unemployment, but he must equally bear in mind certain other considerations like the consideration of our feeling for our womenfolk. He can only bear that latter point in mind as one of the overall issues that must be considered, and so I think one has to be very fair to the Minister.

We have inherited a very dreadful history of slavery in Barbados, and the result of that has been that we have had in our society at times not only to polarize on racial grounds, but to polarize on social grounds. Nevertheless, in the Caribbean today it is still true to say that the lower rung of the ladder is almost exclusively occupied by people of the negroid race. I believe that recognised sociologists, like Professor Brathwaite, have adverted to this and have looked at it in the context of the economic development and the industrialisation of the West Indies against this background. I think it is right that we should bear this in mind so that any policy which the Government will enforce must try to redress the balances. Immigration, in my view, is only one aspect of the overall economic development of this country, and at any time that policy may not be static.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, recent developments in our society have meant that we have moved into a society of industrialisation, as the socio-economic people call it, industrialisation by invitation. This means, in short, that we are inviting foreign capitalists into the country to help us develop the country. Obviously, there are some of them to whom we will have to give work permits, and the Immigration Department must consistently accommodate them. Despite what has been said on the platform, there is a lot of agreement between the two parties that it is necessary as speedily as possible to curb unemployment in Barbados, which is a very pressing problem, if all of us want to survive, and at the same time to make sure that the people at the lower rung of the ladder have an equal opportunity to move as quickly as possible in a society that is fair to all sides of that question.

I believe that the Minister has a difficult job. Regardless of whether people on his side or on my side agree with his decisions or not, I would not like to be in his shoes at times, because you are sure to offend people. All I will advise him is to keep from going to cocktail parties; make up his mind as honestly as he can; do an honest job as I know he can, and the bulk of Barbadians will support him. I believe that there are some respects in which, perhaps, some forward planning could make a lot of these problems less unpalatable. I will give you one instance. It is an undoubted fact that in certain aspects of Tourism and Industrial Development we have not been having proper training schemes despite the Hotel Training School by the private sector.

Now, I am supposed to be the big charm boy in private enterprise when people are on the political platform, but the sentiments which I am expressing now I have expressed consistently when I am sitting down with people on the side of private enterprise or anywhere else. I am as much a Barbadian as anyone who has been brought here from Africa, England, or anywhere else. I believe that some of them have not even helped to exchange ideas with Government on these points. Both the B.L.P. Government of former years and the D.L.P Government have been a bit slow in developing their ideas on this point.

Now, it is true that some hotels are too small to provide the money for training, but I am not satisfied that even within the hotel industry in this country enough money has been put up to

train people to the higher rungs of the ladder. I am not satisfied that in the engineering section in Barbados the same has been done. I am not satisfied that it has been done in the financial sector in Barbados. I know that, for instance, one particular bank has indulged in a policy of development over the years, and I think today that bank has 8 Barbadians in managerial or semi-managerial positions in Jamaica, and it is also moving others here, but even the banks have been tardy in some respects.

Mr. Chairman, I would invite the Minister very seriously as part of the immigration policy to look at a system of what I would call industrial levies. He should place levies on various sectors of the economy by means of a taxation policy, and he should ask the Minister of Fiannce to look at the matter. He could place levies on the hotels, the architects, the engineers, the solicitors and the barristers, if necessary, and make them to contribute to the overall pool. In the same way as in the public sector we have a Training Scheme, then in the private sector the Government would be having a say, and everyone of us right down the ladder would be paying to provide a pool of Barbadians to help to provide the skills that we need in accountancy, architecture and whatever other segment of the economy that we need them.

2.50 p.m.

This is important and it is a just concept I submit to this Chamber. It is just because the burden must be borne by more than one person, you will always hear the excuse being given by small segments that they cannot afford to do this. They may not be able to produce one man, but they can contribute substantially by this means towards producing other men in the economy. I do not and will never accept the concept in this country that there is no Barbadian who has any financial ability, who has any ability in accountancy or in architecture. I refuse to do this; we are the same flesh and blood in Barbados regardless of whether we are white, blue, yellow or what, and I believe that we have people with tremendous ability in all colours in this country, but we have got to get away from very narrow concepts. I know that I have had hard cases for clients of mine. I do not want to put in any special plea on that. In one or two instances I have not agreed with the policy of the Minister, but over-all he has a difficult job to perform. I would just ask the Ministry in two instances that perhaps they could show a bit more consideration. One is in the shortness of the notice. Sometimes it does cause disruption not only to the family concerned, but to other people who are associated with the person who has a short notice, although in some of these cases parties have not re-applied on time. I know that for a fact. I have had to put in special pleas in these instances, and in some instances they have not re-applied at all.

In addition to this I would ask them also to make sure that in giving some consideration to Barbadian women that the policy be not a fixed policy once and for all. When I listened to the member for St. Michael West I would have thought he was putting a fixed policy once and for all, but this is not so. It is undoubted fact today that nowhere in the Commonwealth countries do you find that the husbands of women of these particular countries are automatically entitled to citizenship of a country. There is a historical reason for this; there is no particular magic for it. It is that women have been considered as chattels for a long time, and it is only recently that a woman has come into her own. To talk about a fact that a woman does not have to contribute to the support of her husband is true, but that is only historical because she was put in the background and even she was considered a *res* rather than a *personna* even in Roman law, but we are moving from that concept and it may well be that in individual cases the Minister will have to reserve a discretion either to naturalise persons if they are non-Commonwealth citizens or to allow them to get citizenship because our Constitution does recognise the concept of dual nationality. I do not think that we should, without having a complete survey of the facts, have this policy laid down as "yes" as some on my side are asking for and probably other members in the Minister's Party, or "no" as some of the people on the other side are saying regardless of the matter.

I believe this is another sphere in which the Minister must be given a discretion, and his guidelines should be carefully set up so that we know where we are going and how we are going. I am sorry that the debate on the Estimates must always be confined to particular Heads, because this is a startling opportunity on which we could have discussed this matter under the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, this particular Ministry and the Ministry of Finance. Immigration affects our policy as far as I am concerned according to the control of our land resources, and whether we are going to be prepared endlessly to alienate our citizens from some of the best and richest land in the country; it affects access to our beaches; it affects the rate at which we carry on industrialisation. Let me state here that we have got to be very careful of those people who come in as foreign industrialists masquerading under this concept and instead of bringing in real capital, bring in nominal capital

and borrow the bulk of capital out of our own Barbadians without accepting the right of Barbadians to participate in these companies, and I have said, not now, but a long time ago, that there is a scope in this country for wider participation, Mr. Chairman, I do not mean by people like me who may have reached a professional rung of the ladder having come from right down yonder; I am talking about the mass of people who should be given an opportunity, and I have said to the Head of the Workers' Union, my hon. friend for St. Michael West long before I even came forward as an active political aspirant that we must negotiate in future along the lines of equity for the workers in the shareholdings of companies; and I will ask the Minister dealing with industry and commerce that this must be a condition sometimes to the grant of licences to foreign capitalists, otherwise you are creating for future generations of Barbadians the same problems that we are facing now in the West Indies. You should learn by the example of where Puerto Rico has made some of her mistakes; learn by the example of other states.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to see any blood baths in this country waged on any grounds, on racial grounds in particular, or even on grounds of political dissent. Any mature group of men no matter what are their divisions, and we are divided on some issues, can yet find some basis on which we can work out the future of Barbados. This subject has concerned and touched me very deeply and I am doubly conscious that in some of my adumbrations of my stand, it may appear as though my leader and myself are completely *ad idem*. I speak my mind quite frankly and I am not going against my party policy on any vote on this issue. I am merely saying that, as I understand it, my party as well as the other side stand for the total and complete economic development and justice for everybody in this country. That is the broad principle which I follow. Not even two Ministers of Home Affairs may agree on each individual case that comes before them, but provided they have their criteria straight, we can review cases as time goes on. I have had enough on emigration. I believe at some stage we may have another opportunity to speak on it, and I hope by then I would have the facility of getting hold of wider figures so that I can probably put forward some other specific proposals.

I should like to move on to perhaps one other item under Head 25 and that is the question of film censorship. Now I am very concerned at the standard of literature which is being pedalled over the counter in this society although we are supposed to be a progressive and free society with free love and everything. I am still deeply concerned about some of the literature that one can buy in Barbados on the counters of certain stores and news sellers in Barbados. I think that we do not want to put the imprimatur, as Milton said in his Areopagitica for instance, on the printed word more than is necessary, but we have a responsibility to young children and some of the magazines that are being displayed here are nothing but sheer downright pornography of the worst type and should not be made freely available to children of young years. I ask the Minister under this Head to have a wider look at it. He does not want to restrict freedom in the sense of press freedom, but he wants to exercise his discretion along with the Minister of Education, and I believe this subject touches him; he has a special responsibility for the young, and I would if possible try to make available some of the literature that is being passed on to me.

Likewise I would like to state that I am disturbed by some of the advertisements of sex films that I see. I have heard young children repeating some of these terms and some of the things that are being said in trailers and what not, and I do not think it is satisfactory. I believe there is a reasonable stage, the age of puberty, when children are going to know things regardless of whether you conceal them from them or not, but let us not try to have too many forced-ripe men and women who eventually will become psychological problems with all that that entails on the institution and for the society that we are hoping to build on an equal keel.

3.00 p.m.

I apologise for having been so long on these subjects, but what I have said I really say it in sincerity because I am very concerned at the moment about this subject causing people to get so excited that there is a definite holding up in the development of the country. On the other hand it is getting some other people so excited that they are making allegations that are unfounded. I have no brief for the Hon. Minister, although he is a friend of mine like many hon. members on the other side, but I think in all fairness to him in his first task he should be given a little time to see how he exercises his position properly, and do not scare away investors in Barbados; for Heaven's sake, we need some of them, but let them understand when they come into Barbados that our policy must necessarily be Barbadians first, West Indians second, anybody else come after them as far as I am concerned, and I am married, as I think some hon. members instanced it, to a West Indian. Luckily, I think, the Ministry conferred Barbadian citizenship on

her on All Fools' Day, and this has become a standing joke between the two of us, but I would like to think that we are not reaching out as in a great way at running other Commonwealth subjects from within our shores. I believe my hon. Leader has spoken on this issue. We do have a very strong West Indian contingent here. We must remember that Barbadians are also an immigrant people and we have a likewise strong number of Barbadians in other places in the West Indies, and I hope that we will remember that fact as we go along.

Sir, I trust that by reverting to the original Head I have not bored you, I have remembered that point. I am not going to challenge my friend on the question he specifically mentioned, I think, the Barbados Mutual with which I am associated. I do not make a special plea for that company, I will say this, there are many companies in Barbados, some of which I have been associated with, which have had a history that is a general history of employment practices in Barbados before. Sometimes their pigmentation has not been sufficiently diversified. Personally I do not have to give any explanation to anyone, wherever I have sat I have tried to point this out and to make changes. I would like to go on record as saying that whatever may have been the past history of the Barbaods Mutual that I am satisfied, and that is why I am associated with them, that their present Directors are making every effort to change those policies in relation to pigmentation. As a matter of fact, its assets are almost exclusively re-invested in the West Indies, its policyholders are as wide as you can find anywhere, including as the hon. member for St. Michael West has said, himself, and if you look throughout the West Indies you will find that they do have black people in managerial capacities. Remember also that it is the only company, I think or one of two or three companies here which has a complete Barbadian or West Indian staff wherever it operates, and let me say this. We are all Barbadians regardless of our racial pigmentation, and I should never want to go on record as saying that you must hound down a Bajan beacuse he is balck or you must get rid of one simply because he is white. I think there has to be a balance.

The Minister is right in asking that the firms should show a balance in employing people in the future, moving forward from what we have had. I am not asking for a ratio of 19:10 or 6:5, I would hate to think that we came to the position of Guyana where you have to have an ombudsman simply because the disparity between the Indians and the Negroes down there was so great that it has led to racial division, and unfortunately a division of the socialist forces in the country. I should hate to think we come to this way, I believe that persuasive force of pressures rightly applied can go a long way to redressing this balance. There are some white Barbadians who feel as strongly as I do about their country; there are some black Barbadians who do not care a damn about this country, just as there are some white Barbadians. Those Barbadians I have no respect for, but those who feel as I do that we have to put our shoulders together to lift up Barbados, for them I always have a word of comfort, and if I must go down as I said before on this cross of preaching a doctrine of Barbados for the Barbadians regardless of our racial connotations, then I must suffer that way.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief contribution here, and I want first of all to congratulate the member for Christ Church West on what I thought to be a thoughtful balance and courageous contribution to this debate. I do not think he should worry unduly about any differences between himself and the Leader of his Party on this matter or any other matters, I think he should continue to speak on matters as he sees them because this is what we expect from members in this hon. Chamber. I am referring to his comments on the immigration policy pursued by the Government.

I merely want to say that in respect of the question of industrial training the Government is well aware of the necessity to develop an industrial training programme. Indeed as a Government, through our national development scholarships programme, we have started to provide scholarships in those areas crucial to the development of this country, and it is our policy to develop in association with the employers and workers' organisations a national industrial training programme, and I hope that in those Board Rooms to which the member for Christ Church West may have access, voice and vote that when such a programme is being discussed he would use all his influence in order to get such a programme established.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I know you have been in the Chair ever since the Estimates began, and I know that we are a bit slow, but I do not want to make any lengthy contribution here. I first of all want to compliment the member for Christ Church West for the able contribution he has made to the debate under this Head, and I want to state this, that in fact much of what he has said as regards training, as far as he is concerned, the priority rating of employment policy in Barbados, –

Barbadians first, West Indians second, anybody else third – this is what we have been following for a long time now, and I also want to state in fact that his contribution as regards training is what I as former Minister of Home Affairs have had to impress upon or say to several employers who have come to see me in my office. In fact I, like the hon. member, feel there are no heights that should be denied a Barbadian because a Barbadian is fully capable of being trained for any job under the sun. I have had quite often to tell employers this.

I want to attack this debate, Mr. Chairman, in a slightly different way. Much has been said about the policy of the Government as regards the husbands of Barbadian women.
3.10 p.m.

Those are nationals and citizens of Barbados.

I do not want, particularly, to throw the debate in that direction, but I want to state this for the record, because I believe it should be stated: The disparity would not be so great, because I understand that Barbadian women and others have been claiming that they are now second-class citizens, because of certain constitutional provisions. I want to state quite clearly that the disparity would not have been so great if the draftsmen at the Colonial Office had followed the instructions given to them when we met in London in 1966. Looking around this room at this moment, there are only three persons who attended that Conference. I believe the hon. member for Christ Church West was one of those persons, and the hon. member for St. Michael West was also present.

Mr. Chairman, I recall distinctly that Section 3 of the Constitution as presently drafted was not what those of us who attended the Conference intended it to be. When we were there we insisted that there should be a qualification Clause to Section 3 of the Constitution. In other words, enabling the wives of Barbadian husbands to become citizens, but subject to such qualifications as may be described. I refer not only to Section 3 but to Section 6 of the Constitution. To reinforce my argument that the Constitution has been tampered with by the draftsmen at the Colonial Office, I will refer this Chamber to Section 9 of the Constitution when, in fact, they gave women married to Barbadian men the right or entitlement to be registered as citizens automatically. In their tampering with the Constitution they forgot to tidy up certain things and enabled the Government under Section 9 of the Constitution to deprive these persons who could be registered. Even without coming to Barbados, it gives the Government the right to deprive those persons of citizenship.

Now, Mr. Chairman, under Section 9 of the Constitution the Government can deprive women who are married to Barbadian citizens of their citizenship. It gives Parliament the right to make such laws, but at the same time it gives the women an automatic right to elect to be citizens of Barbados. There is clearly an inconsistency here, and the inconsistency occurred at the Colonial Office when they forgot to tidy up the tamperings that they made with the Constitution.

There is another matter with which I want to deal, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I have to deal with it, but at the same time I am not making any apologies for dealing with it, because it is something that must be dealt with. There seems to be an impression by certain members on the other side that certain lawyers, who are members of the Democratic Labour Party, have had some say in the processing of immigration matters. I want to deny here and now that this has never been the case. In fact, the Barbados Labour Party stated in their Manifesto that they would set up an investigation into the whole system of work permits, and they continued:

> "...and will take a look at the role played by lawyer members of the Democratic Labour Party in 'processing' these applications."

I want to state that every single lawyer on the other side has at one time or another, including the Leader of the Opposition who is not in his seat at the moment, approached the Ministry on an immigration matter whether it be making an application for someone to come in, or making representations to the Ministry on behalf of someone who has been asked to leave or in some other way.

I want to state quite clearly that applications emanating from lawyers, who are members of the Democratic Labour Party, were no more numerous than applications emanating from lawyers on the other side. What is more, the applications that were approved are no more numerous from the lawyers in the Democratic Labour Party side than from the lawyers on the other side. In fact, what I am trying to put over, Mr. Chairman, is that every application was considered on its merit, and the merit was not from whom the application came, but whether or not the person had made out a case to be granted residence in Barbados. I want to disabuse the minds of everybody here this afternoon that the D.L.P. lawyers had any hand whatsoever in any

decision as regards immigration matters when I was in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to speak on any other matters, because I know that the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is going to make his reply. I merely want to state that as far as this side is concerned, there are no differences whatsoever as regards the immigration policy. The Minister has the full support of every single member on our side when it comes to dealing with immigration matters.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the former Minister of Home Affairs has said that the new Minister of Home Affairs has the full co-operation of his Cabinet and his colleagues on the immigration policy. Well, the policy is there. I think what has brought a lot of fire into the minds of the public and into this debate is simply that over the last 5 years there was not such an outcry of people getting worried over work permits, and coming and going out of the Island and so on. It is only since the new Minister has taken over the Ministry of Home Affairs that there has been this outcry and suspicion.

When the former Minister of Home Affairs was in charge of the Ministry there was no outcry. I expect that he was sticking as closely as possible to the letter of the law and the immigration policy of the Government, but from the time the present Minister of Home Affairs came into this office there was a touching of corns by some of the Lord's annointed. It is only now that we are hearing of "Lord Joker," "Sir William Exploiter," and so on who must leave the country in 72 hours when they were here for five or six years. Apparently, the former Minister of Home Affairs did not see the policy of the Government as the present Minister of Home Affairs has seen it.

Now, if the immigration policy is that Barbados is for Barbadians first and the others after, then the Present Minister of Home Affairs is putting this particular aspect of the matter as it should be projected. In the circumstances, I cannot see how the former Minister and the present Minister of Home Affairs could agree on the same policy. They may have agreed on the policy as laid down, but not as carried out. That is where I think there is a difference, and it has led to suspicion, Sir.
3.20 p.m.

It would have been much nicer if the Minister had said that members from the other side had called on his Ministry, because I have called at his office on more than one occasion asking a member of the staff if I could get in touch with the Minister to give a St. Lucian or a Grenadian a chance, because they were given twenty-four hours to leave the country. Now these are people who are doing small jobs; but on no occasion have I had the privilege of seeing the Minister. I know quite a number of these St. Lucians and Vincentians because when the election results were coming through you saw them shaking hands, or displaying the clenched fist of black power; but it is only now that the present Minister is letting them know the true immigration policy of the Government, whether it is the policy of the Government accepted by all members of the Cabinet or not. I have no axe to grind on this particular matter. I feel I should laud the Minister for his actions even though my colleagues feel I should not. A job has to be done, and if the Minister feels that a person must leave the country in twelve hours, then he must go. Before I was in politics some years ago there was a man who came here on a plane by the name, I think, of Fonteine, there was a certain amount of suspicion about the man's activities, and the present Opposition Party then in Government stopped the man at the airport. There was no outcry because we were carrying out the policy as laid down, but the great difference is that as soon as the present Minister comes into this office, he can put his hands on people who were here for four, five and six years. What was the former Minister of Home Affairs doing about these people?

Mr. Chairman, we have heard of 900 work permits being granted. Another Minister said there were 200 or 150. I therefore put the blame on the former Minister and feel he should be dismissed from his office.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member would give way, I will not be long. I have acted as Minister of Home Affairs; so I do not think he should put the blame on him, and should join me in the dismissal too. I have granted some of those 900; so I just want to put the record straight. I was responsible for some, and there should be two dismissals instead of one if you feel that strongly.

Mr. CRAIG: I think the Minister of Communications misunderstood me. I said the Minister of Home Affairs, not the Minister of All Affairs.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, the hon. member just does not understand. Just as I asked him to apologise to you for coming in late last night when he was speaking, I am explaining to him that within that 900 for work permits,

the Prime Minister, the present Minister of Housing and myself had something to grant. I was Minister of Home Affairs for a certain period appointed by the Governor-General. Can't you understand?

Mr. CRAIG: That is why so many of them remained in the country until the present Minister of Home Affairs came in, because the present Minister of Communications and Works, the former Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister all had something to do with it; but the present Minister of Home Affairs needs no help in this matter. I heard him say a couple of days ago, though not in such terms, that you either accept what he is doing if he is doing his duty or you can hang on to your Ministry. He did not say it as clearcut as I said it, but I am quite sure it is not beyond him to say this. It is my honest view that he has taken the right action. I would probably look at a man with a wife and three children, having his own home and the children at school, and tell him to leave in a reasonable time; but the present Minister's view is that he should leave in 72 hours unlike the former Minister, because there is a backlog of people who should be out of the country long ago that both of the former Ministers refused to send out; but you can always find a St. Lucian or Grenadian, or a Dominican and put them before the Court and charge them for remaining here over the time; but you are not going to find the Callaghans or some of the other big ones that are working. I drew this to the attention of the Ministry on several occasions that there were people coming in here – and I am sorry the hon. member for St. Lucy is not in his seat because I drew this to his attention and told him I would like the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union to look into this matter – under the pretense that they were spending six months' holiday at Coral Reef, Sandy Lane, Le Bistro and Miramar and other hotels on the West Coast, but who get up one morning and find themselves with some fancy name such as Executive Secretary to the Managing Director at $1,000 a month, and some of the 10 percent service charge goes to them. You will find girls that are trained at the Hotel School who will work at these places during the summer season on probation, but when the winter season comes when a piece of change would be really coming out, these people are turned away and told that the job is already filled. I do not know what is the position now since the present Minister of Home Affairs has taken up this Ministry, but I did tell the Minister that he must go into these hotels, send the police and the immigration authorities and see if they would not pick up people who are working in these hotels and drawing a sizable salary, and they have no work permit. The Minister assured me that he had already taken up the matter and circularised the hotels. I drew this to the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs long before the present Minister took over and nothing was done about it. It is only now you have touched the Lord's anointed, the fellows close to the throne, the cocktail boys, that you are hearing this noise about immigration policy and that you should not send out people.

I know a man who played a very important role in the election. I am not calling his name because I do not betray a man's confidence; but he is a supporter of the side. He came to me almost in tears and convinced me that he should have had a chance and I promised to speak to the Minister of Home Affairs about him. I did, and the Minister of Home Affairs told me he was not in that. That is courage. The individual's spouse would not be able to draw money here because we have enough girls around who can do the job. I feel, Sir, that this is the attitude of the Minister, not of the Government. It is regrettable that the Minister is a member of the Other Side. I believe he is a member of the Other Side by accident.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I take objection to that remark, that it is regrettable that the Minister is a member of the Other Side. I helped form this party and I am proud to be a member of the Government and the party.

Mr. CRAIG: I said it is regrettable that you are a member of the other side. I would have preferred if you were over here. What have you got to object to? The Leader of the House helped to form this Party and he is over there; so I would not be surprised if in five years you would be over here too knowing the hon. member as well as I do. He may wake up one morning and decide he is not dancing to this tune.

Mr. Chairman, it is felt, as the hon. member for Christ Church South Central said yesterday, that as long as you are poor you have no contribution to make, like the Grenadians who come here and do a little job that you cannot get a Barbadian to do; so you are to hustle them out. 3.30 p.m.

The money is small, but as soon as there is the big money you have a chosen few whom you cannot touch, and that is why I support the Minister on his stand and I look forward for better things. I was told that he is weakening a bit; whether it is true I do not know, I am told that he began very good but that he is not now

pressing as hard, he is coming back in the stirrups a bit, but I will be keeping an eagle eye on him.

On this passport business, Mr. Chairman, you know when people in general or members of this House say things or put out what may be constructive suggestions they are always met with some fancy idea that you are doing this for some prominence in the community. I remember that some time ago I suggested to the appropriate Minister that it would be a good idea if there was some form of identification on the card of a member of Parliament. I said this because I know the great inconvenience that a Policeman can have when he is assisting members of Parliament even with parking downstairs because they are entitled to it, and I threw out the suggestion in here that we should have some form of identification - and I am sorry the member at that time was not with our Party, because he wanted to be an Archbishop or Pope, we had to go in St. Joseph and make him understand he was no Pope - and he said that everybody in Barbados knew him and as far as he was concerned he wanted nothing on his car except "Fix-it-right Garage". About a month or two afterwards I believe a very important debate was going on, the Prime Minister came in and could not get anywhere to park, and he reported a particular policeman to the Commissioner of Police for not allowing him to get through the traffic in time to come to Parliament, and the policeman in his defence said that he did not recognise the Prime Minister or the car in which he was driving. It is difficult to recognise the Prime Minister, because he has a wide range of cars in which to drive. He is entitled to this, he is the Prime Minister, he is my Prime Minister too, he is the Prime Minister of Barbados and I am a Barbadian. That is why I sympathise with the member for Christ Church South Central on the head blows he is going to take in here from his own Party, but whatever is in a man will come out as it did yesterday afternoon. How he is alive today I do not know, he had some real body punches.

Mr. Chairman, I feel quite strongly on this, that all members of Parliament should be given diplomatic passports, for this reason - and you can forget me - but imagine the Leader of the House is travelling with the member for St. Michael South East on Government Business. The Leader of the House goes through Customs with all the red carpet treatment because he has a diplomatic passport, but he would have to ask the Immigration Authorities to give his colleague a piece too because he is travelling with him. I do not feel that any member of Parliament should be subject to this, and I feel that a diplomatic passport should be issued to each member of Parliament. When he is no longer a member of Parliament withdraw it, but it can cause a great amount of embarrassment if a Minister of Government is travelling with a back bencher and he has to ask a favour for the back bencher because he has a diplomatic passport and the other member does not. This is a suggestion I would like the Ministry to look at.

This is Item 47 where there is the figure of $38,600. I believe the Minister is the type of person one can listen to, and I believe he would be quite willing at least to look into this matter. It is regrettable that I have to throw the full weight of my contribution on one of the former Ministers of Home Affairs who is now the Minister of Housing, another dangerous Ministry and one which calls for swinging in a heavy atmosphere, and it looks to me as if this particular Minister is like Sam Benskin, always with problems.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was sorry to hear the remarks of the hon. member for St. James when he told us that he had become aware some time back of persons working in hotels without work permits, and at the same time I am realistic enough to realise that this can happen. It is a very difficult thing sometimes to control, but I am entirely with the member for St. James that if this kind of thing goes on it must be stamped out immediately; it cannot be allowed to continue. What concerns me, however, is whether I understood him correctly, that he had given the facts, the names of these people - and he listed the hotels, Sandy Lane, Le Bistro, Miramar, Coral Reef - who were working without work permits to the then Minister of Home Affairs who did nothing about it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I did not say I knew the names of the persons, I listed the names of some of the west coast hotels. I said in my debate just now that there were places like Miramar, Sandy Lane, Coral Reef and some of those hotels on the west coast where people were working in executive positions when in truth and in fact they checked in at Seawell Airport as visitors for about six months.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I want to make it quite clear that at no time has the hon. member for St. James made such an approach to me. The hon. member for St. James made an approach to me on other matters which I shall speak about shortly.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, all I wanted to establish was whether in fact these

were facts or whether they were a bunch of rumours put together. I think it has been established.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention to speak on this matter, but I certainly cannot allow the hon. member for St. James to come here and make it appear that the Immigration Department under my Ministry was mainly concerned with putting St. Lucians, Vincentians, and Dominicans out of the island when he knows it is untrue.
3.40 p.m.

There was a time when he came to me about an executive member of a West Coast hotel and asked me to ease him, because he was employing a few girls in his constituency.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is an unkind thing to say this in Parliament. I want the Minister to understand that I can twist things twice as well as he can. I told the Minister that there was a man at Coral Reef hotel who had kicked a boy. I think one of the lawyers on this side defended the boy. The boy was paid $1,200, and the man was sent out of Barbados. What nonsense are you talking?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The hon. member did talk to me about that man, and he was sent out of the country. He himself has admitted it. Do not come in here and say that under my administration only Vincentians, Dominicans and St. Lucians were sent out of the country. That was not the only person the hon. member has spoken to me about. He spoke to me about somebody else and asked me to ease him because he was employing a few girls from St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I must rise on a point of order. I would hate to say that the Minister is a liar. I cannot say that, but it is my humble opinion that he is a double twister of the truth. I have no more respect for him this evening. I am going to treat him very badly in here, and I am capable of doing it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I would not even ask him to withdraw that. Do you know why? The hon. member talks loud and long about matters of which he knows nothing about. I will continue with the debate. The hon. member has talked as though the granting of work permits had ceased. In other words, of the 900 work permits which were granted up to a certain date no more were issued. Under my administration everybody had to make out a case, and that is why he had to make out a case when he wanted me to retain a man at the West Coast hotel. Further, not only do I not have anything to be ashamed of in the Ministry of Home Affairs, but I have had many successes. Look at Cable & Wireless and you will see that every Englishman was driven out of the Barbados office of Cable & Wireless. The only Englishmen you will find employed there nowadays are those who are training people. There are other examples, Mr. Chairman. Look at the Airlines. Look at the Banks, although some of them could have done better. There are several other areas where I have impressed upon employers that they have to train Barbadians and employ Barbadians. Of course, we all agree that we do not want them to employ unqualified persons, but they will have to get Barbadians qualified.

Some time ago the hon. member for the City said in this House that 998 work permits were granted and 998 persons were not in training. What stupidness is that? If we gave a Doctor a work permit, are we going to suggest to him that he should train another Doctor to take his place? That is a very absurb example, Mr. Chairman, but the facts are there for all to see. People have come to Barbados and received employment in areas where Barbadians should have been employed without a work permit. They came in as visitors and found a job without any work permit whatsoever. This was said by the hon. member and quite rightly so. This happens to Barbados and all over the world as well. Take a place like the United States with a highly sophisticated system of immigration, and you will find the same thing taking place. It is not a matter which can be easily wiped out, but I believe it can be controlled.

Mr. Chairman, when I was the Minister of Home Affairs, I took certain proposals to the Cabinet with a view to amending the Immigration Act whereby an employer would be fined for employing a foreigner without a work permit. I believe that would be an effective way of controlling it. Unless we do that an employer would be able to employ foreigners and they will get away with it. So long as an employer knows that he will be heavily fined for breaking the law, he will think twice or even three times before employing somebody without a work permit.

Mr. Chairman, the question of immigration is a complex matter, and it requires people with intelligence beyond what we have seen exhibited in some places to deal with it. I know it is not an easy matter, and that is why I have a lot of sympathy for the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. I know that he is doing the right thing, and I want to emphasize that he has the full support of the Government and of my party on this issue. I

would believe that he would modify his approach here and there. After all, he is an individual and he would want to make his own stamp on the Ministry he occupies. Every Minister would want to make his own stamp on the Ministry he occupies, because the approach is different. I would not expect him to carry on slavishly what he has found there. I would expect him to have a good look at things and modify them here and there as I have been doing in the Ministry of Housing.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly believe that the Minister is doing the right thing. I know that he has been severely criticised by some members on the other side but not all of the members. It only highlights the disunity among the members on that side.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister replies, it can go on record as my saying that I have never been able in my 5 years - and it is a sad thing to say - to place one single boy or girl in a post in any hotel, shop, drug store or supermarket in the parish of St. James. It cannot be said that I did not try. I tried and it is a known fact. I could not have approached the Minister. I would have been in a position to approach the Minister had I been working at the International Construction Company, and he knows that, too. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want any person to instruct me. I do not want any person to tell me how I must conduct affairs in here. I am not objecting to anything he has said to you. I am about to make a ruling relative to this particular Head. I think I have heard so much about it that, unless members are prepared to confine themselves directly to the Head, I will put the question. That is what I stood up to say.
3.50 p.m.

I have given latitude to both sides, and I think the matter has been thoroughly discussed, and I was only waiting to hear the Minister reply, but I find that someone is prepared to carry this debate further and I am not going to allow it.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be here to hear the remarks of the hon. member for St. Michael West who spoke yesterday, and today the remarks of the hon. member for Christ Church West. I have already stated on a previous occasion where the Ministry of Home Affairs stands on this issue, what has been the Government's policy which I found as I went to the Ministry on the 12th October, 1971, and what I have been endeavouring to carry out to the best of my ability. I do not intend to go over that again, but I would like to say that my experience, my knowledge and ability obviously are not the same as the Minister on my left, and if there are going to be any differences, they could only be attributed to the differences in these three characteristics which I have mentioned. There is no conflict in policy between myself and the former Minister of Home Affairs. I am aware of the fact that a man like myself who does not have any great ancestry to draw upon and who was not born with a gold spoon in my mouth can find myself in a great predicament in a Barbadian society especially when you want to defend or protect the interests of the majority of people. Very often you find that the people whom you set out to protect are the first ones to criticise you, and I believe, Sir, that much of the criticism which has come about within the past few weeks about the performance of the Ministry of Home Affairs in reality has something to do with the character and the type of individual the Minister of Home Affairs happens to be. If I was not of that character, I do not believe that these criticisms would ever take place or if they did take place, would not have been of the quality that has already transpired.

There is a lot of misinformation. The Minister of Home Affairs has been blamed for a lot of things. Not very long ago, during the present debate, reference was made to the I.B.M. engineer in this country being given a work permit for only one year. I would like to say here and now that that application was made in May 1971 when the individual was given a year and it will run until May this year. I had nothing to do with it; but I would like to say that I am aware of remarks going on behind the scenes relative to this present engineer in Barbados. I am aware of the fact that the Director of the Data Processing Unit is championing the application for the present engineer, and I have stated quite clearly that I will favourably consider the application when the time comes and when the application is made in the formal manner by the employer, because the policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs is that the employer of the worker must make the application for the permit. I am also aware of the fact that I.B.M. is interested in pressurising the Government into buying another machine other than the 1402 which is in current use, and one of the ways of doing this is by saying that they are not interested in applying for a work permit for the resident engineer, and if he can get one on his own they will continue to pay him.

Mr. Chairman, there have been other cases where the present Minister has been blamed, and as Barbadians say, has been lambast, but I think very often if the facts were brought out to the Barbadian public, they would be very shocked to

hear that in some of these cases the Minister of Home Affairs knew nothing of what was going on. I would like to say here that I am a bit shocked at some of the complaints made against my staff, because since assuming duties as Minister responsible for Home Affairs it is my practice every Friday wherever possible between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to sit down with my staff and discuss the problems confronting the Ministry and try to evolve a solution, and often to relate the policy of the Cabinet to the work confronting the Ministry, and therefore I would like to say strongly that I have every reason to say now that I always have the fullest support of the staff of my Ministry; and I do feel a bit disheartened to hear any remarks which tend to reflect on the character and the contribution which the staff in my Ministry has made to me during the period that I have been in the Ministry.

Yesterday I had been told that one of the members of the staff is opposed to the present policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs because he has a sister in Guyana who would like to come back to this country. I have done my checking and the particular member has brought to my attention that he does have a sister in Guyana who has been living there for 25 years and has no intention of returning to Barbados, and it is a bit revolting to him to hear that someone has stated that he has made such a statement.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, is the hon. member saying that the member of staff did not tell me that he may want his sister to come back here to look after his mother who is sick? Because I told the House as a fact that I know of the sister and so on only in the context of the ill mother; so you can decide whom to believe. I do not know the gentleman's family; I only know him as a name for some many years, and I assure the House of Assembly that I only know of his sister by his saying that even he had a sister who lives overseas and something about his mother being ill. I am sorry all this has to be raised, but the hon. member must just consider for a moment how would I know this if I did not hear it from the person concerned.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I am making no accusation against the Leader of the Opposition. I am just clarifying my position as Minister of Home Affairs because I realise there is a lot of misinformation and misconception about the Ministry, and in my opening remarks I said quite clearly that I suspect that why this was so was because of the type of individual the Minister of Home Affairs happens to be. I would like to ask the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to clarify the issue with the person from whom he got the information.

Mr. ADAMS: I will suggest to the Minister that he too clarify it because I will get my diary and tell you the day and time of the telephone call in which the conversation took place if he is going to deny he told me about the sister being married to a Guyanese and discussing an ill mother and looking after the same category. If he is going to deny that I will tell you the day and time of the telephone call.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: As the saying goes, if walls could speak we would know a lot, but unfortunately walls cannot speak and neither can telephones. A lot of complaints have been made about the staff in the Ministry of Home Affairs. We get complaints and we look into them. After having carried out an investigation we seek to reach conciliation; we call in the person against whom the complaint has been made and after that a decision is made. Quite often on the basis of complaints and conciliation we only warn people, but there have been occasions where we must have them to leave because some persons have a belief that they can insult the Ministry; they have a belief that they can run around and complain, and there are people in Barbados who are prepared to take up their complaints feeling that the Minister will have to back down. I know of a particular case this year where a former Minister acting for the Minister of Home Affairs made a decision against which an appeal was made, and the particular person, an Englishman, on the promptings of Barbadians came to see me at my home and spent two hours a Saturday afternoon in my yard in his car while the rain was falling and I was sleeping, to put his case to me. When he came into my house I asked him to sit down, and he was in a very angry and bellicose attitude. I had to tell him that if I had been in Britain and I went to see the Home Secretary on a matter I could not behave in that way; so I am not accepting this type of behaviour from you, so please leave. He did not accept that because he went on in his bellicose manner, and I told him that the manner in which he was behaving would never induce me to rescind a decision which was made by a previous Minister.

4.00 p.m.

That was not the end of it, because recently I have heard remarks being made by responsible citizens of this country that we are depriving them of the services of an architect. People cannot come into this country, regardless of their colour or the country from which they come, and disrespect the Ministers because I do not believe for one moment that even the Hon. Prime Minister who has served in Britain would be encouraged or excused if he went into Britain and disrespected one of the Ministers either at his home or his office, and I want foreigners also to realise that as a nation we

have our sovereignty, our dignity and our laws; likewise we have our Government, and when they come here we expect them to respect our identity, our sovereignty, our laws and our Ministers.

Now a lot has been said about people writing to the Ministry of Home Affairs amd not signing their names and the Ministry of Home Affairs taking action on these things, but when you look at the structure of the Barbadian society you will have to realise that people have to withhold their names from many things, because once their names are known they get punishment. I am well aware of a case where a man went to my office to lay a complaint and two days later he was fired from a hotel, because he was seen, the matter was reported to the Manager, the Manager assumed that he had been up to the Ministry of Home Affairs to make a complaint and he was fired. In a society such as Barbados where people like to carry news and people believe in listening to news people cannot rush to put their names on documents knowing very well that other people may see these documents, and when they see these documents they may report to people higher up what has taken place, people are concerned with their bread and butter and a man who has a job does not want to lose it, so while people may write letters to the Ministry of Home Affairs and do not sign their names, we have a responsibility to discharge and we must see if there is any substance in these complaints. We have found on many occasions after investigating that there has been some substance in many of these complaints, and we do not go around criticising, we do not even want to make an appeal to people in Barbados that they should put their names on any complaints which they make and if they do not put their names we are not going to consider them, because we know that the peculiarities of the Barbadian society are such that people right down at the bottom cannot afford to put their names on everything that they write. They cannot even be courageous enough to come into the Ministry of Home Affairs or come at my home to tell me something because somebody will see them and report back to where they work and the next two days or so they have lost their jobs.

What we are mainly concerned with when a complaint is made to us is if there is any substance in the complaint, and when we investigate we also find that on many occasions there is no substance and nothing can be done. People have their grumbles and their grouses and sometimes they complain, but quite often we have found there is nothing in the complaint and nothing has been done, but on other occasions we have found that there has been some substance in these complaints and we have taken legitimate action. All the information which we get we like to treat confidentially, but here again we have peculiar habits among our own people in Barbados. Many people like to know that they can get to the top or that they can get quick promotion, not by doing their work conscientiously and efficiently, some people like to get promotion by, as we say, undermining another man, bad-talking another man, carrying tales, and this is characteristic of the Barbadian society, but although we go all out to ensure that information reaching us is treated confidentially, we cannot for one moment sit by and say that some of the information reaching us may not find itself outside without our knowledge, and therefore especially in relation to files in the Ministry of Home Affairs we have to be quite certain that for any file leaving the Ministry of Home Affairs a record is kept of who is taking it and it does not leave without the knowledge of either the Permanent Secretary or the Minister.

When we come now to the question of women and their husbands, I will not go over that again in much detail because in my previous address to this hon. Chamber I have mentioned where the policy stands, but I would like to draw to the attention of hon. members that between 1966 and 1972 there have only been about 70 applications from Barbadian women on behalf of their husbands, and you can rate this out for yourself how much it works out per annum, but the majority of these applications has been approved. A few of them have been refused, and obviously when we refuse them we have grounds for refusing them. We do not want people to feel that there has been a large flood of these applications descending on the Ministry and the Ministry has just discarded them, between 1966 and 1972 which is a period of six years you can see that it works out at an average of twelve per year, so one cannot from this assume that Barbadian women are so anxious to have foreign husbands come into this country, because the number of applications coming in is quite small. At the same time we do not want them to feel that for any reason we are opposed to giving these people any status in this country, resident status or status to reside and work, but we would like them to know that we would like to evaluate each case on its merits, we are not going to give any blanket approval so that any and everybody can come into this country, we want them to know we have the right to evaluate each case on its merits.

Again, when you look around or you listen to the type of criticism which has been levelled against the Ministry in this hon. Chamber about Barbadian women and their husbands, the present Minister of Home Affairs has never yet so far had any representation made by any family or organisation or group of women in this country on

behalf of foreign husbands of Barbadian women; none has approached me either by telephone or personally or in writing even to raise the subject. I am aware also that at a recent meeting of the National Organisation of Women this matter was brought up and the majority of women present abstained from voting on the resolution, so in my opinion a lot of heavy weather has been made about a minor subject, seeing the way in which the women themselves are treating it.

I have already stated the position of the Ministry as regards the Evangelists, I do not want to go over that again, but I am aware like many other people in this country that there is something indiscreet going on among many of these foreign Evangelists coming to this country. At this stage I would like to tell this hon. Chamber that many important people in this country give us information; we have our sources of information. Do not be misled into thinking that we are getting our information only from people down at the bottom who grumble, I think if it was right to disclose the names of people who give us information hon. members in this Chamber would be shocked to realise that important people who hold high office in Barbados supply the Ministry of Home Affairs with information about what is going on in this country, and not very long ago two prominent citizens of Barbados came into the Ministry and let us know something about the operations of some of these Evangelists in this country, and I had to tell them I was deeply impressed to know that people in such positions are looking up and observing the activities of these organisations.

When we think in terms of this question of 72 hours notice, again I have already dealt with that, but I would like to say this. The law is quite clear, the law says if your permit expires today and you are not out tomorrow you are a prohibited immigrant, we do not have to give you 72 hours to get out, but I would like to say again, if you take an island like Singapore they do not give you 72 hours, you have to get out immediately. They do not hesitate about it, and do you know why? In a country such as Barbados and maybe also Singapore, you find that when a foreigner comes into the country and works, then he allows his permit to expire and continues to work without a valid permit, and you give him time to remain before he winds up his business and gets out, there is absolutely no guarantee that he will not work during that period.
4.10 p.m.

We do not have the staff to put somebody to watch him to ensure that he does not continue working, and the best way to ensure that is to ask him to leave, so long as he has violated the laws of this country. I should like to say that there are other countries in this hemisphere such as the United States of America that can afford to be generous, but they are not generous when they catch you violating their Immigration Regulations; they put you in jail until some means of transportation back to your country is available.

On the question of training, we know that in certain areas we cannot press that people be trained. The Hon. Minister on my left has mentioned Doctors. We cannot ask a Doctor or an Architect to train somebody to replace him. What we are trying to do is to get a system in this country whereby we can offer more scholarships and expand the Training Scheme right here in Barbados. It is noteworthy that a Managing Director of a Company, which owns four hotels in Barbados, has drawn it to my attention that it is not profitable for them to bring foreigners to work in Barbados. They have to pay their salaries; pay for their wife and children; find housing for them and give them a lot of fringe benefits which they do not have to give to Barbadians. They have no fault with the policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs. They have even made a direct offer that they would like to assist the Barbados Government in training Barbadians right here in Barbados to occupy the highest positions in the hotels that they own. They went on to say that they are sure that there are four other companies operating in Barbados who will assist in any venture for training Barbadians up to the highest level, because they realise it is not in their interest to bring in foreigners to work in this country. The problem here lies not with such big companies but with other people in this country who own hotels. They want people who not only hold down the jobs and draw the salaries, but at the end of the year to know that they themselves made a profit.

We find in the Ministry of Home Affairs that our biggest problem is the hotel industry. When the hon. member for St. James made certain remarks here, I have already said that we are well aware of certain things in the hotel industry. We have been surprised to find the number of people working in the hotel industry without work permits. This is something you cannot stop, because, as the Hon. Member on my left has said, people will come in here and because of certain peculiarities in the Barbadian society – Mr. Chairman, I am not talking race, but this is a fact which cannot be denied. A man of a certain pigmentation in Barbados can automatically or easily walk into a job in this country far more readily than a Barbadian of my pigmentation. This is part of our history. This is not something we are going to change by wishing it away. We have to stand up

in wives, because one thing you do not need in Barbados is women; we have a sufficiency of them. The whole idea is so illogical. After all one-third of the members of this House have brought women into Barbados, and nearly all the women are working and upon the basis of the speech put forward by the hon. member for St. Michael West are taking food out of the mouths of Barbadian girls. I believe you can treat that with the contempt it deserves. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Don't bring mine into that; she is a doctor.) I agree with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. The argument is useless from the word "go". I am suggesting to hon. members that the arguments of the hon. member for St. Michael West were as specious as they were offensive. I will not deal with that anymore. I am suggesting to the....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I am going to reply, but if you allow him to say that my words were offensive, do you realise what that really means? He has to withdraw those words.

Mr. ADAMS: What does he want me to withdraw?

Mr. WALCOTT: All right. Don't withdraw them; you go ahead.

Mr. ADAMS: If he want to reveal his ignorance of what the word "specious" means, I will ask him to tell the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You said specious and offensive.

Mr. ADAMS: Which does he wish me to withdraw, "specious" or "offensive"?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I do not want him to withdraw. Let him go ahead.

Mr. ADAMS: I have heard so often from the hon. member that I will never make a speech again after he has spoken, that honestly you really have to think that this is the voice of God. God will get up, God will say this is the final word on the subject and no more must be said. He must learn to take a little licks because he likes sharing them. He seems to have forgotten his experience of 1966. All of us in here are capable of doing the same to him and I am not worrying with that.

The Minister said he has not been approached by the women's organisations and spoke something about abstentions from voting. That may very well be as it is, but he has been approached in this House. Now he is given the size of the problem it has fortified the views of us on this side who believe that the admission of non-Barbadian husbands can do nothing adversely to affect the employment situation since it is only twelve a year who have applied, seventy over a long period. We believe this number is so small as not to make it worthwhile to perpetuate discrimination against women because that is precisely what it is. All the legal trash that can be trotted out, and I am just as capable of trotting out legal trash if I have a brief to do as any other lawyer, should be relegated to where it belongs, the law courts. You are paid for talking nonsense in the law courts sometimes; let us be crude in this respect. Nobody is paid to talk nonsense in here as far as I am concerned. Forget all this talk about historical and the Roman Law and the husband's duty is to maintain his wife. That is what I say when I am doing a maintenance case; I do not come in here and make a lot of tedious first principles of the law of divorce and try to apply that unto human and social problems that we have to deal with every day. Leave that to lawyers in court as far as I am concerned.

I have always had great contempt for the writers of anonymous letters. It must be admitted there is something in what the Minister says. I do not myself like at any time being a lawyer on the thought of taking action on the basis of what an anonymous accuser is prepared to say. Those of us who have ever been to Venice and seen the ancient law courts of Venice will notice that the witness box there is entirely enclosed and the face of the accuser cannot be seen, and he gives evidence from inside this box and there is just a little aperture out of which his voice, I believe suitably disguised by speaking through a cloth, used to come, and this is not on the whole considered by lawyers a reasonable or fair process, and this is why the Bill of Rights says that anybody has a right to be confronted by his accuser. Nonetheless there is something in what the Minister says, but what I am appealing to the Minister about is this: do not in the absence of any other evidence ever take any action on the basis of anonymous letters.
4.30 p.m.

There is something I will say, Mr. Chairman, and I will ask the Minister to think about this. I attacked the Ministry for listening to gossip and reading and taking action on anonymous letters. The Minister got up and said I was being unfair and offensive to the Ministry; the next day he has come in here and agreed that the Ministry takes action upon the basis of anonymous letters.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I object to that. Nowhere in my speech did I say that I take action on anonymous letters. I have admitted here that we have received letters and when we checked we found in a lot of them there

was nothing but in some of them there has been substance; that is all I said.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, is carrying out an investigation not taking action? You receive an anonymous letter and you carry out an investigation, is that not taking action? Do you know the heyday of anonymous letters, when the Germans passed a law against Jews, people used to denounce anonymously their neighbours every day they had a Jewish grandmother, and the German Minister of the Home Affairs Interior used to go and look up certificates to see if somebody's grandmother really was Jewish and if they found out it was true they would then perhaps put the person in prison or deprive the person of his citizenship rights. Is that not taking action on the basis of anonymous letters?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the member is using language for which he has the facility. The action or decision taken by the Ministry is based on investigation which began as a result of the anonymous letter, but he is using taking action in the sense that the Ministry is giving a decision based on the anonymous letter, which is not so. I want him to use his language, I want him to say and to admit what the Minister is saying, that the Minister's action in the sense of a decision is taken as a result of the investigation which is started when he receives an anonymous letter. There can be no ambiguity with that, so do not come with your lawyer talk now, get your language straight.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member who has just sat down has made his own speech, I will make mine, I do not require him to give me any instructions upon the use of language. If I chose to use action the way in which I have used it I will use it, and when I intend to say decision I will say decision. I am familiar with the English language, and I really do not believe there has ever been a stage in his or my life when he could have given me any instructions, he and I were at school together and he would know...(Hon. F. G. SMITH: You were a little boy to me). Maybe I was a little boy to you, I am not a little boy to you now, I am the Leader of a political Party. He was once the Leader of a political Party, where is he now? Sitting down at the end of the table.

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear that hotels are willing to assist the Barbados Government in the way of training. This was a good part of the burden of the speech of the member for Christ Church West. This in fact is the policy which we are going to urge on the Government when we reach the Ministry of Education, that you associate industrial and hotel establishments with training institutes to make Barbadians competent to occupy posts of responsibility in those establishment.

Mr. Chairman, there was also a remark about how foreigners come here and get jobs at the top. The great overwhelming majority of the foreigners who work in Barbados have jobs at the bottom, and these are the St. Lucians in the City of Bridgetown, the Vincentians who cut canes and going on up from there. The problem at the top, I would suggest to the Committee, is a small one, yet it is the one that attracts the most attention. It is true that most Barbadians go to England to work as bus drivers or nurses; some also go to England and the first work they get perhaps is that of a BBC producer, a large number are doctors. This is true in any country, that a certain number of people will get jobs at the top and a much larger number will get jobs at the bottom. We are looking only at the top, let us look at the whole spectrum and let us not set out a policy based upon a few people carrying well placed positions at the top, but always bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, that when I first raised this subject in here I said there will always be a prejudice in commercial circles in this country in favour of North Americans and English people.

If you turn back to my speech that will be found early in my speech, and the first time it was mentioned in here is then; therefore you undoubtedly have to have an employment policy which makes it more difficult for the commercial sector of this island to employ outsiders. We have to agree with everything that is said. I personally do not believe that the reason for not having Barbadians is that they will know your business, I think the reason for not having Barbadians is in fact the belief that certain jobs are not well done by Barbadians. We must be frank about this, and members on this side are not going to quarrel where that is concerned. Not so long ago the former Minister of Home Affairs, I believe it was he who decided that hotel receptionists must no longer come from abroad, and I think that everybody in Barbados applauded that policy.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Just to set the record straight, Mr. Chairman, this was decided on before I became Minister of Home Affairs, I do not want to take the credit for it.

Mr. ADAMS: I was prepared to give the Minister the credit because I think I probably discussed it with him some years ago, but this is a policy anybody would appreciate. Before that time it seemed you could not go in the west coast hotels and find a Barbadian girl, now it is all Barbadian. That is the kind of positive policy which we

appreciate. Nobody is going to critise the Minister of Home Affairs, I think all the Ministers of Home Affairs have given too much latitude to people to come to see them and discuss immigration policy direct. Were I a Minister of Home Affairs I would have a policy that no immigrant sees me at all either in my house or in the office.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I want to state quite clearly that as Minister of Home Affairs I never saw an applicant, and I made it quite clear to my Secretary that I did not want to see any person applying for work permits. Sometimes I would see the employers if I thought I had something to tell them, and sometimes I had a lot to tell them, and in those cases I would ask them to come to see me, but quite often when applicant seeking permission to reside and work in Barbados came to the Ministry asking to see me I would suggest to whoever brought the message that they could go and see someone else in the Ministry, and of course at one time I got the reputation of not seeing people, and that it was more difficult to see me than to see Kruschev, and all kinds of things were said.

Mr. ADAMS: I hope they were not said by any hon. member on this side, because if the Minister of Home Affairs feels that any member on this side would encourage a man to park his car in his yard for two hours trying to see him about an immigration decision, the Minister is sadly mistaken. I like the record to be straight on certain things, Sir. I know perfectly well that a Vincentian cane cutter would not think that he had it within his rights to go up to the Ministry of Home Affairs and see the Minister, or he should not think so, and that the same Secretaries would find it easier to tell the Vincentian cane cutter he cannot see the Minister than they might if it was somebody holding an important post in the land, I know this. The correct solution is that the Minister must tell his Secretary that no immigrant is to see him at all, and make it known to the immigrants, and when they apply say that communications should be addressed to the Ministry in writing and the person attending the immigrant will not be permitted or something like that, deal with it that way. Do not come into the House and complain that somebody came in your yard, they must have had some basis for thinking that they would be welcome in the Minister's yard, that is all I can say. There must have been somebody into whose yard they thought they could go for private concourse.

The question of the 72 hours. The complaint about the 72 hours notice is this. Persons were given 72 hours notice when as far as they knew their applications to have their work permits renewed were still being considered by the Ministry. I have said in here, and I say again, a man is working, his permit expires, he applies a month beforehand, which is the statutory period, the Ministry cannot make up its mind in a month, it is unfair and monstrous to tell the man that he must then stop working while the Ministry makes up its mind or gives him 72 hours to leave.

4.40 p.m.

If the law says a month, the decision should be a month.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to clarify this matter. As far as I am concerned, no person who has made application for a work permit and it is still being processed has been asked to leave. People who have been asked to leave have been asked to do so either because of the fact that they have been carrying on in a manner disrespectful to the Ministry, or in the majority of cases because their work permits had expired and they never even bothered to get a new. That is a violation of the law. They should hold a valid work permit. In fact, we have discovered a case today where a work permit expired 18 months ago, and the gentleman has not applied to have it renewed. What must I do about that?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we have dealt with that at great length. The expression "work permit" finds no place in the laws of Barbados. I will repeat that if somebody has broken the law, Why do you not bring him before the court? There must be many people whose work permits expire and who would be granted renewals to remain in Barbados, because they are doing a useful job. There must be many people whose work permits had expired, and if they had applied in time they would have been renewed. The correct way to deal with those people is not to put them out of Barbados. The correct way to deal with them is to prosecute them under the Immigration Act for remaining in Barbados after the expiry of a work permit. Let them pay a fine of $500, and let them apply again. If they are doing a useful job; if it is agreed that they could lawfully be in Barbados because they are doing something a Barbadian cannot do, then punish them through the court in the same way as you would punish any other lawbreaker, because when you put them out you are cutting off your nose to spite your face. You are really putting people out of Barbados who you admit could do a useful job, but they have allowed their work permits to expire. That is the way to deal with the matter. Are you going to put out a Doctor? Are you going to say that he should train a Barbadian?

Now, public opinion is a very tricky thing on this subject. The Neuremberg laws against the Jews

were enacted in Germany in 1935. Hitler had won almost an absolute majority in Parliament in 1933 – I think he had a minority Government in 1933 – he passed laws against the Jews, and in 1936 he won an overwhelming majority in what was, on the face of it, a free election. Public opinion was certainly in his favour. The public opinion polls consistently show in Britain a majority in favour of Mr. Enoch Powell. That does not mean to me that Mr. Enoch Powell is right to send home all of the Barbadians. That is all I have to say. The fact that the public opinion polls of the thinking people of England support Mr. Enoch Powell does not mean to me, on moral grounds leaving out the fact that I am a coloured man, that Barbados will be very adversely affected. It does not mean to me that, on general moral grounds, because the ordinary people of England support Mr. Enoch Powell at the polls that his policy is right. *(Asides.)* What is that? (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Morality is a question of geography.) I do not know what the Minister means. That is too high for me. Like all epigrams which are selected out of context and without reference to the circumstances they are meant to illustrate, that is too high for me.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that the temporary ebbing and flowing of public opinion, as judged perhaps by the Minister, should be diverting a Government from morality. I had occasion to tell the hon. member for St. James about two instances in his own constituency at the time that this issue came up with a big storm. Somebody was put out of the Island from down at Miramar. It was a most unpopular case from all accounts, but I do not know the man. It was widely popular down there. At the southern end of St. James there was some talk about a Doctor being put out, but it was a widely unpopular policy. If you took public opinion in southern St. James, you find the people were against the Minister of Home Affairs, but if you took public opinion in northern St. James, you find the people were for him. It depends on public opinion view on individual cases without sometimes looking at the broad policy. That is how you look at it. Government has to administer morality on what is right. Government has to take the broader view of things.

Mr. Chairman, there is one thing that can be said about this long, drawn-out debate...(Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: What is the name of the Doctor?) Mr. Chairman, I am talking about a rumour that has affected the population. That is the context within which we are talking about rumours. There was a rumour in southern St. James that a certain Doctor was going to be asked to leave the Island, and a number of people went to the former Speaker of the House and asked him to approach certain people as well as the Attorney General, because the Minister of Home Affairs wanted to send him out. That is the position if you want chapter and verse. (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I am not aware of that) *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, they are preventing me from winding up my speech. Let me finish it.

Mr. Chairman, all of these debates on immigration have straightened out a lot of things. That is the easiest way of all to put it. They have modified the extremism of everybody on that side except the hon. member for St. Michael West. By giving us more information on this side, it has enabled us to associate ourselves with those parts of present immigration policy which we believe can be useful to Barbadians, and it has also enabled us to highlight those parts which may be affected.

As I said yesterday, Sir, at the start there has been a big storm in a teacup, because hardly anybody has, in fact, been put out. The 72-hour notices, no matter whether they have been defended in here or not have, as a matter of fact, been modified in several cases. People have applied for more than 72 hours, and they have been given a longer time. To my mind all of that is the result of the public debate in this Chamber. I believe a lot of good has been done on both sides not the least for and to the Minister of Home Affairs.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would not have entered this debate again, because I do not consider a member saying another member is offensive should past your ears. I am not even looking to Your Honour for any assistance on that. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition takes anything I have said as offensive, he may take offence at things he has done. All that I have said, and this may have offended him, is that I am not opposed to who a man marries. Whether a man marries to a doctor or a lawyer and so on, it is no business of mine. All I am concerned with is that some people when they have made these choices seem to regret them subsequently. I do not regret any I have made. I said that in so far as our immigration policy is concerned, it must take into account the reality of Barbados' situation. We happen to be a community with over 114,000 people to the square mile, we must look after jobs, and as a result of that we cannot accept anybody coming in and going out freely. Therefore, the question of a woman marrying to a husband would have no relation in this context. It is a matter for examination. If a woman marries to a doctor, we are not going to prevent the doctor from coming here because we need doctors. What is offensive about that?

Mr. Chairman, I said that I was born black; I was not born coloured; I cannot change, and I have

no intention of seeking a change. I find that the Leader of the Opposition has taken to task the Ministry of Home Affairs and the former Minister of Home Affairs. When a reply is made, he finds that there is no substance in what he has said, and he is accusing the member for St. Michael West as being offensive. Yesterday he accused everybody. 4.50 p.m.

Yesterday the hon. member accused everybody, but the only persons I find are offensive are persons who cannot defend themselves. He took the poor ambassador to the United Nations and said he said something on a broadcast praising himself, and nobody praises himself more than the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. From the time I have been back in here he has been talking about 1966; he had better realise that this is 1972 and I am back here notwithstanding the array of all of them. They spent more time in St. Michael West than they spent anywhere else, and I am still here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order...

Mr. WALCOTT: That can't be a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Allow me to decide the point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael West must not make such misleading statements in this Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I really would like to find out what Head the hon. member is speaking on.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am on a point of order on what the hon. member has said. I am saying that he must not make misleading statements to the Committee. He started off by saying that Barbados is a small place with 1400,000 people to the square mile. That in itself is a misleading statement. Then he goes on to say that everybody spent more time in St. Michael West. That is a misleading statement.

Mr. WALCOTT: I meant 1,400. The hon. member cannot challenge me on something I said at the beginning of my speech; he has to challenge me on the last thing I said. I will teach him Parliamentary procedure. I thought the hon. member was dealing with my remarks about St. Michael West because that was the last thing I said. Mr. Chairman, there is nothing to worry about, because I have a recording in which the hon. member said I was dead from my waist down. I have that for the hon. member, unless he does not know his own voice, and I will play it back for him.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to be making jokes. Using the Prime Minister's words, to make such scandalous allegations against an hon. member of the House is really objectionable,because if I had something to say to the hon. member he would not get it in here.

Mr. WALCOTT: I will play it back for the hon. member. It may not be his voice; it may be a voice like his.

Mr. Chairman, there is no point in the Hon. Leader of the Opposition making any stupid remarks about being offensive. He has been making a plea for these foreign people all the time and there was nothing in my speech to indicate that this number of people would interfere with us, but I said it is a matter of employment policy. Barbados would not require an immigration policy if you were looking for people because we bring people in here all the time. Bermuda imports people, so you would ask Barbadians to go to Bermuda. We are not in the same position as Bermuda, so our immigration policy has to be different. But I know what is offensive. I said and I repeat that the hon. member lived in England for ten years, and when he returned here it was his own choice, and if he is worried about his own choice, I only want him to identify himself with the nationals of this country. People want to lead us, but when they have to make choices, we can see where their choices lie, and that is why I say that as long as I have breath in my body I will see to it that such persons do not have the opportunity of ever assuming anything representing near leadership of the country when they cannot say intrinsically right down in their hearts that they are with the nationals of this country.

Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member talks about the people at the top, we have to worry about the people at the top because they are the ones that will employ a St. Lucian, Grenadian or Vincentian because maybe you can get them much cheaper; so that is going to be the problem in this country. The hon. member is asking how many people there are at the top. What kind of man would you get as a Leader of the Opposition trying to cloak up the people at the top? It is the people at the top who make policy, not those at the bottom. If you want to know what is going to happen in this country, you do not ask the man who is working as a messenger; you have to ask what Dick Leacock is saying, what Bryden is doing. We have to be worried about people coming in and

taking jobs at the top. I was in London two weeks ago and I went to a hotel that was associated with the Trafalgar Hotel in Barbados and one of the young ladies there told me that she is coming to Barbados or Bermuda to work. These people are not coming here to work as maids; they bring them here and there is a lot of disguising going on. When a man or woman is not a national of Barbados and is working here, you can have the money deposited in his or her place of origin while he is given a token salary here, so that they do not pay any income tax or anything that is worth while. It is true the Government has not been able to show you, evey through the Planning Unit, how incomes of Barbadians are distributed, but a study of the distribution of incomes will lead you to know that you cannot talk any nonsense about not watching the people at the top.

In this Island now 80 percent of the population up to 1970 worked for wages under $50 a week, and only 20 percent worked for wages above that; half of that 20 percent work for incomes above a certain amount, so you have to know where the money is distributed; so there is no point in telling us you do not have to watch the top. I have to be concerned that if people are coming into this country and are going to assume top positions, these will be the ones who will determine policy. We have had problems with many of these companies already; we have had problems with Cable & Wireless; we have had problems with the Telephone Company; we have had problems at the hotels where a man kicked another man; but you never had any problem of a fellow at the bottom kicking another, while the man at the top feels that to discipline a worker is to kick him. We had that at the Telephone Company on one occasion. We have a problem now with people who have come in here and used Government land. Some of those whom we have allowed to come in to set up industries are bringing in some of the most vicious anti-Trade Union elements you can get in the United States, but when we begin to deal with them in another quarter, let the Hon. Leader of the Opposition come in and pass a Resolution setting up a Board of Enquiry for the action the workers will take as a result of what is going to happen. The half has not been told, and you will see more and more of the action of these people in months to come.
5.00 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, one small question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Sit down. This debate has been going on for too long; however, it is my intention to allow the hon. member to ask his question, but after that I will put the question and will allow no more debate.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am indeed grateful, Mr. Chairman. Under Item 47 there is an amount of $38,600 to purchase passports, and I would like to ask of the Hon. Minister if he would consider a smaller form of passport than the present one we now carry which is a relic of the English society. I believe if you have a smaller passport it might even save the cost of printing; half of the present size would probably do, and if you use the linen cover it would probably be cheaper than the hard-backed cover.

The question that the sum of $518,248 under Head 25 – Ministry of Home Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26 – POLICE

Head 26 – Police – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 26 – Police, there is an amendment. On page 53, insert new Item 72 – Removal of vehicles, insert figure "2,000" under column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments. Also insert a note to read as follows: "To provide for the removal of vehicles and other objects from the highway". I beg to move that the sum of $1,211,822 under Head 26 – Police – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, under this Head each and every one of us want to admit that the Police have got a very difficult task in a society such as ours as it now finds itself. We have got to ask ourselves if we are taking every step possible to fit the Force to deal with the situation. I do not think that I have to labour the fact of the numerous crimes that are being committed in our midst, the murders from time to time that have been left unsolved, the number over the years is something shocking. My view, Mr. Chairman, is that we will hear and we must understand and appreciate that we are a developing country and that development brings with it much of what we are now experiencing, the type of crime wave, and more than this, but our knowledge of these facts is in itself exactly what is necessary to spur us on to greater conquests, and that is where we have got to put our brains together and put all that we have in us together if we are to fit our Force to grapple with the problems that are now concerning us, and no doubt, Mr. Chairman, one half of the crimes that are being committed in this country are not reported to the Police.

One might be tempted to say if they are not reported to the Police the Police have no responsibility then, but I am going to say this, that there are some people in this community who have reached the point where they feel it is no point now in reporting matters to the Police. There is a case where a residence has been broken five times in a period less than five months, the Police have been summoned time and time again, but despite the owners using wrought iron to shut out the intruders, the last attempt was made when the doors were open in the daytime. One would say that the owners might be considered as not taking enough action to ensure their own safety, but I do not say this at all. What we would say is this, that we have got to look around us and see the Policeman on the beat, see how he conducts himself, and this brings us to the point where I have said on a former occasion that I am convinced that the Police Training School is not fitting these young men to take their place in the type of society which has been built up over the years.

5.10 p.m.

A few days ago the Prime Minister mentioned the assistance that was given by Captain Grant in connection with the law relating to the Justices of the Peace. It is known that Captain Grant was a good policeman, but my understanding is that he has retired from the Police Force. There are others who have served the Force equally as well and, perhaps, even better than Captain Grant and have retired from the Force. There are people who have retired from the Force, they have not lost their senses, and they are still in a position, to my mind, that, if called upon to lecture or to give assistance at the Police Training School from time to time, it would do some good in helping to turn out a better type of policeman to deal with the problems that are facing us in our society today. I think it is a waste of good energy to allow such material to remain useless.

Mr. Chairman, I will give you my own experience. I have been living at St. James for about seventeen years at the same spot. The house immediately south of mine belongs to Mr. Browne, a Solicitor. It has been broken and entered more often than enough and, worst of all, there has been a report that a firearm was stolen therefrom. A few weeks ago just after two o'clock in the morning, it appeared that a door to Mr. Browne's house was open. The tenants, as far as we knew, were inside and asleep. An attempt was made to alert the police at St. James Police Station. The police were telephoned. Eventually, I had to take the telephone, and I had the most difficult task in explaining to the policeman who answered the telephone where I live. I have already said that I have been living the same place for 17 years. In an effort to point out where the house was broken and entered in St. James, I had more trouble. It was such a pressing case that I asked the constable to call the Sergeant or somebody else to the telephone and he got annoyed.

Mr. Chairman, in years past it was part of a policeman's training to know where every hon. member of this Assembly lived, his car number and so on by heart by the time he left the Police Training School. Apparently, nothing is being taught to the recruits along those lines these days. We do not want them to waste all of their time on judo pursuits. We want to know that we are turning out from the Police Training School a better equipped and more knowledgeable policeman who can adapt himself to any situation that presents itself to him in the day-to-day life of our society.

We know that there is a Police Association. I think in this morning's newspaper it was said that there are some problems which the Association claims to be asking the Government to look into. We understand that the Minister of Home Affairs, who is in charge of the police, had been present at a function and, apparently, took the opportunity to let those present understand that the Government is taking action on some of the matters on which they would like redress. This, Mr. Chairman, is all very well and good, but there are other matters that are worrying the members of the Police Force. Some of these problems are administrative and will have to be corrected through other channels.

As you would know, Mr. Chairman, when a corporal is promoted to the rank of sergeant although it must mean added responsibility to him it should also mean that he is placed in a position where he can execute his duties with greater ease than when he was in the lower ranks You will now find that there are Sergeants who are victims of this shift system that is complained of.

5.20 p.m.

After a man reaches the rank of sergeant, he goes on duty for four hours, goes home, and instead of being allowed to stay home, he has to return to do another four hours. It is a feeling that after reaching the rank of sergeant you should not be subjected to this. He should perform his eight hour chore as he has been doing for many years and go home and be ready for the next day or night as the occasion presents itself. In other words, to continue to be tortured after promotion is one of the things that you will

find is causing the Police Association to be pressing that when members have completed twenty-one years' service that they should be permitted to retire. I can say, Mr. Chairman, that 21 years of service in the Police Force can be considered as forty-two if not more in private employment. I believe it could be considered 42 years even in the days when I remember hearing politicians say even if you worked with Harold Proverbs.

The life of a policeman is a very exacting one. We might say now that a policeman tries to make merry during his off period, but that is not all; he is on call from the hour of enlisting until the hour he resigns from the force. In the service there are advantages, but we must bear in mind that on entering the service it must be considered the choice of the policeman, and he has got to put up with conditions and try to better them as he goes on, but he is denied as a policeman many of the advantages that are available to persons in private employment. I do not want to turn my eyes on the fact that the training he receives helps him to serve in the community apart from being a policeman, because his training can help him to become a good citizen. We are willing to admit all this, but there is much more than this. There are certain hazards that are associated with his work, and there are greater, more intensified hazards than you would find in many other occupations, and these are the things one has got to take into consideration when looking through the life that a policeman must live. He does not have the freedom of the civilian, his family life must be affected, and if he is married he cannot lend assistance in the upbringing of his family, and we will hear that having enlisted in the Force he must serve.

We must say, Mr. Chairman, that working for a dollar is not all in a job, although the salary of the policeman has never been considered as anything spectacular; but nevertheless we have got to bear in mind the position in which the policeman finds himself from the day of recruitment right through his years of service, and remember that it is incumbent upon every policeman to be a shining light for his nation.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that if we were to look at Item 42, a case can be made out where the Police Band could be so strengthened as to add much more than it now does to the cultural life of the country.
5.30 p.m.

We believe that the Band is not seen or heard in the country districts as often as it should be heard, and there are no two ways about it, Sir, if we were to give serious thought to increasing the strength of the Band as to make our Director of Music available to our schools, the net result would be something which this country would eventually become proud of in the long run. Music, we know, posesses charm. *(Asides).* I know you do not listen to asides, Mr. Chairman, neither do I, but there is an hon. member who must have passed along by some of our singing classes in the earlier days who would remember the village choirs which did a lot to our society. It was a culture all its own and all this is now lost more or less, and I feel that some serious consideration should be given where our schools show some inclination to having small bands, that money could be found to provide instruments, to start concert training programmes, and who knows, from among some of our country district schools may come out one good day some good trumpeter, some good musical director, or whatever instrument it might be.

Hon. L. E. SANDIOFRD: Mr. Chairman, if the member would give way, I would simply like to say that the schools are taking an interest in music and some of them have bought instruments and are developing this part of the cirriculum. Maybe it is not yet done in Boscobel, but I hope this will happen as well.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am so glad that the district of Boscobel is plastered across the heart of the Minister of Education; I pray God that he does something for the district of Boscobel. When we get to Education I will talk to him about Boscobel.

Item 47. One can just imagine how serious an approach to the problem of solving some of our crimes is being made by the Police. All that we are being asked to vote is the sum of $1,200 as reward money to assist the Police in gleaning information that may lead to conviction. Mr. Chairman, we do not advocate that the Police must go about trying to bribe people to get information to secure convictions, but in view of the number of unsolved crimes to which I have made reference earlier and which we all know, to be asking for a mere $1,200 at a time like this is to make us feel that the Police are not serious enough in their efforts to solve these crimes. After all, Mr. Chairman, we are satisfied from some of the television interviews and Press statements that the Police are not getting the voluntary cooperation of members of the public in helping them to solve some of these crimes. We have heard it here today that after a person is dead and gone the feeling is also gone, and it may be that the past performance of the Policemen has been such as to cause people to

lose confidence in the Force. If that is so, this is something that each and every one of us must regret, but on the other hand, there are times when the Police are faced with difficult situations in solving a case, and there are times when the Police Association will have to spend money to assist them, not to corrupt people – that is what I am against – but I do not think that to invite us to spend a mere $1,200 at a time such as this when we are faced with so much is making the public feel that the Force as a whole is facing up to its problem of solving these crimes fairly and squarely.

I am sure that at Item 63 the Minister is going to tell us exactly how this money for the payment of fees to experts in scientific investigations is really spent.
5.40 p.m.

I feel, therefore, that some of the lawyers on this side would like to hear how Government has been spending the money and with what results.

Now at Item 65, Sir, there is Marine Equipment. I wonder if the amount of $32,076 has anything to do with the purchasing of fiber glass boats from Trinidad. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I should have said fiber glass launches. The Minister of Agriculture is thinking about agriculture, so he jumps into this. I see the Minister of Home Affairs is shaking his head as if to suggest that no part of this money will be spent on the fiber glass launches in Trinidad. The Note tells us: "To meet cost of upkeep and maintenance of four launches... Increased to provide for insurance and maintenance of new launches." I wonder whether the new launches are the fiber glass type of launch.

If we are voting $32,076 to assist in the maintenance of fiber glass launches, then let the Minister get good advice although it will be late, the launches having been acquired already. In the light of the type of work that the Police launches will have to do, I am sure that the life of a fiber glass boat is going to be surprisingly short. We have had fiber glass launches in the Island. I see them travelling up and down the West Coast, and I have an interest in a fiber glass launch. Anybody who is going to invest money in a fiber glass launch, knowing what travelling up and down the West Coast is like and what the Police launches will have to encounter at times, I would recommend to that person to be well advised by a qualified person before spending money on a fiber glass boat for that type of work.

Now, Item 68 deals with the Wireless Equipment at Castle Grant. I am sure the Minister will be well briefed as to how the present equipment really came to have been installed at Castle Grant. In the first instance, I believe he would also be advised that from the day it was first installed it was really embarking on a third or, possibly, a fourth or fifth life. Nevertheless, I think that all credit is due to the engineer who perfected it by setting it up and equipping Castle Grant. The work it has done up to the present moment is a credit to the skill and technical knowledge of all whose hands went together to make it work. I think that the Minister should proceed as quickly as possible to see that in providing replacement for the equipment at Castle Grant... *(Asides)*

Mr. Chairman, you will be surprised to know that within the Police Force there is valuable, technical knowledge. Whether this equipment is going to be ordered through the Central Purchasing Department, the Crown Agents or anybody else, I am wondering whether the Ministry is drawing on the experience of the members concerned in the Police Force. It must be remembered that if you have in the Police Force the type of men who are capable of functioning in the capacity which I have tried to describe, and there is not sufficeint consultation with them as to the type of equipment required, then you can expect trouble with whatever equipment you may bring. If the men who have to operate the equipment are made to feel that they are part and parcel of the whole undertaking from the laying of the foundation until it is operating, then you can expect better success in the long run.
5.50 p.m

With regard to Item 60 – Supervision of Sugar Cane Weighing – this is a matter which as you very well know can cause a very considerable disruption in the sugar industry. As you know, Sir, peasant farmers and even the large plantations that supply canes are concerned at times over the weights they get back, because a friend of mine who spent many years in the sugar industry as a cane weigher mentioned to me how the owner of the plantation at which he had been employed as a cane weigher had come on the scene, passed him on the weighing bridge and went into the factory, inspected the pans, the centrifugals and everything else and after carrying out a good examination, he came back to the cane weigher and from his years of experience and association with the despatch of his motor lorries and so on he told him that he must have received at least so many tons of canes, and the cane weigher told me that he was right to the last ton. When a lorry leaves the road-side with a load of canes, many of our peasant farmers can tell you just by gauging it with the eye whether it

has five, five and a half or five and three-quarter tons of cane, and in most cases they are more right than wrong. So the supervison of cane weighing is something that has got to be looked into most carefully, and it is well when we find people who will execute that type of duty without looking for friends while doing their job.

Now I see that a new Item, Item 72 – Removal of vehicles – has been added. I believe, Sir, that it is a step to be commended because I have myself seen the attitude of some people on Broad Street, one of the city's busiest streets, when the slightest thing goes wrong with their motor vehicle. They are not going to ask any person to assist them to move it to the side of the street if it stops in the centre of the road; they just get out and say it has stalled, and go whatever distance for the mechanic to come to repair it. I commend the Government on this new item. It is long overdue, but I sincerely hope that we will have a squad that will discharge its functions in a manner that if Mr. A's vehicle is due for removal from a particular spot that it will be removed as quickly and in the same manner as the vehicles of Mr. B, C, D or E, and not merely because you may be removing a person's vehicle from causing obstruction that it is not handled in a careful manner to cause unnecessary damage to people's vehicles.

Under Item 40 there is food and medicines for dogs. I have been hearing so much about the police dogs doing so little that I would like to hear from the Minister if they still have dogs and if they are capable of breeding.

Item 36 deals with Arms and Ammunition. I wonder if the arms and ammunition kept by the police are kept with the same strict security as obtained in years past.
6.00 p.m.

I remember, Sir, that there was a time when a number of murders committed in this country were investigated, and the investigations revealed not that Policemen had used any ammunition or anything of the kind, but that the ammunition used had come from Police sources. These are things, Mr. Chairman, which are not very easily made public but are true. I am hoping that the strictest security is maintained, in other words, that where we keep our rifles the bullets must be somewhere else until the time of issue. I need say no more.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I know my colleague who just sat down would have addressed you at length on this particular Head, but I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee Item 59 – Cane Fire Prevention Act, 1949, $50, and this is provision of rewards payable for information leading to conviction for arson. If we follow the language the Prime Minister has used over a period of years, he said he would not like to see a cane blade in the country in spite of the fact that we still have to import sugar, and this is supposed to be an agricultural and semi-industrial society as we now look at it, I would suggest from the Prime Minister's argument that the vote should not be in at all, because if you are getting rid of cane there should be no Cane Fire Prevention Act or a $50 vote, but on the other hand, if you are hoping to get information leading to conviction for arson, how are you going to work out $50 over the period of a year, assuming that you get 2,000 people supplying the information? The $50 should either be out, according to the Prime Minister's idea, or on the other hand the vote should be increased where you would have a proper reward which would lead people to give information on the burning of canes.

I do not know if the Leader of the House can explain why the $50 has been in the Estimates from about 1949 when the Act was passed and has never been increased. The Minister drew to my attention Item 47 – Rewards – $1,200. These are rewards for information supplied to the Police in trying to capture the prisoner who is at large, for instance, but this is not for information on cane fires. This makes it very clear that it is for the prevention of cane fires. You are having controlled burning, you have a vote for $50, the Prime Minister does not want to see any more canes, yet you have to import sugar, what is the exact policy on this? You should have a proper vote in if you are trying to reduce the number of cane fires in the country. I think the Prime Minister on one occasion gave an exhibition on fire control from the air, I do not know what has become of that exercise, if the Government is still proceeding with it or if they are finished with that.

I have not got much to say on this particular Head because my colleague spoke at length on it, and I agree with quite a number of things he said. I have heard the Government members say they are all aware of the fact that there are a number of unsolved crimes in the country, and I have had this argument already with the legal luminaries. Some of them say that population wise the crime rate is down, but I do not know if they mean the unsolved crime rate. I would not like to say it was the Commissioner of Police, but I did read on one occasion that a Superintendent or the Commissioner of Police

was a bit concerned at the high crime rate and the sophistication of crime. That is the danger; we no longer have the fellow in an old dirty shirt and pants with grease all over him going in a house and stealing a few potatoes, this is a different story now, the fellows operate with cutting torches and this kind of thing, the real big city stuff.

My colleague made reference to the shooting at the Police, and I said a couple of days ago that soon the day is going to come when law and order will be at such a low ebb that the Police will find it almost difficult to control crime in this country and we may find some of these villains walking about the country at night with more unlicensed guns that you will soon have to arm the Police with guns. It will be a very sad day when a society that boasted for so many hundred years that there was this degree of law and stability of Government and all the fancy bending of sentences that we no longer have, I would hate to see this, and I sincerely hope that there could be an attraction in the Police Force by way of monetary rewards, by creating more posts at Inspector level or Superintendent level where it would be more attractive. I also believe that you should have a man who is better qualified and whose academic background is better than the type of person who was employed many years ago, but somehow things seem to be getting out of hand, because many of the academics are also committing some of these crimes.

6.10 p.m.

I should like to hear the Minister on the matter. I am just interested in this $50 vote for the prevention of cane fires. If you are hoping to get people to inform you that Mr. A has just set a cane field on fire and you offer them $4 or $5 to give evidence, they will tell you that they are not taking a chance for that sum of money. You should increase this vote or take it out altogether.

Another thing I wish to draw to the attention of the Government is that I am still concerned with the high expenditure on the maintenance of Police vehicles. Every year this Government is coming here either in the Estimates or in Supplementary Estimates and asking us to increase the amount to be spent on these vehicles. It is true that one may argue that there are more vehicles on the road and that the amount for maintenance will have to be increased. My view is that you have placed a number of expensive cars in the hands of the Police and the Police have no regard for people using these narrow streets filled with traffic. They are not experts in driving; they go around corners with vehicles skidding on the tyres, and every now and then you either find one of the vehicles damaged at the side of the road or that one of them has knocked down a utility pole. I should like to say at this stage that, whenever it is recognised that a policeman has shown negligence in driving, or that he has been exceeding the speed limit unnecessarily, he should be disciplined. I do not know what is the policy in the Police Force, but we have to meet fire with fire.

I remember a few days ago in this Chamber the Minister of Commincations and Works said – I would not say it was a silly argument, because most of his arguments to my mind are normally silly – that sometimes you can buy a car and because it is made by man something will go wrong with it. At the time we were discussing the State car, and I was trying to find out from the Leader of the House why he had to spend $600 on it. I asked him whether he had been advised by experts, and the Minister of Communications and Works got up and used the kind of argument to which I have referred. He said that if you had a car for 5 years or for half-day and something went wrong with it you would have to repair it. My contention was that it was not due to the length of time we had the car, but to the mileage done by the car. A man could have a car for one week and do 10,000 miles with it, and he would no longer have the warranty from the garage. I pointed out that if the car was 5 years old and it had done only 3,000 miles, he might have been able to go back to the Crown Agents and asked them to approach the manufacturers and state: "This car has done only 3,000 miles; we have a warranty for 5,000 miles; a part is defective and we want it replaced." Because the part is defective they might even replace it without charging for it.

Mr. Chairman, I am very concerned about the rise in expenditure on these vehicles, and I am yet to be convinced that the increase in the cost of maintenance is due to the fact that we have more vehicles in the Police Force. You have a mechanic there, so you do not have to send the majority of the vehicles to a garage. I believe some of them will, probably, be sent to the Public Works Department. I believe the increase in the cost of maintenance is due to the reckless manner in which some of the policemen handle the Police vehicles. Unless you can curb this type of behaviour, you will always be coming in here for this large sum of money for maintenance.

Again I am stating quite clearly that I do not agree with buying Rovers, Valiants and some of these $10,000 and $12,000 cars and putting them in the hands of the police for the purpose

of chasing another car. I am not a director of a garage. I am the director of L. S. Craig Realty Limited. The only thing I am a director of is Craig and Craig alone. I was never yet in company with anybody. I do not like it. It is said that black people cannot trust black people. I do not have the time to watch my brother. While I am wasting time watching my brother, I would prefer to spend the time getting votes in St. James. I do not like watching people when it comes to business. I do not have the time to do that. I would rather watch the member for Christ Church South Central than to watch my brother. I know that, he of course...*(Asides)* Do not get worried; this has nothing to do with a hotel burning down; this is cane fire prevention. That is what we are dealing with, so you do not have to get worried about...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now!

Mr. CRAIG: I said Christ Church South Central, Sir, but I should have said Christ Church North Central. I think that is why you are pulling me up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am pulling you up in general. Let us keep this debate as it was going.

Mr. CRAIG: It is going good, Sir. I am talking about cane fire prevention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Cane fire prevention has nothing to do with a hotel burning down. Please deal with cane fires.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I think he should withdraw that remark about a hotel burning down. It is very unkind and it is insulting. The hon. member for St. James is obviously making an insinuation, and the remark is not innocent. I say that he should withdraw it. He referred to the member for Christ Church North Central and he used that remark.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am sticking to this cane fire prevention item. I will deal with the Minister now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are not going to deal with anything other than cane fire prevention.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is quite possible that a fire can take place in an area where there is a hotel, and if you are only voting $50, I am sure that even the member for Christ Church North Central would not run to the Police to tell them that a hotel is on fire because of a cane field that is burning. The hon. member for St. Michael South West is talking in defence of the Minister.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for St. James is the first one to talk about the standard of the debates in Parliament going down, and I am asking him to keep the debate on a high level.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is your duty if this debate ever starts to degenerate to pull me up.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There can be no gainsaying the fact that the context in which the hon. member for St. James used the words made them offensive and totally unnecessary. He made up things and he brought in the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. How did a hotel come in at all? It is offensive and wicked. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is my intention to hear the hon. member for St. James, and I am asking him to deal with the particular item.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am debating Item 59 – Cane Fire Prevention Act, 1949 – and I have stated that the sum of $50 is too low.
6.20 p.m.

I went on to say, Sir, that it is possible to have a hotel as we have so many hotels in Barbados situated in a place where there are canefields, and not even the member for Christ Church North Central, public spirited as he is, would take time off to run down the road and tell the police that a hotel is on fire.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is not getting away with that. He did not say it in that way. He referred to the member for St. Michael North Central and then said he was not talking about hotel burning, he was talking about cane fires before he made that remark; so do not let him come saying that he said that; he did not, and that is why I objected. He must be fair. If you ask the Shorthand Reporter to read it back, you will see he did not say it in that way. It is only when I objected that he went with this round-about way about a hotel in a canefield area. Hon. members in this House must be fair and not make these insinuations and vulgar allegations to blacken people's character. There is one thing you cannot say of "Sleepy" Smith; you can say he is ignorant, but you cannot say anything about me. Wherever I have been in this world I have had a high reputation; so I would like him not to make these insinuations against the hon. member for Christ Church North Central as he has done in this House this afternoon.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I don't mind about the member talking about blackening people's character. I would have thought that would be a verb we would do without. It reminds me of a famous Zanzibar election in which a white capitalist stood and he had a poster put up "my face is white but my heart is as black as yours" in order to appeal to the African electorate. Never mind that, Sir. The point is that we are saying that the money for cane fire prevention is too low, and instead of all the Ministers getting up and quarrelling about the hotel, why doesn't one of them get up and answer the hon. member instead of quarrelling about hotels.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. I have stated once already that I want this debate kept at the highest level, and I am asking the hon. member to contain himself and stick to the Head.

Mr. CRAIG: I am prepared to keep to it at a high level, and I am sure that the Leader of the House will agree with me that we should try and avoid hotels being built near to canes for fear they may be caught afire through a cane fire, and that the reward of $50 is too low when the Act states that up to £500 can be used for that purpose.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the more the hon. member goes into it, the more he puts himself in an awkward position. He referred to the hon. member for Christ Church North Central and a hotel entirely out of the context, and he only at the end tried to extricate himself. In any case, where the hon. member has his hotel, there are no canes around there; so how does that come up. Does the hon. member know St. Lawrence Gap? He lives in Dover.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as the Chair is concerned, this matter is closed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if you have any doubt in your mind, you can ask the Clerk, but such a motion can only be put at your discretion.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman...

Mr. CRAIG: You cannot speak because there is a motion before the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my humble opinion, I do not think it is requisite that the question should be put at this stage.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, the position is that the $50 to my mind is too low and the Act states quite clearly that the Governor-in-Executive Committee may expend a sum not exceeding £500 in any year in payment of rewards to persons who shall appear to him to have been active in or towards the apprehension or prosecution of any person charged with an offence against this Act or with the offence of arson. I repeat that the $50 to be voted here is too low if you are setting out to prevent the unnecessary burning of canes in this country, and since the Prime Minister has said that he would not like to see a blade of cane in the country, you might as well remove the vote altogether and have the law taken off the Statute Book.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, he has been on this point trying to extricate himself, but this amount of $50 has been in the Estimates for many years and has never been spent. It is just a token vote and if the Government needs more money to supplement it, we will come and ask for it. What is the point of saying that unless you have money in the vote people will not give information? How many of them know that there is money in the vote?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I may perhaps be able to help both the Minister and the hon. member. Is it not a fact that this $50 has been in the Estimates since before 1949 when the amount was raised? The police never even think they really have money to offer for cane fire rewards because they think they are going back to the 19th Century figure of £10 or whatever it was, when in fact $2,400 can be voted and you do not have to spend $2,400 any more than you have to spend $50; but if the police knew it was there they might be able to hold out a real inducement, especially at a time like this when you want to stop illicit cane fires more than ever, to such persons as would be able to give information, and bear in mind it is payment of rewards to persons who shall appear to him to have been active in or towards the apprehension or prosecution...The note says something about conviction, but that is not true; that is a dangerous note. The Statute says "any information leading to apprehension." As I can see this, if a watchman of a plantation happens to see somebody running, the person may never be prosecuted, but even if he is apprehended the watchman can be given an amount towards this purpose. It is both the note and the amount which are not within the terms of the Statute.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, in these days when we have controlled burning of

sugar cane, this is less effective than it was, because today the owners of plantations and factories have caused the Government to legalise burning of canes in order to have them reaped, so that the provision made here is hardly necessary. 6.30 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it is not really correct to state that the amount is not within the amount permitted by the Statute, because section 6 of the 1949 Cane Fires (Prevention) Act states that the Cabinet may expend a sum not exceeding five hundred pounds. The point is, Sir, that the Cabinet may authorise the expenditure of a sum of money not exceeding $2,400 in any year in payment of rewards to persons who shall appear to it to have been active in or towards the apprehension or prosecution of any person charged with any offence against this Act, or with the offence of arson.

It is not correct to say that it is not within the amount, because if in fact we had attempted to appropriate a sum exceeding five hundred pounds that would not be within the Act, but so long as the Government does not intend to do this it is quite within the Act. The Leader of the House was quite right; in fact, this is a token vote and if it is necessary to supplement the amount to make payments within the terms of the Act up to $2,400 then this will be done.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I begin to wonder if hon. members on both sides of the House are talking the same language, the first point is this. This very Act is the Act which makes controlled burning possible, because it is this Act that permits the owner of a canefield with the permission of the Government to light a fire in his canefield. Even now if you do not get the permission of the Government under this Act and you go and light a fire in your own canefield, as hon. members will know, you are breaking the law, so it is not true to say that the Government has just legalised cane fires, it was this very Act we are dealing with. What I have just said is this, the note is not within the terms of the Act, not the amount. The note says "conviction" where the Act says "apprehension"; that is point number one. The point made by the Leader of the House I submit with great respect to him is not really valid, because at a time when you have controlled burning, uncontrolled burning must obviously give way to danger than if you could not do the controlled burning at all. At a time when there was no controlled burning the plantations were glad at certain times to see certain fields burn, therefore it was not every canefire that necessarily was out of favour with the Manager of a plantation. At this time you can be sure that every fire must of necessity be out of favour of the Manager if he has not set it. If the Managers do not set the fires obviously they do not want them set. If they know that the canes are allowed to be burned beforehand, it means that all illicit fires are that much more reprehensible, therefore bigger rewards should be paid now.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, when the other Party was in power, if you go back to the Estimates for the year 1954-55, all that Government had in was $500 in 1953-54, then they put in a sum of $1,200 which is still not in keeping with the Act. It is within the total amount for special services, and then this is how it was worded at Item 53, "for making rewards for information supplied to C.I.D. and for miscellaneous expenses of C.I.D. Limitation of amount of $500 in the past has proved to be a serious handicap." This is in 1953-54 when they had in $500 which is less than the maximum in the Act, and as the Leader of the House says, it is a token figure, so they did not have in any figure laid down in the Act, so you can put down $50, $500 or $2,400, they had no cane fire prevention even although that Act was on the Statute Book. They had no Item in the Estimates of that Party when it was in power called Cane Fire Prevention, they had down a general omnibus special services of $500 in 1953-54 and in 1954-55 they increased it to $1,200.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am going to deal with Item 70, because if I continue with Item 59 the more I hear the member for St. Michael North West I am really convinced that he had to be rescued by the Democratic Labour Party from his more illustrious colleagues in the Law Courts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Nothing of the kind. I am not going to accept this kind of behaviour any longer.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Item 70 – Road Signs, $1,200. I observe that the police in conjunction with the Ministry of Communications and Works, I believe, are doing a pretty good job in bringing our road signs up to international standards, but there is still a hazard which I have observed repeatedly, and that is, a number of farms – I would like the word "plantation" erased from my vocabulary – I observe that there are a number of these signs well hidden when the canes are getting a bit tall, and I would like to see the appropriate Ministry approach these people who own these farms and try to stop them from planting canes so near to these signs,

because it is very dangerous to all concerned. But moreso the tourists pose a problem because they can go through some of these minor roads into the major roads and cause accidents because the canes have the signs hidden. I recognise that some of these places cut down a few holes of canes a little before harvesting time and others do not, but there should be some directive instructing the various farms not to have canes planted very close to the road where you have traffic signs, because I think it can create a great hazard.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member will just give way on that particular aspect, I have written through my Ministry to every plantation asking them not to plant canes within a certain area of dangerous corners and bends, and I do try to see as far as possible that the canes do not obscure the signs and I have plans for putting up signs that will be more readible, so I think he is on good ground. I have got some cooperation in some areas but some have not replied to the request, but it is a matter which I am pursuing and I am grateful to both plantation owners and those farms that have cooperated, so the member's point is well taken.

Mr. CRAIG: I would also like to make another suggestion on these signs. Quite recently I read in the news where the Minister for Tourism is now trying to encourage a greater number of European visitors to the country.
6.40 p.m.

Because of this, I daresay that you are going to have a lot of French-speaking visitors or visitors who speak a different language, and we might as well approach this matter by starting to print our road signs in more than one language. This has to come about at some time or other. If you are going to use International signs, I am not saying that you should print some of them in Russian and Greek. We are looking towards a greater tourist flow into the country from some of the South American countries, and we will certainly have to think of printing some of these signs in different languages. I am not saying that we are ready for it at the moment, but if we are going to spend money on new signs, as the Minister indicated, instead of printing the small ones where you have to get a microscope to read what is printed, you should have large signs. The signs are too small at the moment, and there is nothing wrong with putting up a big sign.

Mr. Chairman, I have always objected to people travelling on trucks on evenings going from work in the manner in which they are transported. Very often you see many of them sitting at the end of trucks. This is a very serious matter, and you will only realise the danger of it when a big accident occurs similar to the one we had at Lancaster when thirty or fourty people lost their lives some years ago. I feel that the Minister of Communications and Works together with the other appropriate Ministers should make sure that, when workers are travelling on these trucks, they should do so in a truck which is enclosed with some sort of cover to shelter them from the elements. I have seen several workers on lorries on evenings coming from Graeme Hall Agricultural Station.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member will certainly have an opportunity under Agriculture to deal with that, but we are now dealing with the Ministry of Home Affairs. We are dealing with road signs, and I think, Mr. Chairman, he is a bit irrelevant. He can make the point later, but he should deal with it under the appropriate head, rather than let us go on at a tangent. Mr. Chairman, I move that he is irrelevant when he speaks of the workers at Grame Hall and so on. We will soon be dealing with the head of Agriculture.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Minister were observant, he would have realised that I was looking at the moment.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I saw you looking, but I did not know at what you were looking. My eyes are not that good. I do not doubt you.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, while speaking on this matter, I said maybe the Minister of Communications and Works along with other Ministers would look into the matter. I can discuss it under Agriculture, but I was dealing with road signs at the time. You are putting up road signs in order to protect people, and I simply drew attention to another matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member carry on.

Mr. CRAIG: Thank you very much, Sir. I hope the Minister has taken it in good faith. I do not know very much about agriculture and I wish it well. I think my colleague on my right will be in a better position to speak on agriculture. I merely said that when people are travelling from Graeme Hall on lorries and they go around a dangerous bend anything can happen when the lorries are not enclosed. That is the point I am making.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the first Item to which I should like to draw the hon. members' attention is Item 35 – House Allowance – $960.

It is not for the Opposition to tell the Government to increase a vote, but I would ask hon. members whether they consider that $960 a year is an adequate house allowance when you bear in mind that to two Commissioners of Police ago the house in lieu of which this is paid is a very great mansion, indeed, and is worth more to its occupant than $960 a year. The amount for Permanent Secretaries is $1,440. It has to be viewed not only in the light of that, but it must be remembered that "Eric Park" in Station Hill is one of the big and grand houses in St. Michael, now used by the Police Band. You can very well argue, Mr. Chairman, that someone who joins the Police Force and hopes that someday he would be Commissioner and would also be looking forward to living in a big house like "Eric Park" in Station Hill, I would suggest to some extent it derogates from the office of Commissioner of Police and that he should be paid a house allowance much more than a Permanent Secretary. In the days when he was an Englishman or white, he was thought worthy to live in a big, important house big enough to house the Barbados Police Force. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The last Commissioner of Police elected to live out.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Every member of this House has an opportunity to stand up and make his contribution, and I am going to ask the Minister to stand up and do so. Do not allow me to hear any cross-talk whatsoever from this side.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the last Commissioner of Police may have elected to live out, but I do not know that this Commissioner has elected to do so. I have had no conversation with any individual about this; it is merely something that I have looked at. Knowing the high state at which the Commissioner of Police used to live years ago, I am worrying why so small a house allowance is now provided for him.

With regard to Item 42 – Band – the Police Band seems to be out of the news over the last couple of years. It does not seem to have reached the high point that it had reached some years ago with its visit to the Edinburgh Festival and its tours abroad. I would ask the Minister responsible if he is satisfied that the Band is publicised enough and given enough opportunities at the present time at recapturing the glory of just a few years past.
6.50 p.m.

I should like to take a public opportunity to say what I have only been able to say in private, thanking the artificers of the Band as well as the Director of Music for the assistance which from personal knowledge I can say they give to individuals whose musical instruments may be in disrepair or who require assistance on any musical point. I think this deserves a public tribute because there is no doubt that the Police Band is at the centre of the training of instrumentalists in the more obscure discipline other than piano and violin, and I would like hon. members and the public generally to know that Mr. Cave and other members of the Band are always willing to help persons outside of the Police Band, aspiring musicians, in anything that the Band can properly do, and they very willingly, I know, repair and assist people with their musical instruments without charge because I presume no provision is made to charge, but in the interest of the general musical development of Barbados.

On Item 46 – Maintenance of Prisoners – I do not know how many hon. members have had the experience, if any, of being found by the police in a condition that might attract the attention of those whose duty it is to administer the parts of the Vagrancy Act dealing, for example, with being drunk and disorderly. I would hope no hon. members have found themselves in that position, not just because it might be derogatory of the dignity of hon. members, but I would not like to think that any of us has had to sleep a night in the cells at District "C" to take an example, or the old cells at Holetown hardly long enough for you to lie down if you are a big man, and no accommodation by the way of a cot or other provision for comfort. Sir, I do not conceive that it is right that unconvicted persons who by the provisions of any law have to be temporarily incarcerated should be in a less comfortable position than convicted persons at Glendairy Prison. Prisoners at Glendairy Prison all have a bed, they have some sanitary facility in the form of a bucket I believe under the cot; I would not know about all these matters.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, if you will remember, the hon. member made these very points when he was dealing with the Magistrates' Courts, and the assurance was given that they would be looked at.

Mr. ADAMS: I was going to say that I know another member had adverted to it, but I was unaware that any assurance was given that it would be looked at. Please let the Minister go to all the cells. When he sees them he will, I am sure, be as dissatisfied as the rest of us. I recall that another hon. member who is no longer with us but who did according to his own avowal in here once had the experience of a night in the

cells. He came out of them an unconvicted person, but he still had the discomfort of having to sleep on the cold stone floor for an evening. (Asides) Modesty forbids me to say who got him out of the House. Anyhow if it will be looked at, that is very good.

Now, Sir, the Office. I do not know that hon. members, although perhaps this is something you really expect to see in the Capital vote, who are familiar with the conditions under which the police work would be entirely satisfied with the accommodation at the Central Police Station. I am not dealing at great length with this, but too many senior police offiers are asked to carry out their functions in much too confined a space. I would not have to dwell on that; I would like to add my voice to that. Policemen often have to deal with things as a matter of privacy. The Commissioner has all the privacy in the world and the Deputy Commissioner but many other khaki clad officers cannot easily carry out their functions because they have to share rooms or be in rooms partitioned in such a manner that it is impossible to hear what is being told to you and not share some of the secrets with his subordinates. I am not too happy either, Sir, with the accommodation at the C.I.D.

Turning back also to Item 14 – Detective Allowance – I am one of those people who believe that no amount of harsh punishment will cure crime, that all that cures crime is the certainty of detection, and the history of any country's criminal statistics will very readily reveal that. In England the most desperate sentences passed in almost any country for robbery not involving violence or not involving death or brutality have been passed. People have got 42 years for holding up trains, and this has been described as an act of war against the community by punishment in a manner befitting its commission. You can kill and serve ten or twelve years, but you can hold up a train with disused bank notes and go down for 42 years, yet wage snatches are on the increase in London. You cannot now expect for a daylight wage snatch in Britain, if you are caught, to receive less than eight years if you have been previously unconvicted, or less than twelve if you have had a conviction for the same sort of thing, or less, you can safely say, than perhaps 20 years if there is any evidence suggesting that you are an organiser of wage snatches; yet every single week in London somebody's payroll is held up and every month perhaps they are attacking an armoured car. The reason for that is that the conviction rate for stealing in London has fallen to less than 10 per cent, and the reason why people are stealing is because they feel it is worth taking a chance for forty-two years or 20 years because they are not likely to be caught.

Now in Barbados I am quite convinced that the useful work done by the C.I.D. and the Oistins police in clearing up robberies in Southern Ridge and Atlantic Shores in Christ Church is going to result in a reduction of the robberies in those districts. It is not the sentences that are going to be given – the eighteen months or the two years; that will not deter anybody really and truly. A youngster of eighteen or twenty who decides to steal is not deterred by eighteen months, and it would be wrong to give him seven years, though it would be right out of principle. What they are deterred by is the certainty of conviction; therefore I maintain that all these items – I have gone back to Item 14 and I will go forward to Item 47, the item about which the Minister of Communications made the mistake when he confused it with the troublesome Item 59, – need to be reviewed. Catching criminals is what stops crime. In a small place like Barbados, it literally stops it, because there was certainly a decline in crime about three or four years ago when a certain number of well known thieves were caught and put in prison. The crime of breaking into poor people's houses during the day time when they are out at work was being carried out by one individual, and there has not been a repetition of it since I think about two years ago despite my best efforts, Sir. He was sent down for four years. He is the only person who has appeared for years at Assizes for systematic going into country tenantries and breaking the houses of persons out doing their daily work during the crop season. He has been caught and he is in prison, and it is the certainty of detection, because he has been in prison often enough not to worry about getting a little four and five years, that has put an end to that. This is no small problem, because I wonder how many people are aware of the *modus operandi* of some burglars. They do not do one breaking in a night, they do fourteen or fifteen. There is a prisoner in prison who is always breaking schools. I would bet that the Minister of Education has not had for a few years any report of school breaking. He used to break the schools and carry away milk and biscuits in the interval of other things. The person who used to do it would break six or seven schools in a night perhaps. This is the way crime goes on, and I think that anything that is...

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member would give way, I am trying to follow him in his argument. He said it is the certainty of detection which prevents these crimes, and then he goes on to say that it is generally one person who commits these offences. If the person is in

prison, the offences are not committed. I am trying to follow what the hon. member is saying. If one person is breaking into poor people's homes or breaking into schools and that person is in prison for four years or for however long he is there, he cannot commit the offence while he is, if I may use the hon. member's word, incarcerated.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: These are the very words that I used. The argument is that detecting the people does not only act as a deterrent, but where there are only a small number of people who specialise in a particular type of crime, when you detect them you cut off that crime. Do you appreciate what I mean? I can tell you this, when a plantation tenantry is raided I believe personally that the detectives are skilled enough to say it is X so they go and hold him and try to get information from the people around. When a school is broken, especially if it is broken on the same night as houses in Sunset Crest – this has happened, breaking through Sunset Crest somebody chose to break St. John Baptist School on the way to the Pine where other breakings were committed. The breaking of St. John Baptist School was the key to covering the whole series of breakings. This is all detective work, and part of the reason why these particular types of crimes are suppressed is because of the skill of the detectives.

If you or I had to go and find the crimes by fingerprints or by looking and walking about we could not get this, but the skilled detectives who have been there for years are sufficiently aware of whom they are dealing with, and this is why I am suggesting that detective allowances should be even on a more generous scale. Another little tribute, Sir, I have not come in here to pay any unnecessary tributes to the Police, you can believe that. I have not said the punishment is not anything to do with it, what I have said is that they take the risk of the punishment sometimes, it is the certainty of detection that has something to do with it. I have not come in here unnecessarily to praise the Police, but every now and again you hear great outbreaks of the brutality which the C.I.D. bring to bear on their investigations. I have had experience with this as has every lawyer, but over the last few years the resolute attitude of the Judges and perhaps a new breath or a wind of change has blown through the C.I.D. so that it must be years since I have had a client who has come and told me that he has been beaten into a confession, so I hope that nobody is going to say that the detectives do this, that or the next and do not give them any more money.

There is a lot of talk from the Police themselves about how crime is increasing. I think that it does a very poor service to the community when the Police themselves get too alarmed about the increase in crime; again I am not going to dwell on this at length, but the number of persons of criminal age is increasing, crimes against property and rape and the like are committed by young men between the ages of 16 and 26 years. The statistics will show that that is the criminal age, and this is the part of the population which is increasing fastest and there are that many more young men of that age, therefore there is likely to be more crime, but there is no evidence that has convinced me that the young men of Barbados have become more criminal minded. The proportion of criminal minded ones may be the same, but it is a proportion of a larger amount so there may physically be more, and I do not think that the senior Police Officers are doing the Police Force any particular service when they tell people they must not go and park motor cars because of what may happen to them.

I do not know if it has been dwelt on, Sir, but we all have to be realists. People in Barbados do not live the type of urban life where if a young man wishes to entertain a young lady privately he can take her back to his flat, that is for those of us who had the good or bad fortune to live in big cities. In Barbados if you are a young man living home with your parents and a young lady living home with her parents you may go out together, but if you want further privacy you have to look to sit down in your motor car and look at the moonlight, at the sea or at the canes wherever your taste takes you, and I believe that the Police have as much duty - I am serious about this, I do not mean to be frivolous - the Police have as much duty to protect people who park where they may lawfully park motor cars at night to talk to each other or whatever, as to protect anybody else. I am serious about that, Mr. Chairman, there is no law in this country against parking a motor car.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I wonder if the hon. member expects the Police to hold the flashlight too.

Mr. ADAMS: The conversations to which I am referring do not normally have to be carried on by torchlight or flashlight, I do not think that they are going there to read poems to each other and I am sure that the car light would suffice, but the Police to my mind have as much duty to protect people who park as any to protect anybody else. In Trinidad you see the people having to go and park in convoys, they park in twenties and thirties on the Chancellor highway. They have to park in

collections together with a resulting lack in privacy. Hon. members seem to think it very frivolous that this should be raised, but I am serious about it. In these days there are a lot of motor cars in Barbados and a lot of people wish to drive about in cars, but I do not think it does any service to the public to say that you should not park on lonely roads. I do not believe that the amount of crime committed against parked cars justifies that, and I do not believe in being unnecessarily alarmed. I think in fact that there is much more danger sometimes to stay in your house because people come in your house and maltreat you than to take a drive and park. We only have to make a guess at how many motor cars are parked now at about ten minutes past seven; there are cars parked all over Barbados now in my opinion, and there will be many more parked later on, more still tomorrow night and there will be a whole garrison on Saturday night. The Police should think in terms of making it possible for these people to do whatever they want to do in reasonable privacy.

I have dealt with the costs at Item 52 at an earlier stage, but this is the Item to which I referred hon. members a vote of $400 last year has to go up to $600. I am not going to oppose any increase in that vote, I do not have to go any further in the direction of attacking a particular Magistrate who by himself to my mind is very nearly responsible for doubling the vote. As Sir Theodore Brancker has said, he burst the vote last October by his bad decisions. I would not have to deal with that any further, but I do not think that the time has come to increase the power of the giving of costs to the Police. The Police by and large are not frivolous prosecutors, I will say that. There are cases where you would say this prosecution should never have been brought and there are cases where you have your doubts, but the rule is that costs follow the event.
7.10 p.m.

Sir, there are cases when you say that the prosecution should never have been brought, and there are cases where you have your doubts about them. The rule is that cost follows the event. Magistrates in this Island can be trusted by and large, in my opinion, not to give cost against the police unless they feel that the prosecution should never have been brought. I do not think the magistrate would suddenly start, every time a lawyer says that a comma has been out of place, in the information or whatever it is, and dismiss a case. I do not believe a magistrate would award cost against the police in those circumstances. Provision should be made, and I will take counsel of myself whether provision could be made allowing cost to be awarded for Counsel and Solicitor in criminal cases. This is the only country I know where, if a man is dragged into court unreasonably, he can only collect $2.

Mr. Chairman, I said the police because this is the police work we are discussing. It should be remembered that, in order to protect the police from having too large a cost awarded against them you also protect private prosecutors. The former Attorney General is aware of at least one person who has been deemed a vexacious litigant in this country and cannot bring lawsuits. I think that he, very wisely, did whatever had to be done in that connection.

Now, private persons should also be protected against prosecutions which the police may refuse to bring because they know that they should never be brought, and then a private person goes ahead - after all a lawyer must accept a brief - with the case; the defendant has to get a lawyer, and all he can get is $2. He cannot even get a day's pay. I should really like to see the lodging fee raised to 50¢. Mr. Chairman, I repeat that in protecting the police you are giving private prosecutors the protection which they do not need.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I should not like the Committee to think that lodging fees have not been raised. All the costs have been raised in respect of the Magistrate's Court and the entire Court structure 1½ years ago. The only fees that have not gone up are the fees for domestic cases. You do not pay for affiliation proceedings. I think criminal cases are 75¢ now, but this was done on a basis that they would be increased up to 100%.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member will agree that if a man had to pay $10 to lodge his case, won his case and got it back it would not matter. When you only have to pay 75¢, you can bring a case against the whole Island. I think it is ridiculously low.

Mr. BOLDEN: This may be so provided that the Act was amended to ensure that successful criminal litigants are awarded their necessary costs.

The question that the sum of $1,211,822 under Head 26 - Police - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 27 - FIRE SERVICE

Head 27 - Fire Service - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $209,383 under Head 27 - Fire Service - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is only one point I want to ask under this Head, Why is it that the Chief Fire Officer has not been given a house allowance? *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already made a ruling about asides.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. There are occasions when I have run foul on you, but it is just to stop a debate that we give hon. members a little friendly information. I will stand up next time.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Chief Fire Officer has to be available at all times. He is not the type of officer who, during his off duty period, without informing Headquarters where he can be found. A telephone service, I believe, must be provided. *(Asides.)* As the Minister of Lands and Housing is trying to say, he is not given a housing allowance because he is not placed in that category. This matter should be re-examined. It is felf that the Officer is not being given the same consideration and treatment as other persons functioning in a similar or equal capacity. I do not want to labour the point anymore, because enough has been said to let the Government know what is the feeling on this matter. The sooner the matter can be gone into the better it would be for all concerned. Surely something is wrong some where, and we would like to see this matter remedied as soon as possible.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would consider it unkind to this Committee and to the Officers and members of the Fire Service if a member of this side or of the other side did not get up and laud the Fire Service for the outstanding service which they are still providing this country. Maybe, it can go down in history that it is the only Fire Service in the world to stop a small town from being burnt down. I am not thinking of Rome where someone played on his fiddle while it was burnt.

I believe that any complaints brought before the proper authorities with a view to making firemen comfortable should be immediately looked into and remedied. To speak of their valuable services would take every member of this House a minimum of at least one hour.

7.20 p.m.

I am sure that my colleague on my left would do it in three hours, so much he would have to say of such an outstanding service, because I am confident that where credit is to be given he would give it without looking over his shoulder a second time.

Under Item 16 - Medical Treatment, I asked my colleague just now to look me up the Fire Service Act of 1960 to find out why there is a figure of only $125 for medical treatment. Very often we hear of a fireman being injured and taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he is provided with medical attention even though the administration of the Hospital is not what the Minister of Home Affairs would it to be. Section 26 of the Act says that the Governor-in-Executive Committee may provide hospital accommodation and medical and dental treatment for the members of the service as he thinks fit. It is now the Cabinet, but I am asking if the $125 is enough. I am reminded by the Chairman that it is only a token vote, but from my last five years' experience in Parlaiment I have always observed that a token vote is normally $1.00, and when I see a figure of $125, I am inclined to ask if this is the amount which is needed, or if there are any complaints from the Fire Service where dental care and medical attention are concerned.

As far as the Fire Service is concerned, I have no criticisms. All I would like to know from the Minister is whether there is any recommendation that the vote should be increased, or whether the sum of $125 is only for First Aid. I hope that members on both sides will quickly get rid of this Head so that the hard working and very capable firemen will go back on duty and stand by to answer their country's call as they have so well done within the past month, and I sincerely hope they will continue to do the job they are doing in the same manner, because I doubt very much they can do better, and that any recommendations put up by the Fire Service for giving better conditions will be met by swift approval by Cabinet. I do not know with the amount of fires we are having whether the housing accommodation needs extending, because you would be able to increase the service of the firemen and probably relieve those who have taken so difficult a task to have better working hours. I am sure that the Cabinet and members on this side will give swift approval to whatever recommendations they see fit to put up. I want to say once again what a wonderful job the Chief Fire Officer and his men have been doing, and I am quite sure that this has only come about since they have been provided with such a beautiful building built by the Barbados Labour Party when they were removed from Coleridge Street, when, as you know, Sir, the fire engine would come out and knock down the policeman standing at sentry in front of the Central Station. I believe that we can be justly proud of the upgrading of the service and the architecture of the building.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, just to reply to one point, I have some little knowledge of

the question of housing allowance, and I am aware of the fact that the Chief Fire Officer feels that he is discriminated against in this regard. That is not so. In fact, the truth is that years ago the Commissioner of Police was also the chief Fire Officer before the Departments split and went their own ways. At the same time the Officers in the Fire Service are equated with the police in salaries, conditions of service and so on. The equivalent of the Chief Fire Officer is the Assistant Commissioner of Police, but not even the Deputy Commissioner of Police who is senior is granted a house allowance. There are other Heads of departments like the chief Fire Officer and senior as regards salary like the Registrar whose salary is higher than the Chief Fire Officer who do not get an allowance. An allownace is granted to Permanent Secretaries at one level and to some other Heads of Departments at the level of $13,200; but the Chief Fire Officer is not an officer at the level at which house allowances are granted. I think this is not generally known, but this is the case. The fact that the former Chief Fire Officer lived in a Government rented house does not mean it was a condition of service. He occupied a Government letting in the same way as a Master at Harrison College occupies a Government letting. Of course, that policy is being changed now, but it is not a condition of service and that is why the chief Fire Officer is not getting a housing allowance.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be long on this Head. I notice looking through the figures of revenue that the revenue which is supposed to come from the operation of the Fire Service is in the region of $5,750 whereas the total expenditure being asked for on this service is in the region of $677,173 and although I say that the Appropriation Bill is not the appropriate time perhaps because of the method adopted by the Minister of Finance to look at the issue of raising revenue, yet according to Standing Order No. 60(10) we can discuss the question of revenue.
7.30 p.m.

It is all right to laud the Fire Service as they rightly deserve, it is all right to follow the grading that various Civil Service Commissioners have placed on us, but I think that one should appreciate again and re-evaluate their role and the role which they play in the community. It is true that they perform one of the most vital services in this country, and I think the statement made by my friend, the hon. member for St. Peter, is a valid point, that a method of assessing and evaluating their services is wrongly taken and it is only on certain questions or in times of crisis that we can get them being paid tributes without getting the corresponding remuneration, and if the Government is worried about the revenue Head, surely the time has come in this country when we should examine making insurance companies pay for part of the upkeep of the Fire Service.

I have never understood why it has taken so long for someone to say on the floor of this House that this is the position, and the reason is that at the moment the general revenue of this country is being cast wide on a lot of people except the specified tax like the hotel tax, etc., whereas the majority of benefit to the country of the Fire Service accrues mostly to a selected group of people who have particular economic interests like their houses and so to secure moreso than other people, and therefore it is right that that group should essentially, I am not saying totally, but essentially bear part of the cost of these services as is done in some other countries and not merely pro-rated down through the community in general by means of taxes. I make this point seriously, I throw it out as an idea coming from me and from this side of the House, and I hope that it will be considered seriously. I think that if we look at it this way, then the Firemen will find themselves bringing in more revenue, and perhaps the Civil Service Advisers will take note to see that they are revenue earning as well and upgrade them as they suitably deserve.

I believe that they had a lot of complaints over a period of time, and their complaints have been slow in being remedied for one cause or another. I understand the Minister in fact has made a statement already that he is looking into these complaints, and I hope that he will give the men in that Service as equal consideration as is given to the Police Service so that their role in this community will be truly appreciated.

I would like to make one other point of principle that I think is valid. I am not really satisfied that we have trained enough people to detect the causes of fire and to look for the pyromaniacs in particular. Ever so often we see a fire occurring somewhere in Bridgetown or even in the cane fields, and all we are getting is the answer that the Police have surrounded the building for a time but there is no evidence being found. I believe that if we do not have the experts this may be a good instance in which we bring in on an isolated occasion an expert, particularly those fires that have occurred in the City, and I think that in future it would be good to train the Fire Service and the detective branch in this special field to get expert training from overseas because fire hazards can have tremendous economic and social consequences. If you doubt that, Sir, look at the Bill passed by the last House where we departed from the precedent of the redundancy payment

tax in England to incorporate in our Severance Payments Act a provision for people whose jobs have become redundant because of this type of disaster, and in this vein I should like to throw out that to the minister concerned. Perhaps he has already got it on his plate, I do not know if his Ministry has studied it, but I believe that he should in the training vote when he is fighting for his department make sure that this is one of the particular points on which we need some assistance.

I do not think we should remain much longer on this, I should just like to join in the statement made by the hon. member for St. James to say that I believe the whole community, this House in particular and the Government in particular welcome the role which they are playing. I just want to see them given a bit more recognition financially so that people will put their pockets where their mouths are at present.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, just before you put the question, I was so happy and pleased about the Fire Service of the country, that I did make a note here which I overlooked. I refer to Item 14, Equipment & Appliances. Very often when there is a fire you get a number of curious people coming down to see the fire. I have been to the United States and I have been to certain parts of Europe and you do not see this kind of thing, you see people coming to help the Firemen in extinguishing the blaze, but naturally Barbadians have never seen a big fire yet and they move down to see the big fire.

I remember some years ago I was on Bank Hall pasture playing football when the Cornwallis got hit in the harbour. I think a friend of mine who is at present in the Gallery was also there that evening.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to a visitor?

Mr. CRAIG: No, Sir, not a visitor, a friend; not in this Gallery, a gallery. We were out on Empire pasture having a game, and I remember the Cornwallis getting struck and seeing a large amount of smoke going up in the air, and I ran from Empire pasture down Roebuck Street and down the Wharf to see a war going on. This is the danger when you have crowds to control, and the reason why I am making this point under Item 14, because I wonder if the Fire Service is equipped with crowd barriers. I know the Police have these crowd barriers which they use when there is some big event going on for the purpose of controlling crowds, but even if the Police have them I feel a vote should be in to equip the Fire Service with them as well. They now have to wait on the Police to bring crowd barriers to control the crowds, but the Senior Firemen are trained in this, and when they arrive on the scene of the fire they are in a very good position to be able to put barriers down early enough to control the crowds which may eventually come in rather than telephoning the Police to ask the Police to bring the barriers over to put up; by this time the crowds would have taken over, and I believe this is a good suggestion to the Minister in charge.

Quite recently I heard on the radio an announcer asking people not to leave home to go to the scene of the fire because Firemen were finding it difficult to fight the fire with all these people around. If a spark flies some of them might begin to run and eventually you will have a stampede and loss of life will follow, and I hope that this suggestion will not fall on deaf ears because I think it is a suggestion which will help in assisting the Fire Service in fighting the numerous fires which we have been having in the city.

The question that the sum of $209,383 under Head 27 – Fire Service – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7.45 p.m.

HEAD 28 – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING OFFICE

Head 28 – Town and Country Planning Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $33,934 under Head 28 – Town and Country Planning Office – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, with reference to Item 21 – Expenses of Enforcement – I have drawn this matter to the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs at the time and to an officer in the Town and Country Planning Office that there are some waterwashed people who come in here, buy a piece of land, put up a hotel, and they have the effrontery to put up a groyne into the sea and put up a notice "No trepassing." I had that experience in St. James at Tropicana Hotel. I went to the owner of Tropicana Hotel and told him that it was a breach of the law to construct a groyne in the sea, and he told me that if it were a breach of the law that I could get a drill and dig it down. I can say that if I did not have a duty to my country, the two of us would have been in the sea up to now and the Police launch would have been looking for us, if he thinks that I am a sweet bread. Imagine his coming to

Barbados, in my country and in my stronghold, to put a groyne in the sea and then put up a notice saying "No trepassing," and then to ask me to dig it down!

Mr. Chairman, I felt that I could have held him and beat him up to now, because I can beat any little man. I drew that to the attention of the appropriate authorities, I know that the Department would have to find out whether he was given permission to construct the groyne, write and ask him to remove it, and that would take a lot of time. The point I wish to make is that when the Department has told this man or woman that he or she cannot do something, he or she then has the right to go to an Appeal Committee. This hotel has the freshness to advertise abroad and mention the groyne in the sea. I have seen a brochure advertised abroad in which it was stated that the hotel had a private beach. That is where I join hands with the Minister of Home Affairs.

I once told the former Leader of the Opposition in Parliament that when you are running a Government...*(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, if you were now sitting on the other side, you would have been able to tell them how much blows I gave you in your own shop. Do you think I am making sport? In spite of all of this laughing and smiling across the floor of the House, when the bell rings you are no friends of mine. You are my enemies, and I do not see you. The Minister of Agriculture is a friend of mine, and I have seen him passing in the crowd without noticing him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, let us get back to the Item.

Mr. CRAIG: I told my colleague, Senator St. John, that had we won the Government – I was so confident that we would have won the Government – he should lend me the Ministry of Home Affairs for half-hour, and I would have made Hitler look as a child as a result of some of the things which have been done on the West Coast by some of those people. This is a classic example where I have to stand side by side with the Minister of Home Affairs to send out some of these people from Barbados at times within a half-hour. Imagine a man at Tropicana is telling a lawful representative of this country to take a drill and dig down a groyne if I want it removed! I had no alternative than to take the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs rather than to take the law into my hands. I was glad that the incident occurred before six o'clock, because it would have been only the two of us.

With reference to Item 22, the sum of $1,000 is provided for appeals. There should be no appeal, because the law is there. If you want to put a groyne in the sea, you will have to make an application to the Chief Town Planning Officer to find out whether it can be done. The man at the hotel told me that he had some stuff and stones; he asked the builder what to do with them, and he told him to put them in the sea. Eventually, he put the stones in the sea. What sort of double-breasted idiot could he be? I am waiting on the Ministry to see what will be done. This matter has been pending for almost eighteen months and the sign is still there. I refer to the lower Carlton area. I hope the Minister would look into this matter immediately.

Now, at the Hilton Hotel there is a jetty, and a man is telling black people that they cannot go on the jetty. That jetty was built by the Barbados Government for the people of Barbados. He is telling black people that the jetty is for the visitors. I am going up there one of these days when I get a chance, because I have one or two things to prove in this country. As far as the $1,000 for appeals is concerned, there should be no Appeals Committee. There should be a directive by the Ministry to take it down, and if it was not taken down, then the Ministry should take it down, and the owner would be called upon to pay the cost of removing it.

Mr. Chairman, it seems as though the shoe is on the other foot now, because when we pushed down Singh's house, I remember the hon. member on the other side saying that we should not have pushed down the poor, coolie man's house. The same Government who said that you should not push down the poor, coolie man's house is the same Government that recently pushed down a poor woman's house near the Hospital and put her things along side the road. Of course my friend on the other side said "Coolie man," but if he had said Indian, I would have thought that he was supporting the Indian blood in him. I should like to see this $1,000 removed from the Estimates, because it is a waste of money. I hope that the Minister would look into the matter of groynes.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to enquire of the Lord High Executioner, the hon. member for St. James, if he can tell me the name of the hotel advertising a private beach, and if he can supply me with the brochure which mentions the private beach.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not want at this hour, particularly when we want to get some of the other Heads of the Estimates passed

and also for the staff of the House to have a break, to delay the debate on this matter. I shall, therefore, try to shorten it by asking a few questions and, probably, qualifying a few points which are being made. I believe that the hon. member for St. James was speaking particularly in the context of circumstances where people go on and carry out development within the meaning of the Town and Country Planning Act without first seeking the approval of the appropriate Ministry and more specifically of the Chief Town Planner. 7.50 p.m.

I think his feeling on this matter is that in such circumstances the person cannot be wrong and strong and should not be given an opportunity to appeal in that set of circumstances by putting in an application. This is the procedure. I would not like other hon. members to feel that we believe that the system of Town and Country Planning must be completely bereft of a right of appeal on points of law, for instances, and in other circumstances as the law at present stands. I believe that is one set of circumstances, and indeed I think the hon. member has a point to make in this.

Some of us have been disturbed by the presence in Broad Street of a rather unsightly building which I understand has been placed there without first obtaining permission, and the Poor Town Planner has taken a beating sometimes in the press without having had the opportunity to pass on such an application. All he can do is to give an enforcement notice, and then at that stage the person puts in an application by which time a lot of time has gone and he has been unable to do anything. I have the assurance of the Minister and the Chief Town Planner, I have dealt with his Ministry on many such applications, that the Government hopes to bring legislation in this House which deals specifically with that point and when it does come I am sure hon. members on our side will be supporting those amendments.

I should however like to draw to the attention of the Minister that on this side we have heard people complaining of still some delay in getting approval for plans, and that some people also have complained, I do not know with what amount of veracity or on what amount of evidence, that the notices which before advised them of their right to appeal direct to the Minister in case the notice of refusal does not come to them are not being sent. I would ask the Minister perhaps to get his technical Head to look at this matter and see whether they are justified. There are complaints which have reached us and I think as this has come up that we should quite rightly draw them to the Minister's attention.

The other point I would like to ask the Minister is whether now the extra plans of the experts on the spine road and the Commissioner's report on the physical development plan are available, he could speed up along with his colleagues in Cabinet the final bringing of that plan to the Legislature. I think a lot of people are still holding up development and obviously holding up employment opportunities and economic progress awaiting the final outcome of settling various areas, and if we can have some time on that the House would have the benefit of the debate on this.

There is one other point. I think we should really have a look at this question of extensions unlawfully within the territorial waters of Barbados by persons building what the hon. member for St. James referred to as groynes. I do not want to refer to any special case as I myself in my family affairs have suffered from this, but it is having a deleterious effect as well on the seacoast and affecting the beaches and causing erosion. I should like to draw to the Minister's attention, for instance, that a groyne has gone out rather near Graves End beach, I believe without getting the permission of the Chief Town Planner at first, or some structure has gone into the sea with the result that the coastline has been eroded to some extent. We will have to look at these things carefully. I should say that the appointment of the Chief Town Planner who is a local person trained through the Training Scheme is much welcome on this side. It is another instance of how by good planning you can provide Barbadians that are qualified to do the job. He is trying very hard. There are times when he has not been able to get all the staff he deserves; so I would like to put in a special plea for him in this instance too, Sir, to try and give him some more staff, because the applications have been many, he has been under pressure and there are all sorts of criticisms at times without people having the full facts. I would like to ask that you, since he has to consult with so many other departments, give him a bigger staff. The last plea is to make the Advisory Committee work. I think this could be made to do very useful work, it can be made to breach the relationship or the area of disagreement between the planned for and the planners, and if it works adequately, I think he will find that planning comes to be much more accepted in this country.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before you put the Question, Mr. Chairman, I just want to set the records straight. On the question of appeals, if the panel of Reporters had been set up by the former Government, the Barbados Labour Party Government, then the question of putting the

bulldozer through Mr. Singh's house at Maxwell Road probably would never have arisen. The fact is that there was no Appeal Tribunal set up; it was set up by this Government a few years after and it serves a very useful purpose, because when an application is made to the Town Planner, if he rejects the application and you feel you have some good grounds, you go to counsel or a solicitor as the case may be and seek legal assistance and appear before a panel of Reporters which is usually comprised of a former Judge, a laymen of wide experience or a solicitor as the case may be, and they re-investigate the entire case and the chances are that you may win your case. Their findings then come to Cabinet; so the question of appeals serves a very useful purpose, and if it were in existence at the time when Mr. Singh's house was bulldozed, it might never have happened.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to reply to the hon. member for Christ Church. As a result of the physical development plan we got down a team of Wallace Evans Associates who have just done a study on the spine road. You may have seen that they have just presented their report; we got the report from the Judge on the total development plan, and we have got to study the Wallace Evans' report along with the Judge's report and something should come out in a few months.

The question that the sum of $33,934 under Head 28 – Town and Country Planning Office – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 9 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
8.00 p.m.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 30 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, there is an amendment. Page 64, Item 106 – Furniture and Equipment, amend the note to the Item by deleting the word "refrigerator" appearing in the note thereto. With this amendment, I beg to move that the sum of $2,386,902 Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in seconding the passing of this Head I want to make it clear to hon. members that I propose to answer all questions asked but I will only speak once.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to be afraid of what is to come, but I can assure him that I have no intention of giving him heart failure tonight. I would like to start off in the general and then move into the specifics, because I feel that agriculture is such a challenging topic to this country that it has become the interest of practically everyone who is interested in the development of this country. I would also like to draw to the attention of this Committee that in my opinion agriculture must go hand in hand with tourism, and unless the Government takes very positive action in respect of these two Departments – in fact, three Departments, Agriculture, Trade and Tourism – then this country cannot in my opinion and in the opinion of the members on this side benefit at all from any of the things which we are looking forward to benefit from.

I know that many people believe that industrialisation is the salvation of most developing countries, but as Professor Arthur Lewis has said, and also a man called Gateskill who has been writing quite recently in the United States that most developing countries are making the solemn mistake of believing that what is called the first world has progressed so well because of its industrialisation, but the industrialisation cannot be profitable to any

country unless it also looks to its agricultural products, and in this very capacity I would like to point out where I believe we can do very much more than we are doing at the moment.

I want to look at what has happened quite recently. At a time when several plantations were and are still reaping carrots, there has been a large importation of carrots into this country. I believe that this can only be rectified if the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade can work hand in hand, so that Trade would know exactly what food crops we have to offer and therefore they would restrict the necessary permits which are necessary for the importation of the same commodities which we are able to and which we can produce in this country. I believe that we can only derive the maximum benefit from tourism if we devise a policy whereby we grow as much of the necessary food crops we need in this country and feed the tourists, so that we reduce the amount of imports, and therefore we are safe in the balance of trade in our exchange in foreign currency. If we were to adopt this policy I believe we can go very far not only to the benefit of the hoteliers but to the benefit of the agriculturalists, the people who believe in agriculture.

I believe – and I am speaking on the general policy at this point – that the Ministry should consider whether or not it is wise to allow small holders to keep on growing sugar cane. I believe it is time that the Ministry devise a policy whereby you restrict or you encourage the growing of sugar cane to the very large plantations, but ancient farmers, as I call them, who believe that the only crop they can ever grow is sugar cane should have a general teaching on agriculture, educate the small holders that it is to their benefit that they should now move from sugar cane which is a one crop per year, down to things like market gardening produce whereby they can make greater returns than if they continue in sugar cane. Sugar cane – as I heard the Prime Minister say and I agree with him in this respect – is what I call a lazy man's crop. You plant it, you weed it in three months' time, it grows up and you reap it. You ratoon it and it comes back and you keep ratooning it. In the case of some peasants they ratoon down to about five ratoons, eleven sometimes. I believe this is a waste of profitable land at this time of our development, and I believe the time has come when the Ministry of Agriculture should decide whether or not such a principle can be worked out, and I believe that we should have opened an establishment of teaching facilities where we can educate the masses into the benefits of agriculture, because if we are going to stake half our livelihood on tourism, then I believe the other part that goes with tourism should be agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, the next point I want to move to is on page 60. I read in the papers where the Minister responsible for Agriculture had a Press Conference and he said that they were going to amend the laws in relation to veterinary officers so that those who are coming in should be able to do private practice.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I just want to correct the hon. member. I did not talk about amending laws relating to veterinary officers; what I said was that we were going to improve the conditions of service or revise the conditions for veterinary officers. There are no laws to amend with respect to veterinary officers.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chairman, this is something that has worried me for quite a long time. When I used to be in the Agricultural Department there was a man called Dr. Scoggins who was then attached to the Pine. I have often wondered why since Dr. Scoggins has left there has never been in my knowledge anyone to fill that position. The time is now ripe when the conditions which are to be amended should go in the similar way as you amend the conditions for specialist doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I believe that the Government should have at least three veterinary officers, and they should be able to carry on private practices as long as they do not conflict with their interest in relation to their public duty for which they would be drawing a statutory salary. In this way the necessary competition will arise in the question of ability, and I believe, Mr. Chairman, that when the Minister reaches this point that he should do all that is necessary to ensure that persons will be willing to accept positions in Government as veterinary officers because they will know that they will not be discriminated against by any senior officer who holds probably the same degree. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You are stating my policy). The Minister says I am stating his policy, I do not doubt that this may be the Minister's policy, but I am saying that I hope that he does not amend them in such a way that any one officer would find himself in a discriminatory position as against the other officer.

At the moment it is difficult to get a veterinary officer to come out sometimes in the country. I have heard one person who is interested in dairy cattle say that you have got to book your appointment with the veterinary

officer and he will tell you when he is able to come. This should not be the case, and this is where I am going on to suggest that in the Animal Act of 1949 there is provision for Animal Inspectors; I do not remember seeing or hearing anybody under this classification since I have been around. There may be, but I must admit my ignorance, I have not seen or heard anybody describing themselves as Animal Inspectors for donkeys' years. I would like the Hon. Minister to consider the question of re-naming the post, do not call them Animal Inspectors, find some other suitable name and re-appoint the persons under the Act, because another great problem is this. Even when you call out the veterinary officer and he makes his first diagnosis, there is the follow-up visit which does not require the veterinary officer to come back.
9.10 p.m.

If you have these persons operating; if you give them the basic training – training which was given in 1952, 1953 and 1954 whereby these persons were attached to the Central Livestock Station – I went through this training, Mr. Chairman. You were attached to the other Out-Stations for probably three, four, five or six months; you were also attached to the other stations where they had specialised farming such as pigs, sheep, etc., where you had to do artificial insemination, give injections, and so on. I believe that these persons have now found a place in our society, because of the increasing number of dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep and poultry, which will be coming into this country. In the circumstances, we need persons trained to identify quite early visible signs of diseases. We need people who will do follow-up work after the Veterinary Officer has done his initial diagnosis, and this will enhance the agricultural sector in this country.

The next point to which I want to refer is the question of an animal ambulance service. I have just had the experience where a Veterinary Officer would like you to bring, say, a sheep to the Pine or to his laboratory where he can carry out certain specific tests. I am not asking that this be made a general service because it will be an expensive operation, but I would hope that the Minister will consider it in his future plans. If an animal ambulance service is provided and the Veterinary Officer went to St. Lucy, St. John or St. Philip, and he saw an animal which he was of the opinion should be taken to Headquarters, then I believe such an ambulance service would be of great assistance. He could contact the ambulance service and give instructions to bring in X sheep or X goat. We do not have such a service now, and I believe that the provision of an animal ambulance service would be of great benefit in our society.

Mr. Chairman, I shall now deal with other items in general and as I come to the specific I can omit them until I get there. The next point I want to deal with under Agriculture is the future projections as to where we will go and how we are going to meet our demands. I called last year for the banning of the importation of certain products into this country. In private discussions I have said, and I now say it openly, that Government has to take a very strong stand on the issue of the importation of certain agricultural products into this country. Take, for instance, the question of chicken parts. Last year the Minister said he was quite willing to ban the importation of chicken parts, but he found that people were still demanding football chicken. I have a view on this, Mr. Chairman. If you are going to import football chicken to be sold at 5c or 6c per pound less than if you had produced all of your chicken parts in this country, then you will have to consider the economics of such an operation. You will have to consider whether or not the currency which leaves this country to support an American poultry organisation is in relation to the benefits we get from importing these things.

I believe that the Minister should be bold and ban the importation of chickens now. It will mean that the present poultry growers will increase their production. I am one who believe that if you turn over X number of pounds of a commodity at a cheap price, it works out better than if you turn over "Y" product at a dearer price. If you are selling 10 lbs of a poultry product at $1 a pound and you make 20c. profit, if you turn over more and make 10c. profit you will come out much better than when you are turning over a high-priced commodity. I believe the Minister should ban the importation of football chicken and similar products. If the growers here will extend themselves to satisfy the market, then they may make a smaller return on each pound, but in the overall they will make a greater profit at the end of the year. In that case you will give the growers the incentive they need to do exactly what they can do for themselves.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at the question of dairy cattle in this country. I think the Minister said that he is going to bring in beef cattle from Jamaica known as the Jamaica Red. At this point we have to look at where we are going to build up a great dairy industry and a beef cattle industry. Some years ago we started out growing soya beans, and I believe there is only one person in Barbados today who still grows soya beans. I

believe that the Ministry should devise a policy whereby the Agricultural Stations should be made to go back experimenting with the growing of soya beans. Now, this is a vital ingredient to animal feed whether it is poultry feed, cattle feed or dog feed.

I have in my bag a copy of *World Farming*. I hope that the Minister will take this as an honest bit of advice. In Tiran, which is an agricultural community, they have been able to raise the country from an importing country to an exporting country agriculturally, and it has all been done by experimenting with the various things which people thought could not be grown in that country. I believe that we have to go back growing soya beans, which is a natural ingredient to feed.

With reference to the growing of corn, the old planters used to say that corn could only be grown at one season of the year. It is time that the Ministry shows conclusively that we can grow corn throughout the year in Barbados. I should like to see the Agricultural Stations doing these things, otherwise we are going to find ourselves hamstrung in a situation whereby we are increasing our dairy cattle, beef cattle and poultry, and then we will be importing all the commodities in respect of feed. We could experiment with growing millet, and we could grow corn. These are some of the crops with which the Department should now be experimenting. If that is done we would be able to provide at least 50% or 70% of the ingredients we need for mixing our feeds.
9.20 p.m.

Another point, Mr. Chairman, is that clover is one of the things that foreign countries depend on for fattening cattle. This is something we can experiment on, and I do not want the Minister to tell me that his technocrats tell him it cannot be done, because just by experimenting you can derive a variety which is suitable to our climatic conditions. I was out of this country probably two and a half weeks ago and I can disclose to the Minister now why. A friend and I were discussing what new product we could bring to Barbados, and we were thinking along the lines of the crops which are being imported into Barbados to see whether we could experiment with these crops to grow them here rather than import them, and we both thought we should be growing mushrooms in Barbados. This sounds like a far-fetched idea because mushrooms grow in a very temperate climate where you require 55%F for the growing period, 50% of humidity, and you must keep this constant to grow mushrooms. I telephoned one of the supermarkets here and was made to understand that mushrooms were being sold at $6.00 per pound; and mushroom is called outside the vegetable with the beef content. The gentleman said to me that we could grow mushrooms, and I remember seeing a copy of World Farming that Taiwan is now exporting mushrooms to the United States; and it was thought that mushrooms could not be grown in Taiwan. The man told me he knew where the majority of mushrooms was grown in the United States, and he invited me to go to Michigan to see where mushrooms are grown commercially; but when I got there we discussed that the Great Lake Mushroom Company is a company which started growing mushrooms commercially, the United States had invited a man from Korea to go over the various agricultural products and they took him to this company where he saw mushrooms being grown commercially. The man went back to Korea and then to Taiwan and started growing mushrooms commercially, and he is now dumping them on the American market; so the company has decided that it is not letting anybody else into the company to see how it is done commercially, and it is fortified like Fort Knox where all the gold in the United States is. It just shows you what a little bit of enterprise and experimentation can do. They grow mushrooms at a time when the temperature is 98° or 100° F because it is controlled by air conditioning units specially built to provide the necessary moisture.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that with experimentation we can have things in this country that are done elsewhere and save importing. Still on experimentation, in Taiwan they have developed a type of sweet potato of which they say they have changed the taste completely, and it now has such a pleasant taste and so much protein that it is now a stable diet. I have seen none of this going on here. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Government at this point will have to increase its vote in agriculture so that probably in another five or six years we will see the benefit which we hope to derive from agriculture coupled with tourism and industrialisation.

Similarly, the Minister says he has been bringing in the new Jamaica Red. I am not criticising his decision or that of his technocrats because the Minister said not long ago that he has to take the advice of his technocrats, but I would like the Minister to enquire from his technocrats whether it would not be wise in trying the Jamaica Red to also try the Charolais which is known to be the world's best beef cattle. They are going through their scientific methods to produce this in New Zealand because of some

obstacle in the importation of these cows directly from France into New Zealand. My latest information on this is that they are doing an insemination, then removing the foetus in a few days and flying it to New Zealand and re-inseminating it. This is something which the Minister can investigate. If we are going in for beef cattle I personally feel that when the time comes for individual farmers to be given permission to go into beef cattle, they should have a choice of one or the other.

I should also like the Minister to consider a method which is worked in the United Kingdom in which you take selected farmers who are prepared to go through a trial period and allow them to bring in a particular strain whether it be of cow, sheep or goat provided this will be beneficial to the country in the long run. These farmers are registered with the Agricultural Department and work in close co-operation with the Ministry in carrying out the necessary trials, and then you will have a point where you can release the animals. This is what was done in Britain when they imported the saddle back pig from the United States of America. I would like the Minister to consider this method to improve our various strains of beef cattle, dairy cattle, and even our poultry. (Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What about ducks?) I understand there is a restriction on the importation of poultry. The Hon. Minister asked a question about ducks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear him.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I had a little pang in the back of my head and I think I heard the word "ducks". Whoever said that should not have mentioned it because I can explain my experience with ducks, and this is why I am making this suggestion to the Minister who I believe genuinely in his heart would like to help this country agriculturally, but who I must say is sometimes not supplied with up-to-date information. As an example of this I can give this Committee something to think about. When I moved to St. Philip some four years ago I found myself with 4¾ acres of land to play with. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. BOLDEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with a policy. I enquired about bringing ducks into this country and I had to fight for nine months before I was allowed to bring my first duck into this country. There is the Hon. Minister sitting whom at one stage I had to appeal to and discuss the Veterinary recommendations from England about the importation of ducks, when I was told I could not bring ducks into this country.
9.30 p.m.

I had to discuss with him up-to-date veterinary recommendations, but what I am saying is it is the policy, the advice which is given to the Minister which might not be up-to-date, so therefore I am suggesting to the Minister things which I believe he can clearly call his technocrats and ask for evidence as to whether they are workable or not. Further to this, Mr. Chairman, let me finish this particular point. I was once asked by the 4-H Club if I would supply ducks to them for experimentation, I offered to give them free but nobody took up the offer.

Mr. Chairman, let me move to page 61, Markets. Under Markets I want to deal with two things, the first of which is a native market. I believe we should have a native market in Barbados. I see the sum of $72,189 for Unestablished Staff, and I believe this may refer to the general markets, including the BMC. I believe that we should have a native market in Barbados, and I want the Minister to consider this; this is not going to fall *in toto* under agriculture, but I believe we should have a native market and abolish the system of people who operate in that native market having to purchase hawkers' badges. I believe a native market should be there which would encourage the country farmers, the small holders, the people who will keep probably 10 to 15 chickens and pick up 12 eggs and want to go and sit down in the native market and sell them, and in my opinion if they want to sell 24 hours a day, as long as they are in the confines of the native market, they should be allowed to do so. I also believe that the native market will assist in the tourist industry, because last Sunday morning there was a number of tourists coming up from the harbour, the spectacle in Broad Street was that the Ministry of Communications and Works was rolling the road with stones and tar, but the town was closed. I believe in a native market you would have knitting, handicraft, vegetables, etc. and it could be opened every day. I believe it would capture money for the country, it would facilitate the people who want to come into town late, and I believe you should still have a native market irrespective of the number of markets you have.

Technically, Mr. Chairman, it seems as if the Hon. Minister is glad that he has not got the BMC any more, but I will have to put it in its place under Trade.

Under Fisheries, at Item 49 I see the sum of $4,400 for Apprentices. Last year I queried the

vote for Apprentices generally, but I notice this sum under Fisheries and I would like the Minister to explain exactly what these apprentices are in Fisheries. I will probably have to deal with that later. Also I would call for some sort of fishing school. I am one who believes that a man who is doing an honest job, whether it be fishing, farming, driving a tractor – and I do not believe in digging cane holes any more, I can tell you this off hand – I do not believe in a man with a fork in the hot sun, I believe that once you are doing an honest job you should be proud of it, but I believe in the technical skills which should now be taught to the people of agriculture, and I should like to see the Minister set up a school. There can be one institution where you can combine agriculture and fisheries, and the Minister can investigate what things are necessary under this Head.

I will tell you why I say this, Mr. Chairman, I went down on the Wharf behind the DaCosta & Musson building, and I saw a very young chap about 16 or 17 arguing with an old fisherman coming off the boats which course the boat should have taken to get in here quicker. When you see this, this means there is interest in what the people are doing, if you find a 17 year old boy is going to argue with an old fisherman that he took the wrong course, it means there is interest in the profession, and I believe it should be encouraged, make it a job which people can be proud of, that you would not hear any more of a fishing boat lost at sea. This is where I believe that you can start in an elementary way, even if you start with the classes at one place in Bridgetown and work up, but this has got to come. We have got to feed ourselves in this country before long, and we have to do it cheaply.

Mr. Chairman, I now move to page 62, Item 53, Expenses of Standing Cane Fire Board. The Hon. Minister seems to think that we have spoken on this already, but I want to deal with it from another aspect. I am not dealing with the five watchers specifically, I want to deal with the Board itself. We have now moved into controlled burning. I am still somewhat worried over the effect of the burning of sugar cane in Barbados. It is known that wherever you burn a field of sugar cane the projection for the next year will be smaller than that of the previous year. In big countries where you can carry the crop say for three ratoons and change the crop from sugar cane to something else it might not have as great an effect upon the soil as it would have in our country. I would like to know from the Minister whether so far not taking into account that controlled burning only came about last year, any studies have been carried out over the past five or six years to determine the effect of burning on our fields, and what is likely to happen if there is going to be a need for some modification of the policy in respect of burning, modification of proper rotation, etc.

9.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there is another point which I believe can be dealt with under general administration, but I think it would be more befitting to deal with it under Item 58 – University of the West Indies. There is a sum of $7,323 which provides for the training of students in Agriculture at the U.W.I. This, I believe, Mr. Chairman, is a very important factor in the entire West Indies at this time. I have never been privileged to visit Trinidad where most of the Agricultural Courses are carried on, but since we in Barbados are moving into mechanical harvesting and will have to move into mechanical planting as well...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We do not have to move into mechanical planting, we have already moved into mechanical planting.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. member for St. Michael West are always worried about people in the cane field. Whenever I drive around this country, I like to take a careful look at the development of our Agriculture. Quite recently I have heard that one factory has experimented with mechanical loading last year and had to change the rollers of the mills half-way through the grinding seasons because they were damaged by stones and debris picked up in cane fields. One or two Plantations this year, when it got near to the reaping season, have been employing people to remove stones from the fields, but I have not seen it done as a general policy.

In the United States, Fiji and in Australia stone-pickers are in operation, and they can pick up stones from 3/8 to 12-inch boulders.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister and the Shadow Minister for Agriculture get along very well and we have a perfect understanding, but there are certain things the hon. member does not know. In order to prevent the hon. member from wasting time, I should like to inform him that we already have stone-pickers in Barbados. I would invite him to Fairy Valley to see how they are operated.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear that. What I am saying is that stone-pickers

should have been in operation before and, in my opinion, the Sugar Producers Association should have had them in operation long ago.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: What I am trying to point out to the hon. member is that we have seen the need for stone-pickers. Perhaps, the Sugar Producers Association or the Planters did not see the need for them at the time. The need has since been seen, and the Government has led the way in this respect by making use of stone-pickers at Fairy Valley. The growers will have to use them as long as they are going in for mechanical planting and harvesting.

With reference to the factory whose mills have been damaged by stones and so on, obviously, you will see the demand for more stone-pickers as long as the Plantations are going in for mechanical loading. There is no point in labouring on this matter when the hon. member knows that the need for them has been seen and stone-pickers are already in the Island.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Minister for his intervention. I will move to Item 62 – Civic Circle. I see that the sum of $2,160 is voted to take care of the Civic Circle. I wonder whether this sum of money could not be more beneficially transferred to the Parks and Beaches Commission.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, further in the Debate I am going to suggest that we take out that sum, because the Civic Circle informed the Ministry, subsequently to the Estimates being dealt with by the Cabinet, that they will cease to function at the end of the financial year.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I will now move to Item 72 – District Agricultural Station. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to know who the hon. member is addressing at this stage. I will ask him to be silent.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael West is telling me that I have one very close to me, and I think it is the one designated for experiment on the Black Belly Sheep. I am not against the Black Belly Sheep, but what worries me is that the Black Belly Sheep which we have in Barbados, I believe, have reached a stage where they have been in-bred to some extent. I should like to find out from the Minister – because he is now devoting a part of the Agricultural Station to the development of this type of sheep – whether he is considering opening a Herd Book and importing some other sheep to fortify the Black Belly Sheep. I understand that there is a little village in India where Black Belly Sheep are very popular. I should like to know what is going to be done for the development of the Black Belly Sheep. I believe there should be some experimentation with the Black Belly Sheep crossed with some other sheep to improve the quality of the mutton.

Mr. Chairman, I know that there is a University in the United States which is carrying out experimentation of the Black Belly Sheep crossed with another sheep, and they are trying to see if they can improve the hardiness of the Black Belly Sheep with another sheep to give it what is called improved mutton structure, because in the opinion of several persons Black Belly Sheep do not have the mutton structure which one would like to see. As I have said before, I should like to see a revival of experimentations at these Stations.
9.50 p.m.

For instance, I once worked there and I saw quite a few crops experimented on, but there is no experimentation as such in most of the stations now, and I would like to see this being revived. As I said before, I believe the station should be utilised at this point to supply stock for persons who are interested at proper prices. I would like to see the Government establish a green-house somewhere in Barbados. I have had quotations on this, and I am told that unless you can guarantee the supply of one million plants in any one year, it is not going to be economic for private enterprise to do it. I would hope that the Government would consider this and have a green-house operated at one of the stations. It will relieve the planter from having to go to the seed store in Barbados and buy carrot seeds, cabbage seeds and what not when he can go and get stock plants to put in the ground. I believe it would give you a faster turnover from the land if you have such a green-house.

I have seen in this month's World Farming that they are making these green-houses 200 yards long in Britain with a special polythene and they are set up quite easily with tubular piping. It is said that the cost of replacing it once a year is equivalent to the cost of cleaning the glass in the ordinary glass house. I wish the Minister would discuss with his technocrats the possibility of setting up a green-house. I feel that one of the stations can be utilised for such a prospect.

Moving to Item 75 – Control of Rodents, the Minister did say that he would hear of a

campaign to eradicate rats from our country. I would like to know how far we have reached in this campaign and how soon an announcement will be made. I would also refer to a statement made by one of my colleagues that we cannot blame the Ministers for having press conferences, but I would hope that certain papers from these conferences could be laid in the House so that hon. members would know what is going on, because technically if we were like the member for St. Michael West who is out of the country regularly, you may miss a press conference.

Under Item 77 – Grasslands, as I said earlier, in Jamaica and in certain parts of the United States, they fatten beef cattle on grass rather than on grain. I know we have the pangola grass which some people consider as very good. There is a new grass called the kikuyu grass which it is said is the most nutritious grass known for fattening cattle. I would like to see some experimentation in these grasses. According to my information the kikuyu grass can be reaped, it can be mowed, it can be stored and it will come back again. In St. Joseph one plantation owner has told me he wants to go into beef cattle but he wants to find a grass that would be suitable and would stand up to the trodding. I have a book at home called "Grassland Production" and it has been discovered that where you have large grasslands, they do far better where there are bees in the area. Under the same Animal Act bees have been specifically excluded from certain provisions. I would like the Minister or the technocrats to consider or reconsider whether it is necessary to encourage people to go back into keeping bees in Barbados.

In the United States and I think in certain parts of Australia they have bee hives set up in the middle of the grasslands, and they claim that these bees pollenate the grass and they get a better return. I would like to hear whether the Minister's views are consistent with mine or whether his technocrats disagree with what others are thinking.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Agricultural Department has been experimenting with several sprays. The Minister I know is well aware that we are dependent more and more on sprays for controlling weeds than on manual labour, but what worries me at this point is that there seems to be some conflict or desperate competition between two or three of the suppliers of sprays in Barbados. You will call up one supplier who says he will sent out a man to you, and this man will recommend one spray. I have heard complaints that people have tried two or three sprays before they can arrive at a spray which would get rid of certain weeds and grasses.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Do you mean a spray or a weedicide?

Mr. BOLDEN: A weedicide. I think it is time that we have some sort of control on weedicides, because I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if you are aware that this has now become a big thing in the United States. The 2-4-D which is used here probably in modified form was at one time banned in the United States. I would like to know the Ministry's policy on weedicides. I believe that the Ministry's recommendations on weedicides should appear in a particular section of the press, and while I am on this I said last time that the Ministry should have a special column probably daily or once a week in the press on these things. I still believe you should publish regular bulletins on these things, and make it nationally known because from my discussions with several plantation owners, they have been going from supplier to supplier in search of weedicides.

When we come to Item 98 under Markets, some time ago we had several discussions in this House on the shrimp industry and I have seen in a publication that the Government was hoping to restore the industry. I would like the Minister for the benefit of this Committee and for the benefit of the community at large to tell us what is the present position in respect of the shrimp industry, because we are spending $9,240 on the maintenance of the building and refrigerating plant.

10.00 p.m.

While on marketing, I would like also to say that some time ago the Minister made a statement in relation to the quarantine station in respect of pigs. I can say I know at least of two persons who would like to bring certain pigs into the country, I believe I discussed this with the Minister before, and he said they were going to relax the question of quarantine. I would also like to hear something on this, because there are certain developments in the pig industry. The Minister has promised a processing plant and I believe in order to get the most out of a processing plant the population of pigs in the country should be at such a height that there should be no scarcity of pigs going to market, but in order to do this we have to improve what we have got in the island. Let us go back to the ducks. When you see the muscovy duck in Barbados it takes probably about nine months to produce one weighing about 4½ pounds. I do not believe anybody has brought in a muscovy duck

into Barbados perhaps in the last 20 years, but the muscovy duck, despite its ability to fly which detracts from its usefulness, is one of the heaviest ducks you can find, it is called the South American tree duck. This is why I stress the point that you should have some method of quarantine that you can bring in new strain to improve the strain which has been here for some time, because when you in-breed and in-breed then you reduce the ability of the stock you have in the country.

I therefore would be very pleased if the Minister would tell us something about the quarantine facilities which I think were discussed some time ago, and he promised to set up certain quarantine stations in respect of pigs and probably other cattle.

I have been reminded, Mr. Chairman, of the R.S.P.C.A. I think we need some decent laws in respect of cats and dogs. I think we need to control at this point the strays. At Item 61 there is only $1,000 there. *(Asides)* The hon. member loves cats so much that he is glad to hear of these cats. I would like the Minister on the question of quarantine to consider quarantine in respect of cats and dogs or animals coming in, and I would like to see a law dealing particularly with cats and dogs. Stray cats are a problem, because as I said, if we believe in agriculture both stray cats and stray dogs are a grave problem. I have not seen anybody in Barbados as yet keeping poultry on open farm land, it is said that to keep poultry, what you call range poultry, is cheaper than keeping poultry penned up. There was a belief at one time that you can force-feed poultry, put two or three together in a small cage and you would get benefits from them. It has been proved that range poultry is cheaper to maintain and has a longer productive life than that which is penned up.

Another point is this, Sir, dealing with stray cats and dogs, the Minister should consider how quickly we can have laws for the removal of these strays, because I believe it is time we move into this system. As I said, with the answer on quarantine he can tell us whether there is a possibility of including quarantine provision for cats and dogs if we are going to increase the number of veterinary officers wherever I believe this facility can be granted.

Mr. Chairman, the Agricultural Credit Bank. I think I dealt with this last year, and I will just simply repeat what I said before. I still simply believe that we should amalgamate the financial facilities for agriculture as closely as possible into one unit. That is still my belief at this point.

I see a small sum for Recovery of Fishing Boats Adrift at Item 104 – $1,500. This looks rather small to me, Mr. Chairman, but as the Prime Minister has said, the Opposition cannot move for the increase in any Government expenditure, and I hope that the answer to this is that this is a token vote and where necessary supplementaries will be provided.

Item 107 – Census of Agriculture. I would like the Minister to tell us what is the position with this, how far the census has reached, because I believe this is going to be very vital and I would hope that provision will be made for the publication of this report as soon as possible so that persons who are interested will be able to get copies of it.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe I have spent a little more time than I intended, but I would still call for teachings on agriculture, and I am relating the question of teachings on agriculture here and will probably revert to this when we reach the burning topic of Ecclesiastical or Education. Rather than people catching the pickups or buses from all parts of the country flocking to Queen's Park to hear these fraudulent masqueraders under the Bible, or to the Garrison or the Stadium, I would very much like to see the Government introduce a policy on teachings on agriculture. From the Minister down, the Extension Officers and persons who are interested in agriculture should give of their time to educate the masses as to the importance of agriculture. I would very much like to see the Government consider this.

When we reach Education or Ecclesiastical I am going to tell this Committee of something which certain members heard tonight, and I know members are shocked to know that this is happening to our people in this country. I am very serious about this, so I finally will call for teachings on agriculture and teach our people that if they have worked honestly – and something they have got to understand, in my view agriculture is something which should be practised from six o'clock in the morning till half past ten or eleven, take a break, sleep a while, get up at three o'clock and start again. I believe this is what should be done.

10.10 p.m.

I believe this is a policy. I want the Agriculture Department to educate the people as to the technological and mechanical aspects of agriculture. The Department must make the people understand that agriculture is a worthwhile occupation; it is nothing down-grading, and that all of us will benefit from what we are doing.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not answering for the Minister, but I want to make some points so that when the Minister answers he can answer all of them. With regard to what the hon. member for St. Joseph has said about native markets, I should like to tell him that a native market is something indigenous and we cannot create a native market. Native markets have grown up in Africa. Anybody who has seen native markets in Africa and who does not despite Africans - I refer to people who are not ashamed to call themselves Africans - will realise what is a native market. If you go to Nigeria you will see native markets. Barbados is not, unfortunately, the same kind of society where you get a large peasantry like you get in Ghana where marketing is a normal thing among the people. When the Barbados Labour Party was in power, they constructed a market at St. Philip, but it is really no use because you cannot create a native market. All you can do in the market at St. Philip is to fire dice.

I agree with the hon. member that you should do something about fishing. I do not know what is his experience with fishermen. Christ tried with them 2000 years ago, and, when he arrived on the scene, he told them to cast their nets on the other side. I will paraphrase it, one of them said: "We went here the whole day; if you believe that there are fish on the other side, you cast the net yourself." You cannot transform fishermen easily, so you will have to motivate them by other means, and that is something that the hon. member must bear in mind.

With regard to the question of co-operatives, I should like to know if there is going to be a reorientation of co-operatives in Barbados. I do not believe that the Co-operative Movement in Barbados is geared to the Barbados situation. I think that the co-operative laws should be amended to meet the demands of the kind of society in which we are living. Barbados is a predominantly wage-earning society. The hon. member for St. Joseph said he stumbled on 4½ acres of land, but it is not easy in Barbados to stumble on 4½ acres of land.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I never said that I stumbled on 4½ acres of land. I said that I found myself with 4½ acres of land, and I had to do something with it.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it is not easy to find yourself with 4½ acres of land in Barbados. Even if you had a dream about it, when you got up you would find that it was not true. You cannot say that the average acreage in Barbados must be 4½ acres per person. Let us be very clear on this matter. When you have 4½ acres of land in Barbados you are an exclusive person in so far as owning land in Barbados is concerned. Owning 4½ acres of land is outside of the ordinary in Barbados. If you find yourself with 4½ acres of land in Barbados, you are very fortunate because it is not an every-day occurrence. We have people here who are living on ½ acre of land. Even if you took the land owned by the plantations and divided it among 15,000 peasants you would find that you did not have enough land for everybody.

Now, from the point of view of marketing, the hon. member has to bear in mind that marketing in Barbados is not done by the people who own land. Marketing is done in Barbados by people who purchase items from others and use marketing as a means of employment. The people who buy vegetables and ground provisions and sell them have no land of their own, and those are the people you will find in the market selling things. They are wage-earners and not landowners; so it becomes a different situation when you try to turn a native market out of a situation where you have persons who are not growers of their produce. If a native market is to grow up, then it must grow up on its own volition. Like the markets that have grown up at Eagle Hall, Tweedside Road and so on. It is the question of the land area in Barbados that create conditions in certain areas where people can market in the open.

Mr. Chairman, in Barbados you will find a problem. Barbadians run from rain, and some of them do not like the sun, so you will have to find shelter for them. The main point is that we have not made enough headway in co-operatives. I should like to see a revamping of co-operatives in Barbados, and not the old-fashioned Rochdale system, but something along the modern concept. I do not know what is the Minister's policy, but I should like to see some of the officers in the Department of Agriculture visit the Scandinavian countries to get an idea how co-operatives in agriculture and co-operatives generally are organised as distinct from the old-fashioned system in the United Kingdom. I do not think the United Kingdom is the best place to get the modern concept of co-operatives, because the United Kingdom is behind co-operatives in Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. I would say that the Co-operative Movement in Jamaica is on a sound basis, and it would be a good thing if the co-operative laws in Barbados could be amended together with the old-fashioned friendly society laws that we have here.

Now, when I heard the hon. member speak about ducks, I thought that now he has a wider audience he would have spoken in the same trend in which he spoke some time ago about the Agricultural Department and the ducks. He seems to be ducking today.
10.20 p.m.

The hon. member was ducking today when he was dealing with the ducks, as he did not deal with the ducks in the same manner and with the same vehemence as when he made certain charges on the last occasion when he dealt with this matter. I do not know if it is the presence of the array of technocrats whom he was condemning on the last occasion that has scared him and he could not make those same charges against them so that they could hear. If I had the audience of the technocrats today I would make the same charges against them, but the hon. member knows why he did not proceed to deal with them, and all he is doing now is appealing to them.

On the question of insecticides, the hon. member spoke about this matter in a very vague way and said that people cannot get the weedicides, but I want to say, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want the hon. member to misquote me. He is probably looking for a fisty cuff like last night, but I do not have to duck. If I want to lay charges against the technocrats I could stand up and so that because I think you know me well enough. I did not say that people could not get weedicides; I said there is confusion or vicious competition between two or three dealers in weedicides, and people have been complaining that they are getting different recommendations and have to try two or three different products before they get results.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not misquoting you on that, but I said you were vague on it and the point I want to make is a little stronger than yours. And you do not have to worry that there will be any fisty cuffs because you are black. I will always have fisty cuffs with those who cannot identify themselves with black people. I was born black; I have not now gotten black since I came into politics. I do not get black when I am asking black people for votes.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, under what Head and Item is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. WALCOTT: I know that this black thing worries some of you because you are afraid to be known as black; you have to say that you represent both sides, and that is why I say that those who are afraid of their own identity are not fit to be representing our people.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, under what Head is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. WALCOTT: All communities have hybrids. We were just talking about in-breeding, and even when you breed racehorses you crossbreed them until you get a thorough bred until you get the foot so narrow that it will run fast all the time. You do not breed a horse with a jackass all the time.

The Agricultural Department here has been very weak on the question of the weedicides that the hon. member spoke about. What I want to talk about under this Head is this: the International Labour Organisation is carrying out an investigation now on the question that here in Barbados people are opening these things and retailing them without the proper control, and people have died as a result of skin diseases from this problem; so this is a problem for the Ministry of Agriculture to investigate. In some instances some of these products should not be opened, but they are opened, some is used and the balance is left around to create a problem. These products should be obtained in such quantities that it can all be used at once. The Department of Agriculture is aware of it.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order....

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not giving way. The hon. member was not speaking.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order....

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member has not made a speech for the day on this matter and I am not giving way. There cannot be a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of the hon. member saying he is not giving way. Let both hon. members sit. I want every hon. member to understand that when someone rises and says "on a point of order" I cannot know what is the point of order until I hear it. We must be courteous to each other and allow me to decide if a point of order is made. I will hear what is the point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There can be no argument with the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not having an argument with the Chair. All I said was that I was not giving way on a point of order when a person who has not spoken jumps up in the middle of a speech and says "on a point of order." We do not have any Tom Harry rules in here. We have Parliamentary Rules and Standing Orders.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman also have his rules. I am in authority when I am sitting in this Chair and I will not be dictated to by any member. This is what I want both sides to understand.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I have to speak to you, you know. I have to address the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I quite agree. When you address the Chair and the Chair speaks, adhere to it regardless of whether it is right or wrong.

Mr. WALCOTT: I agree with you. I will adhere to the Chair whether it is right or wrong, but I am not going to allow.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order....

Mr. WALCOTT: On what point of order? I am not giving way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. members sit? (Both members sat.)

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not going to give way to any stupidity in this House because we have Rules, and I am not going to be interrupted...

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order....

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not giving way on any point of order, because we are in Committee and if the hon. member wants to address the Chair he can wait until I sit.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will sit. Let me hear what is the point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

10.30 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear the point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Now, you see, that is nonsense. That is the idiotic behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must sit, I am trying to give a ruling.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, you cannot make a motion on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No person is going to bully me in here. It is my opinion that the question should not be put at this stage, and I am going to ask the hon. member to continue his address on Head 30.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the point I was dealing with was in connection with Item 89, Insecticides, and this has been drawn to the attention of the Department because this is a serious problem in Barbados. They are using these insecticides widely in Barbados, there is not any rigid control and people are exposed to occupational hazards. I have to take an interest in this because there are thousands of people working in the sugar industry, working in agriculture, and when you have a problem like this you have to continuously bring it to the attention of the authorities so that proper attention can be given to it, and this is something that we cannot allow to escape our attention, and I am saying to the Minister that this is a very serious problem in Barbados and I want to see adequate control given to this very serious matter.

Some of the doctors might not be inclined to report on the instances where death has been the result of some of these skin diseases resulting from this exposure, because in some instances people believe if you report on certain things that it is going to affect an industry and you are going to make the sugar industry or the agricultural industry collapse. This is a serious problem, and the international agencies have regarded it as such a serious problem that they intend to introduce an international instrument dealing with this question of insecticides, and I hope that the Minister will not regard this as a light-hearted matter but as a very important matter, because more and more of this stuff is being used in Barbados and in some instances it goes on plantations or in factories, it is opened like you open a retail place, some is taken out, the remainder is not closed, they do not have the facilities for dealing with it, and it has been

drawn to my attention that this can be a very dangerous matter for those people who come in contact with these insecticides. Doctors throughout the world would not have paid this serious attention to this matter if it were a matter that was just a light-hearted matter, and that is why I said when the hon. member spoke about weedicides that this is a problem that we have to examine in the light of occupational hazards.

I have a real interest in this by the very nature of my work, and I am sure that nobody would expect things like this should not be drawn to the attention of the Government. I feel that this is a matter that I would like the Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture to give the closest attention to before it becomes – like typical in Barbados – so widespread and dangerous that you have to make it a crisis, and before it reaches the stage of a crisis it is important that the necessary controls should be adopted.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a very simple contribution to this debate. I will not and I cannot attempt to profess that I have any great knowledge of this subject, but I would like to ask the Minister a question or two in the interest of the entire society. I believe that you, Mr. Chairman, will recall that in the last session my colleague, the member for St. Joseph, made a contribution to Agriculture last year that brought a round of applause from the Government members, and it is recorded in Hansard that the Minister of Agriculture said that during the time he was in Parliament he had never heard a speech of the calibre of that made on Agriculture by the member for St. Joseph. I think the Minister will recall this and he will agree that he is *au fait* with the subject.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, if the Hon. member knows all of this, why is he trying to spoil what the hon. member has done?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I only have two questions to ask, I am not spoiling my colleague's speech. I would not attempt to, because I heard the Minister on the other side making an Aside to the Minister of Home Affairs saying that the boy knows his stuff, but never in my life have I heard such an empty speech by anybody in here than I heard from the hon. member for St. Michael West. I thought there would have been a contribution coming from the Minister, and we were satisfied that we would hear both of these experts in the field of agriculture, because I know it is dear to the hearts of both of them, but to hear all this nonsense from the member for St. Michael West, and if my colleague did not make mention of a native market I am quite sure the hon. member would have absolutely nothing to say, but he wanted a toe-hold, that is why I asked my colleague not to interrupt him because he was feeling for the brakes to press, he could not get home. That is all I have to say to the hon. member. *(Asides).* All that I have said in two minutes is more than you have said for the entire night.

Under Item 104 – Recovery of Fishing Boats Adrift, I would like to see some form of navigational aids put at the disposal of the fishermen. I am asking the Minister if he would give this some thought, because having a number of fishing boats adrift all the time is not good enough, it is true they are now powered boats and if I am not mistaken, some time ago the member for St. Michael South West gave a lecture at St. Christopher's School when he was attempting to preach to fishermen about how to use certain navigational aids to assist them in cases of emergency, and I would like to know what is the Government's policy on this.
10.40. p.m.

I think it is quite a legitimate question. I should like to find out what Government is doing about this problem, and if it intends to help the fishermen.

With regard to Item 93 - Cleaning - I agree with the Minister that the markets are not up to the best standard so far as hygiene is concerned. I should like to know what action is being taken to upgrade them. In bigger countries people look upon a butcher as a sort of pope. However, in Barbados a butcher seems to think that all he has to do is to slaughter an animal, cut it up and sell it. I should like to see the butchers wearing a uniform; white aprons and hats. In his interview with the Press the Minister mentioned that he was considering using a different type of counter. I agree with him that some people would argue that they do not have the money to provide new counters and they should not find any difficulty in obtaining loans from the Development Bank to assist them with their small businesses. I should like to see an improvement in our markets.

Mr. Chairman, the market is a place where people go to buy meat and other things, and it should be kept clean at all times. You should not have rats running through the markets and flies on the meat. There should be a very rigid policy to enforce a high standard of hygiene in these markets. Now, Item 95 makes provision for uniforms, and I take it that the item relates to Market Attendants. I have seen a number of them

and they leave a lot to be desired. I am wondering whether this vote for $663 is enough to provide for them. I do not know what is Government's policy on this matter, but I hope that the Minister will not allow my remarks to fall on deaf ears. I am not making a major speech on these matters, and these are just suggestions or observations which I should like to draw to the Minister's attention. *(Asides.)*

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am waiting to hear you.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I thought that there should be some effective control from the Chair when a member stands up to speak and he is being disturbed. Now, the hon. member for St. Joseph in his usual fashion has attempted to endorse all that the Government has been doing and proposes to do in the Agricultural Programme. Last year I was in a position to congratulate the hon. member on his able address, and I thought that this year he would have been coming here with something new. Apparently, Mr. Chairman, the pace in agriculture over the past year or so was so hot - the pace at which the Ministry of Agriculture moved over the past year was so great that the hon. member could not cope with things. The Ministry has done so much that all the hon. member can do this year is to duck.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member spoke of the importation of carrots and beets at a time when the farmers had a surplus of carrots. Let us face facts. I thought that the hon. member would have gone to say that the fact that the farmers in this country were producing carrots of good quality and were producing more than the country could consume, we should find ways and means of disposing of the balance. I am sure the hon. member will agree with me that, at the time when there was a surplus of carrots in this country, it was just after the rainy season when everybody who had land available for planting decided to plant carrots.

Now, the hon. member knows that in St. Philip there is a large amount of nut grass, and that one of the products that can thrive under adverse conditions as soon as rain falls is the carrot. Since the land in that area is carrot land, everybody who had a chance to plant things when the rain fell decided to plant carrots. More carrots were planted than the country could consume at the time. When the carrots came in, there were carrots in cans, and I daresay that certain hotels might have imported carrots into the country. This happened at a time when the Ministry had little or no control over it.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry knew that there was a surplus of carrots. At the time I thought the hon. member would have suggested that the ministry explore the possibility of establishing some form of processing in order that the excess amount of carrots may be stored and used at the time when there was a shortage of carrots in the country. I think the hon. member and myself are *ad idem* on the question of agriculture, and I think he has learnt a lot from me about agriculture.

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect to the hon. member, I believe when I was an agriculturist he did not even begin to think of the word agriculture. When he says that agriculture has gone on at such a great pace, I can compliment him on taking the advice which I gave him last year.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARD: Mr. Chairman, what happens here is that although the hon. member has been an agriculturist longer than I was, I have a quicker brain than he has and that is what was responsible for the success in agriculture. I am aware that there was a surplus of carrots, and the Ministry is concerned about it. I want to advise the hon. member that we are not taking a matter such as this lying down. We see the need to have a Processing Plant for vegetables and so on.
10.50 p.m.

Now there is a school of thought that you should only have a processing plant when you have what to process, and there is another school of thought that you should have a processing plant in order to encourage production. I believe in the latter, and when we saw what was happening, the officers in my Ministry had discussions on it and we have concluded that we should establish a plant. Although we know that we are going to lose money on it initially, we do not think this is a project for private enterprise, and we feel very strongly in the Ministry that the time has come when we should initiate action on the establishment of some form of processing plant for agricultural produce. We will carry out our research in this field, we will seek the appropriate advice and technical aid on the establishment of the plant. The hon. member will note that the Ministry is gearing itself to a programme like this when he considers the fact that the country can produce, and it produces when it is raining. The hon. member will note that last year we increased the incentive and assistance given to farmers to establish irrigation on their plots and quite a number of farmers have had assistance from the Ministry in this regard. Not all of them have been successful in their applications because the wells which they dug were not test pumped and when they were test pumped there was not an adequate supply of

water. To those that the Ministry was satisfied had the adequate supply of water, I have already approved the grant for them of $6,000 towards irrigation. The amount was $1,500 prior to last year. Over and above this they were granted an eligible power loan from tthe Agricultural Credit Bank to assist them in the establishment of irrigation on their farms. We are therefore gearing ourselves to the day when farmers can plant their vegetables all year round and not wait until October when the rains come in so that you have this big glut. We will have a lot of vegetables towards the end of the year, but we will still be able to produce during the remainder of the year, thereby keeping the processing plant going.

The hon. member spoke in respect of the goat industry and tourism going hand in hand with agriculture. When he mentioned this he is speaking to the converted. We recognise this, and this is why we have placed so much emphasis on our agricultural diversification. I should advise the hon. member that there is an Agricultural Advisory Committee which holds meetings in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, but this Committee was not functioning, as well as it ought to be up to September last year. Subsequent to that the Committee has been quite active. I think the Chief Agricultural Officer is the Chairman of this Committee, and there is now collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture as to what we should import, the amount that should be imported and when it should be imported, and as to the issuing of licences.

The hon. member would note that although we had a howl about onions we had our onion programme organised because of the liason between the two Ministries. The problem which we had in onions was not the fault of the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Trade, but rested with the people in the CARIFTA area who did not want to stick to their obligations. After being awarded quotas at the Agricultural Marketing Protocol in which Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and so on were to take up so many bags of onions, we had a little problem because we were talking price and some people did not think that they should pay the price for Barbados onions when they could get the onions from Holland at a cheaper price, but we have got over that problem and everything is going smoothly. As regards the quality of the onions, we have improved this, we have introduced drying of the onions and we also have grading, and we are today producing onions and exporting a better quality onion.

Mr. Chairman, the whole rationale behind our agricultural programme is to take care of import substitution, and in order to narrow the gap in our unfavourable balance of payments, we are pressing on with this programme. I want the hon. member to know that in our programme in the Ministry of Agriculture we take industry and trade into consideration; so the Ministry is on the ball in respect of the point which he made. The hon. member spoke of educating small farmers to move from sugar into diversified crops where there could be more profits. Anyone hearing the hon. member speak would think that this is not the programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, but he knows this is what we have been preaching for years. He lives in St. Philip and knows that The Extension Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture go out night after night doing instructions. There is hardly a night that Mr. Ernest Payne, the Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer, is in bed at 8 o'clock, because he goes from one parish to another speaking to groups on agricultural diversification. The Minister himself goes into the parish of the hon. member and the last time I was there I spoke to a youth group on agriculture at St. Marks. I spoke there twice last year on agricultural diversification.

11.00 p.m.

The young people are interested, they invite me to come and speak to them and they are spoken to, and I would like to know what this is but agricultural education for the young people of the country. As I said before, I want it to be clearly noted that it is not only a lecture from the Minister but the Extension Officers in my Ministry, headed by the Head of that Section, the Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer (Extensions), they have been from night to night going through the country educating farmers along these lines of agricultural diversification.

Now, Sir, I come to veterinary officers. I did not see the need for the hon. member to raise the question of the veterinary officers at all, because the same point he has made has been the declared policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, but in the absence of anything to offer he had to repeat the declared policy of the Ministry of Agriculture. It was only last Friday night that I made a statement – I can excuse the hon. member if he was not listening – that we are re-organising the system of the employment of veterinary officers. He mentioned three veterinary officers, I think I mentioned three veterinary officers in my programme, and I also said not only were we prepared to increase the establishment because we have two on the establishment now, one with private practice and the other without, and I said we are going to give everybody private practice, there is not going to be any discrimination.

I also said that we had approached CIDA, we have a CIDA man here already as a veterinary officer working at the Animal Nutrition Unit, and we have approached CIDA for additional veterinary officers on loan in order to pull our livestock industry up the hill. That is what I said, and it is strikingly strange to me that a good friend of mine, a shadow Minister of Agriculture, rather than coming in here today and telling me something new, something that I will be willing to sit down and listen to, he comes in and repeats what is the declared policy of the Ministry, which was declared as recently as a few days ago. It is not even a week yet, and he comes in here today to talk about what is the policy of my Ministry. I would like to see him come with something new. I have a very high opinion of his ability in these matters, or of his interest as the Hon. Minister of Education has pointed out, and he knows that we have regular discussions on agriculture, but I would like him as I would give him credit where credit is due to him to give me credit. What he should be doing here this evening, Mr. Chairman, is to come and congratulate me on my stand in respect of the revision or the re-organisation of the veterinary services in this country. That is what he should be doing because it is what I would do to him. I like to be treated the way I treat people, do unto others as you would that they should do unto you. When he made a good speech last year I congratulated him here on the floor of the House, I cannot say he did as well this year as he did last year because he should have brought something new. He should have come and congratulated me on the efforts I have made to improve agriculture in the country over the past year.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to be begging for congratulations. At this point I will save him from straining his heart any more and congratulate him for what he has done within the last year for agriculture, and say that he has been a very wonderful pupil, he has taken in everything he was taught last year, and I hope he continues in this vein of learning. Then we shall have no further disputes.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: It is not a question of learning, Mr. Chairman, it is a question of being co-operative, accepting advice when it is good advice.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let me stop the Hon. Minister. I said early in my speech that I know he is very interested in agriculture, his whole heart is in it, and I know he is co-operative. What more can I say now? I did not seek to belittle him.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Now I go to his next point, Mr. Chairman. He spoke about Animal Inspectors, and I want to explain to the hon. member that there is no need for Animal Inspectors because this was all right in 1949 when there was not an Animal Husbandry Section in the Ministry of Agriculture. Today we look on it on a more scientific basis. We have a Senior Agricultural Officer who is an expert on Animal Husbandry, we have not only this Senior Agricultural Officer but we also have an expert on Animal Husbandry sent down to us by CIDA who has been here for about two years now, and we have asked for a two-year extension of his services here in the country. Not only that, we have people working under these people, and we go further, we propose even to increase the establishment of that Section of the Ministry of Agriculture, so you do not have to talk about Animal Inspectors, we want people who know something about animals and who can go and advise the farmers as my offiers are doing on animal husbandry, so we do not want any Animal Inspectors here, we want the people we have and we want to see that our establishment is increased to cope with the demand for this type of expertise in the country.

Next we go to artificial insemination. He said that all the officers at one time were taught this. I think artificial insemination is an elementary part of the education which the Agricultural Assistants receive when we send them down to St. Augustine for training. It is true that practice makes perfect, but we have A.I. men there doing a fine job. This is nothing that is hidden from the people, any person in St. Lucy can telephone the Central Livestock Station and have an A.I. man sent to them within two hours' time. The point I would have taken from the hon. member is if he said that it is about time these officers should be allowed to have telephones at their homes so that they can be on call at any time, Sundays included, rather than sending a call through the Central Livestock Station and perhaps not finding them there, or better still, it is time that you equip these officers which the VHF system so that at any hour they can be contacted, because some farmers have experienced that a cow is ripe on heat, and at the time when they detected it it is going off. If we had this telecommunications system for our A.I. men, when the farmer calls the Central Livestock Station where an officer is always stationed on Sundays, he could just get in touch with the man for the area and he could go there right away. If he had made that suggestion, so that we could get the service running more efficiently, this is the sort of thing for which I would congratulate the hon. member, but do not

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I do not want the Minister to miss the point I made in respect of corn. I said that the old plantation owners or farmers still think that corn can only be grown at one period of the year. What I am saying is that there should be experiments to show how many times a year can corn be grown. I know the plantations are producing and getting results; I know one plantation that has got more than what the Minister spoke about, but what I am dealing with is the year round production.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The Minister deals in averages. When I said 80 bushels, it does not mean that some have not reached 90 bushels. We have already done what the hon. member is now asking us to do. We have carried out research work in corn, and it was the advice of the Ministry that we could not grow corn all year round because of climatic conditions and because of the breed of corn which we use. We do not tell farmers to do something that we have not tried; we do our homework and then pass on the information to the farmers.

The hon. member should be ashamed to talk about the variety of sweet potatoes, because I do not think there is any country with a greater variety of potatoes than Barbados. We have experimented successfully on the sweet potato, and we have gone further and are manufacturing dehydrated sweet potato, and I will get a sample of it sent to the hon. member. This is nothing to do with the dehydrated yam which the hon. member ate in here last night. When the hon. member talks about industry coupled with agriculture, we are moving by leaps and bounds. We are advancing, Mr. Chairman. So successful has been our experiments on yam that we now have markets for our dehydrated yam in the United Kingdom. We are going to have a commercial plant at Wildey, and therefore the farmers can do a little better with their yams. We have tried dehydration of the Caroline Lee, and we have eight different types of potatoes on which to carry our experiments, and I daresay that when we shall have completed our experiments, people would not have to worry about the time of the year to plant. *(Asides).* The point is that if I tell a lie, my officers have told the lie; so they cannot shake their heads. This is a closely knit Ministry in which the Minister and officers cooperate and this is why we have success.
11.30 p.m.

Now the position is that soon from now we will be able to supply the makers of black pudding, for example, with sweet potatoes all year round and they would not have to put sweet cassava in the pudding. The hon. member spoke about native markets.

Mr. BOLDEN: Before you get to native markets, I wonder if the Hon. Minister could deal with the soya beans at this point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We tried the soya been, and it is a question of economics. We have a small area of land in Barbados and we have to look at what each square foot of land can produce, and if it is not as economically feasible to grow soya beans on the land where we can grow corn at a higher profit we have to go for the corn.

Mr. BOLDEN: Before the Minister continues I wonder if he could give this Committee the benefit of the knowledge of the production from any given area in the trials which have been carried out, and the date on which such production was evaluated.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I would like to reply to that question by saying that I would like to invite the hon. member to come and go around with me or come to the Ministry and he can have all the information he needs. I did not expect he would want details from me at this stage, but I am just dealing with general principles.

The hon. member spoke about experiments in sheep. I want to advise him that on the question of the sheep what we are trying to do at Six Roads is to carry out genetic trials to see how pure we can get our sheep. On this question of in-breeding, we have not had an in-breeding problem yet with the black belly sheep, and I want to say that it would not be advisable at this stage for us to attempt crosses, what we want to do in our black belly sheep population is to improve the breeding, and this is what we are doing at Six Roads because there is a big market, not only a local market, for the black belly.

Do you know what farmers get for a black belly ram exported to Canada and those places? $120 for a young ram and $75 for a ewe, and I have just had to refuse permission to export black belly sheep because we would like to increase our local production first. We spared Canada with six recently, and this is because of all the countries that could help us in respect of the livestock industry in Barbados, Canada has done more for us than anybody else and we could hardly have said no to Canada. We gave them some and we promised them more later. Do not come and tell me anything about crossing another breed with the black belly at this stage, when the time comes I will say "well, Mr. Shadow Minister" - because you will always be the shadow Minister as far as I am concerned -

"now is the time when I shall accommodate you with crossing" but I do not agree that we should do it at this stage.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Minister is assuring me that I will always have my seat on this side.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: As long as he is in here. The point is that I will tell him when we are ready to accept that advice from him, but right now we are not ready, we are doing our own thing. We are trying to improve our black belly sheep because we know that there is a demand for them all parts of the world and that the farmer in Barbados stands to benefit considerably from it. As a matter of fact, I know that there is one particular member in this Chamber who came to me recently and told me that one of the best industries for anybody in the livestock section to indulge in is the sheep industry, because he is satisfied that there is a future for it, and he told me he would like to get some and I gave him the assurance that when he is ready we will make some sheep available to him because I like to see people interested in participating in this way in the economy of the country and showing interest in what the Government is doing. I refer to the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want it to be known that I have been rearing sheep for many years in this country. I did not specialise in the black belly sheep for political purposes like some other people tried to do in St. Peter, but I have been rearing sheep on sand, a thing which I would like to see the Government experiment with. What I want to say is this, I am satisfied that Government should pay very special attention to numbering the flock of black belly sheep; a census has got to be taken of our black belly sheep now, register them, and we have got to try and protect the small farmer particularly, educate him as to the value of it. Until that is done we will see the continuous slaughter of the young, and all Government may try to do at the top will be destroyed by the lack of knowledge by the people at the bottom, and I would not like to see this.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The hon. member's point is well taken, and I do not think he has said anything that we are not aware of. The hon. member, if he listens to the broadcast tomorrow night - and I would advise him to try and get through with the Estimates to listen to my telling it to the nation tomorrow night - he will hear what my policy is in respect of the black belly sheep and animals slaughtered indiscriminately, because I am satisfied that at the abattoir you take ewe lambs three months old that can be producing in this country and they are slaughtering them. You take beautiful looking heifers and because the small farmer does not know the value, a speculator goes around and gives him five cents for the heifer and takes it to the abattoir and slaughters it. I want to let hon. members know here and now that I propose controlling the slaughter of animals, and I have already instructed the Chief Agricultural Officer to get the Order ready, if a farmer has an animal that we in the Ministry of Agriculture feel ought not to be slaughtered it will not be slaughtered. We are not telling the farmer that he should not sell his animal, but we have a livestock development vote which is in here tonight, and we will not be unopposed to acquiring that animal at the market value of the animal, putting it in a feed lot and every now and again calling farmers who are interested and having an auction of the animals in the feed lot so that we will have the livestock industry in this country propagated. I think the time has come when we have got to stop the indiscriminate slaughtering of animals at an early age in this country.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. Minister will tell us at this point of some policy of opening herd books; this is the answer.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this is why I am continually inviting the hon. member to come and sit down and discuss these things with me. Take a little time off the duck farm and come and discuss agriculture and he will see the high level which agriculture has reached in this country, and it would not be necessary for him to come and ask me the questions in here. There is nothing they can tell us about agriculture that we are unaware of, and the point is that we are not only aware of these things but we are doing something to improve the situation. 11.40 p.m.

With regard to the question of the establishment of a Green House, I will discuss the matter with my officers. I thank the hon. member for the suggestion.

With regard to the question of single planting of seeds, I will advise the hon. member on that type of equipment and I will invite him to Graeme Hall to see what we are doing.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister must not take it out of context.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow this any longer, You have made your contribution, and I am not going to permit the asking and answering of questions all the time.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to explain to the Hon. Minister what I have said. I am not criticising the Minister or obstructing him in his speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was listening to this debate for a very long time. It is a point of my hearing questions being asked and answers being given after you have made your contribution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, it is agreed that he will get a tour of the Agricultural Stations, and the hon. member will see what we have done. I do not want to cause any more harm.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, when I spoke about the Green House and individual planting, I was referring to a mechanical system which is set up in a Green House. You can put 12 lbs or 20 lbs. of seed in it, and it will revolve and plant the seeds separately. After that you can do your replanting.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, we have that type of machine at Graeme Hall, and it can plant a mustard seed. I can take you to the Agricultural Station to see it.

With regard to the campaign on rodents, we started the campaign and, after discussions, discovered that it would be absolutely necessary to have a Biologist to advise us on rodent control and we should not start the campaign officially. We hope to get a Biologist very soon.

On the question of weedicides, we know that our water is in danger; we know that we have problems in respect of spray drift in the country where farmers' vegetables are destroyed by the wrong use of sprayers and so on. We have these matters under investigation in the Ministry. It looks to me and my officers in the Ministry as if we will have to decide what insecticides, pesticides or weedicides should be used in the country even if the Government did all the importation. We feel that the people should use the stomach pesticides rather than the one which destroys the pest by touch, because this is less dangerous that the other one. If we cannot get the farmers to see eye to eye with us, then we will have to take the importation of pesticides and weedicides under our own control and let the Government be the sole importer of these things.

On the question of pigs, everybody knows that there is a declared policy of the Government on pigs. I agree with the hon. member that we must get rid of the stray dogs. We are also considering the establishment of a Quarantine Station.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we want to know about a Quarantine Station for dogs. For about five years the Government has been considering this question. I remember that an offer had been made to set up one free of cost to the Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: At that time we did not think it expedient to proceed with the matter, but we are now coming around to it. You will hear more about it in due course.

On the question of the Agricultural Credit Bank, we are also considering linking it up with either the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank or using the Institution of the Barbados Development Bank to carry out the functions of the Agricultural Credit Bank. Information was given on the agricultural census when we were dealing with the Computer and Statistical Service yesterday, and I do not think I need take up hon. member's time. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I think that I have left no stone unturned in answering the queries raised.

Mr. BOLDEN: You were about to deal with the native market. The Minister No.2 dealt with it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The answer was given on that already, and there is nothing more I can say about native markets.

With regard to the point raised on fisheries, the points are well taken and I promise to give due consideration to them. I do not think hon. members could ask for more co-operation and more detailed information than they have got on the Ministry of Agriculture. I am convinced that they are satisfied. If hon. members need more information, I am sure that they have enough confidence in me to come to my Ministry and get the correct answers.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, may I just compliment both the Shadow Minister and the Minister. I know that it has been a long debate, but it is certainly a pleasure to see two members on different political sides being able to take a debate in such good spirits and to put forward their point of view. May I tell the Minister that we do not accept everything he has said, but he

said it well. He is a good actor. I realise that he has been talking about cats, and apparently he has one of his nine lives. We could only wish that he will have the other eight.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I believe it is my duty to praise the Hon. Minister on this occasion for having taken remedial action in respect of agriculture. It looks as though he is now on the ball, as far as we can see. There are one or two things which the Hon. Minister has, obviously, not ducked under but shift aside gradually. I will not question them now, because it would take me another hour to explain why things have not matured.

When we get to the question of irrigation, I am still not happy with the efforts made in this direction. I know that there are one or two problems, but certain investigations have revealed that a lot more can be done. Once, again, I offer my hearty congratulation to the Minister. He has passed with 98%.

The question that the sum of $2,386,902 under Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science & Technology – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
11.50 p.m.

The question that the sum of $189,792 under Head 31 – Meteorological Services – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, 17th March, 1972.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
11.53 p.m.

On resumption:

(Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair.)

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply on the Estimates 1972-73, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 32 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 32 – Ministry of Communications and Works – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,010,469 under Head 32 – Ministry of Communications and Works – as amended, stand part of the Schedule. There are a few amendments to make:

Page 68 – Item 55 – Communications
Amend note to the item by deleting the letter "l" appearing after the word Appendix and substitute therefor the letter "J".

Page 68 – Item 65 – Amend note to the item by deleting the word "helmets" appearing after the word "safety" and substituting therefor the words "head gear"

I am being assisted by the Minister of Communications and Works. He wants to have the words "safety helmets" deleted and the words "head gear" substituted therefor.

Page 69 – Item 68 – Traffic Signs
Amend note to the item by deleting the word "lay-buys" appearing after the word "stops" and substituting therefor the word "lay-byes".

Page 69 – Item 75 – Upkeep of Vehicles
Amend note to item by deleting the words "Includes cost of repairs and servicing" appearing after the word "vehicles."

Mr. Chairman, with these amendments incorporated, I beg to move that Head 32 - Communications and Works - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Ministry of Communications and Works must be considered as the largest labour absorbing

Ministry of the Government and, perhaps, it might be found to be the largest labour-absorbing unit in the country, leaving aside the sugar industry. Be that as it may, I think I should best approach this Head by letting the Hon. Minister know that, from reports reaching this side of the House, it would appear that the Minister, in the few months in which he has been associated with this Ministry, has brought to bear an attitude and approach generally bent on fostering, wherever possible, good human relationship amongst his administrative staff.

Mr. Chairman, we have reached where we are today after examining our past performances, and it would appear as if the Minister is showing a general interest in the working of his Department. It is now for him, Mr. Chairman, to see wherever possible what success lies ahead for him and for the nation as a whole, if the absence of vital key-staff for the execution of most of his projects will continue to be amongst his biggest bugbearers. Already it is known that there are quite a number of outstanding vacancies to be filled amongst his technical staff, and our view is that nothing has been done to correct this situation.

10.40 a.m.

We find that every now and again an addition is made to the staff, but an all-out approach is sadly lacking. Now what must be a very disturbing feature is the fact that too much of the planning for the Ministry is done other than within the confines of the Ministry. There are times, sir, when some of it is done overseas, and in such cases it must be admitted that a very disconcerting situation would arise amongst staff members because it would mean that our locally trained men would not be getting the benefit of experience and the exposure to which they are normally due and the question of employment is ruled out however remotely. We believe, Sir, that we have had to rely in some measure on importing Professionals who come to the country on two or three year contracts from time to time, and I think that it must be made known that there has been some very disturbing elements of behaviour on the part of some of these, and they tend to look down on our local men no matter how qualified, experienced or efficient they have been performing, because they are not ranking amongst the imported and are not given the same social consideration. One has got to bear in mind Mr. Chairman, that if there are engineers, architects or surveyors, if two people cannot mix at social level, if one feels himself superior to the other, that same feeling is going to express itself in the discharge of their functions. We would like to see that some influence whether from the Minister or whatever source is brought to bear to let these imported professionals know that they have come to serve us as a nation, and we expect of them nothing but the best workmanship and a standard of behaviour which can only make for the best at every level.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I believe that having said these few words, the Minister would be sufficently warned as to how best he can set about trying to overcome such a dreadful situation. The Minister has another problem on his hands. It is the problem where many of these imported professionals come here and being able to work through having a work permit, they set about entrenching themselves in some cases politically and socially by association; but what we find is that after some of them have gained a foot-hold in the country they no longer think of serving the Government, and try to find gainful employment in private enterprise, but they do it tactfully. They still try to make their services available to Government on a part time basis. One has got to think in terms, Mr. Chairman, of whether or not the Government can really plan effectively and constructively when we have this pattern of behaviour exhibited among the highly qualified professional staff that are imported here from time to time. There have been instances where by a concerted ganging up amongst groups like these that places like the asphalt plant at Mangrove, the stone crushing plant at Chance Hall in St. Lucy and the crushing plant at Prospect have been closed because the Government was advised that they should be closed.

10.50 a.m

These, Mr. Chairman, have been closed because the Government was advised that they should be closed, but if one were to give oneself the trouble to examine the things related to this, one would find that some of the chief advisers to the Government on the closure of these projects are the very people whose interest has subsequently been identified with big concerns in this country that are carrying on the same work that the Government had been advised to get out of. These things are scandalous.

Again, Mr. Chairman,we should not try to prevent people from making a living, but perhaps because it is the taxpayers that are involved there is not sufficient attention paid to these matters when they occur, and I would like to be satisfied beyond shadow of doubt that the Minister pays whatever attention there is possible to see that there is no further blackmailing of the Government into doing what some of these people would advise the Government to do. We must realise that when these operations of Government have been brought to an end

Government has got to go and look elsewhere for suplies, and Government then finds itself buying its requirements from the same people who told the Government the day before it must get out of this, it is before our very eyes. If we look at Quarry Products Ltd. in this country, it is before our very eyes, and I would advise that some steps be taken to put a stop to all this.

Mr. Chairman, we have a very serious problem in this country, it is one involving the very considerable number of miles of road which we have. For anyone who has even an acquaintance of the pace of development in this country today, bearing well in mind that we have been able to develop at this rate because of the good foundations which had been laid as in the case of our roadworks, we have had very good roadworks programmes in this country in the past years. We very well remember that some of the roads that have stood up to the severest tests are roads that were built for the most part by some of our old Superintendents of Works and Foremen who have never gone beyond the shores of Barbados or who must have passed by the Panama Canal when they were coming back home after three or four weeks, but nevertheless, they have been able to come here, and with the guidance of the specialists who came to direct their energies and their abilities, this country can today boast of a mileage of road that places it very well in the forefront of many others in the Commonwealth Caribbean, but our roads are narrow roads.

I remember that there was a time an engineer advised the then Government to carry out works along Highway 1, and if one were to go along the area of the Garden, St. James and beyond, it would be found that the road there is not more than 19'6" wide, but remember, the engineer advised of all of this. Government would be guided by the advice of the expert, but those roads as at Highway 1 were constructed merely with the concrete at the two sides to hold the roads, the haunches and no curbs, and we are exceptionally lucky, or perhaps when something arises people do not worry to look after their civic rights. Those roads are a virtual danger to vehicular traffic, but the older drivers are much more careful than some of the younger ones, and we have perhaps avoided much of what could have occurred over the years. We have got to take a firm decision and move as quickly as our finances will permit and see that we have no road, wherever it can be accommodated, less than 22' in width.

11.00 a.m.

If we were to look at Highway No. 6 going in the direction of the Rising Sun towards Balls Corner area, you will see the position. At the moment work is being done in that area, and we are glad to see that something has been done. We would hope that Highway No. 1 be the first on the list to be dealt with immediately after this and, if possible, before Balls Corner is completed on Highway No. 6. If something can be done on Highway No. 1, it would be very much to our credit.

Mr. Chairman, the roads we use must be capable of coping with the volume of vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic, because we have to use these roads day and night. Nobody would suggest that there is any decrease in the amount of traffic on our roadways. It is increasing by leaps and bounds every moment, and that is not so because of the mere love of going for a car drive. Transport is such, and the various sites where people can obtain work are so far from the place they live that very seldom will a man find a job near his home. One has to go and find a job, and having found it one has to try to get to it, if one is to make a success in life. We have to provide in our road structure the means whereby our traffic can flow as swiftly as possible without causing damage to property or injury to persons. We have to bear in mind that each and everyone of us has the right to use the roads.

Mr. Chairman, this brings me to the point in relation to our work force on these roadways. Our first problem is the lack of supervision of these groups of workers, and this is something which must be remedied as quickly as possible. We have, in the past, tried to get these groups posted at certain areas and almost left to supervise themselves with the results that the Supervisors are so few and can make the rounds so seldom that every worker knows that if the Supervisor passes a certain spot at 11.10 this morning, he cannot get back before 2.15 in the afternoon. I have passed and seen some of these workers cooling out at nine o'clock in the morning.

My view is that you should not give a Supervisor more than a reasonable number of personnel and in a not too large area to deal with. If we increase our expenditure on the supervision of these gangs, we would get better results than we are now getting. I am asking the Minister to give this matter as serious a consideration as is humanly possible. I pass and see these people idling and other taxpayers have seen them. Several taxpayers are commenting on the way this money is being spent on our roads.

Another point is that road works will have to be carried out, but the Government will soon

have to consider whether or not we must take into consideration the question of relieving unemployment by having a day shift for a certain period of the day and a night shift for a certain period of the night. You will find, as now obtains, that many of these work gangs, because they are working for the Government, feel that they have a licence to be nuisances and many of them obstruct the free flow of traffic at times.
11.10 a.m.

I am willing to admit that if repair work of a certain strip of road is to be carried out, you must block off that portion, but what some of these gangs do is to block off the area, but they do not remain inside the roped off area; they then congregate outside, and if a passerby asks one of them to move the barrier away or do anything to relieve traffic, then one hears. This is not good enough, Mr. Chairman. There is no worse road in terms of service than Fontabelle, but what the Government will have to do is to decide that such a road will be closed to traffic from 6 o'clock in the evening and have your work force work there so that when the people who use that road wake next morning they would have a road ready for use again. When you have these repair gangs with pecks and brooms, they are not going to be concerned with leaving the patch in the road an inch or an inch and a half about the road level, and they do not want anybody to tell them how to carry out the patching. That, Mr. Chairman, has got to be stopped at some point. We know a much better approach to this matter of road repairs and general re-construction than is carried on at present, but we are willing to admit that we cannot jump into this as easily as it is said. We feel however that the Ministry has had time enough over the years to examine its failures to be able to come up with something concrete for the betterment of the execution of its work.

Now this brings us again to one point, Mr. Chairman, the high cost of our road works. You will find that it is partly because Government now finds itself at the mercy of contractors for the supply of this, that and the other that is carrying the cost of our road-works to the height that it is. There is still not that measure of supervision of materials at points of delivery and receiving as one would expect. I am going to come to one other matter that is causing everything in this Department to cost too much. You will find, Mr. Chairman, as at Item 45 – Overtime, that there is no bigger racketeering problem anywhere in any Ministry than what we have as overtime in the Ministry of Communications and Works' programme. There is one engineer who I think has done all he possible could to stamp out what comes within his control; but let us for a moment go to the workshop. At the workshop nobody details who must work overtime or say when it is necessary, or how many men must work overtime, and lastly nobody at the workshop takes the time that men start to work overtime and the time they stop. This has been going on for months. Do you know what happened recently? There are some unestablished staff at the workshop whom I understand would not be put on the pay- sheet, but there is a card system that is used, and it is on these cards that a worker's overtime is noted. For weeks and months, Mr. Chairman, these people who are supposed to be drawing the taxpayers' money as overtime have been avoiding the engineer or supervisor under whose control they fall, and going and receiving pay for working overtime.
11.20 a.m.

It so happened that an engineer became curious one day when he was present to see the efforts to avoid him. These efforts attracted his attention and when he carried out a check that day it was discovered that one man had on four hours overtime for Monday right through to Friday, he called for other cards for the Saturday, eight hours, and for each of the previous five Sundays, twelve hours. Four hours Monday to Friday, eight hours each Saturday and twelve hours each Sunday, but when the cards of all these other people who had been in this overtime racket were checked, it was discovered that they had been carrying out a whole-scale robbery of the taxpayers of this country and they have not been asked to repay the money. You will understand therefore that you will have to apply stricter supervision at the workshop, but this is what I want to say. All of this overtime racketeering could not have been engaged in without the connivance of a clerk employed at the workshop. It is easy, Mr. Chairman, I could not be here doing all this for four, five, six, seven, eight or nine men and in each case a person is receiving more than twice his basic salary in overtime; do you tell me a clerk is going to do all this for nothing? I am not suggesting he is not an honest clerk, but with money knocking around him, this easy kind of money, one never knows, and I would like to see that the temptation is removed from the clerk if the clerk cannot be removed from the temptation.

One has got to bear in mind that the workshop, I think, undertakes the repairs of all the vehicles from the various Government Departments, and there is a very considerable amount of work to be done at that workshop. You cannot therefore expect that kind of work to be properly executed by people who if you

were to examine them carefully are what is known as dropouts; your workshop as it stands now is staffed in a very great measure by this type of people, in other words, people who could not get a job at any of the other garages about the place are employed at the Government's workshop at the Pine. We need, if we are going to continue to try to service the increasing number of vehicles that must come before us, a Mechanical Engineer will have to be attached to the staff, and he will have to have an Assistant to look after the administrative end with Supervisors to assist.

You will find that some of the equipment that is serviced at the Government's workshop is returned to a work site but only to be at the work site two or three hours and it is more trouble to get the vehicle back at the workshop than anything else, because in the first instance the service rendered was not up to standard. The people who are employed to do this work are not sufficiently well qualified for doing it, and that is one of the problems besetting us at the workshop.

There is a point I want to draw to the attention of the Minister when speaking about our professional staff. I want to tell the Minister this about the professional staff leaving and going to private enterprise, the Minister has got to watch his Quantity Surveyor. I am serving notice on him how that he is likely to lose him in a few days' time, but the Quantity Surveyor is still willing to be of service to Government after he has finished working for somebody else. He will still lend his assistance to Government, so the Minister can act on this.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Quantity Surveyor works for us ten hours per week; he has been doing this since last year.
11.30 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: You will soon lose him, and you know that you cannot pick up that type of officer easily. Mr. Chairman, let us take a look at Item 31 – Superintendent of Works. Now, provision is made for 4 of these officers, and I should like the Minister to take what I have to say in this respect to heart. These Superintendents do not feel as safe at present as they would like to feel, and it is imperative that their conditions of service, if there is such a thing as conditions of service in relation to them, or a matter affecting them, be examined as quickly as possible.

We have to bear in mind that whatever Government is doing or is paying any officer to do, in the construction or any other field in Barbados, private enterprise is trying to draw upon the experience of experienced Public Officers, because it is much more convenient for private enterprise to deal with such people than with young hot-heads. If it is possible to put these 4 Superintendents of Works on the establishment, you will be doing the Service and the Department a very good turn. It would provide stability for the men, and they would be able to work at greater ease than hitherto. It is quite possible that you would find them functioning much better.

Now, there is a question of training. I do not think that this Ministry can claim that it has tried to keep abreast of modern training, bearing in mind the very heavy demands that the Department must make on all sections of our labour force in this country. I think on two occasions during recent years, last year or perhaps earlier this year, three Superintendents went to Dominica and three others went to Trinidad. That is something very good. They have all gone out, attended these courses or seminars, and have returned; however, one is yet to see, hear, or learn what benefits they have derived from any of the training offered to them. Have they been able to assimilate it?

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that the Department has quite a number of this rank rendering yeoman service, but they are still lacking in certian rudiments. They are lacking not only in any knowledge whatsoever of surveying except what they have picked up by the way about reading drawings and so on. When you take this type of individual and send him abroad, you are not doing the Department much good, although you mean well, and you are doing the individual greater harm apart from giving him an opportunity of seeing another country. What most of these people want is a bit of pre-schooling, if I should put it that way. If you intend sending them on a course in Trinidad or Dominica, they should spend six or eight weeks getting the basic training so that when they go on these courses they can stand alongside the people from other territories and feel like men. *(Asides.)*

Mr. Chairman, I am saying this, because I go amongst the people who have been given some of these trips abroad, and I know how they feel when they go abroad. Of course, they will not come back and tell anybody in the Department the true position, and they will not tell the Director: "I would have been better off, if you had left me here."
11.40 a.m.

These people, Mr. Chairman, feel second class to some of the students they have met on these courses; so I would suggest that one of our problems in Barbados is that people seem to believe that after you have reached the age of 35 or 36 years you should not be seen going to school. We have to break that down. There are some foremen and supervisors in the Ministry who could benefit from some lectures. Some of them have talent that is buried and needs to be unearthed, but they started out at an early age to scramble for the necessary dollar to keep body and soul together and have reached their present position serving the community as they have come on. We do not want to do or say anything that would turn them back, but we would like to do all we possibly can to help them press forward to better themselves. We cannot afford our working lives to become shorter, and if we are to fit ourselves for this, the better it will be for all concerned. I think you should pay some attention to these supervisors and others in the Department. Let us look at it this way: an engineer is on a project and he will have his project supervisor or foreman, and perhaps the engineer's biggest problem on the job is the foreman. Let us have a crash programme for some of these gentlemen in the service. Let us call on our specialist to make some sort of sacrifice to help these people while they are on the actual site, because if it is known to the labourers that the foremen or supervisors are receiving some sort of training that will remove them out of their present class, it will help to make the labourers respect them and we will get on better with our programme.

On Item 77 – Drainage, there is something wrong with this country's drainage programme. I cannot say that whoever is in charge of this programme wants going back to school, but he needs some assistance somewhere. Too much money is going down each and every drain in this country. I cannot comment on this other than from the level of a layman, but I have on previous occasions had to speak on two of these drains that I am going to talk about in the Prospect-Fitts Village area of St. James, and there is a third drain in that area. The last one that has been reconstructed is the one that runs next to Mr. K. C. Browne's house where work was going on for a few days. I believe that the House could only appreciate the feelings of any hon. member who is interested in the taxpayers' money by visiting the site to see exactly what I am talking about. This drain was washed away during the October 2 flood, and the same thing that contributed to it being washed away has again been done, so that if you have heavy rains again it is bound to be washed away again. If you go there you will see that the mouth of the drain is only a receptacle from the sea, and each morning you find two labourers have got to go there to clear the mouth of the drain which is below the level of the sea. You are begging the sea to come in and Mr. Browne's property will be washed away again.

11.50 a.m.

Remember, when the mouth of this drain continues to receive sand as it is receiving at present – it was finished some two or three days ago – it is going to mean that a bed is going to be formed there, and it is going to change the current and is going to the north instead of breaking to the south, and it will flood everybody's property. Mr. Chairman, only an Engineer who went to the school under the tamarind tree could have suggested all this. Highway I has a bridge there, and I have said on the floor of this House already the bridge is high enough that the archway under the bridge could permit the biggest idiot for an Engineer if he knew what he was doing to arrest the water from on the hill so that it comes down. It has enough current, and it will be above the sea and the water will flow into the sea and you will have no sand. All you are doing now is wasting taxpayers' money and making the tenants in Mr. Browne's house miserable. Each morning two men with shovels clear out the sand when they can be helping to repair roads or doing something else. The Engineers do not know what they are doing at all.

I will now turn to the north of my own house, and I have spoken about this already to the present Minister. It was started correctly, but for some unknown reason when they got to a particular point instead of keeping the water clearing as it was being kept they suddenly dropped the two sides of the retaining walls and then gave the water a lower bed on which to run to the sea. The water does not have the gradient with which to go down to the mouth of the sea, all that is now so low that it is also receiving the sand, two other men have to come out every morning to clear that, and whenever you get rain the Good Shepherd School yard overflows and the walls at the side of this drain are so low that the mouth of the tunnel is blocked, but the water will continue to come down, the water from the school or next to the side of the drain runs right over and digs holes in my property. I hate to have to be discussing this matter because I am the person involved, but it is sheer ignorance of people who call themselves Engineers. Some good old mason about here would do a better job.

If you go further north, Fitts Village, by the Swiss Chalet premises the same thing is happening, and it is all right for an hon. member to be trying to describe to other hon. members of this Committee what is taking place, but it is for each of us to go to the site and see what is being talked about. If hon. members visit the three sites and they did not come to the same conclusion that I have had to come to, and others, I would be surprised. At the Hotel Swiss Chalet, next door to my place, visitors go there, and yesterday morning I saw a visitor to this country who was here for just a few days standing up looking at it and he wanted to know who could have constructed it, because he was standing up at the mouth of the drain and he was high up in the air and the drain was below him. This is the biggest piece of ignorance that I have ever seen. Had it been my money as an individual I believe I would have lost my temper with all this nonsense that is going on. It is a case where any Engineer with sense could safely go now and on the two walls lay a trough on top of the walls that they have left there under the bridge and that trough would be high enough to lead all the water into the sea. It is just foolishness, Mr. Chairman.

12.00 noon

Mr. Chairman, it is at Item 49, but at Home Affairs it is at Item 26. We have been seeing some really wishy-washy, unbecoming rags flying aloft over some of our Government buildings. I am very serious about this matter when I say that we are an Independent nation, and this sort of thing must stop. If we cannot afford ourselves a decent flag that is durable - - *(Asides)* We used to fly the Union Jack, and you hardly ever saw the Union Jack tattered but always fluttering in the breeze as something to look at. Today as an Independent nation we can see ends of rags flying about. That is not good enough. We have to decide to spend money and get flags made out of durable material that is fitting and becoming Barbadians as an Independent people.

Surely, the exhibition that we have been having in the past showing the outside world certain things do not make us appear to be carrying on the appearance of an Independent Nation. I am ashamed at some of what I have seen. I hope to hear from the Minister that he will do whatever he can in the very near future to correct this unsightly scene of having these unbecoming bits of cloth posing as National flags. It could not be right, it is not fair, and it is not just to this nation. I would not like to see this sort of thing taking place again.

Mr. Chairman, let me have a look at communications generally. I think I mentioned just now at Item 26 that there are 3 Examiners for motor vehicles at the moment. My feeling is that we have to look at this matter of vehicles and transport in its broadest sense. Government, in our view, is losing a considerable amount of revenue. Motor vehicles, and I mean in the first instance motor cars that are presently licensed as private motor cars, are no longer private motor cars, in my view, as soon as they start to carry advertising matter thereon. We do not want to prevent the owner of a private motor vehicle from dressing it up and decorating it in whatever manner he likes. It is his vehicle and he is free to do so provided he does it within the law. We know that the owners of private motor vehicles are now being taken for a ride by the advertising agencies in this country. You go to a garage to get your supply of petrol or oil; the garage attendant presents you with an advertisement, some people like to have their vehicles decorated and they put the advertisements on them. What the present motor car owner does not know is that the advertising agency for that particular product has been paid in some cases more than $1 million to put out these advertisements, posters or placards. This is his means of getting his advertising campaign going, so the advertising agency is holding on to every penny for running the advertising campaign, and the unsuspecting private motor vehicle owner in this country is advertising his product for him free gratis and for nothing.

With regard to Insurance Companies, you will see on motor vehicles four or five advertisements from various Insurance Companies. Mr. Chairman, it is an advertising campaign that is being run by the Insurance Companies. They employ advertising agencies for putting over these campaigns. They spend huge sums of money putting on these campaigns, and it is time that we endeavour to find out whether we can get a very considerable amount of revenue from this source.

If a person has a private motor vehicle, and he wants to turn it into a commercial vehicle carrying about different advertisements for people, it is no longer, to my mind, a private vehicle. It is a commercial vehicle, and he should be taxed accordingly. If he is taxed, then when the advertising agency comes to put on advertisements on his vehicle he will make a charge for that sort of thing. The advertising agency that is not getting everything done for nothing will have to find ways and means of advertising, if he does not want to pay the owner of the vehicle for advertising his products. I am sure that, if the Government were to examine this matter carefully, a very considerable amount

of revenue could be obtained from these private owners of motor cars who do not realise how they are being used.
12.10 p.m.

If these people advertise at the cinema or on the buses, according to the returns from these various places the Government will get its corresponding revenue; but as it stands at the moment Government gets so much and no more and sometimes very little from some of these advertising agencies, but they are making fantastic sums of money in this country, and I am sure that the time will come when I feel that the Minister of Home Affairs will look into this question of issuing work permits for people to come into Barbados to do this kind of advertising. I do not see that it is any advertising that Barbadians cannot do. You should look and see the number of work permits that have been granted to people to come to Barbados to sell advertising. I have been in the field myself, Mr. Chairman, and I left Barbados and went to Trinidad and sold advertisements at a higher price than any Trinidadian sold his. That is on record and I got a letter from my then employer complimenting me for it. This question of private motor vehicles being commercialised to this extent has got to be examined most carefully. Where we now have three examiners of vehicles, we will find ourselves having to look for more, because if you are likely to increase the number of commercial vehicles that according to the law requires inspection and certification for licences and other purposes, then Government would have to re-examine its staffing in this department.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let us look at the question of pick-ups. I am sorry the Minister is not now in his place, but we have reached a stage where, as I learned from the Minister some time ago, some of the present fleet of pick-ups are operating illegally, and I think approximately 65 of the 135 have been given permits to ply on the roads. I do not want to be seen to rise in defence of these pick-up owners anymore; I am not abdicating my responsibility to any section of the community, but we have got ot be realistic. We believe that a controlled fleet of these pick-ups or minibuses could be of continued service to this community. They have in the past come to the rescue of the nation and at times when it would have appeared to us that Government would have been left carrying the bag where transportation was concerned. We have still got to say thank God it has not come to that, but that the three concessionaires, the Transport Board, the Rocklyn Bus Company and the Elite Bus Company are still carrying on. I must admit, Mr. Chairman, that in discussing the matter with the Minister of Communications and Works briefly some time ago mention was made to me that the present concessions of the Elite Bus Co. and the Rocklyn Bus Co. are being carried out by people who cannot any longer be considered young. In other words, we are left to understand that in the absence of young business people coming forward to ply for the concessions when they are advertised, the situation will be somewhat chaotic.

Mr. Chairman, if it is found necessary to limit the number of minibuses that are operating - and the method of doing this is by issuing some with permits and leaving the others on their own - I would ask Government to do this: give the pick-ups that are presently issued with permits the opportunity to carry passengers according to their capacity. There is no point in giving a pick-up or minibus constructed to carry 22 a permit to carry twelve, while at the same time you should make it imperative that those who do not have permits should get off the streets or find some other means of ekeing out an existence. I have been advised that the Toyota buses that came down here have accommodation for a larger number than the Government would permit them to carry. They have in the rear a collapsible seat for carrying an additional three passengers without inconveniencing anybody and no consideration is given in such cases.
12.20 p.m.

In the case where you have that ype of vehicle which provides proper seating accommodation for so many, if he is permitted to use his vehicle, my suggestion is to allow him to carry his full complement, whatever he is equipped for carrying, but do not tell him if he can carry 22 or 18 that he can only carry 12, because you are inviting him to break the law every possible moment.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member is mixing up the people with vans who apply for taxi licences with the people with the minibuses, because the minibus owners are issued with licences according to the capacity of the minibuses. Those people with taxi licences are only entitled as taxis to carry six passengers but with the minibuses they are allowed in accordance with what the Department considers a reasonable amount of room for seating each passenger just as with any of the other concessionaires.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when I speak of the minibuses or the Toyota vans, I have in mind a vehicle like L. 106; I am not concerned with the owner.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When he mentions a number it means nothing to me, but if he would

give me an idea of the reference he is making it would be helpful.

Mr. HINDS: It is one of these Toyotas that I understand has some collapsible seat in the rear, and that no consideration is given for that. Surely some of the Minister's advisers could better enlighten him what the type of vehicle is. I would like to be advised, if the Minister can tell me, if these Toyota vans are given permits to carry passengers or if they are licensed as taxis. The Minister says some of them are not licensed at all. I do not believe the Minister is serious where that is concerned, because the Minister is responsible to the country, and no Minister would know that these vehicles are operating illegally and would not try in some way to have these actions legalised.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Minister is perfectly correct. We have licensed about 68 but there are over 130 running now, but the prosecution is a matter for the Police and not the Ministry. If I had something to do with it I would see that the law is upheld, but it is a matter entirely for the Police, because we send the licence numbers of those we have given permits to the Police and after that it is entirely the function of the Police.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand that quite clearly, but the Minister of Health said that it was a question of measuring the vehicles and their seating capacity is then arrived at on this basis in the same way as if they were buses belonging to the concessionaires. I believe if this could be explained to the owners of these vehicles that much of the confusion which has arisen over the years would have been removed. Every permit holder still feels that the Government is unfairing him, because he will come to you and he will tell you that his vehicle is equipped to carry so many but it was licensed to carry a smaller number of passengers. That is something which we just cannot understand, so that was my reason for asking if you are withholding the permit or denying others the permit and limiting the issuing of permits.

If a vehicle is equipped to carry X numbers, it should be allowed to carry that number and not less, because when you give him what he is entitled to carry and he is found carrying more it is a matter for himself and the Police. Mr. Chairman, the matter will not rest in limiting the pickups, we have got to take a census of our working population that is depending on this type of transport to get to and from work. Very important, we have got to look at the ability of the three concessionaires to see if they can serve adequately or to what extent they can now serve the community. If we find that the concessionaires as a whole can only provide half of the required amount of transportation for the travelling public - and we have got to add not only those who work, there are others who have legitimate reasons for travelling to do business - we have got to take travel as a whole. People must be accommodated, and we should then see what percentage is left unattended or unserved after we look at the capacity and the ability of the three concessionaires now serving.

12.30 p.m.

We are aware, Mr. Chairman, that there are taxed; we are aware that the concessionaires are doing their best, because providing transport is not an easy job. We are aware that one has to be very careful because the capital outlay in providing a fleet of buses is so high that a 5-year contract cannot be seen as sufficiently rewarding or enticing. That is one of the problems. Nobody can be asked to provide so many buses to fulfill a contract for 5 years, and after operating for 5 years you may lose the contract. While all of this is being examined, we have to see how we can carry our growing population of travellers back and forth.

Mr. Chairman, it is known that the buses are not providing the service necessary for the travelling public. Look at the condition of some of these pickups. The people would not travel in pickups if they had an efficient bus service. My feeling is that in some areas the Government will have to review the whole matter with a view to giving the concessionaires permission to use a smaller type of bus on certain routes. This long structure that we now have for a bus has no right travelling in the city of Bridgetown and being driven around places like the Jubilee Gardens. The Leyland type of vehicle is a bus that is built for a long, straight journey, and this stopping and moving off is responsible for its high cost of upkeep. I am not a motor mechanic, but I have been told that there is certain waste that is got rid of if this type of vehicle were kept on the long run that cannot be adequately discharged from the engine during these short stops and starts. I understand that they waste more unburnt fuel than anything else. If you are running a vehicle on unburnt fuel, then the cost must go up about two or three times what it normally was.

Mr. Chairman, we will have to consider whether there should not be a fleet of Toyotos running from Paynes Bay to Bridgetown and from Bridgetown to Oistin. That is one of the problems that faces us. There is another problem. In our system of transport the Route 1 buses belong to the same owner as the buses going to Silver Sands, the Crane and so on, but they start off at Speightstown or Pie Corner, St. Lucy.

People at Boscobelle, St. Peter, have to pay 12 cents from Boscobelle to Speightstown, then get into another bus that belongs to the same Transport Board and pay 30 cents to travel to Bridgetown, whereas if the person takes the bus at Boscobelle which belongs to the same owner that person would pay 35 cents to travel to Bridgetown. There should be a system of transfer tickets. If you are travelling on a bus that belongs to the same concessionaire, there is no reason why you should not be able to pay one fare and travel from Boscobelle right through to Bridgetown. I believe that the sooner something is done in this direction the better it will be for all concerned.

Let us go for a moment to Item 56 – Lighting of Streets and Public Places. It would appear to us that when products like street lighting and so on are embarked upon that Barbados suddenly becomes bigger than it really is normally. Why this is so, I would certainly like to hear it explained. I do not think the Ministry has any excuse whatsoever where money is concerned, because it is very well known that this side of the House would be willing to assist Government in any programme which means expeditious installation of electricity in the rural areas of this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I should like to give him some information in connection with this matter. The Ministry of Communications and Works has not had a light since October, 1971, up to the present day; so that any criticism of the Department must be modified. If the lights had arrived, some of the areas to which the hon. member referred might have had lights. Since there was the strike in England the manufacturers have not given us a light since 1971. All our lightings programmes are now about seven or eight months behind, and that is due to the absence of lights.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Is that not something to tell the nation?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have done that on the TV programme. The lights have not yet arrived. 12.40 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have heard what the Minister had to say, but we know that manufacturers abroad are not people who operate in every case like the Grazettes Estate manufacturer. If Light and Power has an order abroad for lighting equipment for the Barbados Government and there is a strike on here or elsewhere, these people have a subsidiary company through which their orders are executed from time to time in circumstances such as these. I am not suggesting that it can be done in every case, but nobody can tell me that an order would have gone forward for one dozen street lamps; it would have been a substantial order of some worth...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I should like to say in fairness to Light and Power that the Government's lighting programme last year exceeded expectations of Light and Power, but last year was election year and that may have been a reason, but there were enough lights if the usual programme had been followed, but last year being an unusual year, the Government's installation exceeded the amount they had in stock, and I think that accounted for the provision.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if this unusual situation came about because of a by-election and then an election.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I must say I found that position when I went to the Ministry, and I could not say what was responsible previous to that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 65, I see there is an amendment to the note. Now there are some workers who from time to time are called upon to work in water, like people who remove the sand that has collected at the mouth of those drains, and I want to say that their work calls for boots and gloves. I want to ask for this for them. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I am hearing that they get them, but it is very strange they would leave them home and give one the appearance of not having them. I have never seen them with gloves, but I have seen some of them with boots only to learn that they bought the boots with their own money.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have been instructed that if they are working in that type of work they do get boots and gloves.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister has been so advised, it is on that he would base his reply to the point I have raised. I would still like the Minister to investigate further because I am sure I have carried out investigations in this matter, and I have never seen any of them with gloves. I feel they definitely need gloves for the simple reason that people clean out their pig-sty and empty it in some of these drains. Sometimes they clean fish by the standpipe and the entrails go down the drain. You would never find who is

doing it and these workers have got to go there when the mouths of these drains are choked with sand and would require a gas mask; but I am not asking for gas masks. I raised a point some time ago about the hot asphalt and I am sure that immediately afterwards I was informed by some of the people who had been suffering previously that they had got attention and I felt very relieved. I would certainly like to know that these people get gloves in view of what goes down these drains at times. I do not know what kind of supervision could be given to these drains along the coast, but as long as they are there, Mr. Chairman, you can expect to find people throwing dead animals in them. If you are going to give them uniforms, I would like to see gloves included for these well deserving workers.

Mr. Chairman, under Item 66 – Hire of Plant – this is a matter on which I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has to say before I tell him what I really know.
12.50 p.m.

What is going on in this Ministry is not good where the hire plant is concerned, and I am asking the Minister to investigate. If he investigates he will be able to tell this Committee at least the best part of his findings, I do not think he will have the courage to tell us all, but I would certainly like to have him investigate and tell us what he finds in this particular.

Item 68, Traffic Signs. In my view the sort of coordination of programmes between the Police and the Ministry of Communications and Works which one would expect is very much lacking, or the liaison between these two Departments is lacking.

Road Signs. Anything relating to road signs must of necessity concern the Police at some stage or other, but signs are posted about this island all along the highways and various places, and if you want to have a little fun, drive your motor car or walk up to a Policeman who is standing near these signs and ask him what they mean. The Police do not know what it is all about, and what I am saying is not something that happens once in a way, I do not know if it is a case where nobody is worrying to teach the Police these things, but I feel that the Police Regional Training School should have road signs up there and every chap up there should know all about them. Before men are posted they should be told everything about these signs. The Police should be told that Communications and Works will be doing this or that in a particular area, the Sergeant of the particular area should know what is going on and he and his men should become familiar with the activities of Communications and Works when it comes to the question of road signs.

Some of the biggest novices as to the meaning and significance of some of these road signs are the Police, and I am angry at finding a situation such as this. I am hoping that in the future something is done, whatever it might be, so that we will be sure that whether they are local people or not the Police are the best informed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we have a Traffic Committee which comprises Superintendent Prescod, the Traffic Engineer of the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Chief Inspector and the Chief Technical Director, and they meet very often. Sometimes we invite the Chief Town Planner, so that the Police are involved in any traffic development the Ministry is undertaking.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if a Police Superintendent or a Police Officer is on the Committee and he attends these meetings he ought to know what is going on, but I do not know if it obtains in the Police now as it happens in the case of other Government Departments, because we have heard Ministers who attend conferences and we do not know what went on perhaps for years after, so I am only praying that it is not a case where this member of the Force will attend these meetings with the other members of the Committee and just go back to his desk and take another three weeks to study what is going to be put into operation, when by Friday morning all these signs are posted and no Sergeant, Corporal or Private who has got to be on the beat knows what they are all about. That is what I am basing my argument on, that each member of the Force should be made as familiar as possible with the meaning and significance and everything related to the posting of these various roads signs wherever they are.

The Police should be in a position to help members of the public in understanding, obeying and appreciating the traffic signs.

Item 69. I wonder if Parliament Buildings will see any of this money spent on them, this $700,000 for the upkeep of Government buildings and yards. I am sure that there is much to be done around here, and constituted as we are, it may be necessary to do a little cleaning more often than perhaps many other places, and when one takes into consideration the improvement of the building in itself, I should like to see that as much as is possible is done for Parliament Buildings.

This maintenance of Government property. I would like to know how much money they really intend to spend on the cholera ground at St. Peter, and what they are going to do, because it is all right to pack your notes here with all this information.
1.00 p.m.

Our Esplanade in Speightstown is in a bad shape. The benches and the yard want looking into immediately. The building itself needs some sort of renovation. One has to bear in mind that it is on the seafront and with the wear and tear it will depreciate much more rapidly than a building that is further inland. There are times when we might have an overflow of water from the breaking waves which will fall on the pavement, and these things will call for more attention. I do not want it to appear that the Speightstown Esplanade or any place in St. Peter is a neglected place, because it has been like this for too long.

Mr. Chairman, we have to take very positive action in the not too distant future to seek to preserve that stretch of seafront from the Esplanade along Sand Street going in the direction of Heywoods, otherwise we will not be able to retain the Esplanade. We must try to preserve something for the people in St. Peter. The Minister of Communication and Works should look into this matter. These things are before the eyes of everyone. There is flooding at Heywoods all the time, and the sea is running into the road at times. I know that considerable erosion is taking place, and these things should be looked into immediately. The longer they remain unattended the more costly the repairs will be.

Mr. Chairman, there are groynes along the Heywoods stretch, and it is immediately South of these groynes where the overflow of the sea is doing most of the harm. I believe that if the Engineers from the Ministry of Communications and Works, or people who are familiar with the tides in the area, were to examine the area and make a survey as to the behaviour pattern of the tides that some solution to these problems could be found. Something must be done to arrest the overflow of water into the road.

Now, there are quite a number of guard walls to be repaired and maintained. Let us take a look at the surfacing of our arterial and feeder roads with this hot asphalt mix. Mr. Chairman, I believe that you share my view on this matter. We like the hot asphalt, but are we getting enough service from it? What is wrong with it? Can the Minister tell us what is wrong? In my view, and in the view of people who have been associated with the use of this hot asphalt mix elsewhere, there is good reason to believe that it is not of the quality we should have. The mixture is not what it should be. Our chemical engineers should be looking into this matter to see what is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, we see here that $1,290 is the approximate cost of maintaining a mile of road. What is the point in spending this amount of money merely to find that you are only getting one-fourth of the service that you should normally be getting from the money spent? We want our pound of flesh. We are not expecting anybody else's blood in our flesh. Look at our macadamised roads, Mr. Chairman. You and I drive cars. You will drive for about two weeks on these roads that have been paved, and after that period something suddenly goes wrong with them. The car that I am driving has power steering, and sometimes the ridges in the roads make me feel as though I have a flat tyre. We want more guidance on this matter, and the work of the Department needs more supervision. We would like to know that the Department gets all the money it wishes to spend, but the Department should give an account of its stewardship after having spent so much money on our roads.
1.10 p.m.

Now there are roads which were taken over from the Northern and Southern District Councils. There are some roads in the north that have been crying out for repairs before they were taken over by the Central Government. We admit that the road programme is a heavy one, but we are submitting that if idleness can be reduced at many of the points where money is now being spent, it would be able to stretch further, and we would be able to get around to the northern parishes and give the roads a little attention. All the roads in the northern parishes lead to the development of the northern parishes and if we are to develop such, how can we expect to achieve this without having proper access by way of roads? I am asking that everything be done by Government to bring about the repair of the roads in the north of the Island as quickly as possible. In the South there has been quite a bit of housing and hotel development, but we still feel that it should be accelerated to a greater pace if we are to get anywhere. It is too slow, and more and more vehicles coming on the scene each day are making it increasingly difficult to get your road programme over in an appreciable time; so Government must try and get abreast of it all if we are to achieve anything worthwhile.

Now as to Item 76, I have said earlier that unemployment is staring us so rudely in the face

that we must of necessity take into consideration the $7 million we are going to spend under this Head and see what we can do to relieve unemployment wherever possible. We have got to see what we can do on our own to provide employment. You would be surprised to know, Mr. Chairman, that people have been annoying me to get behind the Minister to get for them what has been declared of no use to Government. People have approached me to get a crushing plant. If it is of no use and is suited to be cast aside, we want the Government to think in terms of the people who could be provided with a daily job, whose thoughts can be directed to providing for their families and whose energies can be harnessed to produce something for the betterment of the country. These are some of the reasons why we are spending this money and we would like Government not to be at the mercies of some of these contractors and others. Government should call in people and have its projects re-examined, re-open these plants and see if they can help to remove some of these young people that we see propping up the roadside and the bridges. This is our crop season and you can find armies of young men between the 18 to 20 age group lining the sides of the streets, and we have got to provide activity through our road works programme to remove some of these people off the streets. You can introduce a two-shift system to speed up our road works and see what can be done about it.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to drainage in St. Andrew and St. Joseph, I believe that the hon. member for St. Joseph is much more familiar with the requirements for those parishes than any other hon. member here, but what we must say is that the Government's approach to the drainage problem in these areas has never been a credit to the Government. It would appear as if the wrong type of people are sent into this. The problem of drainage in St. Andrew and St. Joseph is much bigger than the people sent to do the job, and if it is necessary for Government to seek assistance from abroad, the sooner it is got the better, because the situation in St. Joseph and St. Andrew is worsening day in and day out, and with each rainfall the problem becomes more and more unmanageable.

1.20 p.m.

We have got to look at our limited resources. We appreciate the fact that Government cannot be expected to take its total revenue and spend it on one project in the parish of St. Andrew or in the parish of St. Joseph, it has to look at the island as a whole, but we have got to try and see if we can arrest the situation as at present and save worse from befalling us in the long run.

I do hope that I have not tired you and other hon. members, but I do pray that you find it possible to implement some of the suggestions I have made and examine some of the problems I have mentioned. I do hope that as in the case with the workshop and the mal-practices in overtime that the Government institutes an investigation there to see that an end is put to this wastage of taxpayers' money. We hope that those who have served the Department over a number of years and the Department is satisfied that their service is something to be desired, that wherever possible a measure of security should be established, and if Government can in any way keep its mind on this matter of the minibuses and act in such a way that the travelling public does not suffer in the long run, I think that we on this side will be somewhat satisfied when the Minister comes to give of his stewardship at the end of time.

I think that I have said enough under this Head, and I will await the reply of the Minister to any of the points I have raised.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Minister is in his place, I can assure him that I will neither be as long or as extensive as the hon. member who just sat down. There are parts of the Estimates that are obviously bread and butter politics, and this happens to be one such Ministry, and therefore I am letting the Minister know from the floor of the House under various Heads the needs in my constituency. I am sure he knows the needs of most of the island, but I would like him to recognise that there are some very pressing needs in my constituency.

I know it is usual to say that if a constituency has voted for a member from the other side that they must wait in the lines of priority. I trust this is not one of the criteria that the Minister will use when it comes to judging Christ Church West, and I would like to begin with the need for a proper road system in certain areas. At night if you are there and there is the least downfall of rain it is almost impassable, and doctors and undertakers have refused to go into this area. I believe that the former hon. member and now Senator St. John made a special plea in this respect, and I think he joined with the then junior member for Christ Church, the now Leader of the House, on this point. I should like to renew it and to ask the Minister as a matter of urgency – there are no roads at all, it is not even a question of repairing the roads in this area – to give the constituents and the people who live in that area some assistance.

Likewise with Ventnor Land or Rockley Tenantry Road. I know that the Minister has now

put in some part of a road in an area, but there is much more to be done there. Talking to the residents of that area they have told me that since 1939 everybody who has ran for the parish of Christ Church has always promised to do something for them, to the extent that they are even totally fed up. If the Minister could help them this time I am sure we will give him the freedom of the village of Ventnor Land.

On a more serious note, I should like to mention Gills Road. Particularly the Minister of Education would like to know that there is an approved school, the Unique High School, in Gills Road, and that road is almost impassable for the school children on days. It needs some urgent attention. In Forde's Road, if I may bring his attention to the Bonnetts area, across the pasture called Crane's Pasture, his Party has some good supporters up there too if he is not aware of it, but they are very really fed up with the fact that they are in a forgotten part when some of these things are sharing out even in an election year.
1.30 p.m.

I really do not like doing bread and butter politics all the time, but I think I should make special mention of these people and at the same time ask the Minister to give them some assistance in so far as roads and lights are concerned. The system of lighting should be changed in Navy Gardens and Nelson Road. It is good from a security point of view, and I believe that when the electrification of Dayrells Road took place just before the elections they were forgotten. I must ask that some attention be given to them, but even the people in that area are in a better position than the people at Bonnets, the people in Rockley Tenantry Road and the people in Worthing View. There is one other area that the Minister is well aware of. I refer to September Square or the 4th Avenue. Honestly, that area is no credit to this country, and it would not take a large amount of money to fix this road.

I can assure the Minister that in my constituency and outside of my constituency, wherever I meet people I am begging for areas of land to be donated to the public of this Island for road-widening. There are too many of our citizens who are not public spirited enough to give up some of their lands – just a few square feet – without expecting to pay them in some instances and exorbitant price for land acquisition. I can think in terms of Culloden Road and Pine Road. There are big landowners giving up land that is probably worth somewhere in the region of $3,000 or $4,000 in that area. I feel that where a benefit could be conferred on them there should be magnanimous in this respect. I would ask hon. members in their constituencies to join together and appeal to people of substance to give some assistance in this respect and assist the Government by asking for donations of land areas for road-widening and for the improvement of roads.

Mr. Chairman, I have been canvassing privately the ways in which we can, in improving tenantry roads, take some of the direct cost off the Government immediately, and, rather than awaiting the Land Development Duty Act, to try and get some immediate payments from the owners who may be selling land to tenants. I think the Minister along with the Minister of Lands and Housing should institute a study in this respect, so that some of the money could be recovered much more quickly than if we had a specified time at which to collect a fee.

Now, the people in Barnes Land, which is just behind the Marine Hotel, and those in Pavilion Court, found themselves in great difficulty during the last downfall of rain. Were it not for the public spiritedness of some of the people in that area we may have had a few deaths. It is a hazardous area; it needs wells and a proper drainage system. I am asking the Minister to pay special attention to this area. I am glad to see that some of his technical experts are here, because they believe that because Christ Church West happens to be an area of high-income earning types in some areas that it should be a neglected area for the purpose of looking at these matters. I would ask them to pay a little attention to other parts of Christ Church West where there are conditions existing as bad as can be found in any of the slum areas in Bridgetown and in some of the other neglected areas in this Island. I am asking that during the coming session they should try and give us some attention in order to help the people in that particular area.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, this Head is one which is always unde fire. At times I wonder if it is really fair for the Minister to be under fire. I am not in the habit of attacking public servants; I hate to do it, but there are times when you are forced to do it. My hon. colleague dealt with this Head at great length. I do not propose to speak on this Head at length, because I would obviously be raising some of the things which my colleague has brought to the attention of this Committee. *(Asides.)*

Mr. Chairman, we have been sitting from ten o'clock and it is now almost two o'clock. I think we must have some consideration for hon. members and for the staff of the House.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

DOCUMENTS TO BE LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to lay the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972, at this stage. Copies are ready, and I think the Clerk will have them circulated. I am also asking for permission to deal with it in all of its stages today after hon. members have had a reasonable time to study it.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection by hon. members to having this Civil Establishment Order dealt with, permission will be granted. There being no objection leave will be granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

1.40 p.m.

On Resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it automatically reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the sitting was suspended the hon. member for St. James was addressing the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, before the sitting was suspended, I was drawing the attention of the Committee to the fact that the major speech on this subject was made by my colleague, but I would like to raise one or two points. This is under Item 60, to provide for maintenance of life-saving apparatus at beaches.

I think we are all aware of the fact that the Jaycees are the people who man these stations, and there is a small vote of $200 primarily to assist them with maintenance. For several years I have been begging Government to take over all the life-saving stations in the country. We are aware that the hotel industry is making great strides because people always talk about bringing visitors and so on. That would be well taken care of, but I am primarily concerned with not only protecting the lives of visitors but of all concerned, and I would like to see Government take over the stations, have them properly equipped and have these life-guards properly trained and well paid. I honestly believe that the time has come when the duties of a life-guard must be given a bit more consideration. It is a very dangerous job to appraoch people who are in difficulty in the water, and many of these young men whom I know because I live pretty near a beach myself, are just strong swimmers. I think they are given a course of lectures in life-saving, but they have to pass these life-saving examinations before they are made life-guards, but quite a number of them should have a refresher course instead of depending only on a man who is a strong swimmer.

On the other hand, I cannot pin the blame on the Jaycees, because that is a charitable organisation and I feel that Government would pay a greater attention to a department of this nature. The Jaycees have set up the stations and pay the men $35 a week, but it is my honest belief that $35 a week is not enough to pay a man to be on guard to protect lives. I have

observed that many of these young men who man the stations are not always in the look-out tower, but stroll up and down the beaches, and I believe that if they were under Government supervision where a more rigid law could be laid down they would probably do a better job.

I remember being at Dover one morning taking a swim and a man got into difficulties and I played I was going towards him, taking two strokes forward and one backward and shouted for the life-guard who was away down the beach to come. This man could have lost his life because the life-guard was not in the look-out tower doing his duty. I am sure that if Government took over a service of this nature they could lay down a more rigid law, because you cannot overlook the fact that it is a dangerous job. Secondly, you should have a number of signs. Quite recently I drove through the East Coast Road and I saw a danger sign, but there are other beaches where you do not have these signs although you have these strong currents and it is dangerous to swim. I would like the Minister to draw this to the attention of the Jaycees if they are not going to take over the service, but I recommend strongly that the Government should take over a service of that nature. I know there is an argument that the hotels should do this; some of the west coast hotels have their own life-guards; if you say the hotels should do it when they have visitors at the hotels, that is all right, but what about the other public beaches where people go and swim and you have not got a life-guard service? I am not critical of the Jaycees; I would rather laud them for the effort, but I believe it is time that Government take over that part of the service. The vote of $200 for maintenance is negligible.

Now my colleague spoke at length on unestablished staff, but I would like to add something to it. I believe that the cantonniers are the biggest time wasters that have ever walked the face of this earth. Work is not their religion, and if they get near a tree, work has been knocked off. I made a note where four men and a supervisor took one week to weed 146 ft. 5 ins. of road not far from me. You can drive through the country or anywhere around Bridgetown and you do not have to ask if a chap is working in the road. They check into work at least an hour after the scheduled time which I believe is 7.30, they stop work at 10.30 a.m. to decide what meal they are going to eat, they take half an hour to walk and put down the tools, and hour for lunch and around 3 o'clock it is the end of the day for them. On Friday it is only two hours' work because as soon as the Paymaster comes the work is over. I am sorry the Trade Union boss is not in his place, because I am going to recommend that they be given a five day week because work on Saturdays is completely out of the question. I have seen one of these men who had to play cricket come to work in his cricket boots, white pants and shirt; you would understand, Mr. Chairman, that a man going to play cricket likes to keep his flannels clean, so he would not work on that day; so I recommend to the Ministry to have a five day week, because you are paying them for doing absolutely nothing on Saturdays when they are supposed to work for half a day.

I am told, Mr. Chairman, that it is a network. Maybe you can say this of other Government Departments, because I have heard the Prime Minister flay the whole Civil Service, but I am saying that it is unfair to the taxpayers of this country. I would even recommend to the Ministry to give the weeding of the gutters to women.

3.10 p.m.

I am sure that the women would put in at least an honest day's work, because the men are mere time wasters. If cricket is playing they discuss cricket and do no work; they are all politicians, that is a foregone conclusion. You only have to look to see the men working at the Natural Gas Corporation and you can see these men putting in a day's work, their money is well earned, and that is a Statutory Board, but on the other hand you see these lazy men doing absolutely nothing for the taxpayers' money. I remember a chap came to me on one occasion and said he would like something to do. He was from St. James, and when I asked him what he wanted to do he said he wanted one of the cool jobs in the Ministry of Communications and Works.

They are thieves of the taxpayers' money, and I am sure if that work was given out to contract – perhaps it is a very big job and a difficult job for a private firm to carry out – but if they were working in private enterprise they would never work the way they work for the Government's money. I am not speaking about the Party, I am speaking about the Government. I have no respect for them, and any time I pass the road and see them cooling out I am going to call the Ministry and report it to the Chief Engineer or the Head of the Department, that there is a crew of men working on such and such a road and ask him to check with the Supervisor and find out how much work they have done for the day. I am going to note the time and let them know what I am doing because I am not afraid of any of them. I have no respect for them.

I am told, Mr. Chairman, that it is a very difficult thing to break through. I am told this by a Civil Servant. He told me that the Supervisor is the man who is responsible. We admit this, but then there is a man over him, so when the man over this man turns up he is the danger man, because he only checks, goes home and sleep or probably goes to another job, so when you ask the men who are working if the Supervisor has turned up yet, they would say he has but he has just gone over to the crew at St. Patrick's or somewhere else. When you get to St. Patrick's and you ask for him you will hear he has just left for Brighton, so you should look into the amount of work that is done. That is why I feel that whoever is responsible for them should make sure that the Supervisors should be responsible for an amount of work which is done during the day by these people, and I believe that hon. members on the other side will agree with me that they are nothing but time wasters. They do not deserve any of this $1,489,356. You have men working in the construction business here, you see them put in a day's work for the money but you see these men under a tree. They work very fast if they are in the sun, but when they get near to a tree that is the end.

Mr. Chairman, this particular Head is always the one where you find the M.P.'s calling for roads and so on in the various constituencies. I am going to cry out again; this is going to be my sixth year and second Session, and I am crying again. Please acquire, beg for or whatever you can do to give the people in a district by the name of Springhead at least a little stretch of road. The Minister of Education will tell you that he, the Prime Minister and the chap who was in a race went up there one afternoon around five o'clock. If they had checked with me they would have known to go around three o'clock, because around 4.30 that is the end; there is no bus service, no road sign to indicate this is Springhead. If you carry anybody there they will have to ask where you are taking them, because it is only after about three-quarters of a mile you will realise there are people living in that district, some of the nicest people in the whole world.

I remember my former colleague made a speech in here saying that he provided for the people of Springhead over a period of 17 years, but the only thing they have up there is Rediffusion, that is the only thing which would make you understand there is at least a wire there. I have been able to press the Minister of Communications and Works into putting another pipe up there and they have two now. There are about 400 people living in that area in approximately 100 houses. Mr. Chairman just reminded me that when he was Parliamentary Secretary it was hard to get in there, so I hope the Minister will make a note and treat us well. Do not treat us like you treated St. Joseph a little before the bye-election with 156 lights, I could do with two or three, let me feel that I am in it too.

The Electric Company does not have to work overtime now until 1975 or 1976, so the Trade Union boss can cool out now. I would not like to say that the Leader of the House broke his promise, I believe he is still willing, he enjoys driving up to Fitts Village with me and parking by Mr. Jordan's shop. For five years at Estimates time, whenever there is a supplementary vote, if there is anything about a market or esplanade or anything I can talk about I have been asking you to give the people in Fitts Village a communal bath. It is a fishing village, so at least you can put up a shop where the people can sell their fish.

3.20 p.m.

At least put up a shed for the people to sell fish in, if you cannot give us a mini-esplanade. It is a big, open area and the people of Fitts Village are very nice people. The Government Party used to win in Fitts Village 5-1, but on this occasion it was 2-1. On the next occasion it will be 1-0. On the last occasion I was told by the Leader of the House, who was the Minister of Health at the time, that there was money in a vote to construct a Communal Bath and a Fish Market. He said that it was the Ministry of Communications and Works who was holding up the matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. I said that the Labour Welfare Fund had been depleted, and we had included the sum of $200,000 for the construction of Communal Baths and Latrines. I tried to get what the hon. member wanted included in that, but I did not pass the buck to anybody. I did not say that the Minister of Communications and Works was preventing him from getting anything. There are two sites in each parish, and there is no reason why that particular area could not be included. In this current year's Estimates there is included $200,000 for the continuation of the programme.

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise, Mr. Chairman, I will ask the Minister of Communications and Works and the Sanitation Board to remember that I am the M.P. for St. James when they decide to open that particular bath. Do not bring along the Senator, because I am coming too. I will have my little opening on the side, and my party will not be like yours. I would not be having the Ambassador and so on. *(Asides.)* I do

not go to cocktail parties. I am not a cocktail party boy because there is too much dry talk and you get mixed up at cocktail parties. I am asking for an invitation to come to that particular opening.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, my Ministry may build these things, but the invitation will have to come from the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Sometimes the offficers are not invited to parties held in connection with the things they build.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am a member of the Sanitations Board, and I must be invited to the opening.

With regard ot the upkeep of vehicles, I think that this Committee has heard enough from me about the upkeep of Government vehicles and it knows how I feel about the vehicles in the Police Department. I believe this is the end of my contribution to this Head. I sincerely hope that the Ministry will assist me by giving Springhead a chance to feel that the people up there are a part and parcel of the community.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few observations on the service provided to this country by mini-buses; The hon. member for St. Peter raised the subject, but I do not think he went far enough in outlining the remarkable service which is offered to our country by mini-buses. I feel that these suggestions should be made to the Minister of Communications and Works because it is a national problem, and if we are honest enough in this Committee we will appreciate the work that has been done in the field of transport by mini-buses.

In my view, the people in Barbados are no longer blaming the Transport Board or the bus concessionaires for not getting them where they want to go on time. They are now blaming the mini-buses for not getting them where they want to go on time. It is all right for those who have cars to drive all about. I know that the buses in Barbados today are only adequate to serve the housing and development areas in this country. As a matter of fact, one only has to go into the Bus Stand at peak hours and see the remarkable service being rendered to the community by mini-buses.

I know that there will have to be some control over mini-buses. My suggestion is that when private people from a humble walk of life can find it possible to put transportation on the road to assist the Government with its transport problems and these are privately financed from their pockets, then it is time that the Government gives those people a real opportunity to work for a living like any other sector of the community. I feel that since the mini-buses have been operating successfully, then let us assign them to specific routes and see to it that they do not go off the routes assigned to them. I feel that mini-buses are here to stay.

I agree with the hon. member for St. Peter that the Leyland buses travelling from the Pine to Bridgetown and from Black Rock to Bridgetown are too big, and we should be having Toyota vans running on those routes. I think that this would assist the transport problem around the city area. I think that the time has come for us to reorganise the whole transport system of Barbados and bring it into line with modern trends. The Leyland buses are too big for the City, and the mini-buses have been doing a very good job in that they can pick up people and take them to their homes because they are small and manoeuvreable.

On the other hand, there should be suggestions in favour of the bus concessionaires, because if the mini-buses are allowed to operate in that manner they would be taking away trade from the bus concessionaires. The bus concessionaires should be able to put more buses on the various routes. When you have buses running on a scheduled time, they are filled with passengers and they cannot leave before the time, then you will find a large number of people accumulating in the Bus Stand. You will then find a number of people rushing to get a mini-bus, because they have to get some means of transport. The fact that mini-buses have flourished in this country is a sure sign that we can do with some more transportation in Barbados. Had there not been some defect somewhere along the line mini-buses would not have been able to flourish as they are flourishing today.

3.30 p.m.

I think that at this stage we should make a complete reappraisal of the transport policy in Barbados and give the public value for their money because the public is going to miss this service; they have got accustomed to the minibuses because they get where they want to go on time. I think that we should look at this matter in its true perspective, because these people are not subsidised by Government Funds. These are people who have tried their best to put some form of vehicle on the road to help reduce the number of people who cannot get where they want to in time. I think I would failing in my

duty if I did not highlight to this House the conditions under which these minibuses operate. I would like to some scheme operated in which these people could be given specific routes, because I do not think that we can at this stage of our transportation problem do without the minibuses.

I would like to refer to one other aspect which the hon. member for St. James touched in respect of cantonniers. This is a human situation. It is all right to say that at 10.30 in the morning these people are under trees cooling out. We all know that in the tropics when the sun gets hot even people in offices cry out for the heat. They go to work at 7 o'clock in the morning and when it gets to midday they must take a cool out. I do not support people who shrink work and cool out on jobs, but people who are exposed to the sun must at some time cool out, because even people who work under roofs do not contribute as much after the midday heat comes down as in the first part of the day. Even with Civil Servants you will find that their productivity drops after they have taken their lunch; so how much more with someone who is working in the sun. We have had some people who have dropped down dead at around 11 o'clock when I was working in the Ministry of Communications and Works. You might find a fellow with a slight blood pressure, he is a faithful worker and the next thing you know is that he has dropped down dead. This has happened time and time again in the Ministry of Communications and Works, so it is not fair to say that these people cool out. To my mind these people should be given task work and get the weeding done. They do maintenance work between 7 o'clock and 4 o'clock and when he is seen shirking at 11 o'clock, as far as the onlooker is concerned he has not worked yet. There are some cantonniers who can weed three or four miles in three or four hours; so I think we should devise a system where a certain amount of work is to be done by a particular cantonnier, and when that cantonnier is finished he should be allowed to go home even if he finished at 10 o'clock. If he could start at 5 o'clock in the morning and finish at 9 o'clock, he should be able to go home and get paid for his day's work, because no cantonnier can function efficiently between 11 o'clock and 3 o'clock in Barbados. He is going to sit and look for when the engineer or highways superintendent is coming then to get up and pretend he is working. He will weed in the morning, but he will not weed in the afternoon for any man's money. He is a human being, so do not let us fool ourselves that the people are wasting time.

Mr. Chairman, although this Chamber is air-conditioned, when hot air begins to come in hon. members complain that it is too hot; what about the people who work in the sun. I think we should try to encourage people, but you will find that when something does not go right in this country, it is always blamed on the man at the last rung of the ladder. In the Civil Service it is like that; among the keyscale workers it is like that, and in everything you think about it is the man at the bottom who cannot shun and who gets all the ills of society thrown at him. There was a time when the Treasury Building could not be finished and people were blaming the poor peck and shovel men for the delay, but even if they played the fool for two or three hours, could they get rid of millions of dollars. The man who lingers on a job for two or three hours cannot hurt it; in most cases it is the contractors, but not the labourer or carpenter who carries home $39.40 a week. Nobody in this country looks at the root of the evil. The easiest scapegoat in this world is the small man who is blamed for the malfunctioning of everything. We must become realistic. I know that you get some shirking, but you must take the human factor into consideration. Sometimes it hurts me when I pass the road and see men weeding just after midday, but it is their occupation, and any highways superintendent would be out of his mind to drill a man in the midday sun to do more work weeding the side of the road. We must not condemn a man because he finds himself in a particular occupation, because in every occupation men are able to call their own slack. I know that the people who like the cantonniers work in the heat of the sun and the the rain are deserving of our sympathy, and all we can do is to beg them to do some more work, but they should not be castigated, because they are all human beings. When I was a youngster I could walk through the sun and never worry, but since I have become accustomed to an office, when I go to lunch the sun is too hot for me.

3.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I think that you will find a few slacking, but I do not think it is right to feel that all cantonniers are not doing their work, give them an allotment to do.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of explanation, I would like to correct the hon. member on this. This Party tried that some years ago, giving them a certain amount of work to do per day and it did not work out; so that suggestion which I believe is a good one did not work out. All you can do with them is to castigate them. If you were loving them all the time and tried to beg them all the time you might as well beat them.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why the scheme did not work out, but my

belief is this, that if you give a man an allotment, trouble comes from the fact that the man is a maintenance worker working from 7.00 to 4.00. We should not look back at the particular cantonnier, if he can do his allotment in one hour's time to my mind he should be free to go home, you cannot give a man an allotment to do and then want to control his movements afterwards. He should not be allowed to mess around the job until 4 o'clock, give the Engineers and the Supervisory staff a free hand to measure out portions of work per day for the workers and when this is done to the satisfaction of the Supervisor the man goes home like anybody else, but I do not think that it is fair when a man has completed his portion of work to find something else for him to do, but that is a matter for the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Sir, I would not waste any more of your time, and I would hope that we would give careful consideration to those people who work for their living by providing voluntary transport to Government and the bus concessionaires and have been easing our transportation problem for the past years. I think that some system should be devised whereby we can include all of them in this framework, put them on scheduled routes and if they move out of those particular routes withdraw their permits, but I do not think it is fair to have them operating illegally. The fact that minibuses have flourised is because there is a big transportation problem and the Barbadian public has become accustomed to them and I feel that minibuses are here to stay.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am in deepest sympathy with you in your present condition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not asking for any sympathy, all I am asking is that the hon. member proceed with his address.

Mr. BOLDEN: I intend to proceed. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to keep the Hon. Minister very long, but I want to draw certain things to his attention since he is new in this Ministry. Last year we spoke on the question of inland drainage and we heard quite a lot about the efforts which the Government was then making to bring experts from overseas, but they were particularly interested in sea coast drainage, drainage which went from inland into the sea. My particular aspect of the drainage problem will be to bring to the Hon. Minister's attention the situation which exists with the inland drainage, and I believe it is primarily in St. Joseph and part of it is in St. Philip.

In St. Joseph, along Sugar Hill, all the water which comes down Chimborazo finds itself in a sort of valley and there is no escape route. I understand that there is a well somewhere in the back of the Sugar Hill main road which was supposed to take this water off. There are several stories which I have never been able to confirm about this well; one is that the Department cased the well with cement and probably has cased in the sucks. Another one is that they have refused to clean the well for some time and therefore it is unable to take off the water, but the main problem is that after every heavy rainfall there are several feet of water in that valley which flows to the discomfort of the people who live on the eastern side of the Sugar Hill road. There are several persons along that strip who keep poultry farms, etc., and there is always a scare. A gentleman who keeps poultry lost several heads last year, and every time I pass there he is always worrying about what is happening with the drainage problem there. I would like the Hon. Minister to make a special effort to improve this, and I will be prepared to go with his Engineers and see if something cannot be done in that particular area before the rainy season comes in again this year.

The next aspect of drainage is that which occurs in St. Philip. From Mt. Pleasant Hill there is a ravine which comes down through Bushy Park, through Sandford, next to King George V Part, until it sometimes finds it way into the sea. There is one suckwell which is north east of King George V Park to take the water which comes from Mt. Pleasant Hill. During the last rainfall the water rose some ten feet high; immediately after the rainfall the Ministry of Communications and Works went out there and started to clean the well and buttressed up the sides. I have the view that you need another intermediate well higher up to take off part of the water which is now coming down from Mt. Pleasant Hill, and remember, years ago Mt. Pleasant Hill was an open hill, then there were some three or four houses, because there is a development there which has been very very long in its movement. Mt. Pleasant Hill is now being developed, and the more houses you put on that hill the more the problem of surplus water will occur, and I believe it is time that the Government should sink a well higher up which would take off some of that storm water which comes down and relieve the well next to King George V Park.

I would like the Hon. Minister to think on this and at least put the well in before the rainy season begins. There is an alternative arrangement which I believe could work, but since it involves private property I cannot discuss it in the

Committee because I do not want anybody to think that the Government is improving private land for any person. The immediate suggestion would be that the Ministry consider the sinking of another well halfway up that ravine, probably in between the plantations where there are no individual small holders so that some of that storm water can be diverted.
3.50 p.m.

The next point I should like to deal with concerns the roads in St. Joseph. The Hon. Minister was not in this Chamber years ago, but the records of this House will show that there have been pleas going out since 1961 for some road building in St. Joseph. The Spa Hill has been broken down since 1961–62. Mellows Hill has broken down; Braggs Hill has deteriorated since that time and nothing has been done about it. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture agreed with me last year that, at least, you could put some marl fill and make some of these roads passable. Last year I was told that the Department was awaiting reports from the Soil Conservation Officers and the tenocrats. These Reports, I understand, have been forthcoming for the last five years and have not yet arrived in the Ministry. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture agreed with me that he went to St. Andrew and showed them how to put marl fill and make the roads passable. When the rains came, some of the marl fill was washed away, but it was quite easy to put it back and make the road passable once more. There are several roads in St. Joseph which have not been passable since 1972. Dark Hole has been cut off completely. As a member said, jokingly, the people in Dark Hole did not even know that Sir Grantley had resigned from Parliament. They have no lights and they have no roads up there. (Asides.)

The hon. member should not say that, because an Hon. Minister has relatives who live in that area. Mr. Chairman, it is time that some temporary measure be made so that the people will be able to travel on the road. It may not be made suitable for heavy vehicular traffic overnight, but after 10 years something should be done for those people. Those people are taxpayers like the people in other areas of this country, and they have a right to see that some of the taxes which they pay is being utilised to their benefit and comfort. You must give them the minimum amount of comfort. In these areas they are devoid of water. I suggested last year that the Department should do what is done in St. Lucia and in other Far Eastern territories. The Department should use plastic pipes and pass the water overhead. Even if you have a heavy rain and the land starts to slip, then the plastic pipe will bend but it will not break. Even if the plastic pipe broke, it would take about ten minutes to stick it back with some solution. These are temporary measures but, at least, you will be giving the people a little bit of comfort. It is no use sitting down there and waiting on experts. For 10 years you have been waiting on a Report from the experts! There is nothing coming from the experts. You must use Barbadians common sense and relieve some of the suffering in the area. You can tell the people that it is a temporary measure until we get concrete advice as to how to make it permanent. That will satisfy me and I believe it will satisfy the people. I believe that once the Government starts something it will give the intention that it will be charitable to everybody alike. If nothing is done then the people will believe that you have something against them.

Mr. Chairman, I now have to make a plea which I know hon. members will not like. Because of a by-election we had a lot of street lights down in St. Joseph. There were about one hundred and seventy-five lights installed in the space of three weeks. That is an excellent record, but in putting up these street lights they have discriminated against some of the people. The areas which were hard to the Dems got street lights, but the areas on the other side received nothing. Now, the position is changed and I should like the Minister to understand that the people in Parks Road have been crying out. Some of them want to know if they have leper, and nobody must see them. There is not one street light in that area. The last light stopped at Mr. Smith's house. *(Asides.)* I am referring to Mr. L. Smith who was the senior member for St. Joseph in the last elections. I am asking for a few lights at Parks Road and Dark Hole,and I hope that the Minister will give consideration to these matters.

The next point I want to raise is one which was raised by the hon. member for St. James in connection with life guards. Mr. Chairman, I raised the question of life guards in this House last year. The Government has provided a small sum of $200 for life guards, and I doubt whether many members on that side will know the history of these life guards.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I should not like the hon. member to mislead the committee. If he will look at the vote, he will seee that all we have to do is to maintain the equipment. This matter falls under Parks and Beaches, but under us we do this service for an organisation which is making a voluntary contribution to the safety of people. So far as organisation is concerned, I cannot say a word to them except to try and persuade them to do something.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to deal with the matter under Parks and Beaches for a specific reason. When the first Life Saving Unit was set up at Accra Beach, the agreement between Government and the Jaycees was that the Government meet half of the cost of the services. The Jaycees have expanded since then, but Government has never yet met more that half of the cost of the first Station. The hon. Leader of the House would know that I was a member of the delegation who went to see him some years ago to remind Government of the promise that it would have taken over the Life Guards Stations at a suitable time. I am saying now that the government must either stick to the original promise of meeting half of the cost of the Life Guard stations or take them over altogether.

Mr. Chairman, I remember an incident when the hon. member for St. James asked a question in the House about the Jaycees. The Government sent a memorandum to the Jaycees to find out what the service was costing and how many stations they had. At the time we though the government was willing to take them over, but the Government informed us that if we established 7 more stations the Government would release more money from the Bingo fund to run them. I consider this unfair, because the bingo Fund was started to do other charitable work. It was intended to help people who had lost a foot; people who had lost a house; people who were in accidents; people who wanted to go to England for an operation and so on. Those are some of the reasons for which the Bingo Fund was established, but the Government has monopolised the Fund through a Gambling Committee. The money can now only be used in a manner in which the Government believes it should be used.

Now, I believe that the Parks and Beaches Commission, when the time comes, will give a positive answer on the question of taking the matter out of the hands of the Jaycees. The Hon. Minister of Tourism should be bold enough to tell the hotels that it is time for them to contribute to the Life Guard Stations. I know that 90% of the people who bathe in these areas are foreigners who leave the hotels and go to the beaches to bathe. The hotels should be made to contribute not less than 60% of the cost of running these Stations. For instance, you will hear of very few Barbadians who get drowned at the Hilton Beach or at the "Pot". Now in St. Joseph you will find foreigners coming here and deciding to bathe at Cattlewash in turbulent waters and eventually some of them drown themselves. I believe the Tourist Board should pay 60% of the cost of running these Stations. It is the tourist who come to Barbados and jeopardise the service.

4 p.m.

I am serving notice like the member for St. James that in the political capital made of inviting the Ministry of Health and somebody else, I am going to listen out to hear when the bath is to be opened, and if suitable arrangements have not been made, I am going to hold a political meeting on the spot at which I am accustomed.

The last point I want to make is on the question of the transport system. I honestly believe that the transport system of this country needs a complete revamping to satisfy the needs of this society. I have spent four years in transport, and I have my views. I do not want to go against anything which has been said on this or on that side by the hon member for Christ Church South Central, but in my opinion what has been suggested is not what I believe should be done. It needs a bold attempt to rationalise transport to suit the needs of the people. What I would like to say to the Hon. Minister is that he should sit down, call in the minibus personnel involved, call in the concessionaires and decide who is going to run what. My view is that you want a short-haul system, and a three or four stop system. Assuming that one of these diesel buses is coming from Pie Corner, it is only going to be run economically if it makes three or four stops before it gets to Bridgetown. This is why I say you have to call in the minibus operators and incorporate them into the system. A bus leaving Bridgetown should not have to stop before it reaches the Lazaretto, then the next stop should be Holetown, then Speightstown, and then the minibuses would do the intermediate stops; and until you devise a system like that, you are not going to see the economics of the system. I do not believe that putting off the minibus operators or asking the concessionaires to involve themselves in further expenditure by putting in smaller buses is going to work. You have got to incorporate the two systems.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, is the hon. member for St. Joseph stating that the diesel buses should only make two stops in the constituency of St. Joseph?

Mr. BOLDEN: It is so unfortunate that sometimes they do not make stops at all, because on Bank Holidays people are standing along the streets trying to get a lift from Bathsheba to Bridgetown and back. If we had an integrated system the bus would come out of Bathsheba and

pick up one set of people at Horse Hill, another set at Blackmans and proceed to Bridgetown, and the minibuses or small buses would do the intermediate stops.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, all of us have our constituents to serve when it comes to things like transport, light, roads and water, but I do not make a long dance about these things because I can see the light quickly. The point the hon. member for St. Joseph made is the point I would like to share with him and with the Minister too. I believe that transport should be looked into on a broad basis and not on the narrow basis that the hon. member suggested. Barbados is 166 square miles and we should not fool ourselves that Barbados is so big that you require that. The hon. member talked about diesel buses. Diesel buses run in Oxford Street and there are more stops for a bus to make from the bottom of Marble Arch to the top of Tottenham Court Road. Do you mean you could run a bus service in England and only make two stops? *(Asides)* The hon. member for St. Thomas said there are only two stops between Marble Arch and Tottenham Court Road.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, the hon. member wants to disagree with the system and is going to use the London system, but for the information of the hon. member, I drove those buses for four years and they are not the same mechanically designed buses as the one we have in Barbados. The fuel injecting system is completely different, the piston head is different and specially designed for that spot. What we have in Barbados is completely different.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member was talking about diesel engine buses, and I said there are diesel buses running here. All I was saying, Mr. Chairman, is that the buses in London which are bigger buses, and some are double-deckers, make more than two stops on a road that is not as far as from Bridgetown to Holetown, because from the bottom of Marble Arch to Tottenham Court Road is not as long as from here to the Lazaretto, and they make more than two stops. I know the stops in Oxford Street, and I can close my eyes and call the stops whether travelling by bus, taxi or rail. I was going to London from 1947, twenty-five years ago; so the streets have not now been put down there, and I have been going nearly every year and three times a year in recent years. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to accept these conditions of members talking across the Chamber.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it is true I have not lived in London for ten years, but I have been on frequent visits, and I will say something more about that on another occasion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to Barbados.

Mr. WALCOTT: We have to make comparisons if we are talking about buses, because they do not make bus engines in Barbados. The hon. member for St. Joseph has knowledge about the mechanism of buses, but this matter is not something of special knowledge to him. You have to think of the operation of a bus service within the context of the country in which you are operating it. I have sympathy for the hon. member who is Minister of Communications and Works; I have sympathy for the bus concessionaires because I have to deal with them.
4.10 p.m.

You have had a load of experts coming here to Barbados advising the Government as to what kind of bus service it should have, and one of the things I would like to say is this, it does not matter which Government is in power, if you are going to have an efficient public bus service the Government will have to make up its mind that somewhere at some point you will have to provide a subsidy for that service. It is pointless believing that you can run an efficient bus service on a purely profit and loss basis, because some of these minibus people will soon find that they cannot run a service. You cannot rely on the minibus people to run a service, you will be going out of your head; they run a service when it suits them, they run a service when the cream is on. If this island had to depend on the minibuses for a service the whole industrial situation would collapse. They are supplementary to a system, and the reason is simple. The minibus service will run at peak hours, but it will stop at some time during the day because it is an unregulated individualistic service. A man begins this service if he finds that he can make some money, but when the repair bills start to come in and he finds that the replacement is a little more expensive than he thought it was he removes it, and therefore we have enough examples to know that a man who is running a minibus service and he puts in $10,000 in a minibus and we know what his takings are going to be, very soon you will find he will not be able to maintain that as a regulated service to keep it on the road at all times.

I have sympathy for the people who run the public bus service. The hon. member spoke about people coming from Bathsheba. Some of these

people have to put on a service, and they have to run the buses at any time whether a passenger is in it or not, and that is where you have to think in terms of that as a cost. They have to pay the bus drivers and conductors, and their wages and salaries are going up - at least they should, because there are big buses on the street - but I will say this, the Minister in dealing with transport I believe should have an overall look at transport in Barbados, not on any narrow basis, look at it very carefully because it is vital to the industrial life of Barbados. You cannot do without a good public bus service staff, and a lot of Barbadians are travelling on the public bus service, we are not like Trinidad where people have the small taxis, the public bus service is used, and I feel that it is time that the Minister should look at the bus service, and if there is going to be integration by all means integrate your service. The minibuses serve a purpose because the loads that people bring from the country cannot be handled easily in the conventional buses we have, and we require some of these things to deal with them. I am of the view that you should have these kinds of buses operating in Barbados in order that they can provide a very necessary service.

I have made a general note, Mr. Chairman, about the lighting of streets, and I would like to pay a compliment - not because it is the Government to which I belong - but it is a fact that since the Democratic Labour Party was running the country the number of lights in this country has increased. I have heard the hon. member for St. James say that Barbados was a dark place, and he knows that it was a dark place when the Barbados Labour Party was running the Government as far as street lighting was concerned. I have pointed out in here already that from the time you left the Lazaretto - and this was when the Labour Party was in power - the light that was down by the Lazaretto after Paradise Beach Club it was difficult to see a light until you got to Road View in St. Peter, but all that has changed now. All I say is that since this Government has been in power so far as lights are concerned you can see the city silhouetted in light from any part of the country; it is a different place now.

When the Barbados Labour Party was in power you would have to draw a match underneath a light to find a penny, but now we have lights to such an extent that the people are asking now for all flourescent lights. In my constituency, I have lights in Fairfield, and I would say to the Minister that my constituents say they want better lights now, they do not want any of these old bulbs, they want bulbs where they can see the whole place lighted up.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, when I was younger they had gas lamps. We came along and gave them electric lights, and you have given them flourescent lights now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order, that is a point of interruption.

Mr. WALCOTT: Not only a point of interruption, Mr. Chairman, but a point of foolishness. We have made progress, so I am asking the Minister to look into this question of lighting, because it would seem to me when you start to improve a system like this it is going to impose a responsibility on you through and through, and I would ask the Minister to look into the question of a general lighting policy from the same point of view the hon. member for St. James raised when he spoke about Springhead. There are some remote areas that some of us would have the unfortunate task of representing; it is not our fault that some areas are remote, that is purely a matter of geography. I feel that a proper lighting system where you can carry good lights to every district is important, and I would share with the hon. member for St. James the view that there should be adequate lighting in Springhead, because I believe places like Springhead would need something like lights for those people. Although I am not the representative for St. James, if there is a place in St. James that needs light it is Springhead; it is one of these places that should have been lighted up many years ago.

The other point is this question of drainage. It is becoming a very serious matter, and I hope the Minister would give some attention to it. I believe people in Barbados for many years have been allowed to put houses and buildings up without any attention being paid to proper drainage, and we have a very serious problem in many parts of the island. When we had the rains in October, 1970 I was not in the island.
4.20 p.m.

Now, during the heavy rainfall in October, 1970, I was not here. I was out of the Island, and I cannot be here all the time. However, the drainage situation in Barbados is one that has been giving trouble recently, and I am wondering what is responsible for it. I remember that about three months ago there was a heavy rainfall and water flooded the street in front of the Barbados Workers' Union. After a short period the water entered the building, and the street became impassable. I do not know what is responsible for it, but it seems to me that River Road and Nelson Street are becoming flooded very quickly at the slightest amount of rain. I should like to know what is responsible for that.

In my own constituency, I understand that there is a problem in Brandon coming out from the

Mental Hospital. I do not know if there is a blockage in that area, but I feel that the Ministry of Communications and Works should carry out a careful appraisal of these areas. I do not think it is going to be a healthy thing to have people living in areas where at the slightest rainfall you have to call out the Fire Brigade, and you are creating a crisis whenever 1½ inches of rain fall. I know that the Minister has made a Press statement about this in that the Government is having a survey made and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want any Minister to come into my constituency and do anything specially. I know that if the Minister sets out a programme to do 24 areas, it would mean a question of equipment, manpower and so on. I am dealing with this matter from a general point of view. There is no doubt about it that we have been paying a lot of attention to the main roads, and the law existed in Barbados many years ago where tenantry roads were regarded as private roads and these roads were not attented to. I think the law should be changed in relation to Goverment having the right to take over these roads.

I should like to see a law imposed in this country that whenever development is taking place anywhere it should be the responsibility of the developers not just to satisfy the Town and Country Planning Department that they are going to put in roads, but also to satisfy the Department of Highways that the roads are up to standard. The developers should not be permitted to put up a house in those areas until approval was given for the construction of the roads. I do not think it is fair for land to be sold $1.50 or $2 a square foot; the people put the money in their pockets; there is no capital gains tax in Barbados, so they can keep all of the money, and then the residents can call on the Government and their representatives to provide roads for them.

Mr. Chairman, I am living in an area where you can bury a child in the road notwithstanding the nonsense you heard that when the houses were built they would be different from any other houses built in Barbados. Up there if the rain sets up the roads will start to open. The people living up there have motor cars and you can understand what is the position. When I tell some of my constituents that the road to my house is a bad one they doubt me. The Hon. Leader of the House can tell you about it, and it is not to say that it is bad at one point. It is bad at all points. There are three entrances to my home, and there is no question of chosing which road to travel on because all are bad. This is due to the fact that the old laws of Barbados permitted the developers to develop land without the Highways and Transport Department really investigating the roads.

Now, people have been criticising the poor workmen who work with the Government for 80 cents an hour, and they say that they are the worst men in the world. You must remember that these are the men who work on the public roads at 80 cents an hour. It seems, however, that when private people build roads the roads do not stand up as well as Government roads. Wherever you go you will find that private roads look very good at first, but as soon as lorries come in with furniture and they go back out it will be necessary to bring back another roller to fix the road. The moment the lorries start to travel on the road you will believe that you have had an earthquake.

Mr. Chairman, I do not hear members critcising the private people, and I do nto know when it comes to the private people what happens. I do not hold any brief for any private people. All kinds of people are members of the Union, but when it comes to the people who are responsible for building roads – I feel that the Government cannot build all of the roads it is true, but some of these people who build roads as private contractors I am afraid, are not much use.

Hon. members who are aware of the old Vestry system will know that it was merely a means of finding work for people. The whole idea was that they thought they should build roads good enough to be bad next year in order that the people may continue to work on roads. It was a disguised way of employment. In order to keep people employed you built a road in such a manner as to enable you to employ people all the time. There was no sense of economics in road building at the time. They did not understand that you could spend a sum of money and put up a good road to last for a long time.

Now, I cannot change the geography of Barbados, but Barbados, in my view, has too many miles of roads for the area of land available. If the United States had the same amount of roads to the area of the United States of America, then they would spend all of their money in building and repairing roads. I should like to say that the Government should pass a law to make some of the streets in Broad Street one-way streets or close them. There is no point in maintaining places like Philadelphia Alley; the road between Barclays Bank and Collins should be closed, because that does not serve any purpose for the public; you cannot drive through that road. Why should the Government be called in perpetuity to maintain roads like that. It is a road that has been blocked off for some time. I was not here when you had the fire at Cave Shepherd, but there was a road near Whitfield Store which has been closed for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, the Union owns a building in Malls Alley in Roebuck Street, and I find that somebody's truck is always breaking off our doors when somebody tries to reverse a truck there and it is not a one-way street. I should like to see the Minister close some of these roads to any kind of traffic other than pedestrians, and we will not be saddled with the cost of maintaining them. These roads should not be open to traffic, because there are road hazards from a traffic point of view.
4.30 p.m.

I think that if something like that is done we would reduce the cost of upkeep of these roads because they do not add anything to the country. We have these roads already which in my view are too many for the size of the country.

When it comes to car parks, there is a point I would like to make. I am not hard on people who own motor cars, Mr. Chairman, but I think the time has come when the Minister and the Government must give some very careful consideration to this type of modern laziness that has come upon this state. People own motorcars and it seems to me that they want to drive them right up to the point where they want to do business, and if the Government cannot provide car parks for them at that point, they want to quarrel. Bridgetown is so small that it is a good exercise for anybody anyhow except the sick, the lame and the old to walk. The old can be driven and dropped, but people can park their motor cars in certain given areas. I am wondering if Barbados can really afford the luxury of carrying on all these free car parks that are established in the city.

Many years ago I remember the late Tom Went saying, and I still am of that view, that our system of bus stands is wrong. I do not believe you should make large areas permanent bus garages. Bus stands should be places where buses go in and out, and the buses should remain at terminals outside the city and rotating in and out of the city at regular intervals. You have a bus stand in Fairchild Street, one by the Deep Water Habour and one by the Empire Theatre, but there is no necessity for a bus to be parked for hours on end waiting. We are providing a lot of garage space, but the space should be for the convenience of the public, because there is no point in a bus being used as somewhere for people to sit in. The bus should come in and leave at a stipulated time. In modern cities you find that buses run through the city, wait for two minutes and then go in order to relieve the city of that congestion, and if there is going to be any waiting it is outside the city where the bus drivers and conductors can spend a little time on the other side. That would be of great help to Barbados.

Now there is only one special plea I would like to make to the Minister in approaching this question of roads and tenantry roads. I understand that the Ministry faces a problem in not being able to get titles from people and that people are not willing to give up some of their land. I have an instance where people have told me that they went to the Ministry of Communications and Works on the question of a piece of road in Fairfield, and the Government has done that road up to a point and have stopped. I went to look at it myself and I could not understand the real reason for stopping it, but I have been told that they cannot get sufficient information and a release from the owners of the land to continue the road. I feel that when it comes to doing public roads that the Government should have enough authority to build a road irrespective of the residents giving permission to do it or not. I think the time has come when we must put an end to this stupidity of asking people on each side to agree to give up land when you are building a public road. I believe it is time that things should change.

Finally, I believe that in so far as plantation tenantries are concerned, now that there has been reorganisation in the sugar industry, I feel the time has come, Mr. Chairman, that plantation tenantries should be taken over and the roads done by the Government and placed in perpetuity in the people of Barbados. Though we have a law that they cannot get people off these tenantries, I feel that the Government should go into these tenantries and as a matter of right do the roads without any permission from the plantation owners, and have laws so that there would be no attempt of the plantations ever calling back for the land or raising any rents, because the plantation tenantries should be given to the workers as a matter of back pay for loss of earnings that their fore-parents suffered many years ago. I feel very strongly that this is something that should be done in this country, and I hope that $2 million from the Price Stabilisation Fund will be earmarked to carry out a crash programme to build all the roads in all the plantation tenantries in Barbados. These were sugar lands, so you can take some of that money and build roads in perpetuity dedicated to the people whose fore-parents worked there for many years and never got any reward. I have no compunction in saying that is what I would do now, and who does not like that can decide if they do not want to live in Barbados. These people made a contribution to Barbados and this is one of the best rewards you

can give them, and no longer have them out behind the gullies and the fields to live and that is the end of it. This would put an end to a lot of the misery we have of no lights, no good roads and doctors not being able to get to people, and you would stop this inferiority that when you live in a tenantry you are a different species from the ones who live on lands they own. You should also make good parks.

I can think of one place that comes to mind very readily which is in your constituency, Mr. Chairman. I would go right out into Drax Hall tomorrow and take over all the roads and fix them out of the Price Stabilisation Fund. That is something we will have to do in this country to make the plantation owners understand that we are doing business when it comes to a complete re-orientation about our social and economic thinking. I do not represent a rural constituency *per se,* but I represent sugar workers in another capacity, and I feel that this is something that is due to them.

4.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I apologise to the Minister of Communications and Works for rising to speak at all, but lest it be taken that proper representation has not been made in the past as far as the subsidiary roads and tenantry roads of Christ Church generally, including Christ Church West, I thought I would just say a few words and give as brief as possible, unlike some of the other members of this Committee, an account of what really took place.

I would support the plea which has been put forward by the hon. member for Christ Church West, but in doing that I must draw this to his attention, that the advice which the hon. member who has just sat down, the hon. member for St. Michael West, gave in so far as having these tenantry roads and subsidiary roads attended to, I am afraid you still have to adopt the policy of having the people who live on either side of the road to sign a petition to hand over the road. Christ Church, being a very fully populated parish, there are numerous districts that have been built up over the last few years, and when the hon. member spoke on the Worthing View road, I have lived there almost all my life and I know it very well, but there is a road obliquely opposite Mr. Wiltshir's shop, Rendezvous Road, where there are about 50 houses, and I promised the people recently, at the last election, to do my best to see that that road is included in our roadworks programme.

There is another road along Golf Club Road before you get to the entrance of the Golf Club itself which is another one which needs repairs. The hon. member spoke of Forde's Road, not Forde's Road itself but roads off Forde's Road which we have built up – and again I will remind the hon. member that he has to make sure of getting these signatures, because that is the only way you can get these things attended to for now. I am fully aware that more drainage is needed at Barnes Land, we have done something there, and the Pavilion Court area is given to flooding. When you come to Rockley Tenantry Road, many years ago – not 1939 as the hon. member said – but I had the privilege of fixing those roads and had some trouble in getting the people to sign a consent. There was one man, Mr. Nurse, it was only after he died that the road was connected with the main road, so we had a lot of difficulties, sometimes with the best intentions you set out to help your constituents but you met with any amount of trouble in getting everybody to sign the petition. The majority of the Rockley Tenantry Roads has been done, probably now some of them may be in disrepair because they were done since 1946 or 1948.

I am very pleased to see that the hon. member has taken that interest – I know he is a very busy man and a very important citizen and all that – but I am pleased to see that now he is in that area he has given some time and attention to that sort of business, because that is the sort of representation the people of Christ Church need and have always got a certain amount of support in that direction. In the Rockley Tenantry Roads, again there is a road which leads out of Dayrells Road where a lot of houses have been built over the last few years, but he will have to see again that the people sign the necessary document in order for something to be done.

I have been privileged in having quite a number of roads done, and I am very grateful to the former Minister of Communications and Works who has really always gone out of his way to help me with the Parish Land roads, Rollins Road which again needs repairing, the roads off Carter's Gap and places like that, but lest it be said that only since the hon. member for Christ Church West – because people's memories are very short – has come in here we hear anything about roads, I want to draw to the attention of the Committee that it has been possible for me to get a lot of these roads done without actually getting up here and putting in a plea in the able manner in which the hon. member did a few minutes ago. Lest I be thought unwilling or unable to put in a plea I will still do so briefly and quickly, with no intention of holding up the Committee.

Rollings Road in the Silver Sands area is in a very bad state. There are certain roads further on

in Carter's Gap, not the main Carter's Gap, but adjoining Carter's Gap which lead on to the Silver Sands area which are in a bad state, and Charnocks Tenantry Road which needs attention and which we have been trying to get done for many long years, and Fair Valley Rock, a road which takes you down to Chancery Lane. Those are some of the outstanding ones in Christ Church East. Of course I could be here for another five hours calling the various names of roads which need attention, but I am pleased to see again that the hon. member has taken interest in the roads, because those are some of the most pressing needs of the constituents. They want roads, water, light; those are public utilities and necessities. Housing, roads, water and light, and if you keep on that track you are making a good contribution.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to encroach on the authority of my colleague, the Minister of Communications and Works, because I know that he is quite competent and that he has been a Minister of Government and sits in the Cabinet and I believe he is familiar with most of the things that have been going on in the Ministry of Communications and Works which I have had the honour of holding on two occasions between 1961 and 1971.

The hon. member for St. Michael West has been making mention of flooding. In 1970, on 2nd October, I can remember when the heavy floods took place in this island, and the questions which that hon. member and the hon. member for St. Peter asked go beyond not only the jurisdiction that I had as Minister of Communications and Works, but I have been very interested in all this, that is, the contours, sea level and flooding. The hon. member for St. Michael West mentioned the rainfall and flooding, but one of the things that people in this country must regard and pay great attention to is the high incidence of rain and flooding as compared to years ago which is due to the amount of asphalt used and the amount of road surface done today which can no longer absorb the same volume of water due to its being non-pourous.
4.50 p.m.

It is no longer porous where water can seep down through cracks in the land and all of this water must go into canals and drains. In the same area there is so much more housing and building that have gone on in the country that that same volume of water instead of being able to be absorbed in the land that was once porous and could absorb it is now flowing into canals.

The hon. member for St. Peter mentioned something which I am very concerned about, and I immediately asked for assistance. My colleague the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works will be in a better position to bring the Committee up to date as to what is the position of the aid that I had asked for with reference to Surveyors to come here in connection with the contour and drainage of this Island. This took place since the 2nd October, 1970.

Mr. Chairman, at my age and knowing the West Coast of Barbados as well as I do, and the amount of erosion that has taken place from where I was born to Pelican Island down to St. Peter is something that one would have to consider. I do not think that Barbados is getting bigger; I think that along that area is getting a bit smaller. If you take what used to be land at Brandon Beach and certain areas in Speightstown, you will find that a lot of it has been eroded. Take, for instance, the area by Barnes & Company and you will see the amount of destruction that has taken place there. A lot of that has not been broken down due to water coming down, but that was broken down as a result of a higher water level of the sea. I paid special attention to that, and you will find that some parts of the West Coast and St. James are flooded at times.

As the hon. member for St. Peter has said the sea level is higher now than the water level and therefore the water cannot be drained off. We have cut down the Salt Pond, but the water level is higher. We would have to pay a lot of regard in these instances to the question of tides. You have two tides in a month; every New Moon and every Full Moon you will have a spring tide. On any occasion that we have a heavy rainfall along with a spring tide we will experience great difficulty and this is well known. The water will come up an extra two feet, and if we have heavy rainfall when we have the New Moon, you will find that high water tide will be around three o'clock. It is at that particular time that the sea is at its highest level; therefore, the water cannot flow into the sea. These are problems that I am very interested in, and I am keeping in touch with the Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. Chairman, I want to see if my opinion is worth anything. I feel that, eventually, it will be necessary to have a lot of catchments, and the water will have to be pumped from these catchments into the sea as is done in Holland, and in certain parts of this country. I have visited certain areas where you have hotels and in areas where people were swamped out in St. James, and I know that is the whole problem.

Now, years ago when the sea was further back along these same areas, we could have cut in

without the constant change of the contour of the surface which takes place twice every month along with the New Moon and Full Moon when we have high water levels. It is fortunate that our big rainy season is not during the month of May. During the month of May when the sun is about 15° North with the same latitude we would then have a stronger volume of water, and that is the time we have our highest tides and at the same time our greatest erosion taking place. These are things which we will have to bear in mind when dealing with this matter. I have a lot of interest in this matter. Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to bring things up to date and it is not to help my colleague, because I know he is quite competent to deal with the matter. The other things I will leave to him, because he is versed in such matters.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad, indeed, that the hon. member who has just sat down has contributed to this debate, because those of us who have been in the House before would have been aware of the very great and valuable views on this particular subject and the respect with which they have always been accorded over the last few years when he has spoken about drainage. I do not think in the last House I have ever had an opportunity to thank the Minister for the very swift step that he took in 1970 to investigate some of the causes of the excess flooding of recent times and to set up a Committee with very wide terms of reference to deal with the problem.

While not in any way seeking to take away any of the credit from the present Minister of Communications and Works, I think it only fair that the public should know that the Committee which received so much publicity not long after the present Minister took office was, in fact, one which had been set up while the hon. member for St. Michael South West was yet in office. I repeat, Mr. Chairman, that all of us on this side always viewed with the greatest respect the hon. member for St. Michael South West's contribution on these points.

However, I do not believe that the problem of drainage is cured by the constant repetition in the House of sound agruments and good common sense without some definite and active steps being taken to do something about the matter. For the benefit of new members of this House, I may say that what we have heard in this House this afternoon about house building causing more water to collect and road surfacing causing more water to be discharged into the gutters - all of them, including the hon. member for St. Michael South West have been saying this year after year, and I am sure that he has tried to persuade his colleagues to lay down a different standard of building and to take some of the steps that are necessary, and in this context all of them have welcomed what the hon. member for St. Peter has said about investigating the new idea of injection wells. I am sure that all of this has been urged upon the Cabinet before now. I suppose that we must have sympathy, Sir, but so little has been done that sympathy alone is not going to help the people who find themselves flooded from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, I have delt with drainage a lot in here. I cannot deal with it any better than it has been dealt with by members on both sides of this House today, and therefore I am not going to pursue the matter any further. What I would urge upon the Minister of Communications and Works is to invite an early report and be prepared to lay down a massive Capital Programme for drainage improvement schemes where necessary. The problem, as I see it, is particularly a problem for St. Michael and Christ Church.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I should like just to say that we have no Committee studying drainage. We have asked the British Overseas Division under technical aid for a firm of Experts to study it, and we should get them in another month or two. In Barbados there is no Committee studying the matter.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, that worries me somewhat to hear it. I thought the publicity that was given in this House indicated that the Committee was actually working. I dare say that the Minister is aware that certain private firms have made studies of drainage problems in connection with particular developments and that the Experts were then used by the private firms, and also I believe there has been some consultations by the British Overseas Development Ministry with Guyanese and other Experts. I believe that the results of those surveys have been or can be made available to the Government.

I would take very small issue with the hon. member for St. Micahel South West. I do not, in fact, believe that the West Coast is eroded. I believe that when the sand goes from one place it goes to somewhere else, and I think that this has been confirmed certainly in the southern part of the area under review. By ordinary observation, there is clearly no erosion at Accra Beach. At the moment at Oistin now that certain drainage work has been done there is no erosion there either, and the beach is bigger than ever. In other areas you will find that the sand travels from one place to another. I have mentioned this in here before, and I will mention it again for the benefit of the Minister of Communications and Works so that he

may pursue it if he cares to. Many years ago a Geologist from the Gulf Oil Company worked out that there was a sand wave with a periodicity of some 12 to 20 years that travels up and down the coast and, unless unhindered, the sand wave would produce a big beach at Oistin at some periods and a small beach at Rockley, and at other periods a small beach at Oistin and a bigger beach at Rockley.
5 p.m.

It has now been hampered by the building of the Deep Water Harbour from passing Bridgetown, but any hon. member who sees what has happened at the Hilton and a little further to the south what has happened to what was formerly a big beach will realise that the sand has to come from somewhere, and when it gets washed away at one point it reappears at another. The Hilton has an enormous beach, so enormous that it embarrasses it, I believe, in one particular place. A little lower down, below St. Anns Fort, it is less extensive than it was even eight years ago. These are matters of personal observation which as you think about them I think you will apprehend at once. I have recommended in here more than once that these points of beach control should be carefully considered by the Ministry, and I have had reason to believe that the establishment of groynes and so on has not been allowed to proceed in a haphazard way, and strange though it might sound to hon. members, I have every confidence in the Minister to follow good advice even if not to give it.

Mr. Chairman, I want now to prime the parish pump a little bit. I am going to talk about the plantation tenantries in a moment, but before we deal with them, I want to deal with some roads that are in fact plantation roads before we deal with the principle. There is a road, it is a public road, it is over a mile long; it runs from Shop Hill to Cane Garden; whether the Chief Technical Director tells the Minister it is not a public road or not, it is a public road. It can be examined in the old records, the records of Vaucluse Plantation may be examined, the 1964 subsidiary Legislation transferring the St. Thomas roads to the Department, all these may be examined, and it will be discovered that it is as much a public road as the Bridgefield-Jury Road which was repaired, and more of a public road than Moore's Road which runs for some 100 yards or 200 yards in Porey Spring into the middle of Dr. Moore's Woods and for the benefit of two houses, whether or not the Minister came to this House and said five. It is a public road and it runs through a comparatively thickly populated area.

Sir, there are other roads in Shop Hill which can be done, but I would not ask for those roads to be done: the road running along the Nazarene and the New Testament Church for instance. I believe that if this road is done, since it is running into an area where the population is not so thick and where there seems to be some speculation in land because the road leads to an area that has spectacular views over Bridgetown and towards St. George, my view is to let those who are speculating in the land repair the roads. I know at least one householder in that district who has built a house overlooking, has purchased the necessary land and has built a road, but the road leading to Vaucluse Tenantry, Ham Pond Road, - I am not asking for the private road from the factory to Ham Pond to be repaired, I am not asking for any roads to be repaired to facilitate the plantation - but there are a lot of people who live in White Hall Village and in Vaucluse Tenantry who are serviced by this road, and it is a very terrible road indeed.

The old St. Thomas Vestry started to do the road from the Cane Garden end, got a little way up the hill, the money ran out about fifteen years ago or may be more, and they got no further, and the road from Shop Hill where it is principally used is in a very bad condition. I would be glad to take the Minister up there and the Chief Technical Director and other officials some afternoon and let them see how people have to live within 4 or 4½ miles of Bridgetown. It would be a useful road since it would connect two main roads that are otherwise disconnected except at Jackson, and according to the legislation, according to all the records, it is a public road.

Now the next road I will ask the Minister's attention to be given to is admittedly a tenantry road pure and simple. There are some districts in St. Thomas where looking around I cannot see anybody in this House that I have any confidence has ever visited. It is a place called Endeavour where every inhabitant has the same surname. It is occupied by one substantial family. The road to Endeavour is a very good road for a plantation tenantry road; you then go through Lewis Village which also has a good road - it is a freehold district - and then you come to a bottleneck. I have not touched on this subject before. I do not believe any of the members for St. Thomas have wanted to touch on it too much in recent years, but it was touched on many years ago because there was an old lady who at a particular bottleneck constantly refused to give permission to allow the road to be continued to join up with Lion Castle Tenantry Road. This is an area with a number of people. Dukes Tenantry in fact is also abutting and bounding on this. Now all sorts of problems result from the non-making up of this road. There is no electricity at all in a great area in central St. Thomas bounded by Stony Gully, Dukes Road,

Hangmans Hill and Highway 2C, the road that runs up past Hopewell and running towards Ashford. There is no electricity inside there except for the few large houses belonging to the doctors and managers and so on connected with Vaucluse Plantation, Holy Innocent Rectory and Dukes plantation house. They are the only houses there with electricity. I am trying to get some electricity installed through Lion Castle, Lewis Village and Endeavour. Sixty houses in Dukes Tenantry are in need of electricity services, but the Electric Company says, looking at it, that as far as they are concerned, it would be much cheaper to move out some of the people than to carry an electric service to them. Well you cannot easily move people out of freehold land; if it was all a tenantry you could look at it, but you cannot easily move people out of freehold land that they and their ancestors bought a long time ago, for Lewis Village is in a freehold district for a very long time, and this is at the centre of a very difficult area. I would ask the Minister to re-open this entire matter and make a road and be prepared to go through either the process of section 13 of the Highways Act or use the Land Acquisition Act to make this road up altogether. There is no reason why people should live in darkness not even having the street lights to which the hon. member for St. Michael West has paid such tribute.

On the question of plantation tenantry roads generally, I am surprised to hear anybody make a speech in the year 1972 suggesting that the Government has to force plantations to allow the Government to make up the roads. There is no plantation that I know whose manager would not come out and embrace the Chief Technical Director and the Minister and thank them for making up the tenantry roads. Maybe there are obscure persons who do not want the roads made up, but not that I know of in St. Thomas. I have never heard of that being a problem in St. Thomas. I have heard about individuals like the lady in Lewis Village which I have mentioned perhaps commanding a stretch of thirty or forty feet of potential highway. I do not know that any plantation now that the tenantries are frozen is unwilling to have the tenantry roads made up. I am open to correction, Mr. Chairman; all of us in here should be open to correction, but my view is that the plantation would feel the Government is doing them a favour. On the question of consent, maybe buried deep down in the archives of the Ministry of Communications and Works is section 20 of the Highways Act dealing with private roads by which the consent of persons has to be obtained before you can make up the road.

5.10 p.m.

I will ask that if they are not familiar with the jury system by which a jury of freeholders may still be summoned to lay off a highway for the convenience of the public who wish to get to Church or to the market – it may seem antique, but as long as you do not dig up a yard, garden or pull down a house, you may summon a jury, as I understand the law, Sir, and if it has been changed I hope and trust that the former Attorney General will give me chapter and verse – but as far as I know, you may still summon a jury to lay off a highway irrespective of the consent of the persons concerned, you assess the land and you pay or tender it to them. The only protection as far as I know that is given is that the freehold of the land still remains in the owners of the land on either side. I do not know, and the copy of the Laws of Barbados available to us in the House does not suggest to me, that this procedure is no longer feasible in 1972, and if it is not, land acquisition - although it is a somewhat expensive way of making a road – can be brought to bear on the subject. That is my view on this question of making up the new roads.

It is also well known that specifically if a plantation is sold out in lots the Commissioner of Highways, the function which is now executed by the Minister of Communications and Works, can make up roads to get in and out of the plantation lots. Perhaps I should not say this in the hearing of the hon. member for St. Andrew, but it is still in the legislation, it is still in the Highways Act as far as I know, section 18, where the Commissioners may lay out these roads, and all these in my view should be pursued by the responsible officials rather than allowing one person lacking in that public spirit which normally activates most of our citizens to obstruct and obscure the building of new roads in Barbados.

In closing, I would just like to mention that even an hon. member who has as long a history of service in this Chamber as the hon. member for St. Michael West may find that when he comes in newly he is saying things that have been said before, because I could not agree more with what he said about there being too many roads in certain parts of Barbados. This is something I must have made half dozen speeches on in here already, and so I obviously am not going to disagree with him on that, but what I would have been glad for his support on would have been this, the road system – I am going to repeat this for the benefit of the new Minister – in Barbados reflects plantation days. Roads were made convenient for getting sugar canes to the mill or to the factory. Many of these roads appear as public roads, and to support my argument that I am urging upon the Minister of Communications about the roads in St. Thomas, I would ask him to look at the Mangrove Pond Road. Mangrove Pond is no longer a plantation, you can hardly tell where the plantation house

was, there is only one house on that one road which must be getting on for two miles, and yet it is in infinitely better condition because it is a road the plantation needed for getting canes to Vaucluse Factory, and it is in infinitely better condition than the road which I am asking the Minister to have repaired at the earliest opportunity, whose only function is to get people to Vaucluse or to Bridgetown as the case may be.

St. Philip is another parish, Sir, which is full of redundant roads, full of roads that run round right angles, go around three sides of a square with hardly any population on those three sides, and I think also that St. Lucy is a parish where you see many ways of getting from one place to another via nowhere, because to my mind the only justification for having three roads all roughly the same length all going from one place to another could be that people live on them. That could be the only real justification, but the Ministry is constantly repairing roads just because they are there, not because they are providing any service to people, because our road system should be there to serve our economy and to serve people, and I do not think that money should be spent on repairing these highways and keeping them in luxurious condition while there are people with public or semi-public roads, such as I referred to in Vaucluse Tenantry, or such as the Hon. Leader of the House referred to in Carter's Gap still existing in a rough condition. I have heard somebody make the jive that the roads in Carter's Gap were Barber-Greened in such a way as to allow Senator King to drive to Senator Phillips' house without having to go over any bumps. It is a fact that the Barber-Greene road does run from one of those houses to the other, it is a fact. I have heard it said as a jive, I repeat it as amusement not for any other purpose, the hon. member for Christ Church East has said that the roads are badly done. There is one which winds and twists with Barber-Greene; it runs east, then it turns north and then it turns east again. To the south there are numerous houses going out towards Rollins Road, a thick population, further to the north and parallel to it there is another one of the Carter's Gaps which is not in very good condition, and there is a need for that because of the thick population on that road, and it is a much used road both by pedestrians and by motor cars, but there is this Barber-Greene road making up past the house of one of the gentlemen I mentioned, turning left, turning right again and running straight to the house of the other. This is a fact, and I join with the hon. member for Christ Church East in calling for something to be done there. I would hope that the hon. member for Christ Church South Central – in fact, I have every belief that the hon. member for Christ Church South Central who had such a hard time canvassing through those roads during the election will be familiar with their bad condition.

The road going to the lighthouse. I see no reason why that should be in a bad condition, Sir, because the development to the north of it appears to be a better off development, I see no reason why that road should not be properly made up and connected to the road that is running the whole length of Atlantic Shores and down to the Sea Rocks. I see no reason why all that should not be done. There is a heavy population now in the other roads. Because the people are better off I do not see any reason for depriving them of having the few holes in the road filled in. Suppose you say they are well enough off to afford to Barber-Greene it themselves, at least let the Government fill in the holes for those who live a little way off. These roads should all be done, these are districts in which the population is expanding quickly.

Sir, as I say, I have every confidence in the Minister of Communications and Works in presiding over an expanded road programme. It does not call for great intellectual gifts as the penultimate incumbent of the office so ably demonstrated on numerous occasions in here, all that I will ask him is to let the shoemaker stick to his lathe and let the Minister stick to his Ministry. Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister of Communications and Works will now take the opportunity after such other hon. members that are going to contribute have contributed of doing what he has obviously been waiting for since these Estimates started, having his say at length, but this time on something which really concerns him. Thank you, Sir.

5.20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to Item 77, I should like to ask the Minister what are Government's plans for dealing with the Salt Pond at Speightstown. I do not have to make any point, Sir, because it is well known that it creates a problem, it is a threat to life and property and it is a nuisance.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I know this has been a very long debate on this particular Head, and I was very fearful just now when my hon. Colleague the member for St. Peter rose. He had spoken for almost three hours this morning, and I was wondering whether he was going to treat us to another extensive discussion on the question of the Salt Pond. I merely want to say that the Ministry of Communications and Works with the many demands placed on it, the problems of supply, the productivity of labour and management and, of course, the scarcity of

resources, has managed to maintain a system of roads and to deal with the other subjects for which it is responsible very competently.

However, I should like to advert to Item 77 – Drainage – and merely state that as soon as the expertise which has been requested from Overseas becomes available that one of the priority areas for consideration should be the area in St. Michael South off Clarke's Avenue and Browne's Avenue. Since 1949, as far as I can recall, this area has been subject to flooding. As the representative for the area, whenever the rain comes I am very fearful in that I have had on a number of occasions to call in the Fire Service to do the necessary pumping of water. I hope that this area will be given priority treatment in order that the problems from which we suffer in that area can be removed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am deeply grateful to the hon. members of this Committee for the very kind consideration that they have given the Ministry of Communications and Works. I am also grateful to the hon. member for St. Peter for the ecomiums, which I assume are sincere. He admitted in his opening remarks that the Ministry had shown some signs of improvement both in public and personal relationship. Before I deal with the problems that arise in the Ministry, and God knows there are many, I should like to thank the officers of the Ministry of Communications and Works, especially the technical and administrative officers, for their whole-hearted and dedicated support which they have given me up to this point. I have every reason to believe that as long as I am assigned to this Ministry that support and dedication will be forthcoming.

Mr. Chairman, I think a clear indication of the magnitude of my task is the number of requests which has been made by individual members, and I think that they would be the first to accept that the number of requests they have made is a clear indication that all of them cannot be granted in any one financial year. If they look at the Capital Estimates they will have to consider in due course and appreciate the fact that even if we had the staff or the technical know-how it would be impossible to grant all of the requests made by members of the Opposition and members on my side for the improvement of roads in Barbados.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that it is obvious that everybody cannot get his request. In any one year naturally people will be disappointed, but I can assure them that as long as they are patient I will do everything within the resources of the Ministry and in my power to see that those requests are met. I should like hon. members to indicate this to their constituents and avoid disappointment. Let them know that everything cannot be done in any one year both from a physical point of view and from the point of view of the technical staff which is at my disposal.

I should like to issue an invitation now to all members on both sides of the House to let me have their requests in greater detail for light, water and roads. These are things which, basically, the working-class man will ask for and they will be given adequate consideration. I have conceived of myself as a member of the Democratic Labour Party and as a Minister of the Democratic Labour Party appointed by the Prime Minister but as a Minister for Barbados as a whole. When you come to me on any point to see if I can assist you with a job, with roads or water, I am not remotely interested in whether you have a party card or what you are, I am primarily concerned that you are a Barbadian living in humble circumstances and you are inconvenienced because of bad roads, no water, no lights, and no basic facilities to which every human being is entitled. It is my endeavour to see, regardless of party affiliation, regardless of party view, that I, as a Minister of Barbados endeavour to supply these demands. You will be disappointed if you do not get your roads, but I can assure you that failure to get your roads or water will not be based on political considerations, but will be based on a well worked out rational order of priorities after discussion with the technical officers of my Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I want to give the House this assurance, because I am no professional politician; I am only in politics because I think, perhaps conceitedly, I have a contribution to make to my community which gave me birth and gave me my education. Consequently, I should like to receive those little missives from hon. members on both sides as to what they consider priorities, whether from their political advantages or otherwise, but I would prefer priorities based on conditions of roads and absence of water or lights rather than based on strongholds and the number of votes indicated therein. It would save me time and trouble.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that it is impossible for me doing my Parliamentary duties and administering a Ministry to be able to visit every possible road or district that wants a stop sign or a light, and therefore I have to rely on the responsibility of members of Parliament to indicate to me what they consider as their priorities. As the hon. member for St. Peter said, it is a Ministry that is labour intensive, and it is the biggest employing

and spending Ministry in the Government. I should like just to give an indication of the problems you are up against, in the first place. At Christmas time I realised that Christmas was a time of cheer and that everyone would like a chicken or ham in the pot or some means of enjoying the occasion when we celebrate the birth of Christ. I indicated that I needed about 250 to 300 workers to weed roads, carry water, to carry on highway improvement and to do certain things which would have given people something to carry home for Christmas. Would it surprise you to hear that, of the 300 people which I wanted, I was only able to get at any one time a maximum of 180. It is fortunate, because it has enabled me to carry on, instead of stopping in January, the programme to the end of March because funds are available. Even now the crash programme which I started in December in an endeavour to give people work clearing gutters, clearing wells and so on, which might have been terminated at the end of January, has been carried on to the end of March. The first point that you will notice from that indication is that people are not willing to work in certain areas of activity.
5.30 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I am sorry to have to rise to stop the Minister, but he made a point that at Christmas time he wanted 300 odd workers and he could not get more than 180. The reason for this is because the Minister did not make his request sufficiently widely known. If I had known I would have supplied him with almost 300 willing workers from St. Peter who came to me at Christmas time, but I was afraid to send them. I thought they were looking out for their friends and I was nervous to ask the Minister or anybody up there to do anything for them. I would accept responsibility for letting the people of St. Peter suffer to this extent, but I did not know the request was made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am sorry if the hon. member was unaware of this, but I think very clearly in the Advocate when I had a Press Conference soon after I assumed responsibility for this Ministry that it did appear that there would be a crash programme for Christmas, and people were invited to come up to the Ministry of Communications and Works and register with the Senior Personnel Officer. Perhaps on the next occasion if funds permit it, I shall see to it that this situation does not recur. It was no party anything; it was a question of humanity and a desire to save even the members of Parliament from the sort of donations which I know they are forced to give by providing employment for people, and as I say, it was stated in the Advocate, and members not only on my side but members opposite will have seen people weeding the roads from time to time during that period at Christmas.

Now, Mr. Chairman, these are basic difficulties in the Ministry and the hon. member for St. Peter did strike the nail on the head when he said that the basic trouble in the Ministry is at the supervisory level. The engineers, the administrators, the technical officers cannot be on the road throughout the working day of the worker. We have got to rely on the overseers and the other persons in authority who are on the road sites, who are on the building sites to see to it that the Government gets a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, and I regret to say that the break down of productivity in the Ministry of Communications and Works is at that level.

Soon after I took up the Ministry I summoned every supervisor to my office and we had a friendly chat, and I told them quite clearly that the success or failure of this Ministry does not depend on me but depended on them because they were citizens of Barbados who paid taxes, they were the ones who were in contact with the men from day to day and any success which is achieved in this Ministry depended on them, and in my Christmas Message to the workers which I gave to every worker including those at Natural Gas, I had this to say, and this would only give you the spirit in which I have approached my particular task: I said in paragraph 3:-

"Our country belongs to each and every one of us and we all have a part to play in its orderly development and progress from the Minister down to the humblest employee" – after starting the Message "My dear Co-Workers". "We are all dependent one on the other and if each of us plays our part nobly and well, then the future of our beloved Island is safe and secure."

This was the basis on which I undertook responsibility for the Ministry of Communications and Works, and the member is perfectly right that the supervisory level of the Ministry of Communications is the hub on which we can succeed or fail. I have had discussions on that aspect with Mr. Hardaker of the British Overseas Division and I do hope that I can run courses not only in the responsibility of men who undertake supervisory tasks, but also to improve the skills and knowledge of the supervisory element in the Ministry; and the engineering advisor to the British Division has promised to arrange at the earliest convenience such a course. This dialogue started soon after I took up the Ministry because I was aware that the supervisory element is the hub on

which it turns, and I do hope in the very near future to organise such a course to see that the efficiency and the responsibility of that type of worker is improved.

As the hon. member for St. Peter said, naturally it is the largest employer, and naturally the larger the employ in the Ministry, if there is dishonesty there is the possibility of it spreading among more people. I am not accusing anybody of dishonesty, but the opportunity for drones, the opportunity for not pulling your weight is greater the more people you employ, and consequently if I can get the supervisory element of my Ministry pulling their weight as responsible citizens demanding of workers that they give a fair day's work, then we can go much further. I agree that the money is not enough and I would like to double the salaries, but they get the amount which they have acknowledged and have come to the Ministry to receive, so they should give us a day's work for such money even if they think it ought to be more, and in due course when my opportunity comes I will press for them to get more, but while they are drawing this I ask each and every worker to give of his best in that regard. There are a lot of problems at that level. The alleged laziness of workers is not a new phenomenon. Ministries of Communications and Works throughout the world have always been the butts of jokes. One chap said to me that he saw some men working at Cave Hill and he swore that if he ever saw a particular fellow hold his tummy he knew he was sick. One day he saw the man hold his tummy and in truth and in fact he was sick. He had not bent for so long. You have workers who tell you that they are no curb-side masons, they are house masons; he is not hurting his back. You get supervisors for one thing who have come up with the workers, and the workers know that they themselves never did any work all these years; can they tell the workers they want some work? He would be told that when he was an ordinary worker he never did any work. You get this sort of attitude of necessity coming from the same class, and the question of discipline at that level, apart from the fact that Government has secured casual workers both by pensions and otherwise in contradistinction to private enterprise, makes it extremely difficult to get maximum production at that level. I am brutally frank because the workers know that I will fight for them if they have a case, I will defend them and see that no injustice happens to them, but I also as Minister demand that I get the maximum from them even for what they consider to be a very low wage.

Now we touch as a Ministry, as you will see from the Estimates, all kinds of factors. Drainage I shall dispose of very briefly. I myself have been worried and so have my technical officers with the results of rain. As a matter of fact, every time I see a big cloud on its way elsewhere and stop to let its water drop, I get worried. I am not claiming credit for anything that has happened in my Ministry except for one or two over the past few months, because things must have been initiated by my predecessors in office. I know how the hon. member for St. Peter feels, I have seen the drains myself, but we are not prepared to invest too much money in the hope of getting the final advice of this team of drainage experts. We have had a meeting with Mr. Hardaker two weeks ago and the British Government is about to award a contract to the firm which is going to carry out a survey for us from St. Peter to the end of the south coast, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that the drains will hold the rains that come between now and the time when we have a programme or until we have expert detailed advice on how we can combat the particular drainage problem which is becoming worse and serious.

5.40 p.m.

In the meantime, on our own behalf we have been cleaning the wells in the country. I have just been able to get the Establishments Division to increase the price for well cleaners and I have the figures here, they have increased it from $3.50 per foot for cleaning silted wells to $5.00 per foot, for bailing out water they have increased it from some figure which I have not got here to $4.25, and we have got an increase for cleaning wells as an inducement to persuade workers to clean wells. People prefer to start at the top, like in most things, and go down but to go down and clean wells people are not willing to do and I have pressed for an increase in the amounts which they will get for cleaning wells in contradistinction to digging wells, and it has just been approved, I saw the letter on my desk when I went to the Ministry this morning, so I hope that will enable us to remove some of the silt and help take off some of the water that comes into the country.

In the meantime we are cleaning all the drains and re-establishing the retaining works that would stop the volume of water which comes in Bridgetown from St. Thomas and St. Joseph. If we can retain it and allow it to come gradually rather than in big avalanches, then perhaps we can hold on until we have got this detailed survey when we can phase out and plan a proper drainage system for Barbados. There is a lot to be said for the increase of water; it is one of the reasons for increased drainage, because the water comes from the country, the wells have not been cleaned for a lot of years, the plantations no

longer clean their wells which used to take off some of the water, they say they cannot get labour which may be true, but you know as you drive through the country you see the plantations cleaning their wells, not recently however, if you can tell me when last you saw a plantation cleaning a well I will give you $100. They no longer do it, but as I say we are cleaning the wells belonging to us, we are trying to encourage the plantations to clean their wells, and we are doing everything possible to retain the water in the hills and in the country so that as little as possible comes into the City.

As I said before, because of the built-up areas of Lodge Hill, Prior Park and all these various developments the water that used to fall on the earth is now falling on asbestos or galvanised roofs and coming into the City, so that we have got to be prepared, and I hope these consultants will come urgently and give us an opportunity to phase out this drainage programme as quickly as possible, because it is becoming a problem, people are worried when the rain is up, people's properties are being damaged, and consequently we can no longer be complacent about the present drainage system.

The hon. member has raised quite a few other points with which I shall deal, and I think I had better deal with what seems to be the big problem as far as members are concerned, and that is the question of minibuses. I have no intention of taking minibuses off the road at this point or ever, because I am satisfied in my own mind that however well organised our transport system is, there is room for the minibuses because there are areas in Barbados from which people come to which the big buses will never go. In the meantime, you may have seen that we have advertised for new concessions and as you will have noticed, big firms will never apply for running a transport system, and I have said this in "Telling the Nation" that the people who have undertaken to run the buses are people who have started out with one bus and as the years rolled by have been able to increase their fleet. I do not want in a debate which has been going so good to attack the Opposition, but the buses that the Transport Board inherited have been a millstone around our necks, not in the sense that a Government if it is a socialist Government should not be prepared to subsidise the transport system, I make no apology for that, but what I am saying is that the uninitiated and the non-socialist, when they hear the amounts we have got to put in the buses, consider it as a millstone around our necks.

I will give you an idea of the situation with the Transport Board which is supposed to be Government. The condition of the fleet of buses which are on the road today – this will interest you as a matter of information – the concession for the Transport Board requires the use of 121 buses detailed as follows, and I am giving you the Government's side of it so that you will have an idea of what the private people would have to do, 81 service buses, 32 school buses and 8 spare buses. That is what the concession calls for. The present strength and age of the Transport Board's fleet is as follows:

12 buses 20 to 24 years old,

14 buses 13 years old – one type 1957 A.E.C. model diesel

20 buses 13 years old – model Albion

12 model Leyland, 13 years old

8 1957 model Mercedes, 13 years old

6 1958-60 model diesel driven Bedfords, 10 to 12 years old

3 1958-60 model gasolene driven Bedfords, 10 to 12 years old

9 1960 model Leyland diesel driven, 10 years old

We only have ten buses, 1958-68 model diesel driven Bedfords, two to four years, and twenty 1960-68 model Leyland two to four years old, so you see this makes a total of 114 buses of which 20 are less than 10 years old, so you can see that there has got to be a massive infusion or it cannot survive. This is what I am inheriting, I have taken up the Ministry and this is the present state of the fleet, so when I come in here asking you for money to get the workers to work I am being frank and blunt with you. I have given you the present state of the fleet of buses which I inherited when I took up the Ministry.

This is the Government side of it, I am not talking about the Rocklyn or Elite Bus Companies, I am talking about the Government which is supposed to have money in the Treasury in the Consolidated Fund and can buy buses, this is their position with their fleet in contradistinction to private enterprise. I am carrying out now with the Transport Board and with the Ministry of Finance a complete survey of the best bus system that this country can afford, whether we could keep small buses for a three-to-four mile area around the City, whether we should really buy more big buses, how we should organise, minibuses included, the entire

transport system of the country. The minibuses, as much as they are serving the country, admit this, are also removing revenue from the concessionaires, so it is a vicious circle cutting both ways. You allow them to run, but they are collecting revenue fast because they do not have to run every hour or every half hour because they just run and turn back, they are stopping the legitimate revenue which the bus owners will need to improve their fleet from going into the pockets of the bus owners, so the bus owners are saying they cannot buy new buses because the minibuses are taking away the revenue on which we could project a future development of our bus service. Do you see the millstone around our necks? I am going to work it out, it is not beyond me, I have the ability, thank God, and the ability and the initiative and the interest, I think, with the technical and economic advisers of Government, to come up with a solution however unpalatable. All I ask the hon. members of this Committee to do is to give us time to do the economics of it, to investigate it thoroughly, because this system unless it is properly organised within a few months – and advertisements for new concessions close on 30th June – and therefore we have got to do something about it. There will be a lot of dialogue between now and then, a solution has got to be found for the present state of transport in this country.

Last year we acquired 23 new Sedden Pennyne buses, and of course you will find that even with these the revenue for December and January only increased by 5% over the period when we did not have them. I am prepared to use the surgeon's knife if it comes to meeting the demands and satisfying the taxpayers, so that minibuses that are legitimately on the road have nothing to fear, we can absorb them. We have licensed about 68 or thereabouts, about 130 are running, and I do not want the Government to get the blame for this, a lot of people say and will say that by restricting them or not giving them licences we are trying to stop people from earning their daily bread. In January last year the Cabinet decided to license every single bus, there were only about ten at the time, and the Government decided to license everyone that was running at the date when the Cabinet took its decision, and we issued a Press Release warning people that we would license all to that particular date but none after that date because we have to protect the legitimate concessionaires. I think the hon. member for Christ Church West is the legal adviser to one or two of them, and he would know that they are losing thousands and thousands of dollars in revenue because of the minibuses, and we issued a statement so they cannot say the Government is unfair. This is a copy of the Press Release which states:

> "In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 22(a) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, 1952 as amended, ten permits have been granted to owners of pickups and similar vehicles to carry limited numbers of passengers on conditions determined by the Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Communications and Works.
>
> These ten permits expire on 31st January, 1971. New permits will be issued for a period of six months with effect from 1st February, 1971. Owners of these ten vehicles and all other presently operating similar passenger carrying vehicles should immediately apply to the Chief Technical Director who will determine the conditions on which the permits will be granted. No permits will be granted in respect of vehicles which are not now used for the transport of vehicles."

This is the Press Release issued in 1971, so anybody who buys after that buys with notice, and he cannot accuse this Government of trying to stop him from earning a living. Then in the Advocate-News dated 29th January, 1971 under the heading "New Permits to be issued" this same restriction and information appears for the benefit of the persons who were interested, so people must be fair. We gave them full warning, because you have to be fair to everybody. A bus alone costs $38,000 and the price is rising daily. We have got some buses which we have to pay $38,000 for the bodies put on in London which you can see for Mrs. Rock and Mr. Trotman is a big piece of change, and we warned them that after that date there will be no more permits, except perhaps for replacements. We have been a bit liberal on replacements, that is, if you were running before that date and you buy a new one consequently we give you another one, but they were warned. Do not let them run around now and accuse this Government of all sorts of things, I am not giving any permit to anybody who does not conform to this Cabinet decision which I agree with.

Day in and day out I have received letters from the concessionaires saying they do not know if they can continue the concessions. Apart from the fact that the concessionaires always ran into trouble on getting a company since the Government increased the unlimited liability – as the hon. member for Christ Church West would know, they could scarcely get anybody to insure them at all, and only by accident and by the

co-operation of the member for Christ Church West and the bus companies we managed to keep buses running here after 1st February – so this will give you some idea of the problems they have.

The whole transport system, as the member for St. Michael West said, is undergoing an intensive study with the Ministry of Finance, because I do not think that we can go on in this piecemeal patchwork fashion to solve the transportation problem of Barbados. We have to find some way of putting the fleet and organising it rather than coming into the House year after year asking to vote money for something that is losing money. I am not satisfied with it, and I can give the hon. members the assurance that something will have to be done. They say that the Ministry of Communications and Works is the graveyard of politicians. If it has to be my graveyard then I am going down fighting with my boots on. I am certainly going to do my best, because I realise the importance of it to the community, I realise the working classes need it, I realise that the minibuses are doing a useful service, and as I say I have no intention of taking them off, because even with a well-run bus service there is room for them in certain areas from time to time.
5.50 p.m.

I intend, perhaps it may not be the best solution, but to err is human, to forgive is divine, to do my best to see that the taxpayers' money is best directed in this very important Ministry.

Now, I must report that the staffing position of the Ministry of Communications and Works is improving. We are getting more Architects and Engineers. I shall deal briefly with the question of the workshop. Three years passed before we were able to get an Assistant to the Mechanical Engineer. The Mechanical Engineer himself is an old man in his 60's, and for three years he had to work alone before we could get a younger man to assist him. When one considers the salaires they are paying Engineers in Barbados today, those who work in my Ministry must be dedicated. If they had any independence or any authority at all they could get a lot more than they are getting in the Ministry.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Chairman. The Quantity Surveyor, whom the hon. member for St. Peter mentioned, was getting a salary of $900 a month as a full-time Quantity Surveyor. He formed his own firm, and he is getting $600 a month for 10 hours a week part time. He is now getting $50 an hour for 10 hours per week. For 40 hours he is getting $600 when he had to work normally 160 hours to get $900 a month. I think the Prime Minister has got the message as Minister responsible for Establishment. There are a lot of areas for professional and technical people, and, unless you make the conditions of service attractive for them, you will never get efficient people coming to serve in this very important Ministry. When it comes to a Quantity Surveyor, who has to cost buildings, a lot of money can go down the drain easily. If I have to do it myself it will cost nine times more, because I would have to save myself from embarrassment by making it too much rather than too little. That is what has been happening to the Ministry. We need Quantity Surveyors. Thank Heavens we have some young fellows trained who are not Quantity Surveyors, but they have been able to absorb certain things during the time they were working with the Quantity Surveyor. If you do not have a Quantity Surveyor on a project, you can be taken down the drain not by stealing but from the fact that you do not have the expert knowledge. Do you think that Cave Shepherd would put up a building without having a Quantity Surveyor? Do you think that DaCosta & Mussons would put up a building without a Quantity Surveyor? The Engineers are not to blame; they do their best, but the Ministry has a reputation for either coming to Parliament too often, or to come into Parliament when they have misjudged or miscalculated and get the criticism which, basically, is deserving but which in the present circumstances is really not the fault of anybody in the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I want hon. members to understand what has been happening. We have been called from time to time to calculate the cost of buildings on preliminary drawings. The Minister of Education wants a school by September; the Minister of Health wants a wing to a hospital or a clinic; we have to get preliminary drawings and give them figures to come to you. We should have been planning that school or clinic a year ahead and work out the cost properly, but for one reason or another the Ministry of Communications and Works is the magician of the Ministries of the Barbados Government. The Ministry has to come out with a plan to say that it will cost $25,000 or $30,000 on preliminary drawings.
6.00 p.m.

Usually we have to come with plans for roughly $25,000 or $30,000 on preliminary drawings, with no costings and no quantity survey. We should be in a position in the Ministry of Communications to know what the Government's three, four or five year plan is and start now planning for buildings we are going to put up in 1973 or 1974, rather than having to start buildings

that we are erecting in the financial year 1972-73. This is how people do it in big countries where you have technical people, so when we come with a supplementary for $X, it is not the fault of the Minister; it is that originally we were called upon either in the speed and heat of the moment or because some Ministry wanted something to calculate on drawings which no respectable architect or engineer would tell his client is the cost of his building. Do you think that Cave Shepherd is putting up a building on preliminary drawings? Would you build a house on preliminary drawings saying this would cost you $60,000? You have to do it when you are speeding up and keeping a Ministry and a Government going and providing employment for people, because you have not got the time to sit down and plan for years ahead. Thank heavens the professional position in the Ministry is improving, and I think we might some day reach the point where we can meet that ideal and proper way of approaching the spending of taxpayers' money. In the meantime we cannot do it, and you will get supplementaries for things, not that anybody stole the money, but because under the present context in which we are forced to operate this is how it has been done and I imagine we will be called upon to do it from time to time. This is not ideal, and I wish to heavens that we had the staff that we could properly plan.

Let us take the bridge at St. Andrew. Do you think that since the floods in 1970 a bridge on a main road had any right not being connected or rebuilt? Why we are not building a bridge from Brooklyn to Japan. I hope to start construction early in the new financial year. This is 1972 and you have to go around that place and the Minister of Agriculture is always telling me that you will get accidents around there. It is not that we are unaware, but these are problems which from time to time we will have to solve.

Now with regard to overtime, I am not satisfied, but it is accepted that we are not getting maximum production for the money we are spending. I get complaints from people all over the Island. I am not promising anybody to leave sitting in a nice air-conditioned office at the Pine and go pimping behind anybody in First Avenue Harts Gap or First Avenue somewhere. That is not my job as a Minister. I go in Halls Road not to pimp but to see that the machinery there is working and the people are getting the roads that I promised them when I ran in 1971. That is a different thing. I am not satisfied and I am putting up plans for the tightening up of the financial position in the Ministry, because apart from the fact that the Government itself suffers from a dearth of public accountants - I am not accusing anybody - I think that a Ministry that spends the money which my Ministry spends calls for tighter financial controls for vetting the work tickets and work sheets and documents which justfy payment to workers, and I hope in the new year with the assistance of the Auditor General or somebody to be able to tighten up financial control both on overtime and on the entire auditing of the accounts in the Ministry. I am not saying that anybody has stolen anything. Far be it from me, but I feel we spend too much money of the taxpayers. It is $8 million and apart from the Chief Accountant who is doing a very good job, we have two qualified or half-qualified accountants. Do you think a Bank would spend $8 million with the type of auditing staff and accounting staff that we have? Do you imagine any reputable organisation spending $8 million without a double A.C? Do you think any Ministry should spend that money with the type of non-qualified accounting staff we have? You have to view our performance in the light of the tools we have to work with. *(Asides)* I would go all the way with you, but you see we have the Civil Service type of increments inherited from the British which we do not seem keen to change and that is also causing a problem.

Mr. Chairman, we are hoping to tighten up the financial control. The question of overtime is a matter which I shall draw to the Chief Accountant's knowledge for him to give me a report on it, and to see whether the allegations made by the hon. member do justify a greater curb in that. We are building a new workshop at the Pine and we hope to move in some time soon, and I hope that the workshop will be used to take on more apprentices and teach them more about mechanical engineering. I wrote to the Deputy Director of Construction and asked when we would be able to move into the place and he told me the end of January. I rang him in the third week and he said a little longer. I rang him in the middle of February and he said there was a little hitch, and I rang him a few days ago and he said possibly the end of March. Now you can rest assured I cannot build it myself. I know a column from a beam, but the construction of it is beyond me. They do their best but problems occur. *(Asides)* I will deal with the aside raised by the hon. member. We are building a new workshop so that we can expand and try to do the work of the Ministry with greater ease, and with greater comfort. We have got another mechanical engineer, a young man, and he seems very keen, and I hope he will be able to improve and keep a tighter look on the workshop as is humanly possible. If people are honest and dedicated there will be very little problems, but you are dealing with human beings, and it is a pity to say that basically all human beings do not like work. If you can get $1 million a day without working, you would be an idiot to

work. I would be an idiot to work except to keep the brain ticking over; and a lot of people do jobs in which they have no interest; they just do it because they cannot do something else; so you start out with these two basic disadvantages. Circumstances force people into jobs which they do not like. Ninety percent of the world's population are forced to do jobs they do not like, and the other 10 percent may get the jobs they like; so we start out in a work Ministry, apart from the educational and intellectual level of the workers, at a greater disadvantage than most Ministries in this country, and so our task is immeasurably greater. So with respect to drainage, I do hope the experts come and that they expedite their reports so that we can do a complete survey from Speightstown to the end of the South coast and so alleviate the problems which have arisen.

On the question of flags flying tattered, that is not a matter for the Minister, but one would expect any self-respecting Head of Department, if he arrives in the morning and knows that a flag is flying on a flag pole, he would look up and make sure it is not upside down as has happened on the Public Buildings or tattered or torn. I have had an occasion to ring a Department where I saw a flag tattered and torn and say that never again as long as I am Minister let me see a flag torn; let it be without a flag, but I expect him as Head of a Department to have that flag flying untattered and untorn. I must say I got his cooperation. People must have a sense of pride not only in the national anthem but in the flag. You would not see that happening to the Union Jack, otherwise somebody would be called to the Colonial Secretary's Office upstairs and he would either lose some increments or he would be cringing on his knees and begging for a chance not to be fired.
6.10 p.m.

The question of vehicles. There will be a new Road Traffic Act this year, and I am going to demand that every vehicle on the road gets a certificate of fitness. We are building a new examination depot, we will have to increase our staff, and every single vehicle – except it is exempted because it has just come out of the garage – will have to get a certificate of fitness before it is licensed by the Licensing Authority. The whole question of examination of vehicles will come up in the new Road Traffic Act which is going to see to it that the suitability of vehicles on the road will not endanger human life. Naturally they will have to pay a fee for such examination, and I hope that the fee will be based either on horse power or on the type of vehicle. The staff will have to be increased, the new examination depot will soon be ready, and I hope that it will not only be providing more employment for competent Inspectors but that it will also ensure that people drive proper vehicles on the road.

The question of road signs. There is no doubt that the road signs in Barbados are probably worst than those in many other civilised countries. You do not know one village from the other, you do not know one parish from the other, and this is one thing I feel very strongly on and I am getting the corporation of my technical officers. I am going to name not only villages but parishes as well and show distinctions. I am even going to tell the Minister of Tourism to put up signs so that the tourists will remember to drive on the left. I must also say that in many respects I am getting the cooperation of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the signs are being painted and we will welcome comments as to whether they are decorous or ugly from any member of the community in due course, but we are going to name villages. The signs will read "You are now entering Fitts Village" or "You are now approaching Carlton" so that people will have an idea of where they are according to the road maps.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, just let me stop the Minister one moment. When you go north along Highway I, just by the Lazaretto there is a sign which reads "You are now entering St. James", and at the bottom of the Lazaretto Hill when you are travelling south there is another sign which reads "You are now entering St. Michael". Looking at those two signs there is an area of "no man's land" in between. How are you going to correct a situation like this?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: This is not difficult, we are going to get a piece of blue, yellow or purple chalk or paint and put it where it is. The English is right, "you are now entering" meaning you are now about to enter.

Mr. HINDS: I do not think the wording on this particular sign St. James–St. Michael tells you that you are now entering, it leaves someone in doubt. Further north it is quite clear.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The position is that some of the signs will have to be placed on dangerous bends, so we must take into account where we will put them so that somebody will be able to see them well in advance. We do not want anybody as a result of an accident around these bends to go before a Magistrate and say he was looking at the sign and that caused him to be involved in an accident. The reason for that is that it is a dangerous bend and we prefer you to see it well in advance to prevent any accidents.

Mr. ADAMS: If the Minister will give way for a moment, I am interested to hear these reasons. I

am very interested in this parish boundary question, as I said earlier in the Estimates, because it will be found that the official map of Barbados which is down at the Archives, based upon the admiralty survey of the 1880's, is at variance with certain of the parish boundaries as set out in the new 1 in 50,000 maps. It will be found, for example, that the boundary between St. Thomas and St. James in the official map at the Archives is dead in the middle of Reeves Hill Road, and it will be found that this boundary to which both hon. members are referring is put in a slightly different position on the Archives map from the position on which it is put on the modern map, and I have heard somebody obviously mistaken give the explanation that you enter St. Michael according to the Archives and you enter St. James according to the modern survey.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I have said, the reason is that in a case like that particular bend where the boundary crosses a dangerous bend we want to put it where you can see it and concentrate on getting around that bend until such time as we hope to widen the road at that particular point.

I am very grateful to the member for Christ Church West for his initiative and interest in trying to get persons to donate land. This is the problem with us. In Barbados, as long as the Government is involved we have to buy land, nobody gives you anything at all, and when we take the money as you will see in the Estimates, $50,000, not even so much next year for land acquisition, we scarcely have any money left for road improvement, but I would welcome any public spirited citizens offering land in dangerous curves – and there are quite a few – and if you are generous enough to give land, then you might rate priority because of your generosity unless you are competing with a more dangerous curve. As I said, I welcome his initiative in trying to get persons to give up land for the widening of roads, and I dealt with this question already. Barbados was not built for the type of traffic it has, Barbados was never planned, it was planned for donkey carts and the big master in his old buggy coming from the country to play down at the Bridgetown Club. This is why it is not a question of the hot mix not standing up, it is that the roads on which you put the hot mix were never constructed for the volume of traffic which flows on them, and so the roads give way which affects the hot mix. I was wondering about this same problem, and the Engineers assured me that it was not the hot mix, it is that the roads were never built for the amount of cars that flow on them day by day, and naturally if the base is disrupted, automatically it affects the hot mix which is on top.

The question of hire of plant. We hire plant to people from time to time, and we even have a policy on Barber-Greening yards. If the cost is over $5,000 then you can get the use of the Barber-Green machine, if it is under $5,000 you can get the use of the Barber-Green machine but only when it is in the area from which the request comes, that is, if we are Barber-Greening at Atlantic Shores and you are asking under $5,000 you will have to wait until the Barber-Greene machine is in the area, but if it is over that you can apply, pay in your money and you can hire the plant or any other piece of machinery. We have certain rates laid down, the figure in the Estimates is just to pay the driver of the tractor, and of course we have to put gasolene and diesel and other things in the engine. It is revenue earning, but the amount in the Estimates is to pay for labour, the driver and to pay for petrol. That is being reviewed in due course.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it would be an interesting exercise to read what the hon. member for St. Thomas, the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. James, the hon. member for Christ Church West, the hon. member for St. Peter, and the hon. member for St. Joseph and so on asked for in here. I am being deluged day in day out by requests, not only from representatives, but from citizens in the community who either come or write to the Minister even without the knowledge of their representatives. I want to make a plea. You must be tolerant. Those who have priorities, regardless of parish or where they live, will get what they are to get.

With regard to the Lighting Programme, hon. members can forget that for the moment. Since October the Ministry of Communications and Works has not had one light. The lights were ordered. As I said, earlier last year was a peculiar year; the workmen were working faster than in the previous year, and more lights and poles were put up than in the previous year. Consequently, they ran out of lights last year. I have instructed and requested the Light & Power Company to send in their request for more lights now while we are waiting on the new lights. I have requested that a similar amount of lights be ordered so that we will not be caught in the same position in which we were last year.

Now, individual questions were asked by various members. With regard to the Crushing Plants at Prospect and Chance Hall, I am advised that they were closed because they were unecomomic. That is what I have been told, and I have not checked it out with the file. I am told that we never had an offer from anybody to purchase them. If the offer is still forthcoming and there is anything to be sold, I will investigate the

matter and see whether I can get Cabinet approval for recouping, at least, some of the money involved in the establishment of the plants. I am also advised that the Plant at Mangrove is capable of producing the majority portion of the crushed materials which are needed for projects by the Ministry of Communications and Works, but certain things are still being purchased from private contractors in view of the cost of transportation necessary to remove or to carry stuff from Mangrove to the northern parishes of the Island. This is what I have been told is the position, but I will investigate it myself now that it has been drawn to my attention in order to make sure that it is still possible to salvage, on behalf of the taxpayers, anything from this.

The hon. member for Christ Church West, supported by his colleague from Christ Church East, has given me a list of roads which I will have investigated by the Technical Section of the Ministry, and I will see how some of them – I cannot promise everything – will be fitted into the new Road Programme which I will be drawing up in another few weeks. Rock Hall will also be included in due course, and it will take its place in the priority list together with the other projects from hon. members.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Sir, I want to make it abundantly clear that Rock Hall Road was in that position from something like 1967, and it must have first priority.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If it is from 1967, then it will have a chance of being fairly high on the list of road projects for 1972-73. He has no fear unless he finds somebody who is on before 1967. I think he will have a good chance of making the team, if his request has been as long as he says. Springhead will receive very urgent consideration. It will be investigated and costed, and, since the hon. member has not been avaricious to ask for the whole thing, I will endeavour to give something this year with a possibility of something else before 1980.

Mr. HINDS: You have had the cost of Nicholls' Road at Indian Ground, St. Peter, for a long time, and we should like to hear something about it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: My technical officers are making notes, but if you would drop me a line on this matter and relate it to any request that has been sent in before, I will go into the matter. This is the first time I have gone into this Ministry, and, if you send me the information, it will be dealt with. The hon. member for St. Joseph has mentioned Spa Hill and that will also be noted.

Now, I will deal in greater detail with the question of water. The member for St. Michael West has dealt with the need for a subsidy and the need for dealing with transport on a national, rational, sensible basis. I should like to assure him that that is what I propose to do, and I hope I will get the co-operation of everybody in trying to reach a proper and sensible solution. I have my own ideas on whom the Transport Board carries and whom the system carries to work, and I have my own ideas who should finance it, but I am not the Minister of Finance. I have my own ideas of how I would get money. It carries workers to work and the workers' money should be able to contribute to the financing of it. That is another matter, and that will be considered in the overall context of the financing of this project.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think, attempted to praise the Hon. Minister of Health in an attempt to avoid praising the Minister of Communications and Works. I am not so much concerned with that; I am primarily concerned that I, as Minister of Communications and Works, am called upon to deal with the basic needs of the majority of people in this community. Furthermore, every time you wake up every day of your life, you come in contact with something that falls under the portfolio of the Ministry of Communications and Works. When you wake up in the morning to go to clean your teeth, or to boil your tea, you have to use water and that comes under Communications and Works. If you have to walk to work, use a bicycle or use a car, you have to travel on a road built by the Ministry of Communications and Works. When you pick up your telephone to ring your friends or to do business – it is the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that he is in charge of the Barbados Telephone Company as well?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You will be surprised. It is a private company, but somebody has to be responsible for it. If the public cannot get telephone they must be in a position to make representations to somebody, and I have done this successfully, whether it is under me or not. I must say that I have had meetings with the Telephone Company and they have also co-operated in meeting demands ...

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister give us the assurance that when our telephones are not ringing, we can write to him and he will get them done for us,

whether we live in St. Michael South Central or not?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If you find that I have such good relationship with the management of the Telephone Company, I will look into the matter if you have any complaints. After all, the Government pays the Company the most money in this country. Is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition suggesting that you can have a Company operating in Barbados causing confusion and nobody is responsible for them? I will explain to the Leader of the Opposition how I am responsible in that we are establishing in the Ministry of Communications and Works an Inter-telecommunication Unit. We have at the moment two Experts who are drafting legislation and advising the Government on the establishment of this Inter-telecommunication Unit within the Ministry of Communications and Works, and we are going to bring down new legislation dealing with wireless, telegraphy and all aspects of communication including the telephone communication in this country. This is how I am involved in that at the moment we are in the process of establishing an Inter-telecommunication Unit dealing with all means of communication internal and external.

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, this Ministry comes in contact with citizens and, naturally, it is the Ministry which is likely to get the greatest degree of criticism. If we service all the roads in the Island and one man's car spring gets broken, there is the complaint that that road is bad.
6.30 p.m.

If we service every pipe in this country and one man cannot get the Waterworks to come promptly, the whole system is condemned although we have over 46,000 people getting the service. We are dealing with individuals who demand these basic necessities and every single person whether walking or driving is a potential complainant who can write to Our Readers Say or to the Minister and give the impression that the entire system is useless.

We are continuing our tenantry road and subsidiary road programmes and highway improvement, and we are going to try and keep all the main roads in as good a condition as possible. Wherever possible we are going to widen the roads as we have just done in Bay Street but there again, to widen the road at Bay Street we had to acquire properties from Wellington Street right past the garage, and you know how much land in Bay Street is being sold for at this particular time. Barbados was never built for this modern traffic and these are our problems. If you widen certain roads you have to go through the drawing rooms and kitchens of some of the houses, and if some people apply to alter or repair their houses, I cannot see in Hastings some of the people being told by the Town and country Planner that they must push back the houses because they would end up in the sea. We have to do this on a patchwork basis unless and until we can do it on a proper basis.

We have just received a preliminary report on a Bridgetown transportation study which is being done by a firm of English Specialists, Wallace Evans and Company. We have also just received from this same firm a report on the spine road which is incorporated in the Physical Development Plan, and this is being studied along with the report of the Judge who sat on discussions on the Physical Development Plan and with the technical and other officers in the Government like the Town Planner, the Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning Unit. It is three volumes, so do not expect any magic. As soon as we have been able to study it and study the financial implications of it, then we will be able to see whether we can finance it, and how soon we can phase it in order to improve the traffic situation in Barbados which is becoming chaotic. Do not let anybody fool you. Roads alone cannot do it, and I take this opportunity as Minister to appeal to all people who have a lethal weapon in their hands in the form of a car to exercise some care and consideration accepting the circumstances in which we have got to drive. *(Asides)*All the questions of road widening, bus stops and what-have-you will receive the consideration of the Ministry. As I said, we have to do it on a patchwork basis, especially the main roads, according to the money we have. I cannot promise you to look only at Highway 1, because if somebody is fixing a house on another highway and is pushing back his house because the Town Planner makes him, it would be easier. You have to do this on the basis of how it can be done without having to spend too much money on land acquisition.

I asked the Prime Minister for very good reason to place Natural Gas under the Ministry of Communications and Works because I want to inconvenience the public as little as possible with the constant diggings-up that they want, so that as far as I am concerned, I have got Natural Gas and Water which have got to go under the earth, and I have tried to established with the Light and Power Co. and the Telephone Co. a synchronisation of our plans to cause as little disruption as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I like to be frank. I believe that when you are spending taxpayers' money you must be frank and honest with the taxpayers. You must let them know what your problems are, how you

are trying to solve them and ask for their understanding. When you are spending your own money you can burn it, you can gamble with it, you can give it to prostitutes, but I am the sworn foe of any man, knowing how hard it is on the people in this community to exist, who can toy and play around with the taxpayers' money or waste it or spend it idly. I have not attacked anybody. I know where the weak points in my Ministry are, I have appealed to them for cooperation and I will get it because I am that type of person. I am going to be fair to them, I will look after their interests, I will protect them against political or any form of victimisation, and I ask in return that as Minister directing the Ministry I get their wholehearted cooperation.

There may be one or two matters in detail that I may have ignored, but if any hon. member does desire an answer I hope to answer it, but I do hope that in view of the length of the debate that members will be satisfied with my sincerity and my desire to try to solve the problems that fall under my portfolio. Again I would like to say how grateful I am for the understanding and tolerance shown by the Opposition and my colleagues in the administering of what is a very vital Ministry, the first Ministry I have ever had since I have returned to Barbados, because you probably know I was Attorney General without being Minister of anything. So when you say I have been demoted, I have been promoted because it is the first Ministry I have ever had if you look at the Official Gazette; so I do hope the question of being demoted is answered because for the first time under the Constitution I am the Minister of Communications and Works.

The question that the sum of $8,010,469 under Head 32 – Ministry of Communications and Works – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

HEAD 33 – WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Head 33 – Waterworks Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,061,498 under Head 33 – Waterworks Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there still exists the problem of people desiring water services going to the Department and tendering their money and it is not being received. There are some cases still where people have paid in their money over a considerable length of time and cannot get their services connected. I would certainly like to hear if anything is being done to bring the necessary relief to these people. There is a case which I have been bringing to the attention of the Government year after year and it is a pitiable sight that at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2 in St. Peter people are solely dependent upon water borne to them by motor lorry. I am appealing to the Government to do something to relieve the poor people and quench the thirst of the people at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2.

6. 40 p.m.

Could it be possible, Mr. Chairman, that to pump the water up the hill could be beyond the technical ability of the engineering staff of the Waterworks Department? I say no, nor can it be beyond the capacity of the Government or the other taxpayers of this country to provide the money to provide the people at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2 with a little pipe-borne water. I came to this House in 1966 and both in 1966 and 1967 I drew it to the attention of Government that the pipes at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2 when you turn the tap all you get is a lot of coughing, and this has been going on year after year, whether in the crop season, rainfall period or whatever. I am asking the Government, since 1967 when it was drawn to their attention, if any survey has been carried out and what have they done about it.

I suggested to Government, and I tried here to point out that if you attempted to connect Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2, it might be a means of bringing light and water to the area at one time. This is with a view to improving the amenities of the people of the district. The people at the Mount get sick at times, and I am sure the Minister must know that the intermittent supply of water is one that can bring about more waste than anything else, because if you know that the motor lorry is coming at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning, everybody is going to dispose of what they have as soon as they see the lorry comes, to get a fresh supply. They are not going to keep stale water on their premises and allow a lorry to come and bring supposedly fresh water and continue to keep water from the day before, so every time the motor lorry comes they are going to get fresh supplies of water. I am appealing to the Government, Mr. Chairman, to do something. At least let it appear to the people at Mount No. 1 and Mount No. 2 that something is being done to relieve them of their situation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member will give way, his appeal has not fallen on deaf ears, in another few months I will put in a tank at the

Mount to hold 25,000 gallons, along with that a new booster pump, and I hope to start building a reservoir at Rock Hall, St. Peter which will hold half million gallons and which will assist considerably. It is going to be a steel tank reservoir which we have ordered from Canada, and this should assist the condition of the people. This is planned, and some time around the middle of the year the problem will be alleviated somewhat.

Mr. HINDS: I am a bit relieved to hear this, because I want to trust this Minister. There is a situation at Ashton Hall where the people who live at Reservoir Gap cannot get a supply of water. I want the Minister to know that I do not get water as often as I would like to get it at Ashton Hall, and if I am only a visitor to Ashton Hall and suffer, so much more those people who reside there permanently. I am sure that the Waterworks Department has had complaints from residents at Millionaire Road that it is a small problem which needs just a bit of attention, and the situation as far as I understand it could easily be remedied where Millionaire Road and Reservoir Gap are concerned, and I would like to see the Government do something not to allow these conditions to remain as they have been for past years. Do something, and now, and let the people have reasons to feel that they are living like anybody else.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The matter will receive my immediate attention. I am sure that the Chief Engineer was not aware of it, but I shall see to it personally that immediate consideration is given to this matter.

Mr. HINDS: With that, Mr. Chairman, this Head may now pass.

The question that the sum of $3,061,498 under Head 33 – Waterworks Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 – ELECTRICAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

Head 34 – Electrical Inspection Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $78,561 under Head 34 – Electrical Inspection Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Government Electrical Inspection Department is responsible for servicing the traffic lights we have throughout St. Michael. There is something radically wrong with the whole system. As I understand it, when the lights are working they work on some fixed time basis which is not proving to be satisfactory. They have not been operating along the lines for which they were imported – perhaps I am not as familiar with all of this as I really ought to be – but nevertheless, when the Police were responsible for the servicing of these traffic lights it was a better idea and the travelling public was better served. As one knows, the lights are mechanically operated and they can become faulty like anything else at any time. When the Police were responsible for servicing them, at a moment's notice the Police would hasten to the scene and do everything possible to repair them.

6.50 p.m.

They would force a policeman to assist in the direction of traffic until the lights were back in service, and the service staff of the police would be on the scene as quickly as possible to remedy any defects. That is not the case nowadays. From the time that the Government Electrical Inspectors Department took over the responsibility for the servicing of these traffic lights there has been nothing but anxiety on the part of the travelling public, vehicular and pedestrian alike, when these lights stop functioning. When a driver approaches one of these stop lights and the light has stuck, there is a long waiting period and traffic from both points are at a loss to know what to do. I am sure that, if the police were asked to present us with the number of accidents that occured in the vicinity of these traffic lights when the lights stop functioning since the Electrical Inspectors Department has taken over the operation of these lights, it would treble the amount that occurred in the areas when the police had the sole responsibility for servicing the lights.

Mr. Chairman, it is a very bad arrangement, because it must be remembered that at 4.30 p.m. or whatever time it might be the officers in the Electrical Inspectors Department will close the office and go home, and it is not as easy to get in contact with them as it would be to contact the Police Department. Whether or not they are paid overtime for coming out to do extra work, they cannot be expected to act as swiftly as the police whose responsibility for traffic it really is. The Electrical Inspectors will come, perhaps, when it suits them, but that is not the case with the police. I should like to know that an arrangement can be made whereby the servicing of these lights and the management of them will be handed back to the Police Department, because members of the public are suffering too badly as a result of the present arrangement.

I see here at Item 8 that there is provision for temporary staff, and it would be good if the

Minister could tell us whether it is due to the taking over and management of these lights that it is necessary to employ temporary staff. I refer to the Electrical Assistants. In any case, nobody is satisfied with the way the lights are working at the present moment, and the sooner the situation is remedied the better it will be for all concerned.

Mr. FORDE: Sir, before the Minister answers the particular question, we should at this point make some observations which we trust will be helpful to the Minister, unless he has already himself noticed them or had them drawn to his attention. I think yesterday under the Head of Fire Service quite a considerable lot of attention was drawn to the dangers of fire, and it strikes us on this side that the time has come for the Department to have a regular annual or semi-annual inspection of premises. We know that, in relation to new installations, they must satisfy the Ministry that they are conforming with the standards laid down in the Regulations, but particularly in the City of Bridgetown there are many buildings which are very old, some of which are having repairs done piecemeal, and we believe that some of these are posing a tremendous traffic hazard. We should like to draw to the attention of the Minister that we think the Regulations should be updated, and, if necessary, the relevant establishment should be set up to deal with this problem.

Before I sit down, Sir, may we also say that we have appreciated the candour with which the Minister has treated this Committee and we, for our part from this side, will co-operate as far as we can with him. I think it is a good thing to see such candour and frankness in a debate. I know we are far enough from 1976 and we are not yet at the hustings, and if we get this candour from both sides, then the going will be much better, much cleaner, and overall much happier for all of us.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the member for Christ Church West. The point he has raised is a very good one. Since the fire, I have instructed the administrative officers – since the Hon. Leader of the Opposition says it does not call for much intelligence – to advise me as to whether there is any law which gives the Minister power to demand the inspection of buildings. I know what the position is, but I am not being paid as a lawyer; I am paid as the Minister of Communications and Works, and it is for the Attorney General to do those functions.

I agree with the hon. member that we must have more frequent inspections of buildings, some of which are very old, and which have wires knocking all around the place. We are trying to increase the staff at the Department not only because of the need to inspect, but because more people are putting in electricity in their houses and, therefore, the need for people to have prompt inspection to have their lights turned on is increasing. I know that people have to wait too long to have their houses inspected, and the current turned on. Consequently, the increase in staff will have to meet this growing and quite commendable demand.

With regard to the traffic lights, I think it is accepted that anything mechanical or engineering can go bad at any time. I do not think the fault lies in the changeover, but it is a question of staff. I myself have seen some of these things, and I have asked the Electrical Engineer to keep a constant team of persons ready, willing and able to remedy any faults, and that he must answer calls from any complaining motorist or persons immediately and promptly in the area of street lights. It is not the changeover which is giving the trouble, but it is that these things happen at very awkward hours. I myself have had to go through a red traffic light which had stuck about two or three o'clock in the morning. These things will happen; anything mechanical will go bad, and I promise to give a better service in the future.

The question that the sum of $78,561 under Head 34 – Electrical Inspection Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(1) ADMINISTRATION

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (1) Administration – was called.

7 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, it may well be that this is an appropriate time to suspend for supper.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if we can deal with the Civil Establishment Order since it is very short.

The Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972" has been laid in Parliament.

The Order provides for adjustments to the establishment structure of the undermentioned Ministries at a total cost of $15,600 per annum.

(a) Prime Minister's Office

(iii) Establishments Division

The transfer of one supernumerary post of Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of External Affairs to Establishments Division.

This is one of the supernumerary posts retained on the establishment in order to accommodate officers on secondment to the Diplomatic Service or to Statutory Boards.

It is considered that all such posts should be shown under the Establishments Division for purposes of administrative control.

(vi) Defence and Security

The establishment of a post of Permanent Secretary at a salary of $14,400 per annum.

It is proposed to set up a Defence Force in the near future. As a first step an officer at the level of Permanent Secretary is required to assume administrative responsibility for matters pertaining to defence and security.

(b) Ministry of External Affairs

The upgrading of one post of Permanent Secretary $14,400 to $15,600 per annum.

The Permanent Secretary (Headquarters) in the Ministry of External Affairs exercises administrative control over diplomatic personnel of and above the salary level of Permanent Secretary in the Overseas Missions. The proposed upgrading is designed to give recognition to his position *vis-a-vis* such personnel.

This is just regularising the Civil Service and bringing it in line with the needs of the time.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, perhaps we misled the Leader of the House a little bit on this because I do not think you can ask hon. members to pass it in a vacuum. It is known that Major Headley is to be appointed to the new post of Defence and Security with the position of a Permanent Secretary; it is also known that Mr. Carlisle Burton is to be appointed to the Head of the Civil Service, that there is a certain shifting around of Permanent Secretaries, and that Mr. Williams is to have his salary increased by $100 a month at the Ministry of External Affairs. I may know these things, but I am not sure if all hon. members know them. I understand it is already in this evening's Democrat, and since it has been brought to my attention that not all hon. members on this side are familiar with these changes, I would ask the Minister to let us take dinner now, let him make an announcement after dinner as to what the various governmental changes are, because we have been in the House all day, we may not have had access to the Government Information Service Release, since I hardly believe it possible that confidential information is given to the Democrat before it is released to the public. I do not think it is possible that the Democrat receives advanced news of Govermental changes when the other organs of information do not get it. I am sure that tonight, for example, the news at least will have it that Mr. Tudor will be High Commissioner in London and Mr. Moe will be Minister of External Affairs and so on; but since all hon. members are not familiar with this, I would ask the Minister to prepare some little statement during dinner even if he comes and tells us something of the personnel.

This Resolution is not any regularisation. The appointment of a Permanent Secretary of Defence is not any regularisation. This is a new and major step which should have been dealt with at the stage when we did the Regiment, and should not be held back to appear in today's Democrat. When we were dealing with the Regiment we should have heard all about this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, this matter could not have been dealt with earlier because it was only considered yesterday if I am not bringing out any Cabinet secret. It was not held back to accommodate the Democrat or any other paper. What is more, Mr. Speaker, this is the filling of certain established posts, but I cannot tell you who will be the personnel and who will be where. I have no power in that respect. It is the Public Service Commission who will know who will be the Permanent Secretary to this Ministry and to the other Ministry and so on. I know that the hon. members are anxious to get supper, but since members have had copies of the Resolution for the last few hours, I thought we could get it on the record what we are really doing, so that there will be no misunderstanding of what we are attempting to do. I read the Addendum right through, and postponing considering it now will make no difference. I have always tried to meet the hon. member's request, but I would be no wiser in an hour or two as to who will be the personnel,

which Permanent Secretary will be where and all that. It is a matter for the Public Service Commission and may be if the Prime Minister was here it would be a matter for his discretion if he wanted to disclose anything; but I am not Minister of Establishments. I do not know as much as the Leader of the Opposition and I am very grateful to him for the amount of information he has provided at first hand at such short notice. He has given us all the explanations which he is asking me now to give.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, other members on our side really would like to speak on this. Let us have dinner and when we come back allow other hon. members to speak. The Minister of Information is circulating; perhaps he thinks he is still a Senator. Give us an extra fifteen minutes and perhaps he can give us any hand-outs that the Government Information Service has put out today whether in advance of the Public Service Commission making the appropriate appointments or not. If the Government Information Service has made certain hand-outs today, all of that can be dealt with. I would suggest that we have dinner now, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, there is not very much to this Civil Establishment Order. One thing is the upgrading of the post of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. The hon. member for St. Thomas himself has spoken about this.
7.10 p.m.

The reason is simple. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs is in fact the Head of the Foreign Service, and the Ambassadors and High Commissioners are indeed remunerated now at the level of which we are now putting the Permanent Secretary who is in fact their Head. In other words, the level of salary of the High Commissioners and Ambassadors is the same as that of the Financial Secretary. It is now intended to remove this anomaly because the Head of the Service was in fact receiving less than persons who were in a way his subordinates. Permanent Secretaries who have been assigned to positions of Ambassador in the United States of America and High Commissioner in Canada who are both Civil Servants are remunerated at a higher level than the Permanent Secretary. That explains that one.

There is only one further creation of a post, and that is the post of Permanent Secretary, Defence and Security. Again that is simple. We already have the Regiment, and the Prime Minister has quite some time ago disclosed his plans for the Regiment. The Permanent Secretary, Defence and Security will now in fact be working in that direction, and those are the only two as far as I know, essential changes at that level. There are temporary posts of Senior Assistant Secretary which this Civil Establishment Order will now confirm, and the same goes for posts of Assistant Secretary.

These are the essential changes. We as Ministers are not concerned with personalities, in fact the member for Christ Church West who was at one time a member of the Public Service Commission would know that we as Ministers have no hand in determining who is going to occupy a post in the Civil Service, the Prime Minister has the power to transfer the Permanent Secretaries from one position to another, but this Civil Establishment Order is indeed to establish certain posts. As regards the personalities to be appointed to these posts, I think that is a question beyond our competence to answer.

Mr. ADAMS: As I understand it, what we are asking to be given us in this respect is a little time on this central post of Defence and Security. There has been an announcement over the radio that there are a lot of changes in the establishment, the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs has moved, other Permanent Secretaries have moved, and two persons have been mentioned as appointed to positions of Permanent Secretary, one Mr. Rogers - I cannot recall to which post - and another Major Headley. As I understand it, the Public Service Commission cannot meet to fill this post which we are now going to put on the Civil Establishment until we have met, but already our actions in here have been anticipated by the Government Information Service, perhaps, we do not know, by the Democrat and by the radio as the hon. member says. The Prime Minister can transfer Permanent Secretaries, he cannot create them, this is why we would like a little time to see how far - even to discuss it amongst ourselves - this could be a breach of privilege before something has come before the House of Assembly to assume that it passes and put somebody in the post. It can be a breach of our privilege and that of the Public Service Commission. Do not fool yourself about that, and this is why I would like a little time to discuss it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, if the hon. member will give way, I think we will accede to his request on the understanding that we definitely deal with this and complete it on resuming. I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, that is, until 8.15 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.15 p.m.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was considering the Civil Establishment Order.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, during the interval we in the Opposition have been able to make a check upon this matter, and it is with great regret that I rise to say that I consider this matter does raise a point of privilege of this Hon. House. By the Civil Establishment Act of 1949. Section 3(1) the Prime Minister, formerly the Governor-in-Executive Committee, has the right to make provisional appointments and provisional alterations in the Civil Establishment of this Island. One section of the Act specifically says that they shall be of no effect until approved by Resolution in both Houses of the Legislature.

Mr. SPEAKER: To what Act are you referring, please?

Mr. ADAMS: The Civil Establishment Act of 1949. I am reading from an unamended Act, but I have no doubt that the construction of terms and references to legislation in the Interpretation Act will say that it is the Prime Minister who is given power to establish offices in the Public Service of this island, to determine the number of persons who may be appointed to such offices, to prescribe the qualifications to be possessed by persons appointed to such offices, to determine the emoluments to be attached to such offices, and to authorise the payment of the cost of passages of officers and their families travelling outside the island.

Subsection (4) of the same section 3 says "An order under subsection (1) of this section shall be provisional only and shall be of no effect until it has been laid before the Legislature and approved by a resolution of each House." There is a proviso, and the proviso says that the subsection shall not apply to any provision in any such Order where such provision relates to the qualifications to be possessed by persons appointed to offices in the Public Service. That proviso is contained in Act 1966-22.

I have heard over the radio today, and I have read in the Democrat newspaper of tomorrow's date, a copy of which was shown to me by the courtesy of the Minister of Communications and Works,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: May I interrupt you at this stage to say that if you want to make a speech on this matter of a breach of privilege, will you kindly make the Democrat a document of this House?

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I would like to, and as soon as I can obtain a copy I will.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, the way it is put – and I do not think he means any harm – but he came over here to me and asked to see the Democrat which I had. The way it is put it sounds as if I walked over and showed him something, but let him get the facts and sequences straight, let him admit that he requested to see it and it was shown to him by the Minister.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is it suggested that the Democrat has committed a breach of privilege of this House, that it should be made a document of this House?

Mr. ADAMS: Does the hon. member think that the Democrat is beyond privilege? I think the Courts will very soon decide it is not beyond libel, so I do not know why the House should think it is beyond privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: Clearly the hon. member who is on his feet should know that any matter which is *sub judice* should not be mentioned or referred to in this House.

Mr. ADAMS: With great respect, I do not think that is the rule, but I should amend what I just said to say that it has not been beyond libel in the past, that it is much more desirable in all the circumstances of the case. I am suggesting that it was a breach of privilege of whoever informed CBC, and of CBC and of the Democrat, because the Public Service Commission can only appoint a man to a post that exists, and no post as of now of Permanent Secretary for Defence and Security in the Prime Minister's Office exists, and it cannot exist until we pass it, and if it is out of order for us in here to anticipate a vote of the House, so much more must it be out of order for strangers to anticipate it.
8.20 p.m.

We cannot get in here and talk about future business, and yet outsiders must talk about our business! There is no post in the Public Service at the present time of Permanent Secretary for Defence and Security in the Prime Minister's Office. Just in passing, Sir, I should like to say that I regard the officer concerned as eminently qualified to carry out the duties in every way. Over a wide range of public service in this Island Major Headley has shown up, as far as I know, to an admirable degree and has discharged all of his duties, as far as the report is given, comprehensively. We are not objecting to the personnel or to any decision of the Public Service Commission, but I submit to you, Sir, that an investigation should be made as to whether the Public Service Commission has also not committed a breach of the privileges of this House by presuming to anticipate our decision by appointing somebody in advance of the House of Assembly creating the post to which.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I heard the Leader of the Opposition say something about creating a post. In reality the post of Defence Secretary has been redesignated that of Permanent Secretary. As far as the other posts are concerned, it is a question of upgrading the post of Permanent secretary, Ministry of External Affairs to the level of Financial Secretary thereby ensuring that the salary in not inferior to that of Senior Diplomatic personnel in the Overseas Mission. The Order also seeks to transfer from the Ministry of External Affairs to the Establishment Division a Supernumerary post of Permanent Secretary.

Now, this Order has been duly signed by the Prime Minister; the Cabinet has duly considered and approved it, and it becomes law, subject, as the hon. member said, to the approval of the legislature. To all intents and purposes the Order becomes effective from the time it is signed. The Order came here earlier today; copies were duly circulated to hon. members; the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was not here at an early stage; members of the Opposition were apprised of it; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition gave his assent to proceed with it, but now the Leader of the Opposition is overruling. I am not trying to drive a wedge between the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but the fact is that it met with the assent of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition earlier today when it was circulated, and now we hear that the Leader of the Opposition is regarding it as a breach of privilege and adopting a non-co-operative attitude to a matter which is relatively simple.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: On what are you rising?

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister said that I gave him the assurance that the Order would be dealt with in all its stages, we still agree that we are going to deal with it in all its stages, but certain matters have now arisen and, therefore, we have to look at it in a different light. What the Leader of the Opposition is actually saying is that there is a breach of privilege. When I gave the Leader of the House my word that the Order could be dealt with in all its stages, there was no breach of privilege at the time, but there is now a breach of privilege with which we will have to deal.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would want, at this stage, to have the *Democrat* made a document of the House before we proceed any further.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am saying something.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I want to make a.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You may speak when I am finish.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Sir, I would like to speak. According to the Standing Orders.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please sit.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All right; go ahead.

Mr. SPEAKER: I could not entertain any motion which alleges a breach of privilege either by the Prime Minister, C.B.C.,the *Democrat,* or some other medium, unless it was made a document of the House.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I would like my paper back first; so I do not know how you are going to make it a document of the House. I am not making it. I want my paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen? This is no point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, since you have asked to make it a document of the House.....

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not speaking on a point of order; I am making a submission. I am asking Mr. Speaker to ask that a paper which I lent the hon. member for St. Peter be returned to me.

You are responsible for documents in this House, and this is your House. The hon. member sent and borrowed it from me. I would like you to order that it be returned to me first. It is no point of order; it is just asking a request of you as the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your request is grossly out of order.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet. Will both hon. members please sit.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. speaker, it is your request that this document be made a document of the House.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will take up my paper from this House this very night.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. *(Asides.)*

Mr. SPEAKER: All hon. members who are not on their feet, please observe the relevant Standing Orders. The privilege of speech is given to those who are standing. I will not entertain this matter dealing with a breach of privilege unless the offending newspaper is made a document of this House.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, at your request – I have a complimentary copy of a document signed by the name Hon. E. W. Barrow, which I am going to.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would also want the hon. member to.....

Hon, F. G. SMITH rose--

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Man, give me my paper; I am coming for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would want the hon. member to refer the House specifically to the passage which, it is alleged, gives rise to the breach of privilege.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Bring my paper, Brancker. I am coming for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Deputy Clerk, please hand it back to the hon. member for St. James. It has not yet been made properly a document of the House. I want to hear the passage which it is alleged constitutes a breach of privilege.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, that paper is also mine, and I am going for it. I want you to understand that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. member to take his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am going for my paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the Hon member to take his seat. This is not an arena. I will not have this Honourable House being made an arena.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am going for my paper. If you do not want disorder, then return to me what is legally my document. That is what I am asking of you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member sit down.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All right, I will sit down, but it is my paper and I am going for it.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the passage to which I objected.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please sit down for the last time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: According to the laws of Barbados that document is mine, and I am asking you, Mr. Speaker, to maintain the law and return to a member what is legally his document. Are you going to cause an uproar in here by not obeying the laws of this country? Can the Opposition take up a document which is mine and hand it to you? Are you going to sit there and allow that to happen?

Mr. SPEAKER: The fact is that the Leader of the Opposition is in possession of a newspaper. Will the hon. member please take his seat. Will the hon. member please take his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I want my paper, man. *(At this stage the Minister of Communications and Works walked across the Chamber in the direction of the Opposition benches.)*

Mr. SPEAKER: I regard this as being gross disorder on the part of the hon. member, and I direct that the hon. member leaves this Chamber forthwith.

(At this stage the Minister of Communications and Works left the Opposition benches and walked between Mr. SPEAKER and the Mace on his way to the Government benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a gross breach also of the Standing Order for an hon. member to walk between the Chair and the Mace. I direct that the hon. member leaves this Chamber forthwith, and for the remainder of the consideration of the Annual Estimates.

I want now the hon. member who is complaining of the breach of privilege to read the passage which is alleged constitutes a breach of privilege.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have been handed a paper, and I know not to whom it belongs.

8.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order...

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Hon. Leader of the Opposition give way? The Leader of the House has risen on a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, shortly before we resumed, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition came and asked me if I had a copy of this paper. I told him "no"; so I can say that he was looking around trying to secure a copy of the paper and the paper which he has is apparently not his...

Mr. SPEAKER: With due respect, that is not a point of order, and in the second place we are not concerned as to how the paper got into his hands. This is completely irrelevant. The fact is that he has in his possession a copy. That is no point of order. Please be seated. Let the hon. member continue.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Leader of the Opposition acknowledges that the paper is not his. Somebody whom he does not know has handed the paper to him. The paper has been claimed by an hon. member of this Chamber as being his. I cannot see how another hon. member can be directed to deal with the property of somebody against the wishes of the person to whom it belongs.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. The newspaper has been published and it is a public document.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order...

Mr. SPEAKER: I will entertain no more points of order on that question. What I want to hear is the passage which it is alleged constitutes a breach of privilege.

I direct the Marshal to remove the hon. member for St. Michael South Central from the precincts of this House immediately.

I want to hear the passage which constitutes a breach of privilege immediately, if not, I will not consider your motion.

Mr. ADAMS: I have not moved a motion. I am asking Your Honour's opinion on what I conceive to be a matter of privilege. I am speaking to the Leader of the House's motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not heard of the passage. This House has not been officially informed up to this point.

Mr. ADAMS: The passage I am dealing with is very short. I see here a paper, it is marked "The Democrat"; it is not mine, it has been put in my hands. It is dated Friday, March 17th, 1972. On page 1 under the line of "Price 10 cents" there is a note "Government Officers take up New Posts"; there is an inoffensive passage dealing with Senator Cameron Tudor, whom we all congratulate; there is another inoffensive passage dealing with Senator George Moe, an inoffensive passage dealing with Mr. Livingstone Goring, and the one of which I complain, Sir, starts thus: "Major S. A. Headley has been promoted and appointed Permanent Secretary (Defence and Security) in the Prime Minister's Office." I hand this document to the Clerk. In the fullness of time I have no doubt that whoever can successfully claim ownership will reclaim the document from the House. I have yet to hear of any such novel doctrine that if you discover a breach of privilege or a crime and you hand the crime over to the police, that you yourself are not entitled so to do because it is not yours. I submit that...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I am making a motion to postpone further consideration of this matter until a later stage in tonight's sitting.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion is out of order. The matter before the House is of paramount importance – a breach of privilege of this Honourable Chamber. When that has been dealt with, then we can proceed to consideration of the Civil Establishment Order. What is before this

House immediately is whether there has been a breach of privilege of this Chamber or not.

Mr. ADAMS: I am submitting that anticipating decisions of this House or of any house of Parliament has always been a breach of one of the ancient privileges of Parliament; anticipating a decision, taking steps indicating that Parliament will or will not pass a Bill, that unless statutory assent is specifically given to such proceedings, it amounts to a breach of privilege of Parliament. This dates back to the days when executive power in the shape of the King and irresponsible Ministers might seek to over-awe Parliament by instituting taxes for example. Just think of what might happen if you started setting taxes without the permission of a Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill instituting taxes and other matters before Parliament has approved them. It is one of the essential responsibilities and privileges of Parliament that if something is set for Parliament to do that it cannot be done before Parliament has acted.

Now I am going to respectfully submit with great respect for the Leader of the House for whose sincerity all hon. members have the greatest possible regard, that he is quite mistaken in saying that this Civil Establishment Order creates no new posts. It creates one new Permanent Secretary.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I said this new Order redesignated the post of Defence Secretary into that of Permanent Secretary. It is not that there was no post of Defence Secretary as such. There has always been a post of Defence Secretary, but the post is now being redesignated to that of Permanent Secretary so that it is not really creating a new post as such. It is calling an old post by a new name in order to regularise everything, and to see that he gets the salary of a Permanent Secretary. It then goes on to upgrade the post of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, to the level of Financial Secretary thereby ensuring that his salary is not inferior to that of senior diplomatic personnel in the overseas Missions. The third thing that this Order does is to transfer from the Ministry of External Affairs to the Establishments Division one supernumerary post of Permanent Secretary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me give you some assistance. What we are dealing with is not the Order per se. We are dealing with a breach of privilege which as far as I understand is the prior publication in a news media of this country before the House has dealt with it, the fact that a new post of Permanent Secretary is to be created. It is a breach of privilege that is being alleged and this is what we are dealing with, not the Order itself.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: My contention with all due respect is that no new post is being created. The hon. member is holding on to the point that a new post is being created, and I am trying to prove conclusively that no new post is being created, but it is the redesignation of an existing post.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I personally am not a legal expert, nor do I claim to have more understanding about legal matters than anyone else, but if I remember carefully, when the House resumed and before reverting to the Committee stage, permission was asked by the Leader of the House to lay this particular Order to be dealt with in all its stages today. Since the Order has been circulated in this Chamber, I cannot see that if a news media gets hold of one of the documents and publishes it, that it could be a breach of privilege.
8.40 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, as I understand it, is in the process of moving a motion. It has not even been seconded, and I am not purporting to rule or in any way prejudice the outcome of the motion which he is about to put to this House, so what you have suggested goes as far as I am concerned to the merits of the case and not to the *prima facie* merits of the case which the hon. member is trying to make out, and I think that all hon. members will agree that a breach of privilege or not, the question of a breach of privilege takes precedence over all other business. Once that is understood, that the hon. member is trying to make out a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege which has not yet been seconded, we know where we are. Will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition please continue?

Mr. ADAMS: I would draw the attention of the Leader of the House to the words in the Order which he has circulated: "the establishment of a post of Permanent Secretary", not a word about redesignation.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, as I understand from what Your Honour has said, a breach of privilege is purely a matter for Your Honour to determine, and I think that a breach of privilege would have to be stated very succinctly, not by arguing a case. The Prime Minister has the right to make the Order, so there cannot be a question of a breach of privilege in so far as the Order which the Prime Minister has the right to make.

Mr. SPEAKER: That again is anticipating any decision of the Chair, and I am indebted to the hon. member for his argument.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not anticipating Your Honour, I am only saying that if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is submitting a breach of privilege on an Order, then I say it would reflect on an Act of Parliament that has already been passed giving the Prime Minister that right to make an order.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member was obviously not in his place when I read out the Act of Parliament indicating that the Order does not take effect until approved by the House. *(Asides)*

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please continue?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am glad for the hon. member's help but he does not want mine. This Order proposes the establishment of a post of Permanent Secretary at a salary of $14,400 per annum, and it is perfectly correct that an Order such as this may be laid for the approval of the House, if that assists the hon. member for St. Michael West. What I submit is incorrect is for anybody to anticipate or publish anything that indicates that it is anticipating the decision of the House on a matter which has not yet come to be decided. This morning we were asked – and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition very properly gave his assent – as a matter of urgency to deal with this Order in all its stages today. Before we can deal with it, the Democrat newspaper anticipates our decision by saying who has been appointed to a post that we have not yet created.

With great respect, the Leader of the House is wrong, this is a new post, it is not a redesignation. You will search in vain in the Establishment Orders for any post of Defence Secretary, there is a post of Government Security Officer which has not been abolished and which continues in being. The substantive holder of the post of Government Security Officer may or may not be, I believe he is, the person whom the Democrat refers to, but this is a new post and the Order says it is a new post. It says the establishment of a post of Permanent Secretary, we have not yet established the post as required by section 3(4) of the Act of 1949-5, nor has it gone to the Other Place for the approval of the Other Place. Even if we have passed it in here it would not have been a post until the Other Place has established it, and I am submitting that to anticipate it by the Democrat publishing that a particular person has been appointed to a post which the House of Assembly and the Senate together alone can approve of, it is a breach of privilege.

I am not making a motion, Sir, because the privileges of the House are in your custody, you can decide exactly what to do with it in my respectful submission if Your Honour finds that my submission is well founded. The Parliamentary (Privileges and Immunities) Act will not assist us in this particular respect, although by analogy I would draw to Your Honour's attention that there are a number of criminal offences involved in publishing reports of proceedings in the House, reports of evidence given before the House and so on, to anybody other than a member of the House in advance of general publication. This is what I am offering as an ordinary, everyday member of this House as a breach of privilege that nobody should anticipate what we will do.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am of the opinion that the hon. member should make a motion at this stage.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I think we have spent quite a bit of time on this matter which I would consider rather unfortunate. I can only say this was a matter of anticipating, maybe because of numbers, what is going to be.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I want is a motion.

Mr. CRAIG: That is what I am leading up to, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, get on with it.

Mr. CRAIG: At this point I am going to move ...*(Asides)*.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will all hon. members who are not on their feet kindly observe the Standing Orders and speak only in undertones, all I am hearing is a lot of interruptions.

Mr. CRAIG: I regret that because the news media have found themselves in this very awkward position to have anticipated what Parliament, the highest office in the land, is going to do. I am not concerned with any Establishment Order or what the Prime Minister decides he would like to have done, I am concerned with what Parliament can do and probably will do, nothing has been done. I beg to move that it be declared a breach of privilege and that you, Mr. Speaker, take such steps that lie within your power to bring before the Bar of this House the Editor of the Democrat and the Editor or the

Manager of CBC, and take such steps as you so deem.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot accept one part of that motion, for the simple reason that there has been nothing presented to this House evidencing the fact that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation carried the story. In these matters we must proceed strictly, we have had the Democrat made a document of the House.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I will withdraw that part about CBC until there is evidence which I probably will be able to produce if need be.
8.50 p.m.

As a matter of fact, Sir, I would still like to leave that part in and, if evidence is required, I am prepared to supply that.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I am not going to accept a motion with reference to the Caribbean Broadcasting Station unless there is evidence on the floor of this House. I want the hon. member for St. James to rephrase the first part of the motion.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: An hon. member is on his feet. Will the hon. member for St. James give way?

Mr. CRAIG took his seat.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I should like to point out to Your Honour that, regardless of whatever an hon. member says in seconding a motion, it cannot under any Standing Order be rephrased. It is either accepted by Your Honour or not. If the hon. member seconds a motion, he has no right to rephrase any substantive motion. He is either seconding a motion that was made or he is not. If he has seconded a motion about a breach of privilege, he cannot rephrase anything in that motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. James is moving a motion. Please continue. For the benefit of the Clerks at the table, they have not got the exact words and this is very requisite.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the words complained of and the publication thereof be declared a breach of privilege of this Honourable House, and that the Editor of the *Democrat* be summoned before this Honourable House and dealt with in such manner as Your Honour may deem fit in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, if a motion has been moved and seconded there is a motion before the House. I do not like people to play by air, and they should get their facts. A Civil Establishment ...

Mr. SPEAKER: May I, at this stage, interrupt the hon. member. I defer my ruling on this motion until a convenient time when I shall rule on it. I shall not put it to the House at this time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, there are two motions before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is only one motion before the House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: One motion was moved before the suspension of the sitting that this Civil Establishment Order be approved, and another motion has just been moved.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Let me assist the hon. member by drawing Standing Order 68(1) to his attention. He can look it up.

Mr. SPEAKER: A breach of privilege takes precedence over any other business. I will give my ruling on a breach of privilege at a later date. Now, we can move on to the substantive motion, which is the passing of the Resolution dealing with the Civil Establishment Order.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) ORDER, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have said enough on it. I beg to move that the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972, do now pass.

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

Mr. ADAMS: To speak very briefly on the substance of it, Sir, we think we ought to have been informed on this step when we were discussing the regiment. It is most unfair to the House, leaving out all the matters which have been canvassed at an earlier stage, to pass a Head of an Estimate dealing with a subject like

Defence and Security in the Barbados Regiment; pass the Head dealing with Internal Security, Government Security Officer and so on, and all those that are contained in the Police; pass Heads which cover all the points under which this new Permanent Secretary is going to be asked to do his duty without being informed, at any stage, that such a step was contemplated.

There may be hon. members – at such short notice as we have had to set our thoughts in order -- who may well feel that the, apparent, division of security from between the Police under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Permanent Secretary for Defence and Security under the Prime Minister may not be a bad thing. We do not know, Sir. We have not been able to consider it because this has been launched on us only today, and we have not been able to give it a proper consideration. I would have expected to hear something from the Minister of Home Affairs as to whether he is satisfied that such functions as remain to him, if any will remain to him, concerning either the internal or the external security of Barbados can be satisfactorily discharged under the new dispensation. The Minister of Home Affairs is very new and inexperienced in these matters.I do not think that he has ever seen security from the administering end at any time in his life. After just a few months in office, he must have been asked to take a decision on such essentially secret and private matters about which very few people ...

Mr. Speaker, I see something that I cannot believe. When I read the Legislature Immunities and Privileges Bill, and I read of the dire penalties to be imposed on persons, like the loss of their salaries for contempt of the House by disobedience to an order of the Speaker, I cannot believe that I am really seeing correctly.

Mr. SPEAKER: To what is the hon. member referring?

Mr. ADAMS: I saw an apparition, Sir. I can only call it an apparition, because I do not believe an hon. member of this House will disobey Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is not to be trifled with. Is the hon. member implying that the hon. member who has just been dismissed from this Chamber is still in this Chamber?

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I do not want him to lose his salary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member draw this matter to the attention of the House in a proper way? This Chamber must not be trifled with.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if I can be sure that I have seen the hon. member, or if I see him again, Sir – you must understand my position, Sir. I am saying that we should hear from the ...

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot receive the slightest intimation, and feel happy about it, that a member who has been dismissed from this Chamber for gross disorder and juvenile behaviour: attempting to snatch a document of this House and, secondly, in passing between the Chair and the Mace, is still within the precincts of this House. I deem it most irresponsible, too, on the part of the Leader of the Opposition by partially intimating to this House that a member who has been dismissed from this Chamber is still within the precincts of the House.

I would ask the Marshal to make a thorough check and to see that the member for St. Michael South Central is not on the premises at once, and report back. Until that time no business will be conducted.
9.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Marshal has reported that the hon. member is now without the precincts of this House. I will now only remind hon. members that often during the course of the consideration of these Annual Estimates, one member in particular deplored the fact that the standard of this House had declined. You have put me here to be the custodian of your ancient rights and privileges. I shall do everything in my power to uphold those rights and privileges, but I insist upon the assistance and cooperation of hon. members, and above all the Leader of the Opposition. I should have thought the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was as large as life in the eyes of any man, and to refer to a human being as an apparition, I still say, is most irresponsible.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I accept the reproof. When I broke off I was inviting the Minister of Home Affairs to assure us that this arrangement will not interrupt, as far as he can see, the powers which he has and the proper administration of the Security Department of the Police Force for which he is responsible, and I would hope we would hear something of the inter-relationship between the Permanent Secretary for Defence and Security under the Prime Minister and the Government Security Officer who presumably will continue to be under the Minister of Home Affairs.

I regret I shall have to differ so much from the Leader of the House upon the construction of this document, but I am sure hon. members do appreciate that this is a new Permanent Secretaryship altogether and will involve a charge upon the revenue of $14,400 a year, and it will become the eighth Permanent Secretaryship in the Prime Minister's Office. You will search in vain in the Estimates for any office of Defence and Security or any post which the Leader of the House has assured us is merely the predecessor in designation of the instant post. This is a new post to establish and administer a new function.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this is an Order and you can only bring down a Resolution dealing with more money when you have approved the Order. It is prescribed in the Civil Establishment Act who shall make the Order in the first instance. You can make an Order and you may delay the appointment of a person, but the Civil Establishment Act which was passed 23 years ago has been administered an operated by the Barbados Labour Party. The late father of the hon. member for St. Thomas introduced this Order in this Chamber in 1949 and the then Leader of the House, and has operated this Act in the same manner as the Cabinet. In those days it was the collective responsibility of the Governor-in-Executive Committee which was the Cabinet. This is an Order in which the powers are exercised by the Prime Minister, and the hon. member knows that the making of an Establishment Order can come to the Chamber.

I am not going to deal with the matter that is within Your Honour's privilege to rule on, but all I say is that papers that come before this Chamber are printed the next day even before this House begins to deal with them, and you are going to see tomorrow things that came down to this House printed in the newspaper before approval is made by this Chamber. It is not anything new. The House does not have to approve of the Order for it to be published in a newspaper.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will the hon. member stick to the merits of this Order and not whether it should be published in a newspaper or not?

Mr. WALCOTT: I am saying that if this Order with which we are dealing is not approved this evening, there is nothing to prevent a newspaper from publishing it, because it is an Order that has already been made by the Prime Minister. In so far as this is law, the first stage in the law has already been set, since the Prime Minister has signed the Order making provision for this appointment. Who prints it after that before we discuss it in the House is a matter for Your Honour to decide, but I am not dealing with that. What I would say to the Leader of the Opposition is that he knows that the Order that has been made is for the purpose of making changes in the Establishment, and therefore the House has already given this. Parliament has already given this in an Act of Parliament. There is no point in pretending you do not understand it. The Prime Minister does not have to come to this House and ask if he must make a Permanent Secretary of the Defence Officer. He does not have to ask anybody at all that question. It is not within the powers of this Chamber because you gave that up from the day you passed the Civil Establishment Act. I was in here and there was a man who was against doing it this way. Mr. A. E. S. Lewis was not in favour of it.

Mr. CRAIG: Just on a point of order, I understood the hon. member for St. Michael West to say that the Prime Minister has not got to come here, but to the best of my knowledge...

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Let us be serious. A point of order is a point which affects the proceedings of this Hon. Chamber. To what are you rising? It is either a point of explanation or a point of order. Let us get this straight. The hon. member who has been in here for some years should know that either you rise to a point of order and you make a point of order governing procedure, or you make a point of explanation. It is a fraudulent point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of explanation, Sir, and thanks very much for your guidance, I under from this Order that it involves public expenditure and therefore the Legislature must approve any money Resolution. For the hon member to say that the Prime Minister has not got to come here I do not think is correct. You are establishing a new post which involves additional expenditure on the country, and I think the hon. member should know this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this is not a money Resolution; this is an abstract Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to say for the benefit of the House that from this time forward the House is still in Session, and those members who have spoken once, it being the House and not Committee, will not be allowed to speak again.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, the point I was making in so far as the Civil Establishment

Order is concerned, is that it is made in accordance with the Civil Establishment Act, 1949, which gives the Prime Minister the right to make an Order. This is not a Resolution in which you are voting for any amount of money. Hon. members must understand, as you have rightly said, Sir, that in this Civil Establishment Order you are establishing a post and the subsequent situation will be that you will pass provision, but as this is an Order, Mr. Speaker, it becomes an established post and therefore it becomes an Act of Parliament, and you automatically will be providing for this in your Acts; it would no longer be a question of "To be voted by law", because the Civil Establishment Act becomes one of the expenditures that you make.
9.10 p.m.

The late Mr. A.E.S. Lewis objected to this method 23 years ago, because before there was a Civil Establishment Order you had to come to the House for every vote of expenditure, and the House in Committee would have to approve of this, and therefore as it would have been an expenditure, a charge on the Treasury, you would be called upon to go into Committee on it, but you do not have to go into Committee on this, and the late Mr. Lewis at that time did not agree with it and he objected to it, but it was passed, if I may say, by the late father of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in 1949.

The whole theory was that the Government in power is responsible for the Civil Establishment of the country and they must have the authority to be able to add or subtract, but they must have the approval of Parliament, so they did it the other way as the Hon. Leader has said, an abstract resolution is different from a money resolution. An abstract resolution is dealt with in the House when Your Honour is in the Chair, not in Committee, but we have already passed the Civil Establishment Act, and in that Act you have already said how such posts must be created thereafter so you cannot go back on that because you would be reflecting, if you say anything about that Act of Parliament, and according to the Standing Orders we are not permitted to reflect on the Acts of Parliament. Therefore, the powers are vested in the Prime Minister to create a post, it does not matter how many, he has that power, Parliament has given him that power already. All the Ministers possess that power by the Civil Establishment Act, and it is as simple as that, so there is nothing wrong that is being done, it is the same Civil Establishment Order which was worked by the Labour Party 23 years ago, and it is the same Civil Establishment Order that created the first Permanent Secretary, the amount we should have in the whole Civil Service. All the Civil Establishment Orders are made in this manner, and this is the only way now in which Civil Establishment Orders can be made, therefore all that is necessary to be done that any time the Minister makes an Order it is an Order and all it requires is the ratification, but it is a law when he makes it.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I respectfully submit that that part of the argument is mistaken, because it reflects not only on a vote of the House since he is wrong, the Civil Establishment Act does not say it is law when it is made, but it reflects on a motion which is before the House, because if it is law when it is made there is no need for this motion, and I submit that that part of his speech is out of order, since he is attempting to persuade hon. members that the Order is already law which is not so. He is both reflecting on the Civil Establishment Act by contradicting its express terms that the Order is provisional only until it has been approved, and he is reflecting on the motion itself which we are now discussing, because he is saying that the motion is for a purpose which it is not for. He says ratification when in fact the motion is the second step in making this law.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, you cannot reflect on something that is to take place, you can only reflect on something that has already taken place.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to counsel the hon. member not to deal so much with the history of the Civil Establishment Order.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not dealing with the history, Sir, I am dealing with the Act. They must read it, let the hon. member quote the Act and see what the Act says.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet, most improper. Will you both sit, please? (Both hon. members sat at this stage.) What is before this House is the Civil Establishment Order brought down by the Prime Minister in exercise of powers conferred on him by section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949. Subsection 4 of this Act says "An order under subsection (1) of this section shall be provisional only and shall be of no effect until it has been laid before the Legislature and approved by a resolution of each House."

Mr. WALCOTT: I accept Your Honour's ruling. The point I would make however is that the Order has to be made by the Prime Minister or by any Minister, but this is the only way in which you

can pass an Establishment Order, because under the law nobody else can make an Order other than the Prime Minister or one of the Ministers, so I do not see how there can be any suggestion that.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I just want to get it perfectly clear. I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member who is speaking, the member for St. Michael West, that the Prime Minister in exercise of his powers as Prime Minister is also the appropriate Minister of Establishments, so he alone is the Minister who can sign any of these Orders. None of us can sign these Orders because none of us is responsible for Establishments.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point of explanation.

Mr. WALCOTT: The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, so far as the Order being signed by the Prime Minister or a Minister is concerned, is the question of who is designated to sign, because the Prime Minister can sign and the Act says that any other Minister can sign, but Civil Establishment comes under the Prime Minister and he can sign. If Civil Establishment came under the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs would be the person to sign the Civil Establishment Order. The point I am making is, an Establishment Order today is a method of providing persons in the Establishment. Previously it was done, not by an Order like this but it was done by a name and so many names were brought down and put before the House and the House passed a Resolution, but that has ended since 1949.

This is an old Act, 23 years ago, so you cannot now today, 23 years afterwards, query how you are going to deal with an Establishment Order when it was in operation for 23 consecutive years, it is not anything that was passed since the Democratic Labour Party came into power, it was passed in 1949, 12 years before the Democratic Labour Party came into power, and the first Permanent Secretaries were not made by the Democratic Labour Party, they were made by the late father of the hon. member, so it is not a question about the validity of this Act and how it operates, it is quite clear for anyone to see. All the Permanent Secretaries are dealt with that way, he makes an Order, you cannot say that anybody should know that he has made an Order, because when he has made the Order it is no longer a secret document, you do not see Top Secret on it, it is coming to Parliament. I do not think the hon. member would query the fact that the Governor-General is going away and before we receive the Message it is known that he is going on vacation, because those are administrative matters that you accept in that manner, and I feel that this question of the Minister not mentioning it before cannot be a legal matter, that would be purely a matter of courtesy.

9.20 p.m.

The hon. member for St. James raised the point that it is a money matter. It is a money matter in a reverse way. He said that it was a question of creating a post, and it would be necessary to get the approval of Parliament. I agree with that, but as it is an abstract Resolution like this you get the approval of Parliament. But if the Minister does not make an Order, we will have nothing before us. The fact that he has made an Order puts something before us. I do not think that the Government should be chided that they have done something improper in this matter, because this is the only way in which we can deal with it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I do not want to prolong this argument, but in furtherance to the point made by the hon. member who has just taken his seat, the hon. member for St. Michael West, the Prime Minister has the power to make such an Order, and the Order cannot properly be before this Chamber until it is made and signed. The further point I want to make is that we are really not called upon here to approve who is appointed to the post. What we are called upon to do is to approve an Order maybe creating posts or transferring of posts. That part, Mr. Speaker, is not important in this respect. The Prime Minister has the power to make an Order creating a post or transferring a post from one Department to another. This power is conferred upon him by the Civil Establishment Order, 1949. If this Order before us is creating a new post, then that is what we are called upon to approve. If it is to transfer a post, then we will act upon that as well. We are really not called upon to approve the persons who are appointed to fill the various posts, because that power rightly belongs to the Governor-General, and it was given to him by the Constitution, and only the Governor-General can do this on the recommendation of the appropriate Service Commission.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, quite a lot of time has been spent on this matter. I am sure that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am addressing.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You have spoken already, and you have no further right to speak. You have only one chance to speak when the House is sitting.

Mr. CRAIG: I know that, Sir,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member take his seat. I will not hear the hon. member any more on this Civil Establishment Order. The Mover of the Resolution may now reply, if he chooses to do so.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I want to make my position perfectly clear. This is

The Civil Establishment Act, 1949
(Act 1949-5)

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1972

The Prime Minister in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949 hereby makes the following Order –

1. This Order may be cited as the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1972.

2. In Schedule A to the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1969 there shall be made the amendments directed to be made therein by the Schedule to this Order.

3. This Order shall come into operation on the first day of April, 1972.

Now, this matter goes on and in the Schedule it sets out the various posts. I do not know if you want me to read it. I had better read it all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it necessary to read all of that?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Order is signed by the Prime Minister. It was considered at Cabinet level only yesterday, and it comes into operation on the 1st April. What I want to draw specifically to hon. members' attention is that the Order provides for adjustments as to the Establishment structure of the undermentioned Ministries at a total cost of $15,600 per annum. I am saying that the post of Defence Secretary has been redesignated to that of Permanent Secretary. It is an existing post, as such, but it is called by another name. It is in line with the salary of the Permanent Secretary, and for that reason it is an existing post. We are not creating a post; we are redesignating an existing post. It falls under the Ministry of the Prime Minister in future, and it will not become operative until the 1st April, 1972.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

AYES: Mr. LOWE; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. WALCOTT; Mr. MORRISON and Mr. WEEKES – 10.

NOES: Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. HINDS, Mr. FORDE – 3.

Mr. CRAIG *(seated and covered)*: Mr. Speaker, I have to cast my vote by way of my democratic right...

Mr. SPEAKER: I see no provision in the Standing Orders of this Honourable House for sitting and speaking under cover. There might very well be some provision in the House of Commons where one adopts that very unusual posture of maintaining some cover over one's head. I see absolutely no provision in the Standing Orders of this House for that. You will either say "Aye" or "No." Please continue, Mr. Clerk.

NOES: Mr. CRAIG; Mr. ADAMS – 5.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now resume in Committee of Supply.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed in Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.
9.30 p.m.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (1) General Administration – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on page 77, under Item 35 – Travelling, amend note to item by deleting the words "Increase due to the increase of staff" appearing at the beginning of the note.

I beg to move that the sum of $1,771,259 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, under the Head of Education, this side of the House does not intend to make a full scale debate on the question

of the policy of the Ministry of Education simply because we have been assured in the Throne Speech, I believe, that later this year we can expect the publication and debate in this House of a new Education Bill which eventually will become the new Education Act of this Island: and so I want to assure the hon. member from St. James, the Hon. Minister, that he need not believe that we are going to pull him forth to a large extent on any wide areas of disagreement on certain matters. The debate which we expect to have on those issues will be in most respects, we hope, advancing some positive steps and, we hope, constructive criticisms for him, and in other respects gleaning information which we have not had the full effect of up to today. And therefore I think under the heading of 35 (1) General Administration, I am particularly dealing with the administration of the teaching service of the Island since we are considering various votes for the teaching service in particular.

We should like to think that within the future, since we believe both parties are decided on this issue, that the Government will take active steps to see that there is the early establishment of a Teachers Commission to deal with conditions of service of teachers in general, and so as to speed up and improve the appointments and other matters dealing with the appointments and service of teachers. We say this in the knowledge that the personnel of this Ministry has grown tremendously and have problems of its own, and we believe that although they are public servants, some of them in the wide sense of the word, yet this is a specialist Ministry faced with probably its own peculiar problems, and just as the Police Service Commission and the Judicial Service Commission operate in relation to specialist service, the time has come for the teaching service to also operate under its own commission.

We are deeply conscious of the fact that this may well mean a change in the Constitution of this Island, but as I said, not only has the Government got their requisite majority to bring about that change on its own if it so thinks, but we believe that in keeping with the best conventions on an issue of this sort where there is some sort of, I believe, political concensus on this matter, there will be consultations with ourselves together with the relevant teachers organisations on the matter. I am not sure whether the Minister is in a position when he is speaking to give some indication of policy on this matter, but we should certainly like to hear it if he can.

If I may deal with two particualr items under this Head – as I said we do not want to go into other than particular areas as we come to the particular Heads of teacher training – although it is not usual in discussing this subject to move to sub-headings or even to the Capital Estimates, I think I should preface my remarks by saying that we are conscious that in the Capital Estimates which this House will consider at some time, there is provision for the setting up of training arrangements at the University of the West Indies particularly in the secondary field, but we would like to draw to the Minister's attention that there is still a large segment of the primary service where many teachers are remaining untrained, and we believe that there must be some considerable urgency in improving the level of teacher training and improving the numbers of teachers being trained so that the end product will be much better in this sphere. I am not sure if my figures are correct on this point, but it seems to me that probably something in the region of 40 percent or over 40 percent of the teachers in the primary schools have had no particular training of one kind or another. I think this is a very high proportion. I am not sure whether the establishment at Erdiston, for what it can do, with in-service training could help, but I hope that the Minister, and I am sure he will, will take as many urgent steps as he can to speed up this aspect of his Ministry's work.

The second item under this Head which I personally would like to comment on is Item 41 dealing with the subject of examinations. I do not intend, Mr. Chairman, to recount either the questions which I asked earlier of the Minister in a debate in this House, or even to make comments in relation to recent examinations. I said then that I was satisfied other than on one point with the assurances which the Minister gave and I do not intend to rehash that subject. What I should like to deal with however is to draw to his attention that from time to time in the conduct of examinations dealing with secondary pupils there have been criticisms of wrong papers being sent for one thing, there have also been criticisms of the methods of arrangements made for these examinations, and I wonder if he has investigated these complaints and what steps have been taken, if any, to remedy them.

I should like to pass on to a subject that has been exercising the minds of many persons in the region for a long time, and that is, the setting up of a regional examination council. We note that from neighbouring territories there seems to be some hesitation on this matter. No paper has been sent to this House as far as I am aware on the subject, but I believe that the Minister at least could give some early consideration to making a definite statement on this and revealing how far the discussions have gone and to say what changes it will necessitate both in the cirriculum and the time-table of the particular schools that are affected by centralising within the West Indies the subject of examinations.

Mr. Chairman, I would on this topic ask the Minister that in particular he should use the aegis of his Public Relations division to assure people including some of whom are always referred to as the prophets of doom, that the switching from the external form of the setting of an examination will not at all upset either the standard being set for these examinations, and more important will still maintain the high standard of impartiality in judging the results of these examinations. I think that regardless of what is the machinery that is set up, people will want to know that these two conditions and these two standards are met.
9.40 p.m.

The third standard, but in a way, only a subsidiary one, I should want the Minister to let us know whether the proposed Examinations Council will gain any sort of reciprocal recognition for those of our students who may proceed because of the lack of facilities in this area to higher education outside of the Caribbean. I do not intend, Mr. Chairman, since we are only discussing the first part of this Head, to move on to other subjects that will arise later, and I certainly do not intend to canvass other subsidiary heads like Item 38 - Books and Publications. I would ask the Minister if he will bear with me on those points when later I can deal with them generally when we have got on the Heads of all the other matters that arise.

The question that the sum of $1,771,259 under Head 35 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until Monday, 20th March, 1972 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
9.45 p.m.

On Resumption:

SPEAKER'S RULING ON ALLEGED BREACHES OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. SPEAKER: At the sitting of the Honourable Chamber on 7th March, 1972, a motion moved by the Honourable Prime Minister and seconded by the Honourable Leader of the House complained of a breach of the privileges of this Chamber. The motion was in these terms:

> "That the passage complained of in the Advocate-News on Friday, 3rd March, 1972, and the publication over the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation on the 2nd and 3rd March, 1972, constitutes a breach of the privileges of this House, and that the Editor of the Advocate-News and the News Editor of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation be summoned at the next sitting to the Bar of this House to show case why in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House they should not be committed to Her Majesty's Prison or have some other form of punishment visited upon them in connection with the breach."

You will remember that the Prime Minister moved a motion to amend his original motion to delete any reference to Glendairy Prison which would be that "the Editor of the Advocate-News and the News Editor of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation be summoned at the next sitting to the Bar of this House to show cause why they should not have some form of punishment visited upon them in connection with the breach."

Now looking through the records of this Chamber, I find that there is an omission on the record in that the amendment to his motion was not seconded. Before I proceed, I would invite a seconder to the Prime Minister's motion which deleted any reference to Glendairy Prison.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now that the motion has been amended to exclude committal to Glendairy, my decision on the matter is:-

The offending act in both cases which it is alleged constitutes a breach was the statement by both news media that the Honourable member for St. Michael West voted with the Opposition when a division had been called for on the question of the Motor Services lease.

As is proper, a copy of the Advocate-News was tabled and the fact that CBC carried this erroneous report was supported by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

The true position is that the Honourable member voted with the Government as the Clerks of the Table can show and therefore both as far as the common Law of the land in its application to Parliament and as statute Law now stands - I refer to the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act 1963-6 Section 35 (1) (b) a gross misrepresentation of the proceedings of this Chamber has been committed.

Fortunately for this Chamber, Honourable members do not have to engage in debate as to whether the common law of Barbados as far as it applies to Parliament - lex et consuetudo Parliamenti - permits the custodian of their time-honoured rights and privileges to summon the Editor of the newspaper or any other person to the Bar of this Honourable Chamber. The last time on which this occurred, as a matter of interest, was on 3rd March 1955 when on a division of this Chamber, it was eventually decided, that this House had the power to summon the Editor of a Newspaper. The Editor of the Advocate was not so summoned because as it turned out, his cortege was passing Parliament Buildings at the same time that Parliament happened to be debating this matter.

Honourable members do not now have to engage in such a debate because Section 9 of the Parliament (Immunities, Privileges and Powers) Act, 1963-6 has put on a statutory basis what I, even without this law would have been prepared to hold is the right of Parliament - what I consider to be the undoubted rights of this House in vindicating its ancient rights and privileges.

> Section 9 of the Act reads: "Either chamber or committee authorised by an order of the Chamber by which it was appointed .....may order any person to attend before it and to give evidence."

This Chamber has by a motion to that effect authorised that the Editor of the Advocate-News and the News Editor of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation be summoned to this Chamber, for what is, in my ruling a breach of the privileges of this Chamber. I now direct that Mr. Robert Best Managing Editor of the Advocate-News and Mr. George Hall, News Editor of the Caribbean Broadcasting Station be summoned to the Bar of this House at the next sitting of the House to show cause why they should not be punished for a breach of the privileges of this Chamber.

At the sitting of this House on 17th March, 1972 a motion was moved by the Honourable Member for St. James and seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Peter in these terms:

> "That the words complained of and publication thereof be declared a breach of privilege of this Honourable House and that the Editor of the Democrat be summoned before this House and dealt with in such manner as Your Honour may deem fit under the relevant Standing Orders."

The article which allegedly constituted a breach of privilege appeared in the "Democrat" Newspaper for 17th March, 1972. The passage complained of read:

"Major S. A. Headley has been appointed Permanent Secretary (Defence and Security) in the Prime Minister's Office."

I have given this motion careful consideration and have come to the firm conclusion that there has been no breach of privilege for these reasons:

Firstly there has been no mention in the article expressly or impliedly of the proceedings of the House of Assembly. In the absence of anything linking this statement with this House or its proceedings the allegation must fail. Furthermore the article refers specifically to the appointment of an individual to the Office and personnel matters do not fail to be considered by this Chamber.

For those who would argue that the passage cited subsumed the existence of an office whose creation depends on approval by Parliament, the disclosure of which in the "Democrat" before it was given legislative sanction is a breach of the privileges of this House - my decision is that it is not one of the privileges of this House for Honourable Members to deliberate upon a matter before it can properly be published in any of the news media.

Even if we assume that the passage in the "Democrat" appeared prior to the deliberations of this Chamber - and there is no evidence before the House that it did - this would not constitute a breach of privilege. In fact, Parliamentary Papers are normally circulated to the Press before the House meets and their contents aired before members are able to debate them.

Arising out of these two motions both complaining of the infringement of the privileges of this Chamber, I would take this opportunity to make these observations.

Firstly, I would urge the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to get together at

once and agree to the names of those who will serve on a Standing Committee of Privileges for this Chamber.

Secondly, if this Chamber has privileges - as it manifestly has, the very first persons who must see to their observance in the letter as much as in the spirit are Members of Parliament. If we should show double standards in pouncing upon strangers when they infringe our privileges and give the slightest appearance of condoning glaring breaches by Honourable Members, then this is the surest way to lower the standards of this Ancient and Honourable Assembly in the estimation of all members of this society. The privileges of this House which I laid claim to at the beginning of this Session must stand high and forever unsullied above all interests, private or partisan.

And therefore, that an Honourable Member who must consider himself to have been very leniently dealt with, should have sought to place the rights of private property, in this case ownership of as public a thing as a newspaper, over the rights of this Chamber - so as to put obstacles in the way of this Honourable Chamber taking cognisance of an alleged breach of privilege - shows the height of irresponsibility, crass ignorance and unbelievable selfishness - to say the very least.

I would also add parenthetically by way of a reminder and not to rub salt into individual wounds that Honourable Members who witnessed my ruling being blatantly flouted when I was in no position to see the offender must remember that each and every one of you have an equal duty in assisting the presiding officer in upholding the dignity of this House. It comes ill from the mouths of Honourable Members to bemoan a supposed drop in standards of this Honourable Chamber and then capriciously trifle with the strict observance of those rights and privileges.

The privileges of this House are those of all Honourable Members collectively in our capacity as representatives of the people. They must at all times override private and partisan succeptibilities.

I renew the solemn pledge which I gave this Honourable Chamber on 14th October last year, to uphold those privileges fairly, fearlessly and faithfully in your name and in the name of the sovereign people of Barbados - whose servants we are.

Let me also take this opportunity to counsel Honourable Members to keep high and exemplary the tone of debate and above all the standards of order and discipline in this Chamber as well as in the precincts of this House.

I now exhort Honourable Members to desist from frivolous and gratuitous interruptions. Be ever so vehement in debate but let insults and abuse be far from your repertoire. As responsible individuals, I expect you to place the same favourable construction upon the words of your opponents as you yourselves would want to have placed upon yours. Be charitable, be fairminded. This is all the conduct of the people's business calls for.

With these sentiments, my brother Deputy Speaker the Honourable Member for St. George North and the Chairman of Committees the Hon. member for St. George South fully concur.

10.10 a.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, could I just draw one thing to your attention? I think you referred to the Legislative (Privileges and Immunities) Act, and I think it should now be called the Parliamentary (Privileges and Immunities) Act, therefore there should be a consequential amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you draw my attention to it officially, please? Will you show me the Act?

Mr. MOTTLEY: It was a consequential amendment after independence, Sir, when we refer to Parliament and not to the Legislature.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will have the Clerks check this out and make the necessary amendment. Thank you.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply to deal with the Annual Estimates.

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 resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (2) PRIMARY, ADULT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Head 35 - Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before moving the passing of this Head, on page 78, Item 3 – Supernumerary Teacher, amend the note to

the item by deleting the word "Teachers" appearing after the word "appropriate" and substituting therefore the words "teacher/pupil". At Item 20 – School for Mentally Retarded, delete the existing note and insert new note to read as follows: "grant to school for mentally retarded". With those amendments, Sir, I beg to move that the sum of $3,745,185 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe I am right in saying that nursery education is part of our primary education system, and I believe it would be in the interest of the community as a whole if we could see the re-introduction of what were formerly known as reception classes for the under-five age group. It was a system which gave an opportunity to parents, such as we have in our community in abundance, with several children of school age, and then we find that in addition to this there are numerous others who in a very short time will themselves become of school age and the older ones who are attending school were given the opportunity of taking the younger ones along with them, and the Head Teachers at the schools made provision for them in the past.

Whilst we admit that with the nursery system existing at present it tends in some measure to cater to a situation such as this, we can appreciate the fact that the day nurseries cannot provide adequately, because the provision of them, with our limited financial circumstances, there is to be expected not too rapid progress in the construction thereof as we have seen over the past years, and we would like to see something done to enable those children who normally would have been left at home by their older brothers and sisters being taken along to school. I remember there were some schools in our community which made provision in earlier years even to accommodate some of those little ones in some part of the school, when they got tired after the luncheon break or so, but it did not in any way interrupt the regular school curriculum, and we would like Government to consider this in the light of our young population.

We know that the complaints of the teachers in our primary schools are numerous. They stem from the delay in receiving replies to correspondence between the schools and the Ministry, they stem from the delay in seeing appointments effected as readily as one would wish to see them, and they stem further from the delay in some teachers receiving their pay cheques as soon as they ought to have been made available to them. Further, Sir, there is an attitude adopted by some of the accounting officers that is not at all good, and does not make for the smooth and effective functioning of a Ministry as important as this in our community, because these officers time and again seem to forget that our Supernumerary Teachers might have started out in the Teaching Service on something they had borrowed, perhaps from their own parents, to provide them with transportation to and from school in the first month or two, and we would certainly like to see that this is speeded up, but as has happened time and time again, Head Teachers have all found themselves confronted with the situation whereby they never know that a particular teacher or an individual will be sent to their schools until the teacher turns up, perhaps with a letter.
10.20 a.m.

Invariably the teacher turns up at the school with the letter before the Ministry decides to send down the copy advising the Head Teacher to expect a particular individual on an appointed day. We mention these things here, Mr. Chairman, because in our view when a teacher turns up under such circumstances, the Head Teacher cannot be expected to take to that sort of thing too kindly. It, therefore, creates a situation which could have been avoided, and a pleasanter atmosphere which normally should have greeted the new arrival is sometimes non-existent. It is not the teacher's fault. It is just a case where the officer at the Ministry of Education, who is responsible for posting an individual at a school, is not taking enough action to have things running smoothly.

There is, Mr. Chairman, a further complaint by these supernumerary teachers that they are put to take charge of classes sometimes very well in excess of 60 pupils to one teacher who is a novitiate, so to speak. It must be borne in mind that very much attention cannot be paid to children in such circumstances. The teacher who gets this type of initiation tends to look around for other avenues of employment, because there is little encouragement coming from the headship of the school. You will find, Sir, that is one of the reasons why there is so much shuffling from school to school and, eventually, you find so many drop-outs in the Teaching Service in this Island. This is a matter I should like to see corrected as speedily as possible.

The teachers, again, encounter considerable difficulties in that there is a shortage of textbooks. They often find that instead of one textbook to three children that they have one textbook to 8 children. Mr. Chairman, we will have to decide certain things here for ourselves. Are we doing justice with the money we are spending on

education? Are we doing justice to the nation by shouting loud and long that we are providing education for so many, when in truth and in fact we are not providing as much as one-third of the textbooks that are needed to make the education of these children in schools something to be reckoned upon in later years?

There is, Mr. Chairman, another problem which confronts our children, and it is the change that is brought about too often with the textbooks. I think I am right in saying that there was a West Indian Geography book used in the early 1920's and until, I think, not many years ago, and it was authored by Mr. J. E. Blackman. I think it is one of those books that stood the test; it served our nation well, and I believe, that the late Mr. Walcott and Mr. Holder, two other Head Teachers who together produced what we may call a textbook or a Compendium of Historical and Geographical Facts. These books served, I think, the first and second grade schools. These books came down through the years without our seeing numerous changes.

I want to tell you something, Sir. The changes that are being introduced every now and again, and the books that are in short supply, are affecting the teachers in exactly the same way as they are affecting the pupils. Looking back at the attempts made during the past 5 years to produce West Indian Textbooks.

10.30 a.m.

It is safe to say that it will take us another fifty years before we see West Indian textbooks produced by West Indians in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the nation; so we must decide here and now whether or not we must wait for this, continue to toy with our situation, or whether we should not become a sensible people and approach the problem in the way we see and know best. In other words, approach it in a manner which makes it possible for us to get the best possible results in the shortest possible time.

Now, Mr. Chairman, at Item 3, there is grave dissatisfaction amongst teachers who enter the service and serve with satisfaction for one or two years or more. They demonstrate their ability to do the job. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that there are instances where some have gone on like this for as much as five years and are then forced to resign. It means in such cases that those persons are losing five years of what was heading them on the road to acquiring pension rights, and they have now got to start life anew in some other field. These are matters which I would pray be attended to as expeditiously as possible. We are willing to admit that one of our major problems rests in our training to meet the needs of our schools, and while we are going to come to our principal training institution, I think it is pertinent for me at this point to mention that Erdiston Teachers Training College is swiftly becoming a Jack of all trades and a master of none. No one would attempt to deny that just too many projects are being attempted at Erdiston. It is not enhancing our teacher training and rather than increasing the number which is being put in our schools, the question without fear is the quality that is coming out.

I believe I will have more to say when we reached the Erdiston Head.

There is the question, Mr. Chairman, at Item 7 of apparatus and materiel. Now let us look at a situation where you find primary schools being opened with all the fuss and trumpet blowing that one could ever hear about, the keys being passed from one to the other and what not, but who would believe, Mr. Chairman, that a school - and the Ministry should know which this is - is opened in September, 1970, and you will find that up to now there is no admission register. It has been found that this school, like some others, has been forced to embark on a system of getting requirments of toilet requisites from other schools to meet, not emergencies at this school, but it is a case where you declare a school open today and you take your numbers in and make absolutely no provision.

10.40 a.m.

I must say this, the school was declared open and I doubt if you can find either a Prayer Book or Bible on the premises except in the case perhaps where a teacher might have brought along one in her handbag, and that is a school which was opened in September, 1970. You will find, Sir, that it is not a case, as I have gathered, that the various primary schools have not been putting in their requisition on time to get their supplies, that is not the case at all, there is something wrong at the other end. It would appear that a roll of toilet paper cannot be ordered from a supplying agency unless the order has been vetted by somebody somewhere or unless even the counting of a dozen rolls of paper has been carried out by some senior official in the Ministry of Education. What we would say is this, if you are going to permit the Ministry of Education to function along such lines, something has got to be radically wrong. After all, toilet requisites in each and every school is a must, and what the Head Teachers and Assistant Teachers must do is to try wherever possible to see that the supplies are put to the best use and there is no waste, but however well intentioned a Head Teacher and her staff might be to eliminate waste, this in itself cannot be applicable when there is no supply made to the school.

One will find, as has happened in a comprehensive school as well, that they have to be sending out to shops to buy two or three sheets of foolscap paper. You cannot run an institution like this with success, it does not have a good appearance, it does not add to its status.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member is talking in respect of toilet requisites and he mentioned that this school teacher is sending to buy foolscap paper. Are we to understand that foolscap paper is used in the toilet?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to understand that I am waiting to intervene at the appropriate time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, we are listening to a debate and we would like to follow the debate. What I want to understand is if the hon. member meant that the Head Teacher had to buy foolscap paper for toilet use.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point well taken.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I merely mentioned that in the case of the primary schools...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question you have to decide is if foolscap paper was ordered from the shop to be used as a toilet requisite. This is what the Minister is objecting to.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is making fun.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get it straight. I am prepared to give each and every member of this Chamber a certain amount of latitude until he tries to overstep the boundary on any point in these Estimates.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I am very serious and I object to the hon. member's statement that I was making fun. The hon. member was speaking about wastage of toilet requisites, he pointed out where there was an inadequate supply of toilet requisites, and in the same context he went along stating that a Head Teacher at some comprehensive school has had to be sending out to a shop to buy foolscap paper. It is obvious that foolscap paper is very expensive, and the hon. member is also talking about economising. What I want to find out from the hon. member, and I am very serious about this, is if the Head Teacher was acquiring foolscap paper for toilet use.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have been listening quite carefully to the points being made by the Hon. member for St. Peter, and I think in accordance with his own life he is making valid points. However, on the question of the foolscap paper I would say that this was in fact irrelevant to the present Head we are discussing, in that that refers to secondary comprehensive schools and I think he should keep that for discussion under the next Head. Similarly, the reference he made to Erdiston College, but otherwise I think he is making quite valid points as he sees them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to realise that I am taking all the necessary notes under this particular Head. I did not stop the hon. member before because I am prepared to give him this much latitude, but as soon as I get to the appropriate Heads on which he has already spoken I will then deal with him according to the Standing Orders, because it will become repetitious then, but at this stage I am not prepared to say anything about that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I must proceed, but I do not think it is fair to any hon. member for the Chair without any provocation whatsoever to be threatening an hon. member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you stating that the Chair is threatening you? I want you to understand I am here to rule on anything you have said on any particular Head, and this applies to any hon. member, so that I would know if you are contravening any Standing Order.

10.50 a.m.

I said, Mr. Chairman, that the Primary Schools had to do what they did to get toilet paper, and I said that even in the case of Secondary Schools they had to send to a shop to buy foolscap paper. I will now deal with these Record Cards. I believe that the use of Record Cards in schools is of prime interest to the school and to the child. I very much regret that, in their earlier introduction, they did not find favour with the teachers, but I certainly hope that the Ministry has done enough to bring around the teachers to appreciating the value of these Record Cards. I find in my own business that, even keeping a record of the workers' service, it is of utmost importance. Many of them have worked with me for long periods and some for short periods and have gone abroad. Years after they have gone abroad, some of them have written to me asking me to supply them with a testimonial or some record of their service. If this is necessary in private business, it must be more important to keep such a record of children attending school. I feel that the record should

follow the child from school to school. We are sure that where the children are taught that the Record Card is being kept, and they become versed with the keeping of the Record Cards and they have been made to value the Record Cards, it can have a big effect upon them. In the circumstances, the children would endeavour to see that whatever is reflected in the Record Cards in later years would be good. I should like to hear from the Minister if the Record Cards are in use in all schools in this Island. If they are not kept in all schools, we should appreciate learning from the Minister what is the problem with these Record Cards.

Now, I want to go to Item 11 – Maintenance of Building – for a brief moment. We have heard much about vandalism, and it is a matter for which every effort should be made to stamp it out. With the increase in our Primary Schools, vandalism is a matter which touches several schools in the country. In the case of our Primary Schools, you will find in years past there was something which we might call a resident qualification in the case of headships. In a society such as ours, as it is today, we tend to afford as much freedom as is possible to each and every individual, but we know that there was a time when a Head Teacher, residing in the district in which he taught, served as leaven in bread. It had an effect upon the culture and day-to-day discipline of the children long after they had left the school and gone home.

Mr. Chairman, it is a very ticklish problem to ask the Government to insist upon having Head Teachers or Senior Teachers, as the case may be, residing near the school at which they teach, because we realise that we will be told that things are different from what they used to be due to the behaviour of the children. There are some schools which have residences attached or near to them, and we are wondering, if the Government would be acting in a manner which would hamper the social life of the teacher, if these residences were modernised.
11.00 a.m.

When we ask you to modernise, we do not suggest as in the case of Boscobelle Girls' School that you have some sort of hot loft as it has been referred to and expect to stake a headteacher there, and the thing about this is that the headteacher has a husband and their children. There are other schools as well, Mr. Chairman, and we believe that if this matter is approached in the right manner we would find some headteachers who if they were given the right conditions of service would be willing to take up residence at or near their schools, and we feel that it would serve to assist in transforming the people of the area and eliminate the vandalism which we hear so much about from time to time. Destruction of school property is not something to be encouraged. It means therefore that we have got to look at the sums we are spending on such an item and let it be known that there is no reservoir from which money can just be drawn for the replacement and repairs of buildings and equipment that might be destroyed from time to time.

I think, Mr. chairman, that the Government must decide now that every school building should be under the care and protection of a watchman. The buildings are insured but it is not right any longer for school to be kept in a building and after 3 o'clock the buildings are left until next morning unprotected. In the case of Boscobelle Girls' School there are fruit trees in the yard and children go throwing stones in an effort to get the fruit, but after the stone leaves the hand there is no guide or control. It must mean that in their quest for fun and fruit, valuable property can be destroyed. We would like to see all these things stamped out and that every effort is made to bring this type of behaviour under control one way or another.

Another matter with these primary schools is this: I would like to hear from the Minister how many of these schools still function under a board of Managers or whatever it might be. Surely the Minister would be in a position to tell us if either of these Boards met at any time during the past year, because our view is that these managers, where they exist, seem to have lost interest, especially in the case of Ministers of religion who from the time were stripped of their power and have not been carrying out their visits or even appear to care anything about what is going on at any of these institutions. We would very much like to know if the Minister finds that the reappointment or resuscitating of some of these Boards would be of any assistance in the guidance of the affairs of these schools in helping to exercise control generally. We would be glad to see the matter attended to by appointing people who would have an interest in the school.

Now at Item 12 there is an item for rental of land used for gardening and playgrounds.
11.10 a.m.

I cannot stress too strongly, Mr. Chairman, the necessity for providing adequate playing fields for each and every school in this island, it is so well-known. Everywhere one goes we see the children playing their games, some of them being taken in various sections of the highways to play their games,vehicular traffic has got to wait until they remove their nets or wickets as the case may be to afford a passage. We know that providing adequate playing fields is a costly exercise, but we

still feel that Government has not shown itself as doing anything in this respect in the past years. We believe that if this matter is in the hands of a committee, that the committee needs more support, it should be more active, and we know that we will hear of something called priorities, but even how these are arrived at can at times be baffling even to some members of the Government, but let us put this aside for a moment. Our concern is that we want to see that something is really being done to provide adequate accommodation by way of playing fields for the children at these various schools. It means so much to them, I do not have to go into the benefits to be derived from this.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know which playing field was rented or exactly what this $410 really covers. As for gardening, we have here all the efforts of Government at diversification of our agriculture. Gardening is something which is part of the blood of a very high percentage of the people of this nation, and if we would take Erdiston Teachers' Training College and teach our teachers there the methods, the wherewithall, so that they might return to their schools and assist the children, I feel that school gardening which we through our Annual Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition has shown over the past years that there has been a decline, and we must not wink our eyes to the fact that the attitudes of our children in schools have been such as to tell us that there will be a further decline unless we tackle it by having our teachers interested. Placing agricultural science or whatever you might call it or schoolgardening on the cirriculum, unless the teachers are a type of dedicated people who are interested in this, it is a complete waste of time and energy, because the children will not be able to take any appreciable notice, so we would like to know that Government takes a firm decision to bring around the teachers to appreciating their role in restoring school gardening, whether it is the growing of flowers or vegetables, whatever it might be, to what it used to be in past years, and with the advance in the field of science and with the better type of equipment they should certainly be able to do better. I hope that this will be tackled as it should be.

If we go for a moment to look at Item 13 - Games, it is to be regretted that it can be said that in the conduct of games and the staging of these games Government is permitting itself to be opened to being accused of lending assistance to the spread of the increase of having social distinctions in the system.

11.20 a.m.

This Government is not only perpetuating, but is actually strengthening it. You will find at the Annual Athletic Meeting – I believe that this is about the time of the year for this type of activity. What you will find is that the Government is sitting idly by, as it were, and allowing First Grade and Second Grade Schools – we have been perpetuating this class system. The First and Second Grade Schools will have their sports on a particular day; the Comprehensive Schools will go on the scene next or at some other time, the Private Secondary Schools and the Approved Secondary Schools on another day, and our Senior Elementary or All Age Schools will be in a different class by themselves.

Now, Mr. Chairman, why should we be having in our school system what people are likely to call four classes of athletic sports? Why is not Government using this opportunity to take the initiative in removing what people are clinging to, this class system, by having the All Age Schools...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is making capital of the fact that the First Grade Schools, the Second Grade Schools and the Comprehensive Schools are holding their athletic events separately and distinctly, but the hon. member could have gone on to say that, after selecting the best from the various schools, they then have the inter-school sports where they all come together. I think it is better this way, because you will give all of the talent equal opportunity to compete and give of their very best.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member says everything at the same time. What we are saying is: "Do not let us try to separate them as we have seen in the past."

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. On Saturday I attended at the National Stadium and presented trophies and medals to the School League Championship organised by the Sports Department of my Ministry at which schools ranging from the Private Schools such as the Metropolitan High School, Codrington High School, Springer Memorial and Queen's College – schools throughout the whole range of the educational system were participating.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister omitted to say that the Senior Elementary School was present. That is exactly what I am driving at. Now, $13,000 is voted to take care of this, and it would be of some interest to learn from the Minister approximately for how many children this amount is expected to provide. To my mind it appears to be very inadequate.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I should like to make it clear

that the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport does not organise the Annual Inter-School Athletic Championships. These are organised by the teachers in the system, and we make a grant to them for the conduct of these games.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, regardless of whatever the Sports Department organises, or what the teachers organise, the snob element still remains, and we are asking the Government to try to stamp it out even at this late hour.

Now, at Item 15 – Evening Institute – we are asked to vote $172,234. I believe that we are satisfied now that the Evening Institute is an Institution with a programme of education. It means that we can no longer expect to continue as we have been going in the past, if we want to do justice to the people who register for these evening classes. I am sure that the Minister would have at his fingertips the most interesting thing about these evening classes – the dropout numbers over the past year or two years.

Now, the Evening Institute has a Dean of Studies, I think, but surely the Dean and all of the other members of the staff are people who go to the Evening Institute after having performed a full day's work in their respective spheres such as teaching in the various schools of this island.
11.30 a.m.

The Evening Institute has its Dean of Studies, but the Dean, like all the other members of staff, is a person who goes to the Evening Institute after having performed a full day's work in his sphere at a school in this Island. We are approaching this realising that there is a shortage of this and that here and there; but institutions have been established since the Evening Institute and ways and means have been found of staffing these institutions, even if not fully, in some appreciable manner, and we believe that the Evening Institute should be of better service if there was some permanency attached to its staff or to some members of staff like a full-time Dean of Studies and others, because after all one of the problems of the Intitution is that classes are not supervised as fully as they ought to be, and we fear, Mr. Chairman, that there can be no short road to success in a matter of education. It is a course which must be run, and we have got to try wherever possible to give the students the fullest opportunity possible to assimilate, and the time has come we feel, when something will have to be done where the Evening Institute is concerned. Now, Mr. Chairman, we have also got to come to grips with the situation which will explain where our adult education begins...

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is the hon. member still addressing the Chamber? We cannot be subjected to this sort of affliction with the hon. member taking minutes before he can proceed to keep us back here. We are not here at his behest, and in these circumstances you should determine whether you should put the question.

Mr. HINDS: We would know he is present without that, Mr. Chairman. We have got to hear from the Minister what exactly is the Government's plan for adult education to ensure that there is overlapping in any respect by the various institutions that are providing such an education. It is all right to be voting money for this and for that, but in our adult education programme we have got to think in terms of taking these programmes to the people wherever possible, because many of these programmes are offered to the people not during their regular working hours, and we have got to try wherever possible to get away from bringing all our people into Bridgetown, and in the case of the northern or southern parishes where we have established an institution, to see that it is kept as active as possible and provide as much as possible for these people seeking education in this programme as to reduce the possibility of such vast numbers having to crowd into Bridgetown and St. Michael proper for their adult education.

At Item 17 there is a vote of $36,000 to provide for the continuation of construction of roadways. This is something, Sir, which must be commended, because there are quite a number of our schools requiring this type of attention. Our children have been suffering for quite a long time, and I remember in the case of one of our schools in St. Michael where a dirt track has been long in existence as an access to the school. You have today many school teachers who have provided themselves with transportation to and from work, and it is undoubtedly something to be commended to see that adequate roads will be provided to give proper access to the schools for both the children and staff.
11.40 a.m.

I sincerely hope that when Government is fixing its priorities consideration is given not merely to the schools in the areas where the Government support at polling time seems to be heaviest, but on a basis where we see and know it is absolutely necessary to make such a provision in the interest of the school and the people who have got to use that road.

Mr. Chairman, at Item 18 we are voting $5,000 to assist in the purchase of pianos, tape

recorders and the like. I think that I am right in saying that the Ministry of Education receives some assistance of this kind from, I believe, the British Government and from other agencies, and I would certainly like to hear from the Minister how his Ministry proceeded with the distribution of the assistance which was received. My information is that there are very large schools which submitted requests and which have not received any assistance; as a matter of fact, I have been informed that what was received was not made known to the schools in the way one would have thought it should be made, and I believe that each Education Officer ought to be fully aware of the requirements of the schools under his charge.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, may I state here and now I am not aware of any assistance to the Ministry of Education under this particular Item from the British Government or from any other foreign source.

Mr. HINDS: If, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not aware of any assistance from any source under this Item, I wonder if he is in a position to tell us if he has received any gifts such as pianos, typewriters or any of the items that are listed under this Item.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Item deals with musical instruments and it is irrelevant to ask if you got a typewriter as a musical instrument. Under Standing Order 26 typewriters have nothing to do with musical instruments, it is irrelevant.

Mr. HINDS: I am not worried, Sir. The note reads "to assist in the purchase of pianos, tape recorders and other musical instruments". We were going on all right all morning, but now we have two Chairmen.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is only one Chairman present.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, I would like to learn from the Minister if his Ministry has received gifts of pianos from anywhere at all for the assistance of the various schools under his control. It is all right for the Minister to say he is not aware of this or that, we agree that lots of things might be taking place in the Ministry and the Minister might not be aware of them, but we know that there are cases where schools have held functions and made other efforts on their own to buy certain pieces of equipment, and after the schools have gone out to do this, they then receive similar gifts from the Ministry. I would like to hear from the Minister if this has happened in the case of tape recorders or anything like this.

At Item 19 – Extra Mural Classes, here again the question of Adult Education arises. There is no getting away from the fact that there are very many institutions now all catering to adult education as in the case of the Extra Mural Department. We know that the Department has been doing very good work in trying to keep our young people alive on matters of current affairs. 11.50 a.m.

I am wondering if we are not likely to be better served if there can be a co-ordination of all the efforts of these various institutions offering this type of education. You have the Extra Mural Department, the Evening Institute and others, and I do not think that we are getting the best results from the money spent as the situation obtains at present. As I have said, I think the public is satisfied with the efforts of the Extra Mural Department in recent months.

Now, we come to the question of the School for the Mentally Retarded. I do not think that all that could be done is really being done in this respect. In addition to this, we need people specially trained for dealing with the blind and partially blind, the deaf and partially deaf, people with speech difficulties and people who are handicapped in any way other than the categories I have mentioned. I should also add that we need to have people specially trained for dealing with the mentally subnormal. We feel that this school deserves much more attention than is being given to it at the moment. There are no two ways about it. Every school in Barbados has mentally retarded children in it. (Mr. WALCOTT: "The House of Assembly, too.")

We believe that our Education Officers could play a very important part here as well as the Welfare Officers attached to the various schools, and they can bring much to the forefront in respect of these people. Their problems are many, and they need personal attention. I believe, Sir, that I have covered what ground there is to cover under this particular Item, and I should certainly like to hear from the Minister what points he can reply to. *(Asides.)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask for order once again. I am not going to accept this cross-talk.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong the debate. I just want to draw to the Hon. Minister's attention that under Item 9 there is a sum for the Maintenance of Grounds. The Hon. Minister was not a member of this Assembly during

the last Session when I drew to the attention of the House the state of the grounds at the St. Elizabeth School and the new St. Bernard School in St. Joseph. These schools, unfortunately, like the entire parish of St. Joseph, have been suffering from neglect since they have come into operation. The St. Elizabeth school ground still needs quite a lot done to it. A certain amount of levelling and buttressing should be done to the northern portion of the field, and no immediate work is being done to it.

The new St. Bernard School was opened in a flurry during 1970, and up to quite recently the grounds have not been properly cleared. As the hon. member for St. James has said, it presents a problem to school children to go to school without having the necessary facilities for playing. They have to resort to playing in the highways with the resultant danger which can be created to vehicular traffic and to themselves.

With reference to St. Anns School, there, apparently, has been some difficulty between St. Anns School and the Church in that there is a single roadway which leads to the school and then continues to the Church. That will come under Item 17 – Roadways. The road there is badly in need of paving, and I would hope that the Hon. Minister could give us some idea as to what benefit St. Joseph could hope to get in the coming year from the sweets which will be thrown around.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to inflict anything upon the Committee after what has been inflicted on them in this matter, otherwise we would become a School for the Mentally Retarded, if I were to speak on these Heads in the same way as you have listened to them already. With regard to Item 16 – Adult Education – the Government has increased the vote by $22,142. All I should like to say on this Head as a whole is that it is over $3½ million, and it shows that the Government is paying attention to these matters. There is one specific area on which I should like to speak. In looking at the Government's Adult Education Programme, I have not seen enough done between the broad areas of Adult Education and what the Extra Mural Department can do. I know that the Barbados Workers' Union have submitted certain things to the Ministry when it comes to Industrial Training. We have expressed our views on Industrial Training. The Organisation itself is not one of the organisations asking for assistance in Industrial Training, but the Organisation itself is spending money – it does not have the money to spend like the United States – to the tune of over $25,000 per annum on this kind of facility for training in Industrial Relations and Industrial matters.

12 noon.

We know that Trinidad, Guyana and Jamaica, some of the major independent Commonwealth countries have made a positive and definite contribution to this phase of their education programme of industrial training, and the Trade Unions have been assisting. As you know there is the Crichlow Institute in Guyana and the Cipriani Labour College in Trinidad, and the Trade Union Institute at Mona in Jamaica, and I would like to see the Government of Barbados make a similar contribution for this kind of training. We have heard some of the remarks of the Prime Minister about the Ministry of Labour and the Department of Labour, and I feel this is very vital to the progress of Barbados.

Barbados is predominantly a wage earning society and I feel that in providing or assisting in industrial training, we are making a positive contribution to economic progress, industrial peace and harmony and a more accelerated progress of this country. Nothing is stated in these Estimates specifically. It is a broad Head and I hope the Minister will be able to give some clear indication about his Ministry's policy about this phase of adult education, and to what extent the Ministry intends to give assistance to organisations that are already making this kind of provision and not organisations that simply ask Government for a hand-out and not doing anything about it.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I could just reply briefly to the points which have been made under this particular Head 35(2), and if I can take those that have been mentioned last because these may be the ones which are fresh in my memory, I would like to preface my remarks by thanking the hon. member for St. Peter for his restrained if prolix observations of these Estimates. As far as the adult education programme is concerned and the contribution to the Barbados Workers' Union, I remember at the function held at the Barbados Workers' Union building on Roebuck Street I did state that whenever the Union was ready to declare open its Labour College which I think is its declared policy, that Government would be willing to give assistance. As far as I am aware I have not yet seen any concrete proposals in this respect. I believe that the Union is working on these proposals, but as far as I am aware, no concrete proposals have been submitted which will form the basis for contribution to this type of education. I would merely like to reiterate my stand on this matter that labour education is an important part of the total education of this country, and that Government will be prepared to make a grant towards the Barbados Workers' Union for this type of education that we have in the country.

Mr. Chairman, I think you are aware that the Head with which we are dealing is of vital

importance to the educational development of our country at the primary level, adult education as well as special education. At the nursery level, during the course of next month or soon thereafter I expect to formally open a nursery school at Government Hill, and this in itself will be a clear indication that the Government is well aware of the importance of nursery education and of catering to the three to five year age range in our country. I would like to make it abundantly clear to the hon. member for St. Peter that there has been no closing of our schools to children who are under five years old. I think there was some indication that these classes may have been closed, what he calls the reception classes. I think that headteachers in their discretion subject to the availability of space and other facilities do admit children into schools, and there are some 857 children under the age of five years in our primary schools. I think this is an indication that these classes have not been closed.

The member for St. Peter also raised the question about teachers' appointments and so on. I do not intend to make very much comment on this because the question of appointments and so on are outside my own scope as Minister. I will merely draw the statements made to the attention of the appropriate officers and ask that in whatever areas there may be room for improvement that this be taken up.

On the question of the changes of textbooks, the policy of my Ministry is to work for the standardisation of textbooks. This must not be taken to mean that there will be one textbook which will be declared as a textbook for use in schools, but there will be something like four textbooks in each particular subject area on the school curriculum, and that the headteachers would be asked to choose from among this range of textbooks. If they want to go outside that particular range, they can then show reasons why they want to use the other textbooks not on the approved list, and if good reasons are advanced we would approve these, but our drive is to get some measure of standardisation in this area. We have increased the amount of money provided for the purchase of textbooks – I am not speaking to this Item here – but we are making a capital injection for the provision of additional textbooks for schools.

I would like to make a plea here that parents should consider wherever they can the provision of textbooks for their children not only at the secondary level but at the primary level as well, because if a child has a textbook within the home, certainly there is the possibility that greater use can be made of the textbook, and there is no point waiting until age 11 or 12 when the child gets into secondary school for parents then to start purchasing textbooks. I think if you accustom children to textbooks from early that this would certainly help the educational efforts of the school. We provide textbooks in the school within the framework of the financial capabilities of the Government, but I would like to urge parents wherever they can to provide these in the homes as well.

As far as the supernumery teachers are concerned or those teachers who come in in an acting position for one or two years and may even serve for five years, I can say, Mr. Chairman, very little on this. If you are in a temporary position, you have got to gain the necessary qualifications which would make you eligible for appointment. The fact that you have served for five years on qualifications which do not permit you to be employed permanently is not in itself any guarantee on the basis of long service that you will be eligible for appointment, and I would merely advise that if there are cases of teachers who are serving for three or four years in an acting or supernumery capacity, that they should do everything in their power to gain the qualifications necessary which would permit them to get on to the permanent establishment, and I believe that the service which is given in that capacity would be taken into account for pension rights, that is, if they get the necessary qualifications.

12.10 p.m.

The member for St. Peter made some reference to the opening of primary schools, and I think he referred to it as a lot of fuss and drum playing, and if the hon. member could make his fuss in the district of Black Bess in St. Peter with the opening of a communal bath and latrine, - I am cetain there were the necessary requisites provided for the occasion - how much more important is it when schools are being opened that the people of this country should know that the schools are opening, because each one of these institutions that is opened represents yet another step on the part of this community - and I am not speaking about the Government or Party - this is a community effort to improve the levels of education in the country in order that we can quicker get a just society established in this country.

If there are difficulties in the area of the provision of requisitions I will certainly have this examined, but I would like to make it clear to the hon. member that whatever supplies are sent to the schools there must be appropriate accounting for them and we have got to ensure that this accounting takes place.

As far as record cards are concerned, record cards were supposed to record the pupil's attendance, intelligence attainment, personality traits and so on, but it is difficult to introduce and use effectively such record cards unless the teachers themselves are trained in the adequate recording of the information required, and as the hon. member said, teachers were from the very inception not very keen on giving these cards the full use that should be given, not necessarily because of laziness or anything like that, but maybe because at that time they did not see the necessity or certainly were not capable of making the necessary records which would be useful as far as these cards are concerned as a record of the pupil's progress. I would like to say that all relevant information concerning children's progress in the schools is kept in the school record books and that from these records matters like testimonials and so on are completed, and therefore the hon. member is right, these record cards have fallen into disuse but we are looking at this whole area of the use of records in schools to see that the children's educational progress will be facilitated.

On the question of destruction at schools, I remember quite well that when I was drawing attention to this in times past when I was not a member of this Hon. Chamber it was even suggested that I did not know what the meaning of vandalism was, and I am very happy to know that on this occasion it is acknowledged that something must be done to stamp out acts of wanton destruction against school property. We have had quite a number of incidents reported to the Police of actions against school property; let me just give one example. On 16th June, 1971 St. Matthew's Mixed School was forcibly entered and articles to the value of $113.04 stolen, and there are other instances of this - at least 16 instances were recorded - in which articles valued at varying amounts disappeared from these schools, and I would like again to take this opportunity to appeal for respect for these buildings, these educational shrines and sanctuaries which should be accorded the type of status in the community, and should be free from any molestation on the part of those who might be searching for some type of articles or money, and which should not be so.

As far as the Boards of Management of the primary schools are concerned, I would like to state that the Managers of Schools still function, and as far as I understand it, function quite adequately in relation to their schools, and I would like to refute any suggestion that the passing of the Anglican Church Settlement Act, 1969 has resulted in Ministers of religion ceasing to take an interest in the primary schools of this country. They still function as Managers of Boards even though the Boards themselves, as far as the primary schools are concerned, do not function.

As far as playing fields are concerned, this Government within the framework of the financial resources of this country - and we cannot say do not listen to priorities, everything in life is a question of priorities and we have got to balance one type of priority against another - it is our policy to provide playing fields and playgrounds at schools, and where schools do not have such facilities and land is available either at the school or within a reasonable distance from the school to provide them we will purchase the land. St. Joseph is not really a neglected parish as far as education is concerned, I believe it had one of the first secondary comprehensive schools in this country, and the new school which was put up, the Canadian Maple Leaf gift school, we provided along with that school the grounds which will provide for the physical education, games and sport, etc. at this school. It is quite true that the grounds have not yet been levelled, but this is something which we hope to rectify within the near future. The fact is, before this school was there playing facilities were very short, and in providing for the new school we also made available ample playing field facilities, and so it was with St. Christopher's. There was no playing field around the old St. Christopher's Boys' School and with the provision of a new school a playing field was provided. At the Christ Church Girls' School we have bought land in order to provide playing facilities for the girls, at St. Bartholomew's School a new school was erected and we also provided playground facilities just across the road. The school across the road from the Flash'N did not have adequate facilities, and when we constructed the new school we saw to it that an area was provided for the playground, so it was with the Good Shepherd School. The area for the playground has been provided, it now remains for us at all these areas to ensure that the proper levelling of the grounds is done.

I would like to state that the matter of the provision of playing fields is not in the hands of any committee. The member for St. Peter seems to be implying that there was some committee dealing with this matter, but there is no committee dealing with the question of the provision of playing fields.
12.20 p.m.

As far as games are concerned, I should merely like to say that I do not accept any charge that there is against this Government for maintaining snobbery in sports in this country, as far as the athletic sports are concerned. The teachers organised games for boys in the Secondary

Schools from time immemorial. Even when the Barbados Labour Party held the reins of power in this country, and that is a thing of the past, the school sports were organised by teachers in the Secondary and Grammar Schools. Now, similarly, the teachers in the Primary and Comprehensive Schools get together and stage their Athletic Championships, and this Government makes a grant towards- the Barbados Union of Teachers to assist them in the staging of these games. My Ministry, as I said, has been staging Schools Athletic Championships in which any school is free to enter a team in this competition, and the finals of this competition were held on Saturday at which I was present. There is no case of any snobbery being maintained, as far as those schools are concerned.

With regard to the Evening Institute Programme, it must be realised that, as far as teaching is concerned, there is limited personnel on which to draw for instruction in the evening, and one source from which those teachers can be drawn is from those who teach during the day. We do not have an unlimited supply of teachers, and hence those who give of their time to teach in the Evening Institute Programme should, in fact, be commended. I do not think it is going to be possible in this Programme to have teachers appointed full-time merely to teach in the Evening Institute. While I am reviewing the whole concept of adult education and the practices therein, I should like the hon. member to know that I do not contemplate making any provision for the majority of the staff there to be on a full-time basis. We have to draw on the teachers who are in the school system. In the review to which I have referred, any overlapping that may come to light I will certainly investigate and take care of.

On the matter of roadways to schools, hon. members may have seen recently that tenders were invited for repairs to roadways; that these have been awarded, and the persons who have been successful in their tenders are actually working on the repairs to roadways. I repeat that I am not aware of any aid from the British Government or from any other source for the provision of pianos to schools.

In respect of Item 20 - School for Mentally Retarded - the hon. member for St. Peter scrutinises these Estimates very carefully. I should like to pay him a tribute for the very close attention he pays to these Estimates, but he seems not to have realised that this House is being asked to provide an increase in the allocation for the School for Mentally Retarded. This is precisely because we believe that this type of education must be provided, and that those bodies in the community which have taken it as their role to assist in this particular area of education should be given every possible encouragement. We have increased the amount from $7,000 to $12,000, and this is exclusive to any contribution which we may give for assistance to persons interested in this type of education from going to conferences abroad.

I remember during the course of this current financial year, I believe, assistance was given to persons to attend a conference in Jamaica on this question of mental retardation and education for those who are mentally retarded. I should like to point out that it is not a case that this Government is not doing anything for the training of the handicapped in our midst. Under the Commomwealth Bursary Scheme, persons have been sent on training in the areas of the teaching of the deaf and those who suffer from hearing disabilities; persons have been sent to train in the area of special education for the Diploma of Special Education and in the area of handicapped and backward children. This is ample testimony that my Ministry is well aware of the needs for training in this particular area. I should not like the impression to be given that this area is neglected or that attention is not being given to this particular kind of treatment.

Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to speak on any other item. With regard to Item 9, the member for St. Joseph referred to St. Elizabeth. I think the points he has made are well taken. The St. Elizabeth ground and the school itself suffer from depredations, and I should certainly hope that he could use his influence to ensure that the schools premises, and by this I include the building as well as the grounds are not tampered with. He should see to it that those who reside in that area desist from causing destruction to property. In this connection I should state that there is no request from the hon. member or from anyone in St. Joseph for the use of this particular school, the St. Elizabeth School, and that this has not been granted. My information is that there is no request outstanding for the use of this school sent in to the Ministry of Education.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Hon. Minister has given way. The Minister will say that there is no outstanding request for the use of this school. My personal belief is that the reason for the vandalism to this school is that it seems to be shrouded in mystery. I do not want to draw any personalities into this debate. I can tell the Minister that I, personally, have tried on several occasions to get the use of this school. I have telephoned the Ministry of Education asking for the use of that school, and I have been told that I must consult with the headmaster first. This particular

headmaster is a mythical subject; you cannot get hold of him no matter how you try. I have been told personally that I must consult the headmaster before I can approach the Ministry for the use of the school. I have tried to consult the headmaster, but he has done everything possible to prevent being contacted, and he has refused to get in touch with me. That is my personal experience in respect of getting St. Elizabeth School.

Mr. Chairman, I will go further and tell the Minister what is happening up there. I want the Government to know that the fishermen of Tent Bay have been trying since August last year to form themselves into a co-operative, and we have been trying to use the school for our first meeting. I have contacted the Co-operative Officer who has said that he is willing to give us assistance provided we can get the school. There is no question of the outstanding use of the school, because I have tried and the people concerned have evaded me.
12.30 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I would like to conclude my address because when I am finished I would like to make it clear that it is unlikely that I will be speaking on this particular Head again. I think we have got to get some order into these discussions. I cannot be popping up and down; so I would like to conclude my address. I would just like to tell the hon. member for St. Joseph that we do not have any mythical headmasters in our schools, and they are not even apparitions in these schools as far as I know. If the hon. member is a member of a co-operative or is assisting a cooperative at Tent Bay this is something that is part and parcel of the policy of this Government to develop cooperatives, and if a request was made for the use of a school in writing giving us sufficient time to process the application to see that there is no other request for the use of the school on the same day and so on, and the necessary precautions which we ask for can be carried out, this will be given favourable consideration. You can write directly to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry and copy to the headteacher, or write to the headteacher and copy to the Ministry of Education, and this will be taken up and given favourable consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I will look into the question of the roadway at St. Anns School to see if this can be repaired within the context of the priorities established. There are no other matters I wish to reply to at this particular stage, Mr. chairman, and I would like to thank the Committee.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. chairman, the Minister prefaced his remarks by saying that he would not be popping up and down; so I would not expect him to do this, but I think this is the Committee stage where we may be able to exchange views. We are not quarrelling.

Under Item 14 - Games - I am going to have a real dig at the Minister when it comes to that particular Head, but I observe that in Item 9 there is an increase of $600 for the maintenance of grounds; it was $18,000 last year. Now I am a bit concerned about the maintenance of grounds. The Minister said that they provide grounds for some of these schools, and he went on to mention the Good Shepherd Boys' School. I do not think he should mention that school because it does not reflect very well on his Ministry. This is three years now that we have been asking the Ministry just to level the grounds. It would not take sixteen months even if you had a drought to provide proper playingfields at some of these schools; so when you provide playing fields, what about the maintenance? If the Minister is saying that he is providing the grounds and then he takes two or three years to put them into proper shape, this is nothing of which he can be proud.

With respect to maintenance of buildings, I am going to throw out a suggestion to the Government. I believe that the time has come when we must decide to have security officers posted at all of these schools with authority to make an arrest. I am not thinking of a man of 85 years of age who comes to work at 4 o'clock or 6 o'clock and he is only there sleeping. I am thinking of a security officer with authority to make an arrest, and I believe you would be able to stamp out some of the problems with which the Ministry is confronted by way of vandalism. I do not believe in giving a person responsibility and no authority, because if a man is a groundsman working at a school you will find that these problems take place after the school has closed. In the case of Combermere School, I dare say it is the people in the neighbouring district who go and break off the doors, and you would feel ashamed to see some of the desks and chairs there. I think the Minister is well aware of these problems, and I am only throwing out the suggestion, not to have a man of 60 or 65 years of age for somebody to push around, but a security officer who can make arrests. You might as well decide to do this otherwise you will be coming to Parliament all the time asking for these large sums of money simply because of the amount of vandalism which exists. I have no quarrel with the Minister. I think my colleague has done justice to this Head, but I will discuss games and athletics when we come to that Head; so the Minister can stand by.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Minister if he would consider the case of the Westbury Junior and Westbury Infants Schools, and see whether amalgamating them would not make for greater efficiency. I would like the Minister to go into matters relating thereto in view of the close proximity of the two schools and see what he can get in the long run.

The question that the sum of $3,745,185 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education – as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(3) SECONDARY EDUCATION

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (3) *Secondary Education – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under Item 8 – Apparatus and Material, amend note to item by inserting the words "laboratory supplies" after the word "requisites" appearing in the note thereto. Under Item 15 – Cleaning, amend note to item by inserting the word "provision" after the word "includes" and deleting the words "and other miscellaneous" and substituting therefor the words "other cleaning materials."
12.40 p.m.

On page 80, Item 27 – Furniture and Equipment, amend the note to the item by adding the letter "s" to the words "recorder" and "cleaner" appearing in the note thereto. I beg to move that the sum of $5,363,996 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to comment on Item 26 - Approved Independent Schools. The sum of $679,440 is to be voted, and the note reads: "Provision for bursaries, teachers' salaries, training courses and subventions for special subjects and other authorised assistance to Approved Independent Schools." Mr. Chairman, I am becoming more and more worried about the successful output from these independent schools. I wonder whether the Government feels that this sum is enough for the particular aspect as set out in the note, because year after year we are faced with the problem of quite a number of children sitting the 11+ examination, and the amount of those who are accepted finally in the Government-Aided Schools never seem to rise above 700. It means that quite a number of other eligible children, or children who feel that they should have some sort of improved education, find themselves into these secondary schools, some approved and some not yet approved.

I believe the Government has got to take a very serious stand at this point and make some sort of legislation by which they can control all these independent schools, because I am worried to think that the school fees in most of these schools are rather high, they go from $75 per term probably up to $130 per term, and then at the end of probably five, six or seven years of attending these schools one sees the number of children heading for the Garrison and for the various examination centres, and they are rather hopeful. The examination is taken, there is that time between the examination and the publication of results, then the commercial sector, private enterprise all over this country is flooded with the output from the schools, the students are asking for jobs and they will tell you they have just sat the G.C.E. "O" Level and they are hoping to pass in at least three or four subjects. This is where the problem arises.

An employer has got to wait to find out whether they are going to be successful, the children are waiting and hoping, but when the results come back, as I said before, 90% of them will pass in two subjects, English Literature and Religious Knowledge. Some schools call it Scripture, Religious Education and all kinds of fancy names, but in my humble opinion, you cannot find any of them passing in Mathematics, French or one of the subjects which practically every commercial or private enterprise is looking for today. Even those schools which carry commercial classes with Typewriting and Shorthand, the results are rather poor, and it is the parents then who begin to grumble and they say they have sent their children all these years to these schools and they have come out with nothing. I had the startling example of a young man who has been following up my office asking for a job. I asked him what sort of job he would like and he said he is only interested in Accountancy. I asked him what certificates he had and he had none. I would call the name of the school he attended, it was one of the independent secondary schools and he attended from second form to fifth form but he has not yet up to this day been able to pass an examination in Mathematics, but his sights are still trained on being an Accountant, and I had to tell his mother that what I was going to say to her was harsh and brutal, but her son was looking for the type of occupation for which he was not fitted.

Nobody is going to take a young man to train him to become an Accountant when he cannot even show a basic certificate in Arithmetic or Mathematics, but he is contented to wait at home until he finds a job as an Apprenticed Accountant. These are the problems which we face, and I believe that the Government at this point should take a rather serious look into what is going to happen with the approved schools, hold an investigation to find out if the teachers employed are qualified to teach up to the standard of "O" level certificates, find out what is happening, where the breakdown is, because there is something strange that a child who has passed through the school from first form to fifth then reaches a point where probably two or three percent of those who are entered for the examination can only gain two subjects, English Literature and Religious Knowledge, and I consider those two subjects the easiest of all, because there are so many religions around Barbados nowadays it is practically impossible for any Bajan child to fail in Religious Knowledge, and the modern system of English Literature is such that you can go to the cinema any evening and watch Macbeth, Twelfth Night and the whole series of Shakespeare's works, but you cannot go to the cinema and watch how to do an arithmetical calculation, so one see why they pass in those two subjects.

There is something lacking in these schools, and I would like to see the Government carry out an investigation on the system of marking the examination papers from the second and third forms up. If the child is not up to that material standard you should not promote him to the fifth form, giving him the belief that he is doing well, fool the parents into continually paying this $75 or $80 a term hoping that one day the child will be able to come home and say he has brought home his certificates. If it is a question of eliminating them early there should be some policy as to this, the Government should look into it, because if they find that most of the children who are promoted from second to third to fourth right up through the school and the quality of the examination work is such that they should not be promoted, it means that the proprietors of these schools have been robbing the parents, and I would like the Government to think on these things seriously. We may be doing ourselves a lot of good if we stop some of these children now, rather than to let them continue in this particular system, let them go up to fifth form, let them encourage the idea that they will one day be doctors, accountants or something else and then find that they go through the school without gaining the necessary certificates, and most of them do not want any other work than what they have set their sights on.

12.50 p.m.

They will tell you: "I went to a secondary school, and I cannot do anything below a certain standard." I think we should clarify this position as soon as possible.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, if I were not leaving the Chamber, I would not have spoken at this time. What the hon. member has said has left me with the impression that we need a debate for this instead of speaking on every Head under Education. If you had a debate on this matter, it would be a very interesting debate. I am surprised to hear the hon. member, a young man, making the statement he has made. He has made an old fashioned statement, or an old man's statement. His concept about education is wrong. You are not educating a boy or girl to get a certificate. That is one of the elements for sending them to school, but it is not the only reason for sending a boy or girl to school. It is not merely a secondary education, it is educating the children long enough. The days are over when 14 years were enough for a boy or girl to remain in an elementary school. It does not matter if a certificate is gained as a result of educating the child until it reaches the ages of 16 or 17, because you are giving the child enough fundamental training in education at the base level to make the child equipped for man's work for life, and it is not a matter of having a certificate.

Mr. Chairman, we are governed too much about this concept that the only justification in going to school is how many certificates you can get in it. I do not believe in Barbados if you took the total population into consideration that the results from the GCE could be regarded as being inferior to any other part of the world, taking the population into consideration. If you take a 240,000 population no bigger than Coventry, when you go to Coventry to find out what results they got from secondary education you would get almost the same thing.

I agree with the hon. member that the society feels that as long as a boy or a girl goes to a secondary school that there are certain jobs by prescription that he or she should do or should not do and, therefore, that is a matter for the society as a whole. How are you going to breakdown the society? You can only break down the society by educating more people. I agree with the hon. member that the Government should make an examination into the Independent Schools, not as a question of

whether they could give a certificate or not, but to make an examination to see if the schools are physically geared to accommodate the children adequately. Some of the independent Schools, in my view, are overcrowded for the same reason that so many people are pressing on the education services. What it shows is this: You have a situation where a child in a general way can only be educated if it is a child, and the children can only be sent to school when they are children. The problem in Barbados is that you have not been able to build as many schools as are needed.

As the Hon. Minister said earlier, the building of schools is a question of priority, but there are a lot of people pressing for education and for secondary schools. I do not subscribe to this view. The hon. member is talking about school certificates. We are not lacking in Barbados for people with school certificates. We have boys and girls in Barbados doing all sorts of jobs with 5 or 6 "O" levels. Let us be quite frank. There are more boys and girls in this community with 5 and 6 "O" levels than we have ever had in Barbados doing ordinary jobs, and I am not talking about specialist jobs.

I am not an employer in the sense that I am an employer, but we can get all the people we want to work at the Union without any problem. There is no problem in getting a boy or girl with 5 or 6 "O" levels to do an ordinary clerical job. If you advertise for any post now from $300 a month up, clerks will leave the Government Service easily and take the job. I have an application on my desk now from a young man from one of the Independent Schools. I must say that the children themselves have shown a difference. Nowadays the boys do not wear blazers and ties to school. After a boy leaves school you do not ask him which school he attended. The children know today that a school is a school, and education is education.

Mr. Chairman, I think the point made by the hon. member is exaggerated. Some employers feel that as soon as a boy or girl enters a job with 5 or 6 "O" levels that they must be able to do the job the very first morning. They seem to forget that the boy or girl is only 16 or 17. When I hear employers with that type of criticism, I would like to ask them to show me what they could do when they were 16 or 17 years of age. Some people say that they are lacking in basic ways. I feel that we have more education today than ever before.

I should like the Minister to investigate some of these Independent Schools because they are very shabby. Some of these Independent Schools are not schools in the rigid sense of the word. Some of them are business houses. A man opens a school, and he is running it on the basis of a profit and loss account. My idea of the matter is that education cannot be run on a profit and loss account basis. I should like to see the day when the Government by special decree could take over all of the Independent Schools, and that there be no such thing as an Independent School being run as a business in itself. I do not consider that education in itself is the subject for business.

Now, the amount of money we spent on a University education is in itself not a business, but large sums of money per student per head of the population is spent to educate a relatively small number of people in any society. I have not gone into the figures, but I do not believe that in Barbados we are educating 3% of the total population at the University level, but it costs a lot of money to educate those who get it. It is a small percentage of the total amount of people to be educated; it will cost a considerable amount of money, but it is a necessary type of education to have.

Mr. Chairman, secondary education has to be looked upon in a different light from what it was looked upon 25 years ago; that this is going to be an education which must spread throughout this society. In Russia and other totalitarian States you can get an idea of education. Russia has given a reorientation of education which has struck the world, because it has devoted a lot of the nation's earnings to educate the people and have reduced other areas in the community so far as standard of living is concerned.

Now, you cannot have it both ways. One of the important aspects of a capitalist dominated economy is where you have certain people believing that education is a privilege and a function of some, and the society's economy is so geared to producing the best for a few and not education for everybody that you even get these statements made by the hon. member unconsciously. The whole concept is that if you are spending a little less on some of the other consumer durable goods that seem to attract us nowadays, then you will be able to spend more on education.

1.00 p.m.

If a person is not bent for the academic type of education, it does not mean that he is not capable of being educated and becoming a useful citizen in other walks of life. The whole concept of education should be the development of the mind and seeing where the potentials are. I

do not subscribe to the view that because a boy or girl cannot pass his mathematical work that *ipso facto* the child is a dunce or would not learn. He would learn in other streams, and for that reason the independent schools are performing and you have to use what you have. I am not a television fan, but I understand there is a man in New York who said that what you see is what you get. In these independent schools you have to live with what you have. If you close all the independent schools now, my view is that you will be up against a problem because you do not have alternate schools to put them in. What I would like to see is a gradual absorption into the national schools. I feel that the same way there is this thirst for education in the independent schools, it shows that there are more children than the Government schools can take in. If there are 700 or 1,000 school places every year, the brutal fact you have to face is whether you are prepared to find enough school places for these children. If you want to find enough school places for these children, you have to face the problem of finding the money to put them in these places because you have to erect buildings to put them in, teachers to teach them, and all the facilities; so there is a cost factor that the nation must be prepared to face. Can you face this with all the other commitments you have? My view is that you will have to take a very serious look at all the independent schools and see whether you can take them over and what it will cost to provide a better quality of education. I am satisfied in my mind that the independent schools as they stand now notwithstanding the fact that they charge $75 per term cannot provide a better education. I want to be realistic. The Government is subsidising the other schools. If you had to pay for education on a cost plus basis, it could not be free, and nobody would be able to go to school free. There could not be any free secondary education, elementary education or university education; so let us be quite frank. If you are not paying for it on a cost plus basis, you must pay for it on a taxation basis or on a fiscal basis where it is spread over the total society, and if I were a dictator I would regard education like water. I would take over the whole water system and there would be nobody selling water; so we should take over education and there would be nobody selling education, but the State would have to pay for it; everybody would have to pay more taxes if they wanted to have this free education. If you want to send everybody to a Government aided school and there are no fees, then you have to be prepared to pay for this. I am out for this and the State must be prepared to meet the cost.

Mr. Chairman, I have always been opposed to the idea that education should be something left to the whims and fancies of an individual; I feel that it should be more important. Since you do not allow a man to open a rum shop and sell rum freely, I feel that education is more important than a rum shop. It is very important as far as the future is concerned, and I do not feel that any person should have the right to open a school when they feel like. It seems to me that in Barbados this is one of the contradictions you have. Anybody can open a school irrespective of his qualifications, and all the Government does is to see whether there is going to be a subvention or not. I feel that the opening of a school should not be left to circumstances where an old kind-hearted person feels he was a teacher and he will open a school, and you do not know if there is enough ventilation, enough space or whether there is overcrowding. I feel a school is something that should be State controlled, and from the beginning to the end the state should be responsible for all education within its borders. I realise the cost involved, but I do not suscribe to the narrow view that you can have on the one hand a free open system and on the other hand you are going to control it. You cannot control it on that basis. You cannot control Mr. Jones from opening a school when he feels like, and then on the other hand when you hear what are the school fees you say they are too high. You must be able to control it through and through, and that is why I say that the people in Barbados must be prepared for the sort of fiscal policy that requires it to give everybody education from the time they reach the age of four or five until the age of sixteen or seventeen. I feel that is incumbent upon any modern society. The younger generation will force that on States in years to come, and I have no doubt in my mind what the future will be for any progressive country in so far as education is concerned. I do not like this old-fashioned idea of looking upon education on the basis of the G.C.E. examination, because that is only a means of testing if the child has done well in the general examination in school.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I appear to have entered the House at a very fortunate moment when the hon. member for St. Michael West was putting with all the eloquence of which he is capable, those parts of the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto in the late election which related to secondary education, for as you may recall, Mr. Chairman, if you had a look at our manifesto, it was one of the proposals of our party that free secondary education be made a reality for all and not just for those who are fortunate enough to be in Government Schools, but that the system of bursaries and scholarships should be so expanded in the private Secondary schools that

all children receiving education in approved secondary institutions whether Government or private should be financed by the Government. I think the Government's answer to it then was that a great deal is being done and a great deal more will be done, but it was the pledge of our party that it was not a question of a great deal more, but as a matter of deliberate positive policy it would be done. I remember on many occasions making speeches to this effect on platforms varying from that in Independence Square to my own constituency of St. Thomas. 1.10 p.m.

I hardly ever speak in this House about education, although I have had many educational opportunities, I tend to try to take advantage of them for my own benefit and have never had really the occasion to apply my thoughts to the problems of the educational policy in this country, and nothing that I have ever heard in the House of Assembly, whether under Senator Tudor as Minister of Education during the few unhappy years in which he occupied the post perhaps not too onerous for his talents but certainly too onerous for his energies, but not in those few years did I ever hear anything in here which would really help us, and in the six months that we have been in here under the substantive Minister of Education I must confess that I have heard one or two very eloquent expositions from him of the need for small supplementary votes to supplement relatively obscure corners of our educational system, but I have not in the six months heard anything that can really give hon. members sufficient food for thought, to give us something to go away and bite on, this is why I welcome just the few minutes I have heard the hon. member for St. Michael West.

It was only a short time that he spoke, Mr. Chairman, but what I caught of the necessity for a society to give education to all those who wish it up to the age of 16 or 17, we could not agree with more, and I look forward to hearing the contributions of other hon. members. I am really sorry I have not been able to hear everything that was said so far, but I am particularly going to call upon the hon. member for St. Michael South, who for so long has been associated with our educational policy and who has had to take so much criticism in recent times and a few years ago to take the opportunity now to see if he can show his critics that there was something behind his appointment other than mere political favouritism. He has had a lot to deal with and he has never had a chance to deal with it here in the House of Assembly, and I will counsel the Minister this. Mere efficiency is not enough in running a Department, the fact that the Minister can do anything and it is maybe one of his proponents' boasts that anything that any officer in the Ministry can do Sandy can do and so on, that fact is not necessarily good enough, Mr. Chairman. I would suggest to the Minister that when he talks here today he gives us something that can make us feel that he really is a Minister of Education and not, with great respect to him, a promoted school teacher, because as is well known, Prime Ministers in all countries are counselled at an early stage not to make a doctor Minister of Health, and not to make a schoolmaster Minister of Education. They start with too many prejudices, personally and otherwise, and they cannot always do the job well. I am calling on the Minister to try to convince us to the contrary of what the critics have said, try to convince us that when his policy towards the secondary school teachers collapsed so dramatically that there was a strike, convince us that it was not his policy that was wrong when the secondary school teachers so dramatically had to demonstrate their strength, convince us that it is not his policy that is wrong when parents have the gravest doubts about the common entrance examination, convince us that if he had a policy that the sixth forms must be abolished, that any modifications which he has introduced to it were in the best interest of Barbados and not merely a collapse under pressure. Let him at the stage when he replies to us today convince us of all these matters.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Minister should first apply himself to seeing whether or not a case cannot be made out for the revision of the schemes of Government of these secondary schools. As it appears, there is plenty scope at the present for the arbitrary exercise of power, and the scheme should make it possible that nothing of the kind can occur because of dissatisfaction among staff, because wherever there is dissatisfaction among staff one knows what to expect. It reflects itself in the children.

I want to make a few brief remarks, and they will certainly cover Items 4, 5 and 6. As for the comprehensive schools, my view is that the comprehensive schools demand most urgently an in-depth study, a thorough investigation to determine whether or not by their past performance, by their intake and otherwise we cannot satisfy ourselves if they are catering to the right type of children or if they are not. We believe that less than 1/3% of the children taken in at these comprehensive schools are finding themselves in the right place. In the absence of

career specialists, guidance officers, etc. at these schools, you will find that the present streaming system, A, B, and C streams, that in the A stream where you have your children going on to the G.C.E. "O" Level, let the Minister tell us from statistics that are available to him how many of the children in the A stream have really come up to expectations, but we want to be fair in this examination, we want to take into consideration the staff limitations, the question of places, the question of overcrowding as has happened at our St. Leonard's Schools and elsewhere, we want to take all those matters into consideration and see if we are not at one and the same that we could certainly do better if we approach this matter from an entirely different angle, not with a view to causing any hardships to any children of any age group, but as it now stands you will find that the children in the C stream are the ones who leave school at the age of 14.

Picture for yourself, Mr. Chairman, these children who leave these comprehensive schools at the age of 14; exactly what becomes of them after that? They are the ones who create problems after leaving school, and we want to see what can be done to cater to them and provide them with something much better. If it is going to be said that continuation classes are available to them, my feeling is that there is not enough encouragement given to these children after they leave the comprehensive schools to go on to these classes or else.
1.20 p.m.

We have to be realistic, and we must see what can be done, because in more cases than one we will find that the time that they spend at the Comprehensive School in the A stream or the B stream, as the case may be, it was a question of having them wrongly placed, in the absence of career guidance. I should certainly like to see that this matter is looked into.

Mr. Chairman, I want to deal now with the Approved Independent Schools. We have heard a lot about what the Government should do *in toto,* perhaps, not taking sufficient regard of cost and so on, but my view is that if we accept that trained teachers perfer to be teaching at the Government Schools, in the first instance, we can begin to get somewhere. That being the case, the Minister might consider wherever possible placing some of his trained teachers from the Government Schools in some of these Private Secondary Schools on a 1-year or 2-year assignment, but the teacher who is so placed should still remain in the Government Service and not in the service or on the pay roll of the Independent School. In sending teachers to these Secondary Schools, it would tend to give a little status and to quicken the pace of the army of untrained teachers that we find in these Private Secondary Schools. I feel that, if this could be considered, it would go a long way in helping you to bring up the standard of these Private Secondary Schools.

With regard to these Private Secondary Schools, it is time that we have an in-depth study of the functioning and of the future role of these Independent Secondary Schools. I think it was between 1960 – 61 that a survey of these schools was carried out, but as far as I can remember the Report was compiled but it was never made public.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way.

Mr. HINDS took his seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, it is now 1.30 p.m.. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On resumption

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply discussing the Annual Estimates, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (3) SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when the suspension was taken, I was addressing the Chair. I should like to touch briefly on a matter which concerns teachers and parents in relation to these schools. You may find that it concerns everybody at Items 4, 5 and 6 that I have been speaking on before. I should say, briefly, that the machinery for dealing with disputes between parents and teachers and between teacher and teacher is laid down, and it is to be found in Regulations in the Ministry of Education itself. I refer to Regulations 1960 (49). There it is set out how these matters should be attended to. What has made me say something about this matter is that these Regulations are not strictly adhered to. We find that our Education Officers and our Specialists are too much involved in the early stages of such a matter. It should be dealt with by the Head Teacher of the particular school, and if no satisfactory arrangement or settlement can be arrived at, the Chairman of the Governing Body should be invited to play his part, and not until all of this has been attempted should we have any intervention by our Education Officers and least of all by our Chief Education Officer. Our Chief Education Officer is a specialist, and he has too much to attend to regarding the progress of the work in his Department.

Mr. Chairman, the reason why we attach so much importance to this matter is that there has been some retrogression in the behavior patterns and discipline. There is a steady decline in the discipline in our schools, and we want to see an end put to this. If the teachers do not have to spend so much time trying to discipline children, then they would be able to get on much better with the job of teaching. I should ask the Minister to address his mind to it, and see what he can do about the matter.

2.35 p.m.

On the question of these Independent Schools, I merely say at this stage that I feel that about every ten years we should have a survey of our whole educational set-up, and there is no point in carrying out a survey and not making the results known. One of the points which the Ministry must accept a very considerable amount of blame for is not publishing its own reports, which are reviews of its work over the past year, and having these available for the benefit and guidance of teachers. If a teacher can look back over the work of his department for the past year, he has something to guide him in the year ahead, and that is why we attach so much importance to these things. I am going to end on this Head in a moment, but if we come down to Item 28 there is an amount of $20,000 to provide for the improvement of roadways leading to secondary schools.

Mr. Chairman, the entrance to the Coleridge-Parry School needs widening. A former Minister of Education, the former Leader of the House, promised that steps would have been taken to widen it. Work has been carried out on the same road since then, and one would have thought that that would have been ample opportunity for widening at the same time. Nothing like this has been done. Is it that Government is waiting until a bus runs off the road there again before something is done about widening the road? It is known that on account of the narrowness of the road it is extremely difficult for two vehicles to pass each other, and I would like to know that this matter of the entrance to the Coleridge-Parry School is given urgent attention.

Now I must ask the Minister about the entrance to the Speightstown Girl's School. What entrance is there? I would really like to see these matters given the attention they really deserve and with as little delay as possible. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, that I need make any further comments on this item, but there is very much that could be said.

At Item 21 where we are voting $1,500 to meet the cost of medical examination for cleaners, which includes provision for transportation cost and medical expenses for pupils injured at schools, there need to be attached to the Ministry of Education a service which could be made available to the various schools on request. It need not be an ambulance service, but two vehicles if not more to provide welfare services on demand; and it is for the Ministry to look over the various incidents occurring from time to time over the past five years and to arrive at a conclusion as to whether or not these cases can support a sufficiently heavy demand for a service such as has been suggested. In the case of the cleaners, we want to know that nothing is left undone when the necessity arises for them to have medical attention, because it can weigh heavily against the Government in the long run. They are quite unlike the children, and much more can be added to an injury when not treated promptly, and this is what we want to warn against. I think I have covered enough under this Head.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to reply briefly to some of the

points raised under this Head. First of all let me state that in this Chamber I am not going to speak on matters of policy when such a speech is not called for. If I am dealing with a matter of a supplementary on a particular item of expenditure, I will stick to that supplementary Head, and the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. Thomas is not going to draw me into any wide ranging debate when I do not think it is appropriate for such a debate. I would like also to add that my assumption of the duties as Minister of Education is no less appropriate than his appointment as Leader of the permanent Opposition in this country. I would not claim that was a question of nepotism, and I do not see why he should claim political favouritism or some such charge.

There is one particular matter which I should like to set straight once and for all. When members and certain other persons speak on the question of admission to our secondary schools, they speak as though secondary education only takes place in the ten Government grammar schools. Whenever the question of admission to schools is raised, I can hear that about 700 or 750 persons are being admitted, but the others are not taken care of, and that is really a distortion of the position, because secondary education takes place not only in the grammar schools, but also in our several – I believe there are now eight – secondary comprehensive schools and in the approved independent schools.

2.45 p.m.

There is no need for any suggestion that the pupils in the independent schools because they do not pass an examination or do not get six subjects, that that is any reason why the schools should be investigated. There are pupils who attend the secondary grammar schools who also return zero score, and you must get it clear that these older grammar schools were appointed precisely to cater to a limited range of persons and talents in the community. If you look back at their historical origin you will see this is what it is, they were only for a limited number, but I am prepared at any time that the Opposition may be ready for them to move a motion to debate matters of policy concerning any aspect of the educational system, but I do not think as Minister I should be expected to make wide ranging policy statements on items where it is not appropriate. I think it is within the capacity of the Opposition if they want a debate on a particular aspect of the work of the Ministry whether it is admission to schools or any other matter that they are quite free so to do.

On the question raised by the hon. member for St. Michael West that all education should be Government Education, I would like to say that that does not form part of the policy of this Government at this particular time. I believe that persons in the community who feel they can make a contribution to the education of the youth of this country should be free to set up schools within certain limits and certain conditions, and so long as they meet certain specifications, and this is what we are aiming to do within the framework of the promised Education Bill. I am told that this particular piece of draft legislation is in the Attorney General's Chambers, and I hope within due course to receive the revised draft, but this will make provision for the framework within which education can take place both at the public level as well as the private level in this country, and I would not be the one to say that only Government should control or be responsible for the running of schools in this country. If I follow that, I would not in fact make any promise that a grant be made to the Barbados Workers' Union for any Labour College or labour education, because that is not a Government institution, it is an institution run by a non-public body in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know that there were many matters here which call for specific replies. There was one relating to the revision of the schemes of Government of Secondary Schools, but all this is embodied in the draft Education Bill. It would be expected that legislation under this particular Bill would take into account the question of schemes of Government or the management of Secondary schools. I do not think that there were any other matters of substance which really call for a reply.

The question that the sum of $5,363,996 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (4) ERDISTON COLLEGE

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $113,262 under Head 35 Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to say in respect of Erdiston Teachers' Training College that it would appear to us, since the students at Erdiston no longer have the

"after-class" assistance and guidance of either the Principal or the Deputy Principal some of whom used to be in residence there in earlier years, that there is evidence in abundance that both the coporate and cultural life of the institution are neglected, and whilst we see that there is a House-keeper who lives on the premises, this is not enough, and we would like to feel that something more can be done, that you appoint some officer to be in charge of students and student affairs at the extra-curricular level. That is sadly lacking as far as Erdiston is concerned.

We feel also that the time has come when careful study has got to be given to see and to map out the role that this institution must play in the life of this community. We will recall that Erdiston was opened in 1948, and what you find today is that courses are conducted there with perhaps more status but less efficiency, and it was planned as a general training college. The curriculum included a course in Infants Methods and Junior School Methods, the two of which make primary, then it had a senior or secondary course and it trained teachers for the grammar schools for some time, and I believe it is much to the credit of Erdiston that I think the Deputy Head of Alexandra School in St. Peter was amongst those who were trained at Erdiston. When this was discontinued I would like to know.

There is something called the pre-Erdiston course which takes the place of what has been known as the Induction Course, and our chief concern is that it is more or less a convenience pampering to people by rushing them through in one or two years and just side-stepping what was originally known as the Certificate B.
2.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, what was of some very considerable importance about Certificate B is this: I think I am right in saying that teachers taking Certificate B were required to acquire a certain standard in English and Arithmetic amongst other subjects, but the pre-Erdiston Course, I believe, does not ensure any of these. It does not provide a guarantee of any appreciable improvement in English and Arithmetic and, as a matter of fact, it does not seem as if those taking the pre-Erdiston Course now have to pass any recognised examination. This, Mr. Chairman, is something to be regretted. I feel confident that the Minister would be in a position to tell us how many teachers are now in the Service who have never passed in English or Arithmetic at O'level or its equivalent and who, at the same time, are expected to teach others to pass these examinations.

I do not, Mr. Chairman, propose to take any long journey where Erdiston is concerned, so let us turn to Item 20 – Apparatus and Material – $3,140. I feel that a saving can be made here. As far as I can gather, the material used at Erdiston is new and expensive material purchased from stationeries and the like. One reason is that some of the Instructors, for some reason or other, assist the pupils and they only bring out the items made from the new material when there is an inspection on, but it is not that enough care and attention is given with a view to having these items in the classroom as the time-table requires. I should like this matter to be looked into so that you do not have teachers being told to bring these things from the cupboard, or wherever they have been put in safety, on such special occasions.

So far as affecting a saving is concerned, in the United States of America and other places, the material used in these crafts is for the most part scraps or waste that could be had in our case in the City of Bridgetown, perhaps, merely for the asking. Some of the money that is now spent on purchasing material for arts and crafts could be saved, if we examined the various sources from which supplies could be readily available. I should like to know that this matter receives the Minister's attention.

With regard to the teaching of Religious knowledge at Erdiston as well as the question of school gardening, I believe I know what the Minister is going to be advised to say, but I believe that we should try to place the teaching of school gardening at a place such as Erdiston. I believe that is the right place for it. If we could try and reinstate ourselves to reach the standard at which the late Mr. Moore had placed this subject at Erdiston, I feel that we would be doing ourselves good and we should have no regrets at a later date. I feel that if we could get these matters looked into, then we would have Erdiston a little better placed for all conerned.

Mr. Chairman, I have said that there is need for a revision of its curriculum. In the case of Religious Knowledge, making it a subject that is optional is the surest way of assuring that attention paid to it would be negligible. When we look back to see that for over three hundred years we have had good cause and can reflect with some very considerable measure of credit and pride of the fact that our religious education has stood the test, it has fitted many of us in more ways than one and enabled us to be able to play our part to go about with respect and not subservience – respect for others by understanding and appreciating them. I think that if we were to consider giving special attention to the teaching of Religious Education at Erdiston, then the teachers will go back to their schools and no teacher would want to be at a

school in which he or she does not see that in accordance with Circular 1971 (59) there is that book of daily worship to be found and all that is contained therein is strictly followed, because it is to the upliftment and betterment of the morals of our people.
3.05 p.m.

We hope on the question of religious instruction which means so much to the lives of our people to see Erdiston College play its full role as a teacher training college. Perhaps we might hear that if Erdiston College had been playing its role, its teachers must muster enough courage to arm the children in the class rooms to pay a little less attention to what some of the visiting evangelists come and put over from time to time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. member for St. Peter and the member for St. Joseph are at variance on this matter of religious instruction and education in our schools, because the hon. member for St. Peter is making a call for greater attention in the area of religious education and the hon. member for St. Joseph is stating that if there is one subject that any person graduating from our secondary schools would possess it would be Religious Knowledge or Scripture or however styled; so it seems the children are coming out with Religious Knowledge or Scripture, but still the hon. member for St. Peter seems to be implying that enough of this is not being done. I would like to assure him that the public schools in our country, whether Circular 7159 or 5179, do start with the daily act of worship, and attention is given on the time tables to periods for religious instruction.

I would like to state that the teachers in our school system who have deficiencies in their academic attainments, in other words, who do not have the number of "O" level subjects which would suit them for appointment, are not going to make good those deficiencies within Erdiston Teachers' Training College, but they are encouraged to and should try to make good their deficiencies under the various adult education programmes which are specially set out. One aspect of this is for people who do not have the number of subjects at Ordinary level or who believe they need additional qualifications; so they should get this in the various adult education programmes whether run by the Extra-Mural Department, the Ministry or through private sources.

The purpose of the preliminary in-service teacher training certificate or the pre-Erdiston course is to ensure that our teachers in the schools are given exposure during their time in the class-room to the various methods and techniques which would enable them to teach more effectively the subjects which they are called upon to teach, and this is in addition to the induction courses which they are exposed to before the term actually starts, and very early in their career they are then put into this preliminary in-service teacher training certificate course, because we believe that a teacher should be able to perform his duties better if he has training than if he does not have training, and that is the first part of training.

I am very glad to hear, Mr. Chairman, that materials for art and craft can be obtained as scrap or cheaply from certain sources in Bridgetown, and if the hon. member does have knowledge of these sources where materials suitable for use in the training college's programme are available, I would be very glad if he would make this information known to me, and I will take this up. For instance, on the question of art education, a very strong case was made out that more materials were needed for the art classes, and if there are paints, brushes and so on available cheaply in Bridgetown, I would be glad to know of this because it would mean we could do much more than we are doing in this particular area. I would be very glad if on matters like this the hon. member could draw this to my attention instead of year after year coming into this Chamber and repeating it, because this is a replay of last year's Estimates debate. I do not think there was any other matter.

I merely want to say that there is no point talking about Erdiston as though it is not fulfilling its role or as though there has been some fall from grace. Erdiston is performing a very creditable role in the educational role of this country in that it continues to turn out trained teachers who go out there in the schools and perform creditably in the task of educating the children of this country. It has many programmes now to pursue. One is the preliminary in-service teacher training programme for new entrants. There is the induction course first of all which is a pre-service course by and large for persons who are not yet entered into the teaching service or who have been teaching for only a short period of time; secondly, the preliminary in-service training programme for teachers who are actually teaching with not very much experience to expose them to the techniques of teaching; the normal two-year programme for primary teachers, and there is a secondary programme as well between Erdiston and the Barbados Community College which prepares students for a secondary programme, as well as other special short courses organized for all grades of teachers in this country; and I think that within the framework of the provision made and the human resources available that it is making a creditable effort to supply trained teachers in our system, and there some 606 teachers trained out of

1,320 for 1971. There are areas for improvement, but we are constantly looking at these areas and taking measures to improve the efficiency and the efficacy of the work carried out.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Hon. Minister to know that there is no difference between the hon. member for St. Peter and myself in respect of religious knowledge or scripture as he calls it. What I am saying is that the only thing the children are coming out with is Religious Knowledge and probably English Literature, and I would like to see them come out with something else along with these two subjects.

The question that the sum of $113,262 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(5) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $21,373 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Housecraft Centre issues Grade I and Grade II certificates to persons according to their attainment at these classes that are conducted by the Centre.
3.15 p.m.

I would like to know if it has been found that these certificates have any local employment value, because the closest thing to them is the school leaving certificates issued by the Ministry of Education, and even in our School Meals Programme and the various institutions where Government in itself employs people who have acquired that kind of training that the Housecraft Centre offers, is the Grade 1 or the Grade 11 certificate taken into consideration at any stage when these people apply for jobs, or is it just like the school leaving certificate where not even the very Government that issues it recognises it? After all, if we are training these people we would like to know that they can use their certificates somewhere. It is not everybody who is so fortunate to be able to pay a passage or to secure employment overseas, in Canada or in the United States of America, so quite a large number of people who graduate from the Housecraft Centre remain in the island, but can these certificates assist them in any way in securing a job anywhere? The time has come when we would like to see the activities of the Housecraft Centre carried further afield, that is, that the growth of our population areas from time to time spring up, and we are sure that there are villages when grouped together would provide enough students to support the establishment of a branch of the Housecraft Centre there. I speak of a place like Boscobel in St. Peter, because if a centre were established there it would save a lot of our girls having to travel long distances, and what we want to see again is some of our young men being encouraged to take these courses.

I think it was in the parish of St. Andrew in years past that some young men took advantage of the instruction that was given there, and it would be well if some of our young men could be encouraged to take some advantage of training the Centre offers. I feel that Domestic Science or Home Economics should be taught in every school in this island, to every school child, boy or girl, because since it forms part of our home life it would serve in the long run and it would do very well if we start at as early an age as possible in helping the community to assist itself and put itself in its rightful place.

Items 8, 9 and 11. There is a case which is not such a pleasant one and which I believe is presently engaging the attention of the Ministry of Education, where the head of the class there shows a marked reluctance to place an order for stationery and other materials for the students attending the class, but prefers to bring politics into the matter. The matter is no near and dear to some hon. members in this House that I would not like to go further into it, but I would like to know that all the centres are provided with whatever material and groceries, whatever is made available to one centre is made available to all centres, and let it be known that it is available to them. Do not let the Supervisor or anybody in charge of the centre make others feel that because the people of this parish did not vote this way they do not have anybody to represent them, it is just nonsense. I feel that any Supervisor who resorts to that kind of nonsense, however good a teacher he or she might be, should be got rid of, but I prefer not to say anything more, I would just like to know that it is made known to all the Supervisors of the classes what supplies are available to each and every class.

We cannot, Mr. Chairman, escape the personality clash here and there, but there again I feel that there are ways and means of settling these matters rather than bringing students into all of this, and I would like to know that the Ministry

uses its best offices to remove all these unseemly instances and be left free to concentrate on expanding the work of the institution as far afield as possible so that as many people as possible in the various areas can benefit from the instruction that is being given. This is what we would like to see as soon as possible.

The question that the sum of $21,373 under Head 35 - Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (6) SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC

Head 35 - Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - was called.
3.25 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $308,075 under Head 35 - Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, first, may I apologise for being absent this morning. I do not think that I have strictly to do so, but I think it is in order and in keeping with the procedure of this House to let you know that, due to other circumstances, I could not be here before. There are two Heads under which we would like to talk. We have already covered one Head almost specifically. I am talking about the immigration policy of this country to economic development, but as it arises specifically under Head 35 (6), Item 24 - Hotel Training - we should like to say to the Minister that we are very aware of the fact that there are now middle-management Courses being run at the Hotel Training School, but so far as we are concerned we do not believe that enough is being done or can be done by means of the present method of approach to answer the needs of the hotel industry and to satisfy the needs of the population of Barbados in terms of local ownership and in terms of Barbadian management in the tourist industry, and for this reason we are recommending to him that, perhaps, the hotel industry is the first such industry in which it would be very much relevant and very urgent that there should be a system of industrial training levies. We trust that he will bear this in mind, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, to see what could be done to make the industry as a whole pay for much needed training.

We are aware that there are a limited number of National Development Scholarships and a limited number of Scholarships granted by means of bilateral aid between ourselves and Canada and Austria, for instance. We still think that, since the tourist industry is growing very quickly and is fast becoming the major earning industry in this country, we should provide many more Barbadians for top management. It is not possible, in the absence of a Hotel Management Course at the University of the West Indies, to achieve this within the Caribbean. We would like him, if he can at the moment, to tell us what positive steps the University has taken in this direction, and how far those steps have reached.

We believe that individual hotels may not, because of their limited facilities, be able to support the training of a particular individual, but together they can, by means of paying their proportionate share of any fair and reasonable levy, support on overall training programme in this respect. Even if some of the National Development Scholarships are now being financed out of the Consolidated Fund, we believe that the system of training levies will provide a necessary means of satisfying the demands of that fund and also replenishing the fund in this respect under this Head.

The other point we would like to take in general under Polytechnic, Mr. Chairman, is the great necessity for the expansion of trade schools in this Island in the construction industry and in the building industry, and, although we are not specifically dealing with the Head of Agriculture, it seems likewise necessary in this field that some attention should be given to proper training in farming, and, perhaps, the Minister can integrate this type of training in the Polytechnic's Programme. It seems to us that farming engineering, for instance, is something to which we will have to pay urgent attention. When the Minister of Agriculture was speaking, he adverted to the fact that they had now set up a pilot scheme for the purpose of producing yam chips.

We are deeply aware of the necessity, for instance, in the cotton industry to produce a proper reaper for cotton, just as we are aware of the necessity to do so in the field of sugar cane. It seems to us that the Minister should see the task of the Polytechnic as a wider task in terms of the quantity of work that it must perform, and in terms of the quality of work that it must produce, and we are urgently urging the Government to look at it in this respect. We are also asking Government to expand its services so that there could be some decentralisation in other areas. I do not know what is going to be the total commitment in terms of physical conditions, but, perhaps, the Minister may

look at some of the decisions being taken concerning Codrington College. So far as the physical conditions of Codrington College and the physical location of Codrington College are concerned in relation to the farming and sugar industry, they should work hand in hand with private enterprise in the sugar industry in this respect. I do not want, Mr. Chairman, to go into the mechanics of this. I think to throw out the idea is sufficient, because we are really not satisfied that one can industrialise unless one has the necessary impliments of training for industrialisation.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reply briefly on this matter, and to state that we are well aware of the need for the expansion of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. It was because this Government was aware of the need to provide the training base for industrialisation of this country that this particular institution was set up, and which now has a role of over 1,400 students. Over the coming years we would expect to institute a division of that Polytechnic which would deal with the printing and graphic arts. I mention this specifically as a tribute to the member for St. Peter, who has not spoken on this particular item, but I know he would be glad to hear that.

As far as Agricultural trades are concerned, the Advisory Board of the Polytechnic has considered the need, and we propose, I hope, from this coming September to include a Division of Agricultural Trades within the Polytechnic. As far as the need for more Trade Schools are concerned, and more training at these trades or at vocational level, this again is part of the policy of the Government. I would not say who got the idea from whom, but I think that both parties are *ad idem* on this particular matter of the need for providing more training in this area.

As the hon. member rightly said, we have instituted a Course at the middle-management level for the hotel industry, and I may repeat here that whatever board rooms the hon. member for Christ Church West may have access to, he should use his influence, his voice and his vote, to persuade those who own and manage those institutions to make what contribution they can in the field of industrial training. It is part of the policy of the Government that industrial training with the co-operation of both labour and management - I hope financial co-operation as well and not merely words - in order to push the development of this country, and I hope that this will be forthcoming.

We have provided under National Development Scholarships so far, 4 Scholarships for training at the management level, and that is under the National Development Scholarships Programme. For this year alone we have recommended three persons for the Canadian Training Programme as well, and that is only for the year 1971-72. I expect that there will be more provision in this area.

As far as the University of the West Indies is concerned, this Government has been pressing the University to institute a programme of training at the management level and a degree level within the University. Consequent to our request to the University, a team of Consultants have visited the territories, have carried out discussions and consultations, and have tendered a Report on the question of Hotel Training at the Management level for the area. I expect later this week to be going to Jamaica to attend certain meetings within the University at which this matter along with other developments within the University will be discussed.

I should like to assure the hon. member that this matter of hotel training at all levels is one which is of very vital concern to us and very near to us, and we are doing everything possible to see that the programme for training is placed at all levels to ensure that all Barbadians can attain positions requisite with their training, qualifications and experience.

3.35 p.m.

The question that the sum of $308,075 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(7) TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (7) Technical Institute – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $24, 586 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (7) Technical Institute – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(8) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS
AND SUBVENTIONS

Head 35 - Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, Under Item 2 – Barbados Scholarships, amend note to item by deleting "/54" appearing after the figure "1969" appearing in the note thereto.

In Item 3 – U.W.I. Exhibitions, amend note to item by adding the letter "s" to the word "exhibition" appearing in the note thereto.

In Item 8 – Codrington College, delete figure "1200" appearing under column "Other Expenditure," insert figure "4000" and make consequential amendments.

I beg to move that the sum of $2,871,641 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, under this Head of Scholarships, we should like to draw to the Minister's attention that our information is that Barbadians who attend the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies to read for a degree in law or a degree in Economics are treated differently for the purpose of the payment of tuition fees to the Barbadians who attend for the purpose of reading for degrees in other fields. It appears to us that this discriminatory treatment is certainly not justified. It is not justified particularly in the context of Barbados where today there is a dearth, as I think the hon. Minister has heard, of legally trained people who are going into or remaining in the service of the Legal Department. I should like to draw particularly to the Minister's attention that departments such as the Inland Revenue, Social Welfare and Probation and Police can well justify their own separate legal advisers, and it seems to us a great pity that this treatment should be continued. We are asking him whether he could use his good offices to speak to the people in the training scheme division particularly Establishments in order to get a change in this sphere. I know that Establishments does not come under his portfolio, but I am sure that in presenting his papers to Cabinet he will put the case very strongly for a change in this respect.

In particular I should perhaps draw to his attention the success achieved by Mr. Durant who is now an Assistant Superintendent in the Royal Barbados Police Force, and that he attended courses on his own and succeeded and has come back and has been an added asset to the Force. It is not necessarily true that everyone who is trained in law will pursue a legal career at the Bar or indeed a legal career in the Government Service, but certainly a training in law is a great asset and I think the Minister will be the first to admit could well prove a great asset to his department as well. In this respect we are pleading a strong case we hope for these two fields of endeavour in the hope that some change will be implemented soon. Perhaps also the Minister could tell us whether so far as his Ministry is concerned he has had any concrete proposals from the Trustee and Committee of Management of Codrington College for the development at that institution of other subjects. I think they were considering fields like treatment in social and psychiatric medicine, and it seems to me that Codrington College can perform a much more useful role in this community than it is at present performing, and perhaps the Government could use its good offices to emphasise to the Committee of Management of that institution the necessity to consult with Government at all levels in this respect.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that there is too much secrecy surrounding many of the scholarships that are offered by Government and foreign agencies, and I would certainly like the Minister to look into this because teachers and others who will be interested would welcome the publication of a booklet annually or some proper list which is available to teachers immediately the various offers come in. We appreciate the fact that they do not all come at the same time, but if a reasonable number is available at any one time, by all means get it across to the teachers. What many teachers now fear is that they merely hear of these things after the award has been made to a colleague by word of mouth method...

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member would be a little more specific I think I would be able to deal with the matter he is talking about because to the best of my knowledge scholarships awarded by the Ministry of Education are advertised in the Press.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it may be true that awards of scholarships made by the Ministry of Education are advertised in the Press, but even then, at what time? What some teachers complain about is that when an advertisement appears, the award has already been made and people have already been told to get their baggage packed, and when an advertisement does appear it is just a smoke screen. What teachers would like you to do is to publicise whatever sholarships are available and circularise the various teaching bodies, and as often as they come to hand from foreign Governments or agencies you should use some supplementary list or find some means of making it known as widely as possible that all teachers can try at least to benefit therefrom. I understand that

there was a time when scholarships were offered by the Government of Australia and I think the Government of India, but they were not taken up. 3.45 p.m.

I would certainly like to know, if the Minister has any information, what prevented any candidate from taking up these scholarships. It is also within our knowledge that there are some other scholarships that are offered by some Governments, but the circulation of the knowledge of these scholarships is so limited it is only within a certain group within the Service, and this is what we want to know about. Teachers, particularly the secondary teachers, are very worried about this, but I would like to hear what progress, if any, is being made about the training course or degree courses for teachers at the Cave Hill Campus. I heard what the Minister had to say with respect to the training at the hotel school, but we want to know what arrangement has been made for teachers at the U.W.I. Cave Hill Campus.

I just noticed one of my notes here concerning the late Mr. Louis Lynch, and credit is due to him for the number of scholarships which he used his initiative to gain from universities and other educational institutions in the United States and elsewhere, and if the energies of the Ministry of Education could be directed into channels and become as successful as the late Mr. Lynch had been in his day, I am sure that we could all be reasonably happy, and I would like to know if since the departing of Mr. Lynch if any scholarships have been received from any of the institutions with which he had made contact in earlier years.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I will have to disappoint the hon. member and say I am not in a position to answer the last question which he posed. Mr. Lynch, I believe, was acting as a private citizen and I cannot give any information on that to this Hon. Chamber.

As far as the question of the advertisement of scholarships is concerned, I would like to repeat what I said, that scholarships either awarded by the Ministry of Education from Government sources or scholarships offered to the Government by foreign bodies and Governments are advertised, and there is a National Scholarships Committee which meets and interviews candidates after the advertisements have been duly placed, and make recommendations on the award of these scholarships. If persons have been told to have their bags packed this is certainly unknown to me, and I asked the hon. member if he had any specific instance to give of this matter which I could have investigated, to let me know of it, but with his silence on this particular matter I assume that there was no specific case that he wishes to bring to my attention. As to the point that the teachers are very disturbed about this, particularly the secondary teachers, this would cause considerable surprise to me, and certainly to other persons in this community, because those teachers, teachers generally and those in the secondary schools, know very well how to draw their grievances to the attention of the Ministry, either through the normal channels or through the public open broadcast media in this country, so I will be very surprised that they can have considerable grievances on this matter.

As far as training in law is concerned, I think there are some 17 students at the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, pursuing law, and I would like to say that the Government took a decision that the same provisions which are made for other students would not apply as far as law is concerned. I cannot disclose whether this was because of a feeling that the Bar was adequately served at the moment and that there was no question of any further dilution, I myself am not a lawyer, but I would merely like to repeat that there was a policy decision taken that tuition fees in respect of students pursuing legal education at Cave Hill will not be paid. Those pursuing economics are in a different position, their fees are paid.

As far as Codrington College is concerned, I have not had any approach from those responsible for the administration of Codrington College for discussion on whether they should now put into effect the request in the will for chirurgery to be instituted at Codrington College. I know I have had informal discussions with the Principal and that a meeting will be held in due course, and this House would wish to know that we have increased the grant to Codrington College because we believe that this institution has a very important role to play not only in the religious education of this country but in other areas as well.

The question that the sum of $2,871,641 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(9) SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (9) School Meals Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 35(9) – School Meals Department, there is an amendment. On page 88, Item 15 – Casual Staff, amend the note to the Item by deleting the words "Now includes provision to pay casual workers during vacation leave" appearing in the note thereto. With this amendment I beg to move that the sum of $2,747,964 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (9) School Meals Department as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that a genuine effort is being made somewhere at some time to improve the School Meals Service and to make it worthwhile.
3.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, much of the time and energy devoted to it by people at the top is nullified because the unskilled workers, for some reason or other, have been made to feel that most of them are employed by politicians, and that is the state of the service. As a result, Mr. Chairman, the Supervisors and others find it extremely difficult to deal with these people. Even the Education Officers, who visit these places from time to time, find it extremely difficult to have any sort of discourse with them with a view to having an amicable settlement about any matter whatsoever appertaining to the school meals.

Mr. Chairman, some of these workers are rude, they often ignore teachers who are on the scene with them, and that is something which we on this side of the House are not prepared to encourage at all. These unskilled workers must be subject to discipline; they must be made to respect the teachers, and I dare say that it could hardly be a teacher who could be so indiscreet as not to show a maid or anybody what he or she as a teacher expects from a maid. In other words, if a teacher respects a maid, he would in turn expect to receive respect from a maid.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that whilst the Department has been set up at Country Road and everything that could be done there is attempted to be done wherever possible to make things work as smoothly as possible, the sanitary level at these schools leaves much to be desired. There are cases where cupboards have become the breeding grounds for cockroaches, and there are instances – not remote instances – where these maids are now saying, when called upon to exterminate these pests, that they are afraid of these giant cockroaches. We know of the dangers of all of this. We know that steps must be taken as soon as practicable to eradicate the presence of cockroaches or any pests whatsoever where the feeding of children is concerned.

We believe that a lecture to some of these maids and others could go a long way in remedying the situation, and we hope that it will be done as quickly as possible. I believe that the Minister would have to hand a list of schools in all the parishes that are presently being served, and he can make it available to hon. members on this side. I am sure the hon. member for Christ Church West is particularly interested in knowing what schools in his area are presently being served. Whilst I might claim that I know what is taking place in the parish of St. Peter, there are other hon. members who would like to know what is happening in their own constituencies.

Mr. Chairman, there is still the late arrival of meals at some schools, and it means that from half an hour to three-quarters of an hour or one and a quarter hours may be lost on some days. One school has been known to lose 7½ teaching hours in a 5-day week because of school meals difficulties. No one would like this to continue. We would like to know that the meals are served early, and that the serving of the meals does not in anyway interfere with the classroom instructions that the children should receive.

Now, there are amenities lacking in several of the schools. I should like to see Government addressing its mind to providing these amenities as soon as possible. There are some schools where teachers have to put two desks together and then put a blackboard on top of the desks in order to make an improvised table on which to serve meals to the children. As you know, Mr. Chairman, this type of arrangement cannot last for long. The teacher who might assist today and tomorrow with the shifting arrangements might not feel inclined to do the same type of job tomorrow, and we must bear in mind that they are not all male teachers in these schools. I lay some emphasis on this, and we have to give consideration where consideration is due. I should like the Minister to pass definite instructions to those who are at the headquarters of the School Meals Centre.
4.05 p.m.

I want to say this: I am asking the Minister to advise that no staff from headquarters should journey to Gun Hill daily to partake of the school meals or play dominoes during the normal working hours. I ask the Minister to take steps to have an end put to this immediately. We feel, Sir, that Government should now try and direct

its energies towards expanding the programme more quickly because we feel that if it took Government two or three years to get on its feet with the programme, progress now ought to be much more rapid than heretofore, and we are urging Government to take into consideration and look around to see the schools where the need for this service is most fitting. We would certainly like to know the Minister's plan to extend his programme during the coming financial year. That would be of some interest to us.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we see that additional temporary staff is going to be provided at Item 16 for $20,000. If this staff includes the unskilled type of worker, we would like to know that Government employ people with the Grade I or Grade II certificate from the Domestic Science Centre if any of them should apply, because what we know has gone on where recruiting people to this service in the past is not all that could be desired, but we feel that enough from this side or the other side might have been served that we could now begin to give the deserving an opportunity to be of service. We want to see the service spread out and that absolute cleanliness is the essence of the service that is provided for these children. We want to know that the quality of the supplies is beyond suspect, and I believe that the Minister of Agriculture, since he has given us to feel that there is such liaison between agriculture and health and education, would be in a position to let us know what percentage of the vegetables and the like served in the school meals programme is grown locally as against what is imported.

Mr. Chairman, I want to get on with this Head and I do not propose worrying the Minister any further about school meals. I believe that whatever else can be said could be left where it is for the moment. It is not all that we know that I need say at this stage. We would like to see him get on and how quickly all the schools in St. Peter of all places can be served. I am sure the Minister is going to tell me that without another word.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, my distinguished colleague the hon. member for St. Peter has spoken not at length but extensively on this subject, and I only propose to make two points. The first is to ask the Minister if he is in a position to indicate, as he has been asked already, the schools which will be given priority during this financial year, and whether he is in a position to let us know whether within this session of Parliament all the schools will be covered by this programme. As a special plea I would like to urge on the Minister that nowhere in the constituency of Christ Church West are any of the schools supplied with school meals. We do have primary schools at St. Matthias Boys' and Girls'; some of the children also from the area go to St. Paul's and I believe that a few go to Vauxhall; so we are asking that in this area particularly which is a very crowded area, and although it is an area of people with wealth, there is also the other end of the scale and sometimes of abject poverty, something be done. In crowded areas such as Brittons Hill, Clapham and Forde's Road, not to mention areas like Deighton, there is a strong case, I would urge on the Minister, for giving these two schools, St. Paul's as well as St. Matthias absolute priority rating in the extension programme.

The other point which I would like to make is that there seems to be a strong case for the Minister to give some consideration to the ways in which he can help the private primary schools, and although there is no grant for the private primary schools in this country as there is for the approved independent schools, it seems that on the level of the school meals service, something should be done to incorporate these schools into the scheme. I think it is not generally known in this Island that St. Patrick's School which is run by the Catholic Church performs a tremendous service at a meagre cost of $5.00 per child or per parent per year, and that school as well as the Seventh Day Adventist school in particular seems to deserve some consideration.

4.15 p.m.

I wonder whether the Minister has these schools and any others that he knows about in mind. I am not talking about the private schools which may operate on a secondary level, there are some of those also, but I am talking about those who are concerned by and large with the general masses of the people who are not in a particularly good financial position to assist the children completely. I would like the Minister to bear these schools in mind and to see what steps can be taken to incorporate them in the School Meals Programme.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I could reply quite briefly to the points made, and I would like to state how pleased I am to note the restraint and the constructive note introduced by the prime speaker on this matter, the hon. member for St. Peter, and as far as the schools which are currently served by the School Meals Programme are concerned, these schools are as follows: In Christ Church, we have the Christ Church Boys', Christ Church Girsl', Providence Boys', St. Bartholomew's Boys', St. Bartholomew's Girls', St. Christopher's Boys' and

St. Christopher's Girls'. There are eight schools in Christ Church which are not currently served; seven are served and eight are not served. All the schools in St. Andrew are served, all the schools in St. George, two schools in St. James – St. James' Mixed and St. John the Baptist – all the schools in St. John, all in St. Joseph, all in St. Michael, two in St. Lucy, in St. Peter two schools – Boscobel Boys' and Boscobel Girls' – all the schools in St. Philip and all the schools in St. Thomas are served.

As far as St. Michael is concerned, the schools which are served are Buxton Primary, Grace Hill Primary, Roebuck Primary, St. Mary's Junior, St. Mary's Infants, Wesley Hall Junior, Wesley Hall Infants, Westbury Junior and Westbury Infants. The tenders are currently open, I believe, they may have been closed some time today, for the construction of a new School Meals Centre which will be sited at Country Road, and from this centre the following additional schools, all in St. Michael, will be served: Belmont Primary, Carringtons Primary, Deacons Primary, Pine Primary, St. Giles' Boys', St. Giles' Girls', St. Paul's Primary, Stow Primary, Grazettes Primary, and the new Pine Primary, including the School for the Deaf. These are the schools which will be served from the new centre which is being planned to provide an additional five thousand meals per day.

It is well known that the policy of this Government is to expand the School Meals programme to include all the schools at the primary level, and this will be done as speedily as possible. As soon as we get the new centre at Country Road in operation our attention will be given to the construction of additional school meals centres. I cannot say at this stage where the additional centre will be located and what schools will be served, but I would give hon. members the assurance that this programme will be expanded as expeditiously as possible.

As far as the private primary schools are concerned, I think these would have to take their place after the requirements of the public schools have been met. Of course, I will be willing to consider if at any stage, let us say, the St. Matthias' Schools may be up for consideration and the hon. member advises that some other private primary school should take precedence. I would listen to that, but I may not necessarily follow the advice then, but I would certainly listen to it with interest.

As far as the vegetables are concerned, these vegetables are ordered from the Marketing Corporation when they can supply, and these would by and large tend to be local vegetables, so the majority of vegetables used in the programme would be locally produced vegetables.

Mr. Chairman, there is very little else I can reply to, there was some suggestion that staff may be playing dominoes during normal working hours, I will certainly have this matter investigated and so long as this is not during any rest period I will certainly issue instructions that the work for which staff is paid to do should be carried on. I should also make an amendment here that the St. Patrick's Boys' and Girls' Schools in Christ Church are also served. I believe I missed them out because I believe they are actually served from the St. Philip's centre, they as well as St. Ambrose Girls' in St. Michael.

As far as late arrivals of meals are concerned, I think we are doing everything in our power to reduce the incidence of late arrivals, and the hon. member can rest assured that we are doing everything possible to reduce this. This could of course arise from a number of factors, maybe in some cases limited space at the schools or breakdown of equipment or shortage of water or insufficient advance preparation, but all these matters we are making a concerted effort to get rectified, as the hon. member for St. Peter admitted, and it may be that School Meals Officers do have to journey to Gun Hill not necessarily to eat their daily meals but to assist in the matter of ensuring that adequate planning and everything is taking place to see that meals arrive on time.

Mr. Chairman, I think these are the main points raised during the debate, and I would like to assure the hon. member that we who introduced the School Meals Programme will certainly agree with him that everything will be done to ensure that there is absolute cleanliness and good health standards in the provision of this School Meals Programme.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I know at some of these schools you can find a number of children whose parents are not in a position to provide them with the amount of money which they are supposed to pay for a meal.
4.25 p.m.

You can find in some cases where parents have four or five children. What is the actual position of those children who are not in a position to pay for their meals? Is it possible to have a survey by way of the Head Teacher to determine the actual position of the parents, so that these children can be fed? What is the actual

price of the meal per child? I should be grateful if the Minister would tell us if there is any truth in the rumour that the price of the meals will be increased.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The cost of the meal is 10c per child. I believe that the schools do make provision for those children who may be necessitous. I am sure that if on a particular day some children are unable to pay for their meals, in certain cases, it would be necessary to provide them with meals.

The question that the sum of $2,747,964 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (9) School Meals Department – as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(10) AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS
DEPARTMENT

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (10) Audio-Visual Aids Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $198,472 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (10) Audio-Visual Aids Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the comments which we would like to make under this Head are very short and very limited. One is in relation to Item 22 – Schools Broadcast. I believe that the Minister should be in a position to give to this Committee an up-to-date report on the operation of this scheme which started as a pilot scheme. There are two criticisms which we have heard made of the project and on which we would like to hear his comments, or would like him to investigate. One is that some of the schools are not really equipped for receiving this programme, and there has been some complaint in some of the schools about disruption of classes caused by the programme. I wonder whether his Ministry has made any investigation in these two matters which have been raised, and whether he can give the Committee any detailed report on the position, and what plans they have for the future, if not within the next financial year, certainly within the next 5 years.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is quite true to say that some of the schools are not equipped to receive telecast, because it is still a pilot project and the schools which were included in this programme were limited. I believe the St. Matthias School, with commendable initiative, has obtained a television set and it receives the programme, but there are only two primary schools, I believe, which are so equipped to receive the programme. We are paying particular attention to the question of the expansion of this programme. It is particularly in those areas to which mention was made earlier that you can see – I think it was the hon. member for St. Joseph who said that children in our schools can see programmes in English Literature, whether it is Macbeth or something like that, but they cannot see anything about mathematics. Precisely through educational television programmes in mathematics are telecast.

With regard to the question of disruption in schools, I will certainly have to investigate the matter. I will promise the hon. member to take up this point to see if disruption is caused at these schools and have it reduced or eliminated. I cannot say anything more on this programme, at this stage, because it is still in the pilot stage.

The question that the sum of $198,472 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (10) Audio-Visual Aids Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(11) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (11) – Industrial Schools – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $117,398 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (11) Industrial Schools stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Hon. Minister would help us on Item 34 – Maintenance of Roadways. There has been a very large increase in the vote for the improvement of roadways to these schools. We see here that the sum of $31,336 has been provided. We are wondering whether it has anything to do with the original acquisition of this area from the plantations, and whether the obligation to maintain the road rests on the Government or the original vendors of this area.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think that the amount here has been provided for

the improvement of roadways, because the roadways both in and around the Government Industrial School for boys and the Industrial School for girls together with the intervening roadways are all in a very bad state of disrepair, and we want to put them into a good state of repair. It has nothing to do with the original acquisition. It is merely a vote for the roadways at the two schools, and connecting the two schools which are in a very bad state of disrepair.

The question that the sum of $117,398 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (11) Industrial Schools – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (12) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (12) Public Library – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 35 – Ministry of Education (12) Public Library – I beg to move the following amendment:

Page 94 – Item 11 – Maintenance of Grounds

> Amend note to item by adding the letter "S" to the word "garden" appearing in the note thereto.

I now beg to move that the sum of $173,314 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (12) Public Library – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not think we can allow this vote to pass without commenting on the urgent need for further expansion of the Public Library. Anyone who takes a little time and visits, for instance, the reference section will become aware immediately of the fact that that particular section is bursting at its seams. Certainly it is very, very heavily used. I think this is probably a tribute to the increasing and initial emphasis which has been placed on education in this country for several years. Indeed, ever since the Barbados Labour Party assumed the reins of Government it recognised that education was the chief function of the development of the total man, and this concept has been taken over by the Government and carried on I am happy to say, but, if one looks at the Public Library, I think there is certainly a very strong case for this to be treated as a priority subject. I should not like us, because it is a small vote and a small sub-head under this Head, to skate over this subject at all. I should like to press on the Government the urgency for proceeding with any acquisitions around this area, and for a crash programme in this section. Even in the infant section, I think there is a sound case now for expansion.

Mr. Chairman, I should certainly like to place on record the thanks of those on this side and of the public in general to the Librarian and his staff who are not only polite and efficient, but are also the essence of charm. I think when one finds public servants performing their duties so well that it is incumbent public figures in this country to make a comment in their favour and not only one against them.

4.35 p.m.

Certainly they work in very trying circumstances and they work efficiently and yet they are not worn down by the annoyance that obviously the public must cause to them, and I should like the Minister to treat them as an important segment of his Ministry and to push on and talk very hard on their part in the Cabinet for the money that is needed to expand the facilities in town.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would merely like to say that in all the divisions and departments of my Ministry I talk with as much force and vehemence if necessary as maybe at my command, and as far as the facilities in Bridgetown are concerned, the hon. member would know that we carried out an expansion in public library services by establishing a new library at Eagle Hall which has brought an increase in the Library facilites available to the public. As far as the central library is concerned, it is part of the Development Plan that this library should be expanded, and property has been purchased for this particular purpose. The plans are now being drawn and this expansion will be implemented as soon as these plans become available together with the necessary capital funds for such an expansion.

The question that the sum of $173,314 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (12) Public Library – as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (13) DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (13) Department of Archives – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in Item 8 – Books and Publications – delete existing note, and insert new note to read as follows:–

"Includes provision for text-books, periodicals, photocopies and out of print publications. Increase due to continue expansion of reference collection."

I beg to move that the sum of $29,334 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (13) Department of Archives, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 35 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(14) YOUTH AFFAIRS

Head 35 – Ministry of Education (14) Youth Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $65,376 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (14) Youth Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish to begin under this subject by talking about the cetegory of organisations for whom there is a vote in the subvention section. It seems to me that these categories can be extended, and there are many other youthful organisations carrying out tremendous work in this community whose work for a long time has been unacknowledged. I wonder whether the Minister is aware of such organisations, whether they have pressed their case on him, and if they have not, whether his officers are instructed to investigate such organisations and bring them within the fold of his department not only for financial grants, but also for all the assistance that he can give to them. I know it is customary year in and year out to have the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides mentioned, and I see that on this occasion there is what I would like to call a token vote of $5,000 for these other organisations. I do not believe that this vote is either adequate or that it measures up to the problem. I can assure the Minister for instance that the Dorcas League which has a tremendous youthful section has been doing much work for the last twenty-five years among the youth of this country, and although I declare an interest, I think that many other members on the other side including the Leader of the House and other Ministers can testify to the work they have done in the under-privileged section of this community.

We would like to beg the Minister for some of the disused typewriters in the Government Service if not for financial assistance, and although it is usual to consider us a welfare service, we are only in some respects a welfare service; but we are essentially an organisation dealing with young people, trying to train them, to help them, and we wonder why we are not specifically considered on this occasion.

Mr. Chairman, we are very happy to see that there is a token vote of $1.00 in respect of a Youth Camp or Youth Hostel. What we would urge on the Minister is that his plans should be made public and certainly be given to this Chamber before he embarks on a particular programme in this respect. On a visit to our neighbouring sister Island and Republic of Guyana I was certainly last year deeply impressed with the tremendous self-help schemes which had been initiated between schools of that country where the sixth formers in the secondary schools and private secondary schools have adopted people in the primary schools and they set up their own youth camps in the long vacation, they indulge in the arts, in community work and in civics, in home economics and many other subjects, and in the process they help to eliminate the social discrepancies and the social hiatus which exist in their community. I commend very strongly to the Minister that it would be useful for him to send some members of his department and probably some of the young people who are going to be involved in this exercise on a visit to Guyana at the appropriate time because I think we can learn in a large measure from the experience of that country. I hope that the Minister will treat this question as one of great urgency.

I know I am saying this in relation to many educational matters, but I believe that the fact that education takes up something like over 26 percent of the budget of the country must mean that the Government and myself are *ad idem* in considering education as an important and urgent matter.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, my colleague on my left obviously covered a very broad area of this Head, but I see under Item 19 – Christmas Festivities, $4,800...

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, there is no Item 19 under this Head.

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ADAMS and Mr. WALCOTT rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will both hon. members sit.

The question that the sum of $65,376 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (14) Youth Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to make an observation now. I want all hon. members to understand that from the time one hon. member sits and they have anything to say, they should rise and not wait until I have started to put the question to rise because I am not going to entertain it from any hon. member of this Chamber.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the hon. member speaking? There is nothing before the House.
4.45 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I move that Head 35(14) be re-committed on the basis that the hon. member for St. James and the hon. member for the City both got up. Unfortunately the hon. member for St. James got up in error while the hon. member for the City was called to the telephone. I happen to know the hon. member for the City had a very short contribution to make, and for that reason I would ask that it be re-committed to permit the hon. member who was called away to the telephone, having risen to speak but not catching your eye, I had no intention to speak myself - he did not catch your eye when he rose to speak, Sir - two hon. members rose at the same time, and the hon. member for the City did not catch your eye, the hon. member for St. James caught your eye, he was then called to the telephone. I was merely asking to give the hon. member for the City an opportunity to speak very shortly, and that is the reason why I move to re-commit the matter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the negative, the Committee dividing as follows:

NOES: Hon'bles C. E. TALMA, A. DaC. EDWARDS, P. M. GREAVES, L. E. SANDIFORD, P. G. MORGAN; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Messrs. A. MORRISON, F. L. WALCOTT and C. A. E. HOPPIN - 9.

AYES: Messrs. J. M. G. ADAMS, E. D. MOTTLEY, L. S. GRAIG, H. deB. FORDE and C. L. BOLDEN - 5.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (15) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 35 - Ministry of Education (15) Community Development - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 35 (15), on page 97, Item 11 - Clothing and Uniforms, amend the note to the Item by deleting the words "the cost of" appearing in the note thereto, and at Item 13 - Games, amend the note to the Item by inserting the word "other" after the word "and" appearing in the note thereto. I beg to move that the sum of $167,155 under Head 35(15) as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under Item 13 of this Head there is a vote of $1,400 to provide for the purchase and repairs of sports, games and other equipment at the Community Centres. I have visited a number of these community centres from time to time. There is one in St. James, and I cannot remember seeing any sports equipment there. To my mind the amount of money which is voted under this Head is to take care of the community centre at Gall Hill, because I for one would like to see all these community centres upgraded. I personally believe that they have outgrown their usefulness, in the sense that when they were first brought in by my Party I do not think they were introduced for the purpose of holding dances, I am not sure about this, but the purpose for which they are now used I would imagine that you need a lot more room in them. If you go to the community centre in St. Thomas, even a night there is a dance there, the facilities are deplorable. They serve a usefulness, but they have outgrown their size. I just want to make that comment.

As far as they being used for games, I have never seen at any of these community centres anywhere where children can go and play games. I do not know if you have these facilities at the one in the Bay Land now, which is a games room or a pavilion, but in St. James I have never seen anything there, apart from the Maple Club carrying on their own games, they use Trents as their home ground, but I do not see where you

are spending $1,400 to purchase all these things for use in games and no games are played at these community centres, apart from dominoes, and I think this is a waste of money. A bigger vote could be used here and have the community centres upgraded, and I would like to see all of them look like the one at Gall Hill. I think that is a model not merely for the Government but for any country in the world. It is beautifully designed, it has hard courts, and I wonder if the people in the area make good use of it. I would like to see something like this all over Barbados, giving St. James the priority, and I believe the Minister of Education would support me in this because he is my constituent and a product of St. James.

Item 19 - Christmas Festivities and Item 20 - Entertainment at Community Centres. I would like the Minister in his reply to tell me what kind of entertainment you have at these centres. Surely you would have to be discriminating, because there is absolutely none in St. James. This is a Head under which I am concerned primarily with St. James, since you have a community centre in St. James.

Under Item 22 - Arts Festival, I think the time has come when the Government must decide to provide this country with a national auditorium.
4.55 p.m.

You have your National Stadium; you can see that there is a little upgrading in sports in Barbados, but the time has come when we must set about to have our National Auditorium for our young people. I like to see the play called "Bimshire." As a matter of fact, I saw it on three occasions and it is an example where the young people in this country were in a position to show off their talents under very difficult conditions. I recall on more than one occasion having to queue up in order to get into Combermere School to see the show. I believe that the Government should provide these things for the young people - Mr. Chairman, I should have said provide things for the people. I think we are talking too much about providing things for the young people. I want to speak on Home Affairs just now, and I have a flogging to give these young people. Every now and again you can hear about something for the young people, but I do not hear about something for the people who have made a contribution to the country and are now thrown aside. We are getting all of these problems from the young people, and I will deal with them later.

I should like to see something that the country can boast about such as Queen's Hall in Trinidad. I am sure that Trinidadians are justly proud of that building. I should like to know what is Government's policy on providing a National Auditorium. I should like to hear the Minister's views on the two points I have raised.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Community development is, perhaps, and will be in the next decade of this country's history one of the most important aspect of economic development. It is so because I believe that the leisure time in any community is an important part of the development of the total man. I also believe that the location of Community Centres can give an opportunity for furthering adult education even when not appearing to do so, and can at the same time give to the people who are participating a greater opportunity to participate in the Government of the country.

One of the sad things today, and one of the saddest comments that could be made about Community Centres are that they are not either fully used or properly used, and that there seems to be no proper plan in the mind of the Government for their development. I think what the hon. member for St. James was trying to say at the moment is that many people treat them as though they are only places to go to watch television programmes occasionally or play the odd game of dominoes. Certainly, this is only a limited part of their functions. I should like, for instance, the Minister to emphasise to the organisation to whom he gives subventions that part of one of the conditions for these subventions is that they should participate in the Community Development Programme.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the fact that the Barbados National Theatre Workshop ran successfully for upwards of three years in this country a programme called "Community Theatre" in which they took drama to the housing areas and to the Community Centres. They did this out of their own private subscriptions and from assistance given by the Lions Club of Barbados. I note with some degree of satisfaction so far as the Barbados Dance Theatre is concerned, but I regret so far as the Barbados Theatre Workshop is concerned that, despite efforts of the Barbados National Theatre Workshop to participate in community life in areas like St. Christopher, St. Andrew, St. Joseph, St. Lucy and St. Peter, that that organisation has merited no financial assistance. I am aware that the Barbados Dance Theatre Group is a recent foundation, and that it has done one or two big things to catch the eye of the public, but I submit to this Committee that there are groups like the Workshop who consistently have

integrated their work in the concept of community development.

I should like to see these Community Centres being not only properly equipped so far as the apparatus for playing games is concerned, but also equipped for other educational programmes. I should like to think, for instance, that the Unions, both employers and workers can occasionally use the Centres and are encouraged to use the Centres in a programme for educating people. I should like to think that the Ministry of Education itself should use these Centres for a programme of education. I should also strongly urge on the Minister that he draws up some proper policy document for the use of these Centres during the coming decade.

One of the things also which strike me, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that it seems that the location of these Centres is being done on a rather haphazard basis. For instance, again I must emphasise an area with which I am familiar, but it is undoubtedly true that Brittons Hill in particular and Clapham, Brittons New Road, is an area of dense population. Likewise Dayrells Road, St. Matthias, Deightons, and I will speak for the Minister of Housing, Free Hill, Black Rock. These are very densely populated areas, and yet we cannot find anywhere in these areas a Community Centre of any sort.

I could instance to the Minister that, for example, in the Dayrells Road area we have three clubs: one of them long established in which they run their own affairs, but they have no proper meeting place, and yet they do a lot of community work both on the cultural and other level. I should urge on the Government very strongly to take note of the contribution which these groups are making, and certainly in the Brittons Hill - Bonnets area there is a strong case for a Community Centre being established in that area. I know that this is a special plea, but I believe that the Minister's constituency adjoins mine, and I am also pleading to him on his own behalf and also on behalf of the member for St. Michael South Central to whose name, I think, I may still be able to refer, and the member for St. Michael South East, but it seems to me that in that area there is a case where it is near enough to town to benefit from the youthfulness of people like the Barbados Arts Council, the Barbados Theatre Workshop, the Barbados Dance Theatre and also from other organisations, and yet there is no central meeting place for these people in that area. I hope that the Minister in the next five years will make sure that he does something for these three particular areas. I will mention Free Hill, Black Rock, in particular which has a tremendous population of young people and of old people looking for places to spend their leisure hours and to contribute to the social and cultural life of the community but, unfortunately, nothing has been done there in the past.

5.05 p.m.

I am sure they have their own spokesman in the Cabinet and he will in due course press their claim. I can only press mine for my particular area from the floor of this House, and I am begging the Minister. I am not being rude. Certainly in St. Matthias, if he wants to, we can show him the old poor house site where something can be done. I am begging him to look at St. Matthias, Bonnets and Forde's Road and Brittons Hill as special areas in this respect.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am really on my feet before you started to put the question, so you will permit me to reply. I would like to tell the hon. member for Christ Church West that I have been looking and I should probably state the general principle first that subject to the availability of funds and the necessary land and so on Community Centres should be placed in the populous areas of this country, and there are many areas in this country which do not have the benefit of Community Centres. I do not see any in the area of St. Michael South, none in the Bay Land area, but this is how it goes. We can call many other areas throughout the country where none exists. I have heard of Gall Hill. However I will take note of the special pleading. With respect to the Bonnetts, Clapham and Brittons Hill area where so many things do so conjointly meet, I would not like to say that such and such is the reason why we are being urged to put a centre there, but I should like the hon. member to know that the Minister of Housing and myself are being urged by the member for St. Michael South Central to consider that area as well; so here again there seems to be some common ground here for the establishment of a centre in this area.

I would just like to say generally that I admit that the centres are in a far from satisfactory physical condition, and the Ministry of Communications and Works has submitted an estimate of something like $104,000 to put the centres into a proper state of repair. Now we are looking at this whole matter, and it is our policy to reinstate and where necessary improve the centres, and I will take all necessary steps within the framework of the money allocated to carry out a programme of regeneration and improvement at these centres, and what I cannot

get done within this coming five year period, I will certainly do in the five year period after that.

Mr. FORDE: If the Minister would give way, I can assure him that if he does not get it done in the five years, I will do it for him in the next five years.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On the question of games in the centres, I will be looking at this particular point. These things are not done on any political basis. It is our policy that if games are to be provided in the centres, they will be provided in all the centres subject to the availability of funds, and I will take St. James into account. I do not know what facilities are in that centre, but we have made a start at Gall Hill through the provision. On this occasion it was equipment for the playing of lawn tennis, but we will see that some equipment is provided at the centres. I am a constituent of the hon. member for St. James; I am not saying what level of representation I am getting, but I am a resident of St. James and what he fails to do I will certainly use my own influence to see that it gets done.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there is much more I need say on this. We are carrying out a programme of improvement at the centres as far as the physical conditions of the centres are concerned. I have already asked for policy positions in respect of the programmes to be carried out at these centres, and we will certainly be looking at this for the devising of a policy as a result of which the people of this country would realise that community development and the use of the centres constitute a necessary and essential part of the total social development of this community.

The question that the sum of $167,155 under Head 35 - Ministry of Education (15) Community Development, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(16) SPORTS

Head 35 - Ministry of Education (16) Sports - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, the letter "S" is to be deleted from the word "SPORTS" at the top of the page, and on the blue page preceding the Heads.

Under Item 6 - Casual Staff, amend note by adding the letter "s" to the word "cleaner" appearing in the note thereto.

In Item 22 - National Stadium Corporation, insert note to read as follows:

"grant to the National Stadium Corporation to assist in meeting recurrent expenditure."

I beg to move that the sum of $256,597 under Head 35 - Ministry of Education (16) Sport, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately I cannot spend the whole of the time on which this Head will be discussed in the House, so I am rising to make a very small point which I hope the Minister responsible will take note of. It is a small point, but it was made by Mr. Batson and Mr. Boxill when they first got into the House, it was made by Mr. Boxill before he became a Parliamentary Secretary and by Mr. Batson afterwards, it was made by Mr. Boxill and Mr. Adams before Mr. Boxill was the responsible Minister, and it is going to be made once again by the member for St. Thomas. One of the early playingfields created in this country was that created at Bagatelle near Redmans Village in the parish of St. Thomas some years ago when Mr. Mapp was the Minister I think of Communications and Works at that time. It was a good conception because it was the first effort at an integrated housing area and playing field. The housing area was put down at one end, the playing field at the other, there was space in between for expansion of the housing area, and there was already a village there, Redmans Village and Kew Land and so on which could make use of the facilities. But in those distant days flat land was not easy to come by and still is not easy to come by in St. Thomas, and the playing field has always been somewhat uneven and not level. Various Ministers of Communications and Works first and then of Housing including the Leader of the House and indeed including Mr. Boxill when he occupied one or another of those Ministries have promised that this playing field would be levelled. The pavilion came and went. I was worn to a shred and a frazzle, and eventually it was sold to house immigrant labourers at the Lodge plantation.

Now there is a lovely new pavilion built out of shame after a celebrated political meeting at Redmans Village in which a letter was red out from Mr. Boxill to the local youth club saying he would not come to any of their functions because they invited me to be their guest speaker. Subsequent to that the Government had a change of heart and decided not to maltreat Redmans

Village quite so crudely, but to build a pavilion, and very amply rewarded too.
5.15 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way I would simply like to point out that pavilions and community centres in this country are not built out of shame by this present Government, they are built in order to continually expand the facilities for recreation in the country. They are built out of concrete blocks or some similar material.

Mr. ADAMS: I take that back, the Minister is saying the Government has no shame. I am prepared to agree with him, shameless people. From the Minister's own mouth, they are not built out of shame they are built out of concrete blocks; apart from any sarcasm which I may offer the Minister's frivolity in itself will serve as a comment on how he regards the policy of his Ministry. Nonetheless, I am not being frivolous on this particular point, Redmans Village has been filled up, and I am told by the hon. member for St. Andrew that 37 of his constituents' houses were moved to Redmans Village after the flood, the Housing Area itself is full, and I see that a new tenantry appears in the process of being opened from Kew Land in the direction of old Sharon Hill. I hope the Town Planner knows about it, but nonetheless it is a fact. Certainly in the last election it was much the largest polling district in St. Thomas, I believe, yet the Redmans Village playing field continues to be uneven, and if you look at it you can see the reason why, Mr. Chairman, a guard wall would obviously have to be built by the roadside to keep in any soil that you bring down from higher up the hill and from Bagatelle House itself to level the part where the dropaway can be found, but it is a thickly populated area. There is now a very decent pavilion apparently in the process of being opened. I hope that I may get an invitation to be present at the opening, Sir, in all the time I have been in the House of Assembly and the hon. member for St. Michael South has been a Minister I have never been invited to any function in my constituency for anything emanating from the Department which the Minister of Education heads. If the Minister of Education wants to have a battle let me tell him that in the face of all those responsible, everybody can hear it. I have never been invited to a school opening, any function at a school, any function in St. Thomas or indeed as far as I can recall any function whatsoever for which the Minister of Education is responsible, nonetheless I am still back here in the House of Assembly even by 64 votes, but that is only by the way.

I am calling on the Ministry to pay respect to the very large number of people who are to be found in that particular area, and as the hon. member for St. James will I am sure bear me witness, Redmans Village is not only a focus for its own inhabitants, but it is also a place which large numbers of persons from Holder's Hill and the surrounding villages make a resort on occasions of sports. There are sports clubs that use the ground, the Welches Old Scholars Association which covers not only Redmans Village itself but the whole catchment area so to speak of the schools at Welches, and if there is one case where an hon. member, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest is justified in asking for the parish pump to be primed a little bit here, it is in the direction of improving the status of the ground at Bagatelle now that it has a proper pavilion and not one which would fall apart or be a hazard to the public using it. In passing, I would like to pay tribute to the former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Community Development and the Chief Government Sports Officer, Mr. Williams, who very quickly and efficiently a couple of years ago when the pavilion really was falling apart tried to take steps to have it put together so that it could continue to be used for a little longer. That the steps failed was no fault of theirs it was the fault of the Ministry of Communications and Works which ordered the wrong size louvre glass and so on, maybe it was done for Mr. Boxill but not for me but it did not succeed, I am still glad it was done for the people of St. Thomas, whether it was intended to be done to help one or other of the candidates it was done for the people of St. Thomas and I am very glad. If it was possible to put something in Clifton Hill, in Bridgefield, wherever in St. Thomas it may be thought that the other party is strong and our Party is weak, I am more glad to see it there because it will help perhaps to shake them out of the mistake, it will take them a little bit out of the darkness under which they have laboured for a few years, as far as I am concerned. It can be done for anybody as long as it is done in St. Thomas.

I will also be glad if the Minister could reply, and my friend the hon. member for St. James will take the reply so to speak, as to when the much advertised playing field in Welchman Hall will be opened. I have seen a little work going on behind the cemetery opposite Holy Innocents, and yet I cannot see any signs of a playing field being opened. It may just have been so now that the Ministry has been passed into the hands of the present incumbent the policy of keeping me in the dark will continue. That may be, but I keep my eyes open, and I am tall enough to see over the wall of Holy Innocents Cemetery, and there is nothing disgraceful in peeping to see that your constituents get their

fair share of the rural development that is going in Barbados. I would be glad, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could ascertain and let me know when we can expect the youths of Welchman Hall which is the most thickly populated district in St. Thomas to have the playing field that again has been promised to them for over ten years.

Mr. Chairman, there is just one point very briefly that I will deal with relating to the National Football Coach. As I see it, football still appears in Barbados to be a game centred around St. Michael and the City. I stand to be contradicted by the member for St. James and everybody else, but I do not see the facilities for football available in St. Thomas that I see available elsewhere. To the best of my knowledge, the only football kicked about in St. Thomas is one for which not the Government but the member for St. Thomas is personally responsible, and it is kicked about on a private playing field, namely the playing field belonging to Central Cricket Club. I have seen a little football being kicked about at Bagatelle, but a lady sent back and said "you voted for Tom Adams, let me get that ball back here in my hand", and I have not seen that particular ball knocking about any more. I would ask all hon. members – and I am going to ask the members on my side too – to give some thought to the development of football facilities in the country, and if the hon. member for St. James can get up and make a good speech, that will confirm all of us in our view of his ability and his fitness for the position which he holds on this side, because I believe that there will be nobody better qualified than he to talk about these matters in the House, and I hope the Minister will listen to what I have said as well as what the hon. member for St. James is going to say about bringing football to the rural areas, particularly St. Thomas.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, my colleague said that I am capable of making a good speech, I believe I am capable of making a good speech always to push off those who fight against me in St. James, but he has not got to worry about the districts in the country having football, because right now in St. James there is a mini league and there is some football competition going on there, I think sponsored by a Senator who tasted defeat at my hand.

5.25 p.m.

As far as this is concerned, I do not think we have any worry about football coming tho this area. What I am very concerned with, Mr. Chairman, is to see a wider area of sport throughout the entire country. We find that only in St. Michael you have a wide range of sports. You have football, swimming, lawn tennis, table tennis, dominoes, athletics, horse riding and so on, and everything is confined to the parish of St. Michael. I use the term parish, because St. Michael is divided into 8 constituencies. I feel that the time has come when the Government should concentrate purely on the rural areas, because it is in these particular areas where we have always been able to bring out some of our best sportsmen.

Mr. Chairman, in the parish of St. Michael where you have Combermere School and Harrison College, some years ago they used to provide the country with athletes, topnotch cricketers and so on. In recent years, I must say that the late Mr. Louis Lynch has done a great job by using his imagination and organising things for the purpose of widening the area of sports in Barbados as a whole. There is still a certain amount of neglect, and we cannot overlook the fact that in the more remote areas of the country you can find young men and women who can find nothing to do after five or six o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Chairman, let us take a place like Rock Hall for the sake of argument. I remember visiting Rock Hall with my friend and party colleague who was contesting a seat in St. Andrew. We spoke to some young boys, and the first thing they asked us was: "If we vote for you, are you going to give us a playing field?" I dare say that in your own constituency, Mr. Chairman, you may have been confronted by people on more than one occasion asking you what about a playing field and some of the amenities that Government should provide for them. I am not saying that in every district the Government can put down a playing field; I am not saying that every district can have a Community Centre, but I am saying that, on a population basis, the Government should be able to provide these particular areas with better facilities for the purpose of sport. I have always condemned the Government about this. The Government has no policy whatsoever.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the imagination of the Jaycees we now have a National Stadium, but I think it needs a little brushing up. There are certain things that we can say we are very happy about at the Stadium. It has brought to Barbados a new brand of cycling, and a compliment must be paid to the Barbados Cycle Union. I thought by now we would have had an Olympic size swimming pool.....

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should just like to get the facts clear. The hon. member says that the

Government has no policy for sport, and he has expressed thanks to the Jaycees that we now have a Stadium. I should just like to give some information on this matter. The cost of the National Stadium is estimated at $1.7 million of which the Jaycees contributed from their various takings from the people of this country $450,000. The Jaycees contributed this sum of money from their bingo and other incomes.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for drawing this to my attention. You have a policy, but it is a helpless, lame-foot type of policy. What policy do you have in sport? Here you have an organisation known as the Jaycees using their imagination to assist in providing this country with a National Stadium. I am thanking the Jaycees for their imagination, otherwise we could not have a National Stadium.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is wrong. I was the Minister of sport when the idea of the Stadium came up. We discussed the question of a Stadium and it was at that stage that the Jaycees offered assistance with the Stadium. It was the initiative on the part of the Government to establish a Stadium in this country. It is true that we are grateful to the Jaycees for the contribution of $450,000.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Hon. Minister and myself have the same recollection, but as far as I know it was the reverse.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to point out that, with the aid and assistance of the present Government Sports Officer, we sat down in the Ministry of Health and Social Services in 1962-63 and unearthed the idea of a National Stadium. We discussed it; scouted around, speculated, and it was at that stage after the initiative had been taken in the Ministry that the Jaycees offered assistance in respect of the National Stadium.

Mr. CRAIG: I would like to be in a position to say that, if the Jaycees had not put up $450,000 to start the ball rolling, the National Stadium would not have been there.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We cannot allow you to get away with this, because you are only speculating. The point is that I made a categorical statement on the floor of this House that the initiative for the Stadium began in the Ministry of Health and Social Services to which sport was connected at the time. If somebody is supposed to get the praise for it, it is supposed to be the present Sports Officer who is now the Chief Sports Officer who discussed the establishment of the Stadium with me as Minister responsible for sports at the time.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am listening to a very interesting debate this evening. Some years ago it was alleged that the Barbados Labour Party brought down a Professor to Barbados to set up a National Insurance Scheme. We could not get it off the ground; we were scouting around; the present Government came along; they got into power and brought it into reality. Now, they have got the credit for that! On this occasion the Minister said that they had the idea and the idea came from Government, but they were scouting around. *(Asides)* I understand the Minister to say that it was during his tenure of office somewhere in 1962-63 when they had this big idea.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. The position is that when we began in 1962 to discuss the question of the Stadium, the Sports Officer at the time came in to see me. I was young in the Ministry, energetic, and having the able support of the Sports Officer as he was at the time, one of the first things we began to discuss in the Ministry at that time was the question of a Stadium. We toyed with the idea of having it at Weymouth; then we thought of acquiring Blenheim to put the Stadium, and it was then decided that all of the areas were too small and unsuited for the Stadium. It was after the decision was taken to have a Stadium that the Jaycees came along and agreed to assist in the establishment of it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it all boils down to one thing. Government had the idea; they were going to Weymouth; there were going to Blenheim; they were scouting around, and the Jaycees gave them $450,000. The point I am making is that, if the Jaycees did not give them the $450,000, probably you would not have had any Stadium, because the Government would still have been scouting around.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want the hon. member to understand that there was a decision taken that there was to be a Stadium.
5.35 p.m.

A decision was taken. The Jaycees came along and offered assistance; so let us get the facts in the right order and get matters in the right perspective.

Mr. CRAIG: A decision was taken that there should be a National Stadium and they started to scout around. The Jaycees came along after the decision was taken. In my language, they butt up on the Jaycees while scouting around and they were given $450,000; so I am saying that if the Jaycees did not give you the $450,000 though the decision was taken to build a National Stadium, as you have taken so many decisions and done nothing about them, the National Stadium would not have been there. *(Asides.)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now I am not going to intervene at this stage. I am not going to allow this type of behaviour. I will see that any further argument on this ceases.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, when you speak of this type of behaviour, I do not think there is any misbehaviour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not said there is misbehaviour.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I think hon. members of this Chamber are entitled to be here as long as they do not misbehave. I could not sit here and allow the hon. member to make statements which are not correct and the Chamber is given a wrong impression, and it is my duty as a Minister of this Government to see that misrepresentation is not made concerning any aspect of Government matters in here. I do not know how other members look at it, but I tell you how I look at it, and I want to make it abundantly clear that it is my prerogative to get up in here as an elected member and speak as long as I do not abuse the office which I hold or abuse the privileges of this Chamber, and I can speak until tomorrow morning on any issue; so let us get it straight. Misrepresentation was made on a matter and I am not going to sit down and allow misrepresentation to go by the board. I want you to understand that as long as there is misrepresentation, I hold it as my democratic right to get up and speak on it, and nobody is going to muzzle me. The point I am making is that the hon. member is trying to give a wrong impression. The hon. member said that if the Jaycees did not come along and offer money there would be no stadium. I am in a position as Minister holding the portfolio at that time to tell the hon. member that this is a misconceived and wrong impression which he is giving the public, because that does not go along with the facts. The position is that the Jaycees helped, but the decision was taken in that Ministry to establish a stadium and we were looking around for a site. We looked at Blenheim and at Weymouth, but the experts did not feel we should build at Weymouth because of the question of traffic in the city area, and Blenheim was on Zone I and therefore it was not in the interest of the health of the community to carry thousands of people there to empty their bladders or bowels which would contaminate our water in the area. It is whilst we were looking around for other sites to establish a stadium that the Jaycees came along and offered assistance, and we went to Waterfords. Those are the facts as they are. It is all right for the hon. member to get up and assume something when his assumption is not in keeping with the facts.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as the Minister who actually saw after the construction of the stadium, and having served as Minister of Housing, Health, Local Government and Community Development including Sport from October 1965 to July 1969, I would like to confirm what the Minister has just said as far as the policy of the Government in having this stadium built is concerned. I took over where he left off and the stadium became a reality during my regime.

On the question of financing the Government voted $1 million at the very inception because we could not build a stadium for $450,000; but having that assurance that the Jaycees would assist to the extent of $450,000, the Government voted $1 million; so we had $1,450,000 as the first phase of the stadium. The Jaycees did give an assurance of another $45,000 as far as I remember; so the Jaycees did not give us the idea, but they gave us encouragement and financial assistance and they deserve full credit.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I have listened to both Ministers and I am going to say that Government must take the credit for its imagination in erecting a national stadium. In the meantime the Jaycees must be given credit for setting about to make sure that the Government built it. In the same way we should be given credit for setting about to bring down Professor Stockman to look into the National Insurance Scheme and the Government must have the credit for implementing it.

Mr. Chairman, I said earlier that I like to look at sport throughout the country and not confine our energies to the parish of St. Michael which is divided into eight constituencies. I do not know what activities you have in the parish of St. John outside of the Lodge School. I also said that the Community Centre with its hard courts and other surroundings is a model for any country in the world, and I would like to see

something of this nature in every parish. What puzzles me most is that some time ago I came to this House and recommended to Government that since there was a number of farms which allowed people living in the district to use a small area of their lands for the purpose of playing cricket and other games, they should step in and see if they could not acquire this small area or rent it at a peppercorn rate and put up a pavilion, and put down hard courts where the girls could engage in netball and the men in basket-ball. There are some six-footers all over the rural areas, and members who represent the rural areas would know this, who would probably be able to give Barbados some credit in the field of basket-ball. If you look around St. Michael, you would find that very few basket-ball players ever hardly go over 5 feet 8 inches in the area stretching from Dayrells Road in Christ Church where you have the famous Seven-Up Lakers to somewhere in Grazettes in Black Rock; but when you move away from there and go into the rural area you have absolutely nothing in the line of sport apart from cricket which is our national game. I hope the Minister will tell me the score in the meantime, because he has my radio.
5.45 p.m.

You cannot look around here, Mr. Chairman, apart from Maple in St. James, and say there is any football team that came out of those districts that can be of any credit to the country, but you go beyond and you will find a youth group in the constituency of the Minister of Agriculture, St. Silas' Youth Group, with a group of young men who today provide the country with their distance runners, and I am quite sure they are in a position to provide them with short distance runners, but the point is that they have no place to carry out their activities, and I have drawn it to the attention of Government and I firmly believe that if the Minister in charge along with his officers decide to approach some of these farm owners and ask them to allow them to use a small piece of land for the purpose of encouraging the people -- I am not saying young people, because I have very strong views on this youth thing nowadays, I have always said it is over-stated – to use these areas, I am satisfied that they would not get a deaf ear.

I am told that some time ago in the parish of St. George a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Dowding, gave the people some land for the purpose of playing cricket. I only say that to let you know I do not believe the people would turn you down, and therefore I say the Government has no proper policy on sport, because they allow all of their sports, whatever sports you have, to be confined to one particular area, and that is the area of St. Michael. I will say this again, the Prime Minister of Barbados can walk down the streets of London and nobody, apart from a few Barbadians, would know he is the Prime Minister, but let Gary Sobers walk down any street in London and you would know he is Gary Sobers, and I say this because sportsmen can do their country a great deal of good; the whole area of sport needs widening.

I have not been to the Sports Department since June or July last year when I, single-handed as usual, put on a whole sports meeting and everything in St. James. It is only recently that a joker who had a little fun in the elections, one who contested a constituency in the elections is now organising a little football match and you have to pay $5 to join. Be that as it may, I called on the Sports Officers, I would say they gave me all their assistance, I believe I could have had a little more, but they gave me all the assistance they could at the time, and I would also like to draw to Government's attention that we need in this country – let us not fool ourselves about this -- a proper coaching scheme. You cannot decide to bring a Coach to Barbados for three months or six months of the year and expect him to coach people up to any international standard, and then when they go abroad and do not bring home the bacon they hang their heads in shame. My recommendation to the Minister in charge is to employ a full time international Coach at all levels. I know I have heard from the Minister of Communications and Works that the country can only stand that much and no more, but they did not know this all along, they know it now. If you are having swimming, bring in an international swimming Coach. Mr. Lorenzo Best is a nice man, he is a strong swimmer, and I admire him for what he is doing for the young people in the area of swimming, but do not tell me that we in Barbados boast of our beautiful beaches, blue skies and white sands – I doubt many people from St. George can swim, Sir, and this is unfortunate – but if you covered an area such as swimming you would be able to have your Coach coaching people to take over, but you cannot do this for five or six months.

The same thing happens with football. I have heard varying views on this, that Graham Adams is a good Coach, others who might have been a little closer to him than I have been may say he was not a good Coach, but I would say this, that if there is one thing I have admired is that he has widened the area of football in this country and brought a new brand of football, and we were in a position at least to go to the Stadium, and though beaten not really disgraced, but you have no more Graham Adams. As soon

as you start at that level, he is here for six or eight months of the year and then he is out; then you leave it in the hands of a man who is not really a Coach in its truest sense, he is a good footballer, he is interested and is a dedicated person to the game of football, but he is not a Coach in its truest sense.

I am told you have one Coach in netball. You know the amount of girls we have who I am quite sure are interested in playing netball, but there is one Coach. The argument is that you have not got the facilities, but do not tell me that the Government cannot put down a few yards of concrete and mark out a square, because this is something I am quite sure I can do myself, it cannot cost that much. I might do it under very difficult conditions, but this is nothing the Government cannot do.

I thought by now we would have had an Olympic size swimming pool at the National Stadium, do not tell me you are going down to St. Lucy at The Tides and use their pool, this is only a favour. It is time Government should have had a national olympic swimming pool.

Lawn Tennis. To my mind, Sir, that is something of the past. That was a game once for the privileged few, for the classes, but you have the Savannah, what use are we making of it? I would have thought that you would put it at the disposal of some of the children and train them from very tender ages, 10, 11 and 12, give them racquets to play with and have a Coach there coaching them.
5.55 p.m.

These are the avenues of sport in which I believe we should be interested. I am not confining my remarks to the parish of St. James. Go to Belleplaine, a large area where you have a Community Centre, but you have absolutely nothing going on down there. Sometimes you may have a cricket match. Why could you not have a hard court down there where the girls could play netball and the men could play basketball? On the other hand, you have one in St. John. That is why I say that this Government have no real fixed policy on this matter. You have a Sports Department with all of the officers — *(Asides.)* I am not going to say that they are an army of occupation, but I am saying that there is no guidance from the Ministry.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member spoke of the Belleplaine area. I want to correct and let the hon. member know that, with the aid of the Sports Department, and particularly the Officer responsible for netball, there is a formidable netball club in the Belleplaine area which is assisted by the Sports Department with not only balls, but the poles and so on. This netball group has come down to St. Michael and has been running second and third in the league. You must not say that the Sports Department have not done anything for the people. You do not want a hard court on which to play netball. With the land available up there, I think the Sports Department have done a good job in assisting the young people in the Belleplaine area in respect of netball, because we have a very strong netball team down there.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I only mentioned Belleplaine in passing. Every time the Minister gets on his feet he talks about the Sports Department doing a good job. I do not want to take the Sports Department to task. I am dealing with the Ministry as a whole. I simply said that Belleplaine is a big area and all you have down there is cricket, which is our national game. The Minister says that there is a netball team down there coming second and third in the league. In which division is he talking about? If the team were coming second and third, by now it should have been at the top of the league. This is a negative argument.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that one coach cannot take care of all of this work. Of course, the Minister may be able to get more done for the people in Belleplaine than the people on this side of the House can get done in their constituencies. My point is that we need more coaches in the country. Unless you can bring down an International Coach to train people in Barbados to coach others, we will not be making much progress. What is the point of the Minister getting up lauding the Sports Officer?

Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is a bit of upgrading to be done in the Sports Department. Having a youthful Minister like the former Minister, I am looking forward to seeing a wider area in sports at all levels in this country upgraded. I can assure the Minister that if they do not do it before this Session is completed it is going to be done. I would ask him to devote a little of his time and energy to the area of the Sports Department. It is lacking in guidance, and it wants a proper policy in the field of sports.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to see our sports upgraded to be in line with the Stadium which I consider to be a beautiful Stadium, but a tall man can look over the wall if he wants to see what is going on inside. I am no Architect or Engineer, and the Officer who was in charge of

designing the building should have had the vision to see that the wall was too low and people would be able to look over the wall to see what was taking place in the Stadium. At sometimes when I pass by the Stadium, I am inclined to sit on the top of my car because it is cool and watch a football match. I am not robbing the Corporation of any revenue, because I have made a contribution to them on more than one occasion. I hope to see a more dynamic and progressive attitude towards the Sport Department.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think that we on this side of the House would be somewhat amiss if we did not, at this stage without going into any detail, pay our respects to the late Manager of the National Stadium for the great contribution that he had made not only to Barbados but also to cricket in the West Indies. I believe it would suffice if I, at this stage, merely associate myself and my colleagues with the remarks made and the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Education some time late last week.

Sir, I believe that it was Mr. C. L. R. James who said that, in the West Indies, cricket is considered as one of the greatest avenues of social mobility. It is somewhat unfortunate that in Barbados cricket alone affords this opportunity to a person born of humble circumstances. We on this side of the House would like to see extended throughout the whole country facilities that would bring to the people in the various districts and villages the same opportunity that is afforded to them by the Barbados Cricket League and other Cricketing Associations in this country.

I join with the Leader of the Opposition in calling on the Sports Department to extend the Football Programme throughout the country and not merely have it concentrated in the Metropolitan parish and surrounding parishes. I think that the people should be given an opportunity to take part in the cultural and sport development of their country, and only if games like football, tennis, swimming, hockey and other games are taken to them will they be given any opportunity for development.
6.05 p.m.

You will see that I did not mention anything about basketball because I do not want to harp on the story about basketball again. I have had meetings with the Ministry about this, but the member for St. James mentioned the questions of plantations or what he called farms. I think the time has come when most of the plantations in Barbados should recognise the contribution made by the workers and their forefathers to the economic development of the country and donate a piece of land to provide facilities like playing fields, because it would be difficult to expect Government with its other programme of economic development to be able to provide playing fields in each and every district. I would like to see the plantations as a gesture give a few acres of land which could be used for this purpose.

I know, Sir, that at the moment criticism can be made as was made in the case of Bagatelle because the field was not flat. Criticism can also be made in the case of Blenheim because I do not think that the Ministry is at the moment getting maximum use from Blenheim where other facilities could be provided on one side of the field. I would suggest that facilities should be provided in the nature of hard courts because you do not provide them for one particular game, but they could be used for netball and for basketball.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member would give way, I have heard quite a lot about hard courts, but I do not think we should anticipate the Capital Estimates where there is provision for the laying of hard courts in Item 14 throughout the country.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I think the Minister, I almost said when he is in the House as long as I have been, will appreciate that you try to debate most things under the Current Estimates because by the time you come to do the Capital Estimates, you usually are either too tired and Capital Estimates are very seldom debated, and at the rate that we are going I think the Capital Estimates will probably come late on Wednesday or Thursday when the Minister will appreciate we do not discuss them then.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am grateful for his opinion on the benefit of his long experience in this Chamber. May I therefore point out at this stage, Mr. Chairman, that it is part of the Government's policy to provide hard courts at playing fields throughout the country.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am glad this is so. We on this side of the House welcome it. I note that the Leader of the Opposition has said in his speech that since the Minister was responsible for Education and Sport that he never received any invitation to anything that was opened in his constituency. In fairness to the Minister I would say that nothing has ever been done in the city during the time I was in the House that would require any such statement from me, because whether it was the opening of a school or playing

field, nothing like that has been done in the city during the time I have had the honour to represent the people of the city.

I digress from the point about the hard courts to the question of Blenheim because I really wanted to make the point that in the upkeep of playing fields I do not think all the blame for the lack of proper upkeep should be placed on the Government. I think the Government can provide the facilities for the people, but I think the people in the districts must realise that it is their duty to upkeep the playing fields in proper condition and not expect Government to do everything for them. Take Belleplaine, for instance. I do not think that the Belleplaine playing field is in any good condition. Similarly with a lot of playing fields. I do not worry with the one at Chapman Lane because that has certain problems, but the one at New Orleans is not in a good condition either. The Ministry promised some time ago to put some mould to level it off, but nothing has been done in this respect.

The point I want to make however is that even if the plantations made a contribution by giving land – and most of them are owned by the Big Six, people must realise that it is their duty when facilities are provided to upkeep them and not misuse them.

There is one other thing I would like to see established because I see a vote for $17,000 under Item 18. I think the time has come for the creation of a National Sport Foundation financed partly by Government and partly by private enterprise, because if whatever sum is invested, there would be no need for the Olympic Association or other associations to come every year or every four years whether to go to the Pan American Games, the Central American Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Olympic Games or on a Hockey Tournament for money. If a National Sport Foundation financed through the Banks, the Insurance Companies, the Barbados Shipping and Trading, Government and companies that are getting something out of Barbados, was set up, you could go to the governing body and put up your proposals, and the interest from the money invested could be used for the purpose of financing the tour. The Foundation could take Government bonds and the money would even then come back to assist the Government in its capital expenditure.
6.15 p.m.

I think the Government should really look into this. I know there is talk of establishing a National Sports Council, but I just want to issue not a warning but a piece of advice to the Government. Do not let us find the same faces carrying on these things, widen your sports Council so that the man at the bottom feels that the Sports Council is truly representative of him, and I think that you can find people who can make a contribution and not merely put people appointed to the Council purely because they may be sympathetic to a particular Party's political policy, but put on the Council people who can make a contribution. My own criticism of the Sports Department is that I will not accept the policy – and I think it is a policy because it was not only since the present Minister was the incumbent – but prior to his holding office I was told that it was not the policy of the Ministry to appoint Coaches for more than one sport. I think that this very idea is an idea that is repugnant in itself, because the whole idea of a Coach is to have a man who is a specialist in his paricular field, and you cannot find a man who can coach swimming and a man who can coach basketball, and I know the argument was that you had cricket coaches appointed and out of the cricket season they were not doing anything, and you had football coaches and out of the football season they were not doing anything, but I think it is a question of organisation.

When you come to the question of a coach in lawn tennis, which is badly needed in this country, even if you look at the inter-club competitions in lawn tennis in this country, you see the Savannah, Paragon, Carlton, Harrison College, but where are the teams coming out of the Pine Housing Area, the Farm Housing Area, Belleplaine, Chapman Lane, Grazettes or Carrington Village? The young boys in these areas resort to playing road tennis, and I think this is very sad, because it is an indictment on Government policy in this respect. You may have taken over the Savannah courts, you have the hard courts where the hon. member for St. Michael South West lives near – I daresay he would know the residents of the surrounding areas of Chapman Lane and New Orleans – let him tell me how many times he would have seen any of the residents of Chapman Lane, New Orleans and the surrounding areas using the facilities provided down there. I think it has something to do with the cost of playing at the hard courts, so that what is needed in this country is that if you are going to have a sports programme it must be taken to the people, and I think the only way this can be done is by taking it to the people at the community level. I remember a few years ago when an attempt was made in basketball to change around the teams from the community teams, and as a result of this basketball suffered.

If you look at football you will see that the New South Wales team comes from Carrington Village and the surrounding areas, if you look at the most recent team, Benfica, from the My Lord's Hill area, Notre Dame from the Bay Land or Everton, you will see that today most of them are the established teams and had their origins in the community. I think if the Sports programme of the Government is to be successful, if the Government is going to spend money and not merely provide facilities which are not going to be used, I think the facilities must be provided within the community, and that is why I was somewhat sad to see that even your most recent Housing Area, a place like the Farm, facilities for sports were not properly provided to fit that community, because I would have thought they would be essential. When a person comes home from work and he wants to kick around a football or play a game of tennis, if the facilities are available there, particularly in those months where you get early closing, it is easy for him to go within his community and play a game, and that is why you will find that road tennis is played along the street.

As I said, the criticism of the Sports Department is that you must have specialist coaches, there can be no substitute for specialist coaches, there can be nothing wrong with having a coach for lawn tennis all year round, because tennis is not a seasonal game, there can be nothing wrong with having a swimming coach all year round, and having a swimming coach in itself is not going to solve the ills in Barbados, you must have the facilities of a swimming pool. I think the Minister and those responsible for sport must know that swimming in the sea and swimming in a pool are completely different things, and if you are going to reach any standard in swimming or even in water polo – I see even the Water Polo Association is crying out for assistance – it means you must provide the facilities where the members of the community have ready access, so that people will not have to go to North Point and use the facilities there at the suffrance of the hotel owners.

On the question of the National Football Coach, nobody can gainsay the fact that Graham Adams in the short time he was in Barbados did a good job. I know he had a disagreement with the Football Association, but the fact remains that in spite of everything else he did a wonderful job and started a good programme. I am going to make here again part of the speech I made last year, and I would say to the Government, if you are going to have a football coach – and I recognise you are and I would like to see the present holder of that job confirmed in the job – I think that he should be given an opportunity to go abroad and study while at the same time a football coach from overseas is brought in for a period of three years, and if the present football coach remains overseas for a year or two, have him come back here and work and put what was taught to him into practice under the ex coach here for a year or so, and then leave him to take over, but I do not think it is fair to expect that the present holder of the job, without being exposed to the same coaching facilities and coaching programme to which Graham Adams was exposed, could have the same results as Graham Adams, and I think that the time has come when the Government should start work on this as soon as possible.

I was pleased yesterday to see that in Trinidad one of the firms has given a scholarship to Corneal who is one of the outstanding players in Trinidad, he is going to England for a year. I know in Barbados we are not fortunate to have firms with such generosity, but that again is unfortunate, but I would like to see a firm in Barbados send the present football coach to England on a scholarship for one year.
6.25 p.m.

I know that the Government would readily accept a suggestion, particularly if it came from private enterprise.

There are one or two things which must be done at the National Stadium. I should like to find out from the Minister whether any Regulations have been made under the Stadium Act. I have seen one or two things taking place at the Stadium, and I feel that Regulations should be made to deal with the crowd attending sports at the Stadium. I spoke to the Sports Officer and the Manager, and I was told that they were somewhat powerless because there were no Regulations giving them authority to do certain things. If no Regulations have yet been made, I should like to ask the Minister to look into this matter as soon as possible. I am not so concerned with who took the initiative to build the Stadium. The Stadium has been built, and it is our duty to see that it is not destroyed by one or two misguided persons. I feel that the Stadium Corporation should have the power to evict people for misbehaviour.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to know what is the cost of electricity at the Stadium. This has been causing some problems to many people. I am not certain what arrangements have been made between the Stadium Corporation and the Electric Company, but I hear that a problem is the fact that when you turn on the flood-lights

for any one month you have to pay a huge bill that month. I should like to find out from the Minister what the Stadium Corporation pays monthly to the Electric Company for Electricity, and what is done by the Government to assist the Stadium Corporation in this matter. I have been told by several organisations who would like to use the Stadium that it is too expensive to use the lights. Having built this Stadium, we should not allow the high cost of electricity to make it a white elephant.

On the question of the height of the wall which was raised by the hon. member for St. James, we called upon the Government as far back as the Estimates last year to do something about the matter. I think the reply last year was that the wall was of standard height. Even though this may be true, I think the Stadium Corporation or the Engineer should realise that, if the wall remains at that height, a number of people would prefer to remain outside and look over the wall at what is going on. If you stand outside you can see the entire portion of the football field and almost the entire protion of the cycle track. You can see where the race starts and where the race ends, and I think we are losing revenue by having the wall so low.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to know what is being done about the selling of advertising space at the Stadium. It may be that if the Government or the Stadium Corporation could have a massive campaign of selling advertising space at the Stadium, it may very well be that the Government would not have to spend more money on raising the height of the wall.

One last point, and it is one which affects the Ministry of Communications and Works. I would have thought that by now it would have been abundantly clear to the Ministry of Communications and Works and the Transport Board that, whenever there is cycling or some big event at the Stadium, revenue could be obtained by sending buses to take people to and fro from the Stadium. I know that a lot of people have complained that when they go to the Stadium to watch football at night there is no means of getting from the Stadium to Bridgetown. If you are going to provide facilities for the Stadium, rather than have it there as a white elephant, let us provide the transport that is necessary to take the people to and fro. I know that a lot of people have cars, but it would be a source of revenue to the Transport Board to make buses available for transporting passengers to and from the Stadium. Anyone, who witnessed the last three days of cycling at the Stadium, will know that the Transport Board would have made a good sum of money if buses were made available to take passengers from the Stadium to Bridgetown. I should like to hear from the Minister what arrangements have been made between the Stadium Corporation and the Electric Company.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if I may develop two aspects of this matter and, perhaps, help the Minister in his consideration in the future, the first point I should like to make is the fact that sport has now been tacked on to the Ministry of Education probably shows it has at long last found its rightful place in the scheme of things. I believe sport and athletics are only other aspects of the total education of the whole man, and I believe that, like myself, the Minister has probably read enough on these aspects of the matter already to satisfy himself that this part of his portfolio must not be relegated to the minor role.

What strikes me particularly is that if one looks through the training scheme of public officers for this country, one will find that very few scholarships have been given to people in the field of physical education. I think in the last report there was only one given in the realm of physical education, but outside of this it seems that the people who run the Training Scheme Programme should have brought forcibly to their attention the necessity to provide coaches to teach the local coaches as it were. The learned and hon. member for the City has just remarked recently on the provision of such a scholarship to Mr. Alvin Corneal in Trinidad. It seems that also in Barbados there is a strong case, both in the public and in the private level, for the extension of this project. I know that other hon. members have asked that coaches be appointed here, or that people be brought in as specialists for periods of time.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we should be sending our people overseas, if necessary, for the purpose of being specifically trained to coach, and particularly in the United States of America in certain Universities you will find that athletic scholarships and other scholarships are combined with degrees in other subjects. I should like the Minister in his National Development Scholarship Plan to give some priority to his aspect of the matter, so that we will not lose some of our outstanding athletes who are also qualified in other fields.

6.35 p.m.

The second general problem that I would like to comment on is the question of the provision of areas which are at present used by

people in community centres and in other areas of the country. Other speakers have adverted to the necessity for the plantations in this country to give up to the Government gratuitously areas of land. I would like to draw to hon. members' attention that it is not only in rural districts that this applies. The bulk of our population after all lives in the south, West and south-west, Christ Church, particularly St. Michael and in St. James and to some extent in St. Philip, and there are very few plantations now in the Christ Church area or in the St. Michael area, but there are still certain areas that are being used by people sometimes with the leave and licence of the owners for playing games, and it seems that the idea which has been offered to this House is one which the Ministry of Education should support, together with the Ministry of Housing, and that is, asking for licences from the owners or leasing at a peppercorn rent or in some cases I am sure they would give them up gratuitously for the purpose of establishing proper facilities.

I am always on subjects such as this a bread and butter politician, and I would like to begin by telling the Minister that in the area which affects him as it affects myself of Brathwaite's Gap and Deighton's Road, there is a group called the Senators and they play on an area of land near to the Unique High School which is at present owned by one of our wealthy citizens, and I have myself approached him with a view of making this field available to the Senators, a club comprised of eighty-six young men drawn essentially from this area, and we are hoping the Minister will use the ground in this respect and that his adviser the Sports Officer will take note and help us to level the area and provide a proper pavilion. That is one instance in which you will find that a private individual is prepared to help where there is a move in his direction, and if Government can come along and give us a helping hand, we may begin something there provided the field is considered suitable enough. You cannot play cricket there satisfactorily, but in my view it could provide for tennis, netball, basket-ball and that type of sport, and we can probably set up something which would be a model for other persons.

I must again draw to the attention of this Honourable Committee as I have done on a previous occasion the state of the pavilion which is on the Garrison pasture. There are many clubs which play cricket and other sports on this field. I can instance Radcliffe from Brittons Hill. I can refer to my own club in the area, Springfield, and of course the illustrious Lakers which was referred to by the hon. member for St. James. The pavilion is a shameful sight. There are no proper toilet facilities. For instance, when my club played successfully and beat the club which the Hon. Minister is connected with from the Bay Land, we could not even hold out the olive branch of peace to them by asking them to come for a social drink afterwards. I do not see how you can develop the community spirit and get a greater mixture of people if they cannot on these occasions in a position of rivalry live in the higher and best traditions afterwards by exchanging ideas, and I believe as the hon. member for Bridgetown has said, that sport does contain a tremendous social momentum and I am hoping that in this respect the Minister will use his good offices to ensure that better facilities are provided on the Garrison pasture. I think that is a sufficiently large area that it can be made available to many more clubs, but unfortunately the facilities there are not up to scratch. I am surprised indeed that people who rent the Garrison pasture like some of our Evangelists who make large collections and the Turf Club could not make specific grants to assist the Government in this area; but I am appealing for it specifically to be rectified and put in good order very soon.

I should like to go further afield. I am sorry if on these occasions, Sir, I refer to my own constituency. Probably it is because I am a new member here, but to some extent it is because we have been the Cinderella apparently of this developing country, and again I will appeal to the Minister for Brittons Hill, Brittons New Road, Bonnetts, Clapham, and the Fordes Road area. There is no playing field at all anywhere there for any proper use, and it is a sad thing on Sunday mornings to find some of the young chaps being so constrained in the area that they take to other exercises that I am sure none of us would want to encourage in this country. That is why I am really appealing with a great deal of urgency for the only open area now in that particular district, a place called Crane's pasture. It is an ideal site for proper levelling to provide hard courts, to provide a community centre and to provide much needed housing. Please do not let it go into development by private enterprise that it is lost to this large area. I hope that if nothing is done with it urgently that the Hon. Minister together with the Minister of Communications and Works and the member for St. Michael South East will join in a Resolution to this effect. I do not want it to come to that. I am not taking sole credit for this; I am asking that we try to plan it, and I am sure there are other people in the area who are prepared to help as much as possible in this respect.

The plea for tennis I believe, is a well founded one. I feel that even in the existing

facilities at schools something could be done urgently. At least tennis, netball and basket-ball do not take the same land area as cricket or football does, and I think the Minister in his next request in the next set of Estimates when he is putting up a case, having heard hon. members speak so consistently on this occasion, should be able to argue his way over other Ministers in the Cabinet to get a larger slice of the cake for this particular part of his Ministry. It is a vital part; it is not a question of simply putting the accent on youth, because in my view the adult community can also participate. I can only hope that our prayer from this side has not fallen on deaf ears. If I have localised my request, it is because I see my area as indeed being in urgent need, but I am not saying that it is the only area that is in need of such assistance.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must speak with a voice which contradicts that of my colleague who has just sat down. My colleague speaks about the Garrison savannah where there is a pavilion but not in good shape. He speaks of Brittons Hill area where there is an open field and about the National Stadium. Mr. Chairman, I heard during these Estimates from a member on the other side that he would like to put a wall around St. Joseph and shut the people in. This has now moved into the serious. St. Joseph has no playing field whatsoever, no social centres whatsoever and no pavilions whatsoever, and therefore cannot benefit from cricket, football or lawn tennis. I make a plea to give St. Joseph something out of these votes because the people in St. Joseph pay taxes like anybody else, and I am sure that if they refuse to pay their taxes they will all be hauled before the Courts. For a long time I have pointed out in this House that I know there is one plantation in St. Joseph which is prepared to give up a field for necessary compensation to create a playing field.
6.45 p.m.

I asked a question in the last Parliament about the Government's policy in respect of purchasing a playing field in St. Joseph and they said they were willing to do so. I asked about the Social Centre at Bathsheba which was and is still occupied by a tailor, and the answer to that was that it was unsuitable for communal use and they were going to build a new one. Time has passed and nothing has been done. The little cricket that is played in St. Joseph is played next to the sea in Bathsheba with no pavilion, the players sit on one side of the road and if they hit the ball too hard it goes into the sea, and I think it is about time the Minister can tell us what provisions are being made for St. Joseph. As I said earlier today, the new St. Elizabeth School was built a few years ago and the playing field is still not level; the new St. Bernard's School was opened in 1970, they have not even cleaned up the surroundings of the school far less to level the playing field.

The people in St. Joseph are entitled as anybody else to some of the money which is being spent on sports, and I believe that if there is a general policy on sports it is not fair or right to develop all the sports in St. Michael. I have said before that the people in the country districts suffer transportation problems when there is something at the Stadium. Even if they get a bus from the country to within walking distance of the Stadium, it is inhuman to expect people to walk to Bathsheba or anywhere in St. Joseph or part of St. Thomas, and the concessionaires will tell you they are not making money during the normal times far less after hours, and I would be glad if the Minister could say what is the provision in respect of providing at least one playing field for the whole of St. Joseph.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have found this debate to be very interesting, and I will reply briefly to some of the points which have been made. It is the policy of this Government to ensure that sport and recreation continue to play the important part in the development of this country that it has been assigned, and I think we had better get the position straight from the start. I think it is grossly unfair to say that Government does not have a policy in respect of sport. The fact that a National Stadium has been established, I would think any hon. member would agree this must be some indication, a facility costing approximately $1.7 million must be an indication that there is some policy in respect of sport, so let us get the position quite clear from the start that we can make our points in terms of deficiencies in policy and so on, these can be made, but let us not overstate our position in order to make any cheap points.

It is the policy of the Government to ensure that sport is developed so that the all-round potentialities of our individuals can be developed to the fullest. To this end, shortly I expect that a National Sports Council will be set up to give advice on matters connected with the development of sport, and I certainly do not need any advice as to the type of sympathies which the persons appointed to this Council should have, the main consideration here I would like to assure the hon. member for the City would be not sympathy for a political organisation but sympathy for the various sports

which are practised in this country. This will be the main consideration.

The second flank of the policy to which I have referred already is the establishment and maintenance of the Stadium, and I would like to repeat again that the contribution of the Jaycees was much appreciated by the Government. As you know, as a Government we pay special tribute to the Jaycees for the contribution they have made towards the building of these facilities, some $450,000 approximately out of a total cost of $1.7 million. We appreciate very much the contribution which has been made in this particular regard. It is our policy too to ensure that not only the facilities are there but that full and adequate use is made of these facilities, and I am heartened from my visits to the Stadium and the reports that I have been receiving to know that frequent use is being made of those facilities.

The hon. member for St. James does not want me to use the word "young", but the people of this country are in fact making use of the Stadium both for training and for several competitions. As far as the costs for using the Stadium are concerned, the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown asked about the cost of electricity, I would like to tell him that a flat rate of $800 per month is paid for this utility, and that together with a cost in terms of the amount of electricity actually used.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before the Hon. Minister leaves this point, he says there is a flat rate of $800 plus a charge for the electricity actually used, but I would like to know how long this sort of agreement is to run, whether it is to come to an end at some time or what the case may be.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I can promise the hon. member to get the additional information for which he is asking in due course. The information I have at the present moment is $800 a month plus the cost of electricity used, and the Stadium estimates that something like $18,000 will be spent during the coming year on electricity.

Mr. BOLDEN: Forgive me, Mr. Chairman, for interjecting like this, I wonder if the Minister can tell us what is the cost per unit, and there should be in the files information as to what the last bill was for electricity used at the Stadium.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have told the hon. member already that any additional information which he requires I will obtain for him and communicate with him in due course. I agree with the point made by the hon. members about the wall at the Stadium.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to rise at this point, but the Minister said he is going to get the information and communicate it to the member for St. Joseph. This Committee is also interested in this, not only the member for St. Joseph, and I should be grateful if he would communicate it to the whole Committee.
6.55 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I had heard the hon. member whom I thought was speaking for the Opposition benches on this matter, and no request was made for this information for the Committee. I assumed the hon. member wanted the information for his own use, because he said that he wanted the information to be used at some subsequent date. If the information is required for this Honourable Chamber, I will get the information and communicate it. There is no big problem in this matter; there is no secrecy over this particular matter.

The National Stadium Corporation is concerned about the fact that the wall at certain parts of the Stadium is too low, and we are now looking at the matter to see how it can be rectified. I am certain that the hon. member for St. James is not one of those who would get on top of his car to watch the games at the Stadium, but he together with the occupants of his car will be taken inside to watch from the comfort of the stands provided.

Yet another aspect of the policy of the Government, as far as sport is concerned, is related to work together with the National Sports Organsations for the development of sports not only in the St. Michael area, but throughout the country. In this regard, we are working very closely with the Amateur Athletic Association, with the Football Association and other National Organisations as well in order to ensure that sport is developed on an island-wide basis. The debate on this matter has been very interesting to me, personally. I have heard of the arguments why cricket has been developed as a national game throughout the country. I must say that I am not persuaded that anything more was necessary for the development of football throughout the country than was necessarily needed for cricket. *(Asides.)* The hon. member is telling me that I am a cricketer and not a footballer. I do not know that the game of football needed any larger area of ground for its development than the grounds on which cricket was developed. I believe it may even be a cheaper game to play than cricket, but that is on another level. There are sociological

reasons why cricket has developed throughout the country and football has not. I think there will have to be a closer examination of the reasons advanced. I do not necessarily take those I have heard advanced.

Yet another plank in the policy of Government for the development of sport relates to the maintenance of grounds and playing fields. I should like hon. members to note that there are a number of playing fields and grounds scattered throughout this country, and that one of the first concerns of the Government is the improvement or the regeneration of the state of those grounds. We are taking this as priority number one rather than the acquisition of additional grounds, because we can go on acquiring plots of land for additional playing fields, but I think we have to ensure that those playing fields which are already in existence should be put into tolerable conditions. This is no easy matter.

Mr. Chairman, let me give you one example. In order to level a playing field in St. Thomas – let me say here and now that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has adopted many postures during this debate. I should like to say that there was one function in the parish of St. Thomas concerning this Ministry. When he says that throughout his whole time as a member of this House and since I have been Minister he has not been invited to any of the functions put on by the Ministry of Education, one would have thought that there were about twenty such functions and he has not been invited to any of them. There was one at the St. Thomas Mixed School when we were opening an extension to that school. I have had no report that the member, even though he himself has admitted that he gets into postures of peeping over walls to look into the cemeteries – I do not know whether he leads his party from that particular posture – but I did not even get a report that he was looking over the wall at the St. Thomas Mixed School for this particular function where we were building additional facilities for the school children.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the hon. member is serious about his last comments, because it would not be befitting the Leader of the Opposition of an honourable Party as ours to be seen peeping over a wall when they are opening a school. That would be putting not only the Leader himself, but this honourable party far outside of civilised institutions. I hope that the hon. member was only making that as an asides.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, I know that it would not be civilised for him to be looking over the wall into a school, but it may be civilised for him to be looking over a wall into cemeteries for apparitions or something like that. Mr. Chairman, I am supposed to be at a function now as the Minister responsible for Sport in honour of the visit of the New Zealand cricket team, and an invitation was extended to the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot understand the gesticulations and the big point that he is making about invitations not being extended to him. I am sorry I could not extend one to the Shadow Minister responsible for Sport, because I have not yet had any intimation as to who is the Shadow Minister for Sports.

The point I was making about the maintenance of playing fields is an important one. To level one playing field we had an estimate from the Ministry of Communications and Works for something like $130,000. We have no equipment in the Ministry responsible for Sport for this particular item, and we have not been able to provide this in the Capital Estimates even though we made a very strong plea for its inclusion, because of other priorities and the need to cut back on the Estimates.

I should like to assure hon. members that we take a very deep interest in this matter of the maintenance of our grounds and putting them into a good state of repairs. It may interest the hon. member for St. Joseph to know that the field at Lammings has been ploughed and harrowed, and that a grader is workiing on the levelling of this field currently. I do not mean at this particular hour of the night. I do not think it is actually working now.
7.05 p.m.

Work is currently going on and from the smiles on the hon. member's face, I believe he knew that when he was making his speech. *(Asides)* I withdraw that, Mr. Chairman. I know the hon. member is not aware of everything that is going on in his constituency.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am well aware of what is going on in St. Joseph, but if I told the Minister what happened about that he would be most surprised. I have heard this Minister say that it seems as if the Opposition knows more of what is going on in Government than Government itself. I would like him to tell me when they hope to acquire a playing field in St. Joseph.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If I may continue, Mr. Chairman, as far as coaching facilities are concerned, I take the point that in all the major

areas of sport there should be coaches of sufficient standing to keep and maintain the interest of people who play these sports and to develop well-drilled national squads to participate on the regional and international levels. This is a goal towards which we are working. I do not even have that in the subject of education where there are certain areas of the curriculum where there are no specialists available in the Ministry for overseeing certain subjects. So when we say this should be so in sport, it is a goal towards which we are working. There is no one on the staff of the Ministry responsible for education, let us say, specifically looking after the field of physical education in the schools or English for that matter. No one has been appointed to the post of officer for Science although the post has been created. So there are areas in the field of education itself where we do not have the specialist officers in posts or we do not have the posts to look after these vital areas. As we are able to carry out these improvements, provide the posts and have the persons to be appointed to the posts, all this will happen.

Mr. Chairman, it is our policy to develop these areas, but we have been carrying out a policy of training persons in the area of physical education in order that within the school system they can take hold of the pupils in the schools and develop whatever talents they have in the field of games as well as physical education generally. Since 1965 we have trained something like eight persons in the field of physical education, and not one person as the hon. member for Christ Church has said.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there were any other matters which I need reply to in depth on this particular matter. I would merely in closing state again that I am thankful to hon. members for the contributions they have made on this point. I have taken note of the points made and wherever I deem it necessary I will try to have some of these things implemented.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I consider it my duty in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to draw to the attention of the hon. member for Bridgetown that the point which he has made concerning the transportation of people to the Stadium by buses on certain occasions has been noted. I promise him faithfully that I will draw the matter to the attention of the Ministry and of the Transport Board, and it is my opinion that something will be done to alleviate the hardship which the people now suffer.

The question that the sum of $256,597 under Head 35 – Ministry of Education (16) Sport – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 – ECCLESIASTICAL

Head 36 – Ecclesiastical – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Under Item 3 – Additional Grants – delete existing note.

Under Item 5 – Additional Grant – delete existing note.

Under Item 7 – Additional Grant – delete existing note.

I beg to move that the sum of $13,780 under Head 36 – Ecclesiastical – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let me start off by repeating that I believe in religion because I was brought up in a religious household. Mr. Chairman, I want to recapitulate from a note which I made on the numerous letters which have appeared in the press since I wrote a letter about the itinerant Evangelists in our community, those present and those coming. I said that they constitute a bunch of people who are operating a very lucrative trade. One writer, Mr. Holmes Williams replied on 16th February, 1972, saying that it was not a lucrative trade, and he went on to tell the people of this country that the Morris Cerullo Crusade would be in a deficit by some $6,000 when it was ended, but I am sure that every member of this Community and the majority of people in Barbados are well aware of the expensive advertising which was done by Mr. Cerullo and his campaign organisers. It was more than it cost the two political parties in this country over the last two years to conduct their political affairs. On 22nd February a Mr. Ronald G. Hughes wrote about Mr. Billy Graham in his association with Governor Wallace who is a known racialist in the United States of America. On 27th February Mr. Lawson Bailey wrote about Mr. Billy Graham's rejection in England and how he then went off to France; I was then living in England and was privileged to read the several reports which Billy Graham wrote condemning the English people for not accepting him and saying that they were a bunch of hypocrites who performed sexual activities in the park in high daylight. Any time you do not accept him in your country, he turns around and curses you. This is a supposed man of God. On

23rd February one Gwen Noel wrote "Have faith and be healed". On 29th February a Mr. Lawrence Small wrote saying that Barbadians are leaders in religious thought. On 2nd March one Elder C. Marshall wrote to me about the question of financial takings, taxes, political persuasion etc. and said it is answered by the Evangelists in one "doing it as unto the Lord". I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, and the Committee what they call "doing it unto the Lord" later.
7.15 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would really like some guidance on this particular matter. I am looking at Head 36 and I am really wondering within what framework the hon. member is speaking. I do not see any grants here for the Billy Graham Associates or anything like that, but if you rule it is in order I will abide by your ruling. I feel if the hon. member really wants to discuss this matter, I believe in the Other Place a substantive motion was moved to discuss this matter, I also understand it was subsequently withdrawn, but I just throw this out for your ruling, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let me refer the hon. member to Head 36 – Item 9, Grant-in-aid Other Denominations. On 5th March a Gordon Matthews wrote and he said "Graham's attackers are ill informed" and he wrote several things. Mr. Chairman, this is where I left. There was then the Rev. St. George Crosse who you know sells prayer cloths, and he says he can cure you from obeah etc., then there is the Graham Association. The hon. member asked what I am speaking under, I am speaking under Other Denominations. The Graham Association put out a long document in the newspaper and they said that the entire Billy Graham Crusade Association team will be here at no expense whatsoever to Barbados. This is why I speak under Item 9, Other Denominations, and I am now going to come down the line from Item 1.

I am not touching the Anglican Church. For the Moravian Church there is a sum of $3,255, I am not worrying about that. Wesleyan Church $4,705 and the Roman Catholic Church $120. We have to take this whole religious exercise in perspective. We know the Anglican Churches were with us from our inception, they have provided schools which are responsible for the education of at least 60% of the people of this country. I was fortunate enough to have gone to school at Society Mixed School which was run by an Anglican Church, they have got schools up to today which are being run by the Ministry of Education, and I have no quarrel whatsoever with any collections or anything given to the Anglican Church. The Roman Catholic Church has now shown its interest in the people of this community, they have built a hospital in St. Peter, and I believe it is time that the Government can increase the amount to them, they are now doing a worthwhile job in our community.

For the Salvation Army, a measly $1,400 and everybody knows you can call on the Salvation Army 24 hours a day. The drunk in Nelson Street, the homeless in Baxters Road, they are all entitled to go to the Salvation Army and find a place of rest. I believe these are the organisations that should be encouraged and assisted in this community, and I would challenge the Government at this time that they should remove the $4,300 from Other Denominations and spread it among the same Salvation Army, churches like the Seventh Day Adventists who have shown an interest in this community by building schools, the Dorcas League – as my friend said earlier today who is interested in this place – but you hear that the Billy Graham Crusade is costing nothing to this community. It is now called the Grady Wilson Crusade, but it is nothing more than a bunch of fraudulent operators under the disguise of the Bible. Up to today there is a picture appearing in the *Advocate-News* of the priests and other persons who are in association with this Crusade, and I have been reliably informed that several of the persons in this photograph have since withdrawn from the Crusade, and they are constantly telling the community that it is going to cost Barbados no money. This is why I say the Government should not put this $4,300 into other Denominations, it is time that we get our perspectives right.

The Hon. Minister has been sitting down there under fire from people outside about the children who cannot succeed in the 11+ examination, and yet still you are going to allow a so-called Mission to come in here and raise funds to the extent of some $60,000; why can this sum not be contributed to the educational facilities of this country? Why can schools not be built with it? I have two documents here which I shall make documents of the House. The first one reads:

GRADY WILSON CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
in co-operation with the Billy Graham
Evangelistic Association

Dear Pastor,

Enclosed is a "SHARE PARTNER" Circular letter in

connection with the above Crusade. I should be very happy if you would share it with your congregation by announcements from your pulpit and also by placing it on your notice board.

I should also be grateful if you would arrange to pass on to me any contributions which your members may make.

You may contact me, any week day, at the Accountant General's Department, 1st Floor, Treasury Building. My telephone numbers are –

Office 65688
Home 03890

With many thanks for your kind co-operation.

Yours in Christ,
V. M. Pilgrim (sgn'd.)
(V. M. PILGRIM)
Chairman,
Finance Committee.

The Second document reads as follows:

GRADY WILSON CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
in co-operation with the Billy Graham
Evangelistic Association

Dr. Grady Wilson, Billy Graham Associate Evangelist, has been invited to conduct a crusade in Barbados in just a few short months. The opportunity for effective evangelism ----- getting the Gospel of Christ to every person ----- is unlimited. It is our prayer that this crusade will be a blessing to thousands of people in the island.

Naturally in a crusade of this scope there is financial responsibility in which we all must share. When Dr. Wilson comes to Barbados May 26th to June 4th, he desires that it be not necessary to spend undue time raising the crusade budget.....let's do it now.

We want you to become a "SHARE PARTNER" in this crusade. Here is how you can share in this important programme.

Give $5 or more per month for five months. Let your Pastor have your name and address or contact me direct. You may contact me at the Accountant General's Office, 1st Floor, Treasury Building. My telephone numbers are –

Office 65688
Home 03890

Then each month send in your gift in the envelope which we will provide. A receipt will be sent to you in acknowledgment of your gift as a "SHARE PARTNER" in the Grady Wilson Crusade.

Even more important --- we need you as a "PRAYER PARTNER" God tells us in His Word (Matthew 6:21 and Luke 12:34) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." To-day join the thousands who will be praying for the success of the forthcoming crusade.

May God bless you!

V. M. Pilgrim (sgn'd)
(V. M. PILGRIM)
Finance Chairman

This document was sent by post to an Anglican Priest who brought it to me today at lunch time.

Mr. Chairman, when I said that it was a lucrative trade under the disguise of the Bible I knew what I was talking about. Last Thursday night in the dining room of Parliament a certain Mr. Gordon Matthews came in the dining room and I said to him "Would you, with God above of whom you preach and the Bible you have just been carrying in your hand, deny that you took the last three nights' collection from the St. Joseph Parish Church" and he said, "I agree". 7.25 p.m.

I said: "Would you deny that it was nearly $500?" He said: "In the vicinity of $450." A member of this hon. Chamber asked him what it was for, and he said: "For my services." Members in this Chamber were present and heard what was said. Can anybody tell me in here or outside that a man who pretends to be preaching about God to the poor, the sick and the invalid should be taking that sort of money from the poor, the sick and the invalid for a few nights' work from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. He took $492.17 off those poor people for a few hours work.

Mr. Chairman, our school children in this country are crying out day after day for places in the schools to be educated. Every member of the House will go into his constituency tonight and he will find people who will tell him: "My child is going to school, and I want something to buy a

pair of shoes and a book." On the other hand, you have these so-called Evangelists walking about here masquerading that they can assist the poor. Do you hear the words? Where your treasures are so shall be your heart – in the pockets of Gordon Matthews, Dr. Wilson and the person at the Treasury Buildings.

Mr. Chairman, this has grieved me considerably. So far as this grant for $4,300 is concerned, I am suggesting to the Government that this money should be spread among the Churches that are doing worthwhile work in our community. In here I am encouraging the Minister of Agriculture to set up Agricultural Schools. In the same way that people are prepared to pay $1.00 or $1.20 from St. Lucy, St. Thomas, St. Joseph and Christ Church to go to the Stadium, the Garrison and Kensington to sit down and listen to these glib-tongue Americans – as somebody told me the same Billy Graham is a multi-millionaire living in a palace. His house is surrounded by barbed wire, human guards and dogs as well as electronic eyes. These people travel all the way from the country to come down here to listen to these people, and you find a man admitting publicly to members of this Committee that he received in the vicinity of $450 for three nights work. Why cannot the Government show these poor people how to utilise the few cents they have in educating the children? Why cannot they educate their own sons and daughters and put them into profitable employment? This country cannot advance if children cannot find the necessary secondary places in the Schools. It is known that Barbados is a community which produces human labour. We can produce more children than employment avenues in this country. If we are going to depend on emmigration; if we are going to depend on the little industrialisation, then we must have people who are equipped to fill these positions here.

Mr. Chairman, Holmes Williams said that he was going to publish in the *Advocate* a financial statement of what the Cerulla Campaign made, but up to now I have not seen it. I have been scanning the papers day after day looking for it. It must be remembered that Mr. Holmes Williams used to be an accountant at C.I.B.C.. He had the call from in there; he could not touch the money in there, so he had the call up to Bishop Court Hill. It is known that any accountant can manipulate figures to show a balance sheet in the red. There is no magic about that, but up to now we have not seen the financial statement. I know that the Government will say that this is a delicate subject. My telephone goes from twelve o'clock in the morning to twelve o'clock at night. Everybody tells me that it should have been done long ago, but do not expect me to help you because it is a delicate subject. Any Government which has been elected to rule and govern its people must take a decisive stand in this matter.

Mr. Chairman, are we to continue in this vein, where year after year from the time the crop sets in until the month after the crop money is gone, to allow these Evangelists to come in here and carry away all of this money? Are we to sit down and allow the doctor, the solicitor, the carpenter, the taxi driver, to pay their share of the taxes and the itinerant Evangelists are allowed to walk about and collect this lucrative money every night with no question of taxation? If you talk about a just society, it is time that something be done to equalise every man, because all of us are supposed to carry our burdens in respect of the development of this country.

Mr. Chairman, the Government on that side may feel that they are to spend the money in one way, and we on this side may feel that we would spend it in another way, but there is one basic thing that we have in common, and it is that everyone of us should pay the just tax he is called upon to pay. In the same way as you talk about the hoteliers who come in and refuse to employ local people; the industrialists who come in, bring along others with them and take the money outside, we should also see after this. I am not against anybody coming here. Let everybody come. As I have said before, let them come like Jesus Christ and do things free, but do not let them rob the poor people.

Mr. Chairman, those letters cannot affect you or me, because we know better. It is the poor people in the village who cannot understand the financial implications who will say that it is only $5, but 5 times 5 are 25. If you calculate 25 using the figure Morris Cerulla gave of 60,000 people listening to him, Mr. Chairman, you will take an electronic calculator to tell you how much money they are going to collect. The people in this country want employment. A priest has sent to me a breakdown of his budget from the books which have to be ordered from the United States, and there is a big address where you can order more. I understand that they are supposed to ship 10,000 chairs into Barbados, I hope that the chairs are on the boat coming in now. I hope that when they get here the people in the Customs will put a logical duty on them. On the other hand, they can let them come in free, but they should not be allowed to go back out. It is time for our people to decide

whether they will continue to allow people from outside to come here and push their fingers in their eyes.

Mr. Chairman, why cannot the same people who sit down and form a Committee to meet at six o'clock in the morning invite people from the New York State University? I can give them at least six names of people who are prepared to come here to give lectures and educate the people in all aspects of agriculture and other sciences. I would be the first to put my $25 to put some of these people at the hotels. But when you find Grady Wilson and Dr. Graham flying in their private jet aircraft with so many body guards around them, how in the name of God can anybody tell me that these men of Christ must have so many body guards around them when the Bible says that Jesus Christ walked in the midst and people clamoured to touch his clothing only to be healed? He never said that they had no faith. He said, "Be healed" and it was done. These people are now sending you this impertinent letter to the effect that where your treasures are so shall your heart be!

Mr. Chairman, I want the Government to take a positive decision in this matter. It is not too late. The crop season as well as the quantity of sugar is getting smaller and smaller. It means that the revenue to be derived from sugar is going to be smaller and smaller. We have already got St. Lucians and Vincentians cutting our canes. Mr. Chairman, if you plant the crop yourself, and you have to bring people from outside to reap it, then it means that some of the revenue and the profit which should remain in this country will go to other West Indian countries. That is acceptable because we are all one, but I cannot be satisfied to sit down and let these glib-tongue Evangelists come here and carry away the people's money.

7.35 p.m.

You get them on the Radio every Sunday and they tell you how much it costs to run a religious programme, and what I am going to suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that the Government will have to take a positive stand. The Reverend St. George Crosse wrote a long letter setting out the time at which religious groups broadcast on radio. His argument as far as I am concerned cannot hold water, because if I had to advise C.B.C. on the basis of his argument, I would advise that the Anglican Church which has been named as the Church of the people by this Government should have 50 percent of the time free, and then work down so that by the time you get to the Rev. George Crosse he would not have any time at all, and he could keep advertising in the *Advocate* how he is selling his prayer cloth. The Government will have to take a decision whether they are going to give X hours for religious programmes, and let all the groups come together and scramble for the next year for how much time they are going to get and decide to give them free, or let every man pay according to a policy laid down. There would be so many minutes for each religion.

Mr. Chairman, the Evangelists are making a lot of money. They make practically as much money as the Prime Minister. On the basis of what Gordon Matthews made in the lunch room the other night, they are making more than any Minister of Government who has got to do a whole-time job from 8 o'clock in the morning until God knows when at night; and therefore if they want to go about as full-time Evangelists, let them pay. I make a last plea, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see the Government re-allocate the grants-in-aid to other dominations. Think about the Dorcas League, the Salvation Army, the Methodists and the Seventh Day Adventists. Let us look at it this way. If you took ill tonight the first person you will call is the Anglican or Roman Catholic Priest to admister the last rites. You will not find Morris Cerullo, Billy Graham or Dr. Wilson, and when you die you will be buried in an Anglican cemetery. I hope that the Government will take a very serious look at this thing. Consider the statements being put out by this Committee because they are misleading statements, and the Government should tell them outright that they cannot entertain them anymore. The Government should think seriously on these things because they affect poor people. We have the Closed Brethren which broke away from the Open Brethren; it ended up by wrecking a complete fishing industry in Scotland with the fastastic teaching they give that mother must not sit at the same table with daughter, and father must not go in the same fishing boat with son, and this is because you must give them religious freedom; but the day they cross the line I believe it is time that action should be taken against them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question that the sum of $13,780 under Head 36 – Ecclesiastical – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that is right. The hon. member indicated his intention to speak. I also want to speak but after hearing the hon. member make the motion, I told the hon. member to sit so that progress could be reported, and I started to put my documents away until after the suspension. I just cannot understand it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: After I saw the hon. member sit, I put the question.

Mr. HINDS: He gave way for the Minister to report progress. The Minister moved that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I attempted to suspend the sitting, but I got the assurance from the Committee that the debate was at an end. There is no trickery attached to this. It is a question that there seems to be general concensus that the matter is closed.

Mr. Chairman, if I am in order, there seems to be some misunderstanding, and I beg to move that Head 36 – Ecclesiastical – be recommitted.

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 9 o'clock.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I think it is appropriate for me in making a speech on this Head, Ecclesiastical, to offer a quotation from John Milton in his defence of unlicensed printing and it is this. "Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good." Sir, I think that in this community of ours where the one thing which the poor man has to recommend is his religion, I do not think that any member in this Hon. Assembly or any person for that matter should try to set standards of what another man or woman in matters of religion should pursue, I think that we have a democracy in Barbados, we have freedom of movement, freedom of occupation, freedom of religion, and my view is that wherever a man chooses to worship it is his business.

I do not subscribe to the fact that these Evangelists are people who fleece the poor and things of that nature. For that matter, even if this were true I have my hope and faith that the ones - not only Evangelists but for that reason politicians, merchants or any group or organisation in this society - who fleece poor black people or who make sport at them will come to grief in the long run. What I am concerned about, Sir, is that I like the idea of people coming to talk to people about matters of religion and matters of the heart, and it is for the man to decide in his mind what he wants and what he is looking for in his society. He is to determine what he gets from his religion, he is the one who knows best what amount of money he can spare for the salvation he thinks he can get, and he is the one if he is contended with what he is getting to raise a cry about dissatisfaction, but I do not think it is appropriate for any member of this society to determine what I should listen to, what I should hear or where I should worship. Who am I to tell somebody else what to listen to? If these people derive satisfaction from listening to Evangelists, and if the Evangelists are hypocrites, it is a matter for them, but I am not concerned about that, what I am concerned about is that my people will listen to Evangelists, listen to Ministers and do what they say but not what they do themselves, and that is what has kept the poor man alive in this country of ours, the under privileged and the poverty-stricken people in this society, who have only had one thing to recommend them and one thing which has provided their sustenance, that is their faith in

God. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God, blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth, and whoever says these words to poor people and do not mean them I am sorry for them, but I would like to know that my poor people believe in these things, because it is only by believing things of this nature that we are bound to cause a revolution in this country, and I cannot sit idly by and hear other members say they think that our people should not listen to these things which are offered to them by way of spiritual growth, because it is by spiritual growth that we are going to conquer.

Some might try for material possessions, but my only hope is to provide the faith and sustenance and loyalty to poor people in this society, and my only ambition is to represent those people and to give them the encouragement that if they persevere in their loyalty to what they believe in that we will conquer in time to come. As a matter of fact, in every society a man usually rises up and provides the spark whereby poor people can continue in their faith, and that is why we had Abraham Lincoln who preached love and charity towards all men. Last year in Barbados we had this continuous act of God - and I am not blowing my own trumpet - where a man from humble surroundings was able to force his way into this Hon. Chamber. These are acts of faith, Mr. Chairman, and I would like hon. members to understand that this fooling around with poor people and matters overtly done, whether intentionally or unintentionally, are bound to come to nonsense in our midst. We must tell poor people the truth and mean it, we do not want to hear any lip service being paid to the suffering and privations of poor people, this is the day when we want action, we want demonstrative acts to show that we are interested in the welfare and uplifting of poor people, we cannot expect to talk over the heads of the people to lead them to better ways, there must be a stepping down in the society, a coming down to the small man to let him know that you are not only with him by talking about it but that you are with him in spirit. The pangs that he feels you also feel, the suffering he undergoes you also would like to share.

Mr. Chairman, I have not been unaccustomed to distress and suffering, that is why I have learned to suffer the distress, and I would like to exhort all hon. members of this Chamber to make a positive effort and let us say things that we mean, let us speak from our hearts, let us help strengthen those people out there in their beliefs, because if a man believes that he can be cured by an Evengelist, whether or not the Evangelist has anything to do with his cure, I believe that he will be cured. It is faith that we are concerned about, Sir, and we have heard that faith can move mountains.
9.10 p.m.

As you know, Sir, faith can move mountains. When God told Peter, "Rise, call thou what I have made common," that is to say that we must not confine our people to the religion which we want them to worship. They ought to be able to listen to everybody and choose for themselves where they want to worship, where they want to go and things of that nature, and I would not be party to anything done by those who feel that we should restrict our people to worship any particular religion.

Mr. Chairman, there are many evils and shortcomings in our society. I am not one who would dare to mention what these evils are, but I think that the higher classes spend their spare time how they see fit; they put their money into their own adventures and derive their own comforts, but all my poor people can do is to go to a meeting or something else. If my people choose to give an Evangelist $5 and they feel that it is right, then I do not see why anybody should find fault with them. If the Evangelists are operating unjustly, then they are only fooling themselves, because as long as they are processions they shall come to an end.

We have been more attracted in this twentieth century to material wealth, and material wealth means prestige and power. I do not begrudge people for their wealth and possessions. I know that poor people also are not like that, but I feel that what the poor people see fit to do with their money, we should allow them to be free to go in pursuit of whatever they want to do. All the evils of society and all of the hard knocks fall on the door of the man in the street. He, in actual fact, is the footstool for the whole society. He is at the bottom and he cannot shift from the things which affect poor people. If the one salvation of the poor man is to worship his Maker however he sees fit, then we cannot remove that one thing which is keeping him alive in these days. I cannot have people undermining the faith of my poor people, because when they have removed that faith from the people society will crumble.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that the church has contributed something to the advancement and the stability of this country. We do not mind what churchmen do in their private lives. As a matter of fact, from time immemorial the church had something called "The History of Religious Error." I remember when Milton was moaning

the death of a King in a poem he took a chance to digress and attack the church in that poem, but poor people have always believed what they have been told in the church, and because of their belief they have endured the hardships and sufferings which have been imposed on them by the capitalist class. I do not want the faith of poor people to be undermined in matters of religion. Let them worship where they want to worship; let them choose where they want to go, and let them keep their faith as it is.

Mr. Chairman, in the next five years you are going to see a greater awakening in poor people. Poor people in this country are no longer stagnant. I think that their eyes are opened, and in years to come the hon. members now in Parliament will have to take a good look and be honest and sincere in what they tell poor people, because it is bound to boomerang in years to come. It is not far off, and you will be judged by what you have done and not by what you have said.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to endorse one aspect of the hon. member for St. Joseph's speech where he said that more money should be given to the Dorcas League and the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army has played a very good part in the social relations in this country. It has provided that cup of tea early on mornings and a shelter at night to people who have been stranded in Bridgetown and could not get transporation home. They have been able to sleep at that hostel. I feel that we should contribute more towards the upkeep of the Salvation Army and the Dorcas League. On the whole I think that the church has served us well, and, until we can find something which can replace the church, we must be contented with what the church has done at this stage of our history.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I consider it my duty to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member who has just spoken. In doing so, I can assure you that I have been brought up in the church, and I am an ardent and faithful member of the Anglican Church. The church in this Island has been doing all that it possibly can for the people of this country. Let us assume that we did not have the church. Where would we be in this Island? Conditions, as you know, Sir, have deteriorated, and if we do not encourage our people to have faith in the church, and by having faith in the church they will have faith in God, I do not know what will happen.

Mr. Chairman, at this crucial moment in the history of this country when people are shooting at policemen, what is the solution? The solution is that the youngsters of this Island should be taught morning, noon and night to serve God. Failing to do so, we must end in chaos.
9.20 p.m.

The hon. member has expressed himself in no uncertain terms by stating that we should allow the people to worship the denominations which they appreciate. I too share those views.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I am the only person who has spoken so far under this Head, and I do not want the two hon. members on the other side to misinterpret what I have said. I want it to be made perfectly clear that I am not objecting to any person worshipping in the faith of his desire, because people are entitled to worship in any faith they like. I would like hon. members to understand the basis of my argument and not twist it to suit what they have in mind.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I have read certain articles in the newspaper and I have come to the conclusion that certain people are against persons who belong to various denominations. It is my opinion that regardless of the denomination to which you belong and you are serving God, you are doing the right thing in this world. Let us go back to the history of the Church. The Church has been responsible for our education; it has been responsible for even the little morals we have. I was brought up in the Church and I know the benefit of worshipping God at Church; not that the building is the Church, but where two or three are gathered together, even on the race pasture where thousands will go, they go for the specific purpose of listening attentively to the words of God.

Mr. Chairman, in making those few remarks, I want to assure you that it is my hope that this Government will do nothing to interfere with the people and their various denominations.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the hon. member for St. Joseph that I was not twisting his remarks. The main topic of his argument was the money being made off the poor people of this country, and my point is that whoever robs the poor people must come to grief. I believe in final justice. This is true of the Prime Minister, other Ministers and myself. I do not have to twist anybody's arguments; I have come to talk straight in this Chamber. I do not want to make any floury speech; I will say what I feel. If I fool poor people I will come to my own judgement.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to my colleague the member for St. Joseph and if

I remember his opening remarks, he said "I believe in God". I also paid some attention to the hon. member for Christ Church South Central. However I would have preferred to hear the former hon. junior member for St. Andrew who is no longer with us to the hon. member for St. Philip South. I do not think that the context of my colleague's speech is well taken on the other side. I have listened to the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, I believe this is the third speech he has made, and I believe he should be on this side. Through his approach he is going to give the Democratic Labour Party to which he belongs a rude awakening, because he said that if you go around fooling poor people you must be brought to justice. That party for the past ten years made a number of promises to poor people and have not yet fulfilled them. However I would not like him all the time to talk about poor black people, because there are poor white people as well. That is the only part of his speech with which I would disagree. When he is speaking he should try and contain himself and remember poor people, and leave out poor black people. I am sure that my colleague in his speech was not denying any man the right to choose his denomination or religion. That is in the Constitution. He can advise them, but they need not necessarily take his advice. We cannot deny that these Evangelists come to this country and collect as much money as they can, go out of the country in some cases with the money without paying taxes, and there are more poor black people, to use my representative's term, who run down the Church. I am not running down the Church. The Church is one foundation; you cannot break the links of the Church. It is like the lawyers on both sides, one foundation. (A VOICE: Lawyers again!) A lawyer is not a pope in my estimation. I am only quoting a former member of this Assembly who said lawyers and actors are the strongest unions in the world. They always look out for each other when push comes to shove.
9.30 p.m.

My colleague was making out a case where Evangelists come to the country and they make no real contribution, as against the Anglican Church, the Seventh Day Adventist, the Salvation Army and other denominations in the country which make a direct contribution to the society - and as my friend says, the Church by the side of the road - but I will go further, when you get these criminals - that is the term I will use - flying in here just around crop time, they know well enough when there is more money in circulation and come in here talking about healing the sick. I challenge one of them to heal me, but not one of them is called Jesus. I know they say faith can move mountains, but if you are hospitalised the first thing the doctor says is that to be a good paitent you must have confidence that you are going to get well. There are a lot of blind people around here, some invalids, but I do not see Morris Cerullo healing them, and they are saying that thousands are being healed, but for a piece of change. I do not think this was really the policy of our Lord, as I understand it, and people can go on arguing about the Bible for years. There are some people who do not believe there was ever a God, some people believe that Jesus was a magician, I have heard them and I have heard these arguments from some intelligent people whom I respect. I have my own opinion on these things, but all my colleague was trying to do was to direct the Government's attention to the fact that many of them come in here, they take away thousands of dollars out of the country and they give nothing in return apart from going at the Garrison and preaching at night, but I can do that too, and we have quite a number of people around here who can do this.

I listen to Billy Graham on Sundays, and there is a man called Armstrong who is *au fait* with all world affairs. Billy Graham has a dynamic approach to it, and I do not think if you ever hear the Rev. Lionel Smith, Bishop Gentles or Bishop Morgan - we have a lot of Bishops around here too - but if they only get a chance to go in St. Lucia or St. Vincent or America they will be doing the same thing that these people come down here to do to us, so we must protect our people. All that is wrong is that they are too small to get out, the difference between these Bishops I just called and the other Bishops is that they are Archbishops while these are "nay-nay" Bishops. I really do not understand if the hon. member for St. Philip South knows what is going on in here after all these years in here.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has referred to me, but I want him to know that I did not come in here through the window, I came in here through the door and got a greater percentage of votes than he got or will ever get, consequently I want him to realise that I am a member of this ancient and honourable House of Assembly and regardless of how he feels about me, I can assure him that if he is an ignoramus I am not one. I said if he is one, I did not say he is one.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you anticipating what I am going to say? You must not try to anticipate the Chair, you will find yourself in difficulty.

Mr. CRAIG: Sometimes, Mr. Chairman, when a member gets up on a point, he gets up on a point of order, a point of elucidation, a point of explanation and, as the hon. member on my left says, a point of ignorance, but I would say a point of a gallon of ignorance, but you are to decide that, Sir.

I agree with the member for Christ Church South Central, because he is talking the language of the Opposition all the time. He made it very clear that if you go about fooling the poor people this country is going to get a rude awakening, and I drew this to the attention of this Assembly previously, that you cannot go around repeatedly bulldozing your way through, you must be brought to justice at some time.

Let me get back, Sir, to that part of my colleague's speech which I consider was taken completely out of context. All my colleague is asking the Government to do - and I am in full agreement with him - is to give a grant to some of these denominations around here to assist them with the social work which they have been carrying out over a period of years. No one can deny the fact that the Church plays its role in the society, there was one time the Church used to run the schools and the entire country, but I will say this, that as soon as there is too much Church in their bones it looks to me that only poor people run down the Church, because this is how we were brain-washed. I recall some years ago I was told that on Sundays after the black man finished working for his master, he used to dress him on Sunday mornings, send him to Church, bring him back, give him some sweet water and potatoes, fill his belly and tell him to praise his God. We have moved on over a period of years with the assistance of the Church, and we still recognise the Church, we recognise the services the Church has given over the years to society, and nobody is condemning the Church, we are not telling you which denomination to choose as the hon. member for St. Philip South said, they quarrel among themselves as to which denomination they should choose. You hear that the Closed Brethren members cannot go to the Anglican Church, the Wesleyan cannot go to the Moravian, the Salvation Army is a different story, but my humble view is that we have one road to go. If you are trying to protect our citizens, if you are trying to nip in the bud people who come down here and try to exploit poor people - because they will never get a cent from me, and I am not classifying myself as being rich, I might be able to buy something quicker than the man in the lower income bracket.

9.40 p.m.

They are a bunch of racketeers. These arch criminals come in here and open church services under the cloak of the bible. When they open the service they take up two or three collections. The United States is a classic example of that: there is a collection as soon as you enter the chucrh; there is a collection just before you go out, and there is another collection when you go downstairs. To say that my colleague is against people joining the denomination of their choice, or is against religion, or is against a man or woman serving his God, or is against a man or woman who has faith in his God would not be fair to the hon. member. Throughout his entire address the hon. member was pointing out that he was trying to protect Barbadians from some of these Evangelists who come in here at this time of the year. He read a letter in here, and I am sorry that some hon. members were not in their seats at the time. What the hon. member read was enough to convince me that what he was saying was true.

Mr. Chairman, I think that an hon. member on the other side will recall that he was in the Dining Hall talking to an Evangelist, and the Evangelist said that he had collected very close to $500 – I think the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works was present at the time – for three nights and it was two hours a night. He is not taking that money from rich people in St. Joseph; he is taking it from the poor people in St. Joseph. They go up there, open an Open Air Meeting, the people gather around and they collect some money. We have nothing against these people coming here, but when they come in we must collect something from them, because they collect money from the poor people and we never see the money again. I ask the Hon. Minister not to give a deaf ear to what has been said on this side of the House. I agree with the hon. member for Christ Church South Central that the people should be allowed to worship in the church of their choice. That is provided for in the Constitution but, on the other hand, we still have to protect them because poor people are the persons on whom these Evangelists can prey. They realise that those people are living in ignorance, and they collect money easily.

Mr. Chairman, they could not go in Sherbourne Park or Regency Park and collect money easily. I am sure Cerulla could not pass through Regency Park with a tot in his hand asking for a dollar, because if a certain member in here is up there at the time he would tell him, "None of that". If W. J. Massiah turns up, he will be given money because the money would remain in Barbados. We are merely asking the

Government to protect these poor people from the Evangelists when they come in. Government should impose some tax on them in order to get some of the money which they collect from the poor people. Some of this money should remain in the country.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago when some of the lights in the House went off, I thought there was some suggestion that we were still in darkness while the Government were in the light. I was happy to see that they came back on and that was not the suggestion. In listening to the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, it reminded me of two years ago when I was in New Orleans and I attended a service at one of the local Baptist Churches. On the whole the congregation was a black one and not very wealthy as I could tell from their faces. I listened to one of the Ministers preaching, and it was only by chance that he reminded me of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. That is only by the way, Sir. I was amazed to hear what the preacher was telling the people. He said: "You keep your hands in the Lord's hands. Do not mind where anybody else has his hands. Do not mind where the white man has his hands. Do not mind if the white man has his hands on the money, but you keep your hands in the Lord's hands." That is indigenous of the attitude of some people towards religion, Sir, and our economic development as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, those of us who lived in London and who have had any experience of dealing with persons from the African continent would know of the famous story that was told of the Evangelist in Africa. It was said that years ago when the Evangelist went to Africa, the black man had the land and the white man had the bible, but years later it turned out that the white man had the land and the black man had the bible. This is the sort of situation that we want to prevent in this country.

Mr. Chairman, somebody seems to be against Brother Cerulla this year, and I do not know whether it is the union. He came at a time when he thought the crop would have been in full swing but, unfortunately, this year the crop started late. It is rather strange to know that these Evangelists do not come here in September or October; they do not come in August, but you will find them just like the Syrians and itinerant traders, on whom the Prime Minister placed a tax some time ago, who turn up here in the crop season, because that is the time when they can make money. I happened to be in Queen's Park the Sunday afternoon on which the last crusade was held. I watched the people coming in, and I noticed that I did not see anybody from the middle-class background. I saw people coming in by lorries from the country, and those were obviously the people who were giving up their collections to be taken out of the country. I do not think this is a situation which we can tolerate for too long.

Mr. Chairman, I suppose the former Minister of Home Affairs may be aware of the Act entitled an Act to regulate the entry into this Island of foreigners desirous of undertaking missionary or educational work in this Island which was passed in 1917, Chapter 6. In that Act it is stated that no person being a British subject who desires or intends to undertake or engage in any missionary or educational work in this Island shall land in this Island without permission of the Governor, such person being ordinarily dependent on such persons having previously secured permission from the representative of Her Majesty in the country in which such person ordinarily resides. A penalty is imposed on that person. The person can be arrested without a warrant and on summary conviction could be subjected to a fine of £500 or to imprisonment not exceeding 12 months. This was the attitude of the plantocracy to foreigners in 1917 who were desirous of coming to Barbados to do missionary work.

9.50 p.m.

Unfortunately this Act was repealed in 1965, I believe, during a general repeal of out-of-date legislation, but it may very well be that in view of the hue and cry caused by this controversy that the Government may have to consider re-enacting this piece of legislation in an effort to prevent money going out of the country. Like the hon. member who spoke, I do not object to missionaries coming into this country if they feel they have a contribution to make. I myself feel that for a developing country, the fact that missionaries can come here and get the large audiences that they do is a reflection on the established Church, because if the Churches in Barbados were making a positive contribution, then there would be no need whatever to have Evangelists come here, and if they did come they would not get the response they get at the moment. I hope that the Government will give this matter some serious thought because of the economic implications of it and the fact that money is going out of the country at a time when Barbados cannot afford to have an adverse balance of payment.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I can just reply briefly, in fact, how can one reply

to such a wide ranging debate on this question. I believe the debate was on the Head dealing with Ecclesiastical Affairs, but what I would merely like to say is that the Constitution does provide for protection of freedom of conscience which includes freedom of religion and freedom both in public and in private to manifest or propagate religion and belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance, and that the freedom also embraces freedom to receive ideas and information without interference and freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference. It is certainly the intention of the Government to ensure that there is religious freedom in this country. We do permit foreign clerics – I had better use that word – because I find some difficulty in the definition of the term Evangelist and matters connected therewith – to come into the country and I think that just as people in this country are free to watch persons who have attained eminence justifiably so in the field of sport whether it is cycling, cricket or any other pastime, there are people in this country who are deeply religious who may wish to hear persons who have attained eminence in the field of religion. So it would not be part of the policy of this Government to prevent people from coming into the country.

At the same time I must say I am somewhat puzzled at the sort of divine coincidence which regulates that these clerics should come at a time when there is more money circulating in the country than at other times. One cannot be blind to this type of divine coincidence, and I would merely like to say also that I myself think that it is only fair that whatever gains are made out of this community that a suitable portion should be retained to improve the condition of the Treasury, because I have had to cut back the Capital Estimates in particular severely this year because of the shortage of funds, and if funds are gleaned or garnered from this community whether from religious or other activities, itinerant traders or whatever source, I believe that a certain portion should be retained in the Treasury for the advancement of this community. I make it clear therefore that this Government has no objection at all to foreign clerics coming to the country and preaching the word and trying to persuade persons that they should change from their ways of evil into the ways of righteousness. I am not an Evangelist, but I would like to deal specifically with this particular Head, and I would like to clear up a few misconceptions.

The grant to the Salvation Army is $1,400. This has been described as measly, but I would like to point out that this is a grant to the Salvation Army in respect of their religious activities, not necessarily their social activities, and it bears some relation to the membership of that particular religious/military organisation. There is also under the control of the Minister of Health and Welfare a grant to the Salvation Army in respect of other activities; so I would like the position to be quite clear that the amount provided here is in respect of religious activities of the Salvation Army.

I would also like to point out that the Grants-in-Aid to other denominations do not make provision for any grant to the Grady Wilson Crusade. There is no grant here to any Evangelist. This is for churches which have been operating in this country for quite some time, and they include the Methodist Churches, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the United Pentecostal Church of Assembly of God, the St. Andrews Pentecostal Church, the St. Theresa African Orthodox Church, the Christian Mission Churches, the Bright Hill Pentecostal Church, the Nazarene Church, the St. Enid's Episcopal Orthodox Church, the United Holy Church of America, the United Baptist Church, the United Pentecostal Church, the Pentecostal Church and the A.M.E. Church. These are the denominations that received grants during the year just ended. So the item under grants does not refer to any Evangelists or anything like that. We condider requests which are put up from time to time for assistance to various denominations. We evaluate these and then we make a contribution bearing in mind the membership of the Church and the contribution which in our opinion the particular church has made or is making to the social and religious development in this country.

I think I would just make this clear because the debate tended to turn on this particular item in which the doings or misdoings of Evangelists have been brought into the debate, and I would merely like in closing to say that it was long before Milton that the misdeeds and misdemeanours of those who clothed themselves in the clerics' robes have been exposed. I think Milton in his Lycidas to which the member for Christ Church South Central made learned reference was merely echoing the statement by the poet Langland who spoke in slightly more irreverent terms of the goings on of some persons dressed in the robes of clerics.

10.00 p.m.

It was also Chaucer, I believe, who in his Canterbury Tales when he gathered some twenty nine or thirty Pilgrims together to go on this religious pilgrimage to Canterbury, and in that group you had people like the Pardoner. That is where you have your cloth and so on, they had

cloths peddling around at that particular time, religious cloths which were supposed to be the accoutrements of our Lord, and bones and so on, but as well as the Pardoner you also had the poor parson who was in fact a model of the cleric, so you are going to get this type of thing in any human organisation. Now make it clear, I do not know of any cause or reason to speak against any local Evangelist, I am merely stating that from my readings I would expect that in any religious organisation you would find people with the normal human failings and frailties, but I would not really like this to be turned into a generalised attack against Evangelists, as far as this is concerned we keep very close scrutiny on those Churches and organisations to which we give grants, and I would merely like to assure hon. members that the contributions which are made here towards established churches, not all of them established in the sense of long history and tradition in the country but which are making a contribution to social and religious development in the country.

Finally, I would like to point out this one error, the people in this country no longer designate the Anglican Church as the people's church, it is no longer the State Church. I thought I would just point this out to the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that the hon. Minister and myself are *ad idem* on the points which I raised. I am sure that he understands that I am not against any particular denomination, and he has gathered the point quite clearly that since they make a lucrative haul that they should contribute proportionately to the Treasury which is leaning on a side.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get this record straight. I am not aware of any lucrative haul, I am always willing to listen to any information which the hon. member puts before this Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. BOLDEN: Those were my words, I would not like to misquote the Hon. Minister, but I still believe it is a lucrative haul, and therefore once we are *ad idem* I know he will pass on the information to the tax man who has a system of assessing your take if you do not file the necessary return, and I hope that he will file his claim very quickly like the Trinidad Government did when James Brown appeared. They assessed him at $23,000; I was told that he paid a sum less than that, but the Government made sure that they took some of what he was taking off the people, and I hope that the same thing can be done in this respect.

The question that the sum of $13,780 under Head 36 – Ecclesiastical – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (1) General Administration – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,619,418 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two topics I would like to raise at this stage dealing with the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board at Item 52. Recently we in the Opposition have noticed the campaign by the Sanitation Board to make an effort to remove most of the garbage that was hanging around, but one of the things that concerns me – and for this purpose I must be a bit parochial – is the cleaning of areas like New Orleans and Chapmans Lane. I believe that because of the size of the tenders and the way the roads are constructed that in an area like New Orleans it is virtually impossible for the tender to travel through all the avenues to collect the refuse, and I wonder whether the Government would consider the provision of some sort of cart or something like this that could go in the avenues and bring the refuse out either through Kensington New Road or Marshall Gap from which the stuff could more readily be collected by the tenders.

The same thing holds true in areas like Chapmans Lane, Lightfoot Lane and the Greenfield area where you have the situation that the refuse is piling up because it is impossible for the tender to get into these areas, and I would seriously recommend to the Government that they seriously think of obtaining some sort of carts so that the refuse could be brought out to a more central place.

On the question of the Child Care Board, some years ago I think the Government established a Committee to investigate child legislation in Barbados, and I would like to find out from the Government whether that report

has as yet been handed in, and if so, how soon could we in the House of Assembly expect to have a copy laid in the House for discussion.
10.10 p.m.

These are the only two points, at this stage, that I want to raise.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I was very sorry when the debate on Head 35(2) came up and I was not in the House this morning. I will take this opportunity, in any event, to relate the items under that Head on which I want to speak since I think it is part and parcel of the same thing with Head 37, Item 49 as well as Item 58. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that in treating the blind, deaf and dumb and physically handicapped as a welfare problem in this country that we have laid emphasis in the wrong place. I believe that the approach which had been taken to the Association for the Mentally Retarded Children is, perhaps, a correct approach, and I am asking the Minister not to off-load the subjects on his portfolio, but to take steps to see that in treating with this problem he works in very close conjuction with the Ministry of Education.

I think that this country had a duty and, indeed, I think the constitution of the country so lays it down to ensure that each child is able to develop his faculties to the best of his ability in so far as God has given him the strength to do so. Therefore, I consider the vote to the Association in aid of the blind and deaf and dumb, although a welcome contribution, is very much on the small side. I know that there has been an increase in the vote for the Association for Mentally Retarded Children, but there is a crying need for the Blind and Deaf School in particular to expand, and to expand rapidly, to cope with the numbers of children who cannot be accomodated at the headquarters at the Pine. That school, as you are well aware, just like the Blind Workshop, was started because of the good work of the Lions Club of Barbados. I trust that the Government will try, at least at some stage in the future, to assist the Lions Club to expand the facilities at this place. I should hope that in the next set of Estimates that the Association for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb in relation to their work at the Pine will be incorporated in the Ministry of Education, and the same thing goes for the Thelma Vaughn Memorial Hall. It is a new institution, and it is one that has been given, deservedly, a much bigger grant than has been given to some other organisations, I believe, again, that steps should be taken in respect of this particular organisation to incorporate it into the work of the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the day when private enterprise, the Social Welfare Organisation, the Mentally Handicapped Children and the Government will see to it to have a scheme for the training of physically and mentally handicapped children, and that the community assumes its rightful obligations to these persons by treating them as part of our community. I should, again, emphasise that I see many organisations, some of which are familiar to me like the Family Welfare League, for instance, the Salvation Army of which hon. members have spoken who also do good work, but I am surprised that the Minister in this respect has no vote for other organisations in respect of which he can exercise his discretion.

Certainly the Minister knows from other correspondence, and I press on the floor of this Committee very strongly the claims of the Dorcas League for consideration. I believe that the Minister has before him his records for the past 25 years. I believe that the Minister himself knows, having been a visitor to its headquarters, the work that it is doing. It needs some assistance,and I believe that the time has come when Government should try to incorporate it in the list of persons who are given subventions in this respect. If I may be pleading a special case, it is because, I think, almost every hon. member on the other side has at some time or other had good words to give us, but we do not see that they are matching their pockets with the words that we get when they come to visit that institution. It has an illustrious history; it has a history as one of the illustrious sons of this country who was a member of the Democratic League, Mr. Hugh Blackman from Maxwell Hill, whom we all know. I am sure that, regardless of the present personnel who are directing its affairs, the Government will not be blinded by that fact, but will look at the true work it is doing in underprivileged areas in particular in this area, and in future help such organisations that commend themselves to be properly treated.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two items on which I should like to obtain some information from the Minister. We are not going to keep him long. At Item 33 – Co-ordinated Applied Nutrition Programme – we see that provision is made there for the payment of salaries and wages for half-year. I wonder if there is any special reason for this. At Item 36 – Maintenance of Building – the vote is for $225,000, and it would be interesting to know what are the Government's plans for the carrying out of this maintenance project. Is the Government going to do the work by contract? How is it going to be executed? We know that

many of these matters go out to contract and at times we get better results than when they are toyed around with by some of the officers in the Government Departments. We want to see efficiency and that we get the best service for the money that is spent in any particular direction.

Now, there is $36,000 to be spent in respect of housing at Item 37. This amount is for the housing of officers who will be recruited by this Ministry. If that is the case, there is no doubt that the Ministry must have some plans, and we would certainly like to know what officers are expected in the near future to strengthen the specialist branch of the Ministry. Welfare work is a specialist field, Sir, and we are aware of the limited staff now in the field. There are very many welfare cases that are not receiving the immediate attention that they should be paid, and people are kept suffering, in our view, for too long. We would like to see that this suffering is relieved as quickly as possible, because this, I think, is one of the reasons why the Department is set up.

Now, these subventions, Mr. Chairman, are for the Barbados Family Planning Association and other organisations.

10.20 p.m.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that what would be of some considerable help to us is if the report of this Family Planning Association could be made available for a careful study. After all, it is an organization the activities of which can have far-reaching consequences, and since it hinges on our population control in some respects, we would like to know what progress, if any, is being made for the money that is spent or exactly where we are going.

I think some time last year I drew to the attention of this Committee that some of the products dispensed by that organisation were finding their way in large quantities into some of the neighbouring Islands and into the United States. I am wondering if any check has been put on this to ensure that what is dispensed is for the most part consumed or used for the benefit of our people locally.

Now there is a sum of $17,000 for the Barbados Nurses' Association at Item 40. The note says that this amount is to allow for improvement in service. I believe that $17,000 might appear to be a lot of money, but for an organisation like the Barbados Nurses' Association whose work has been known over the years and has established such a record, each and every member on that side of the House would agree deserves better consideration than the amount of $17,000. Since this amount of money is for bringing about an improvement in the service, I wonder if any consideration has been given to assisting in providing for a pension scheme for those nurses who have given service over a long period of years, because this is not a tidy sum and Government might very well know what are the plans of the association in respect of this.

With respect to the Child Health Committee at Item 46, Mr. Chairman, I believe there is much room for improvement in this body generally. We believe that there is not everyone who is associated with this organisation who fully realises the responsibility that attaches to this Committee, and without going into further details, we are merely asking the Minister to look into the matter and see whether improvement can be brought about for the benefit of all concerned. Remember it is a Child Health Committee, and we want to know that it is functioning specifically for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, pleas have already gone out on behalf of the Salvation Army because of its good work, and I too would like to lend a voice there to see if something can be done to increase the amount that is given to this organisation. I too know of the work of the Dorcas League. It has fought through thick and thin, it has weathered many a storm, and it has fought in every way to bring cheer to the poor and destitute children and others over the period of years. There was many an occasion when one would have thought that its activities would have been halted, but we believe that perserverence of some of the members of its Committee may have kept the good work going until this hour, and we feel that the Government could do something to assist it at a time such as this.

Now the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board has started its campaign quite recently to assist the Government in cleaning up various areas so as to help in its rodent control campaign, and this brings me to the point where I understand that bodies of scrapped vehicles are being dumped into gullies. I am wondering if we are doing the right thing because some of these bodies are of metal, tin and brass, and while we do not have smelting works in our midst, some of those sugar factories that have gone out of existence could by all means provide a furnace for the smelting of some of this tin and other metal, and you might sooner or later find an export market for the iron, tin, copper or brass. In dumping the bodies in gullies we are more or less transferring the breeding ground of these rats from one place to another. I understand from the Minister of

Agriculture that he proposes concentrating his treatment in the areas where the dumping is now carried out.

Mr. Chairman, we know the Child Care Board to be functioning under very considerable pressure. The work that is involved in the Day Nurseries and the like that are attached to the Central Office shows that there is need for an increase in the staff for coping with this volume of work and we suggest that attention should be paid to it as soon as possible so that we can get the best returns for the money that is spent.
10.30 p.m.

The Old People's Homes. We are sure that attention will be given to providing whatever staffing there will be established for the Home that has just been established at the Pine, and we would like to see that others are established in the northern and southern parishes of the island in those areas where there are enough numbers to justify the existence of such Homes.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the first item which was mentioned under Head 37(1) was Item 33 – Provision for payment of salaries, wages and other expenses of the Applied Nutrition Unit for half of the year. I think the hon. member for St. Peter asked why half of the year. The Nutrition Unit Centre is now being established and should come in force only for the last six months of the year, and this is why provision has been made only for six months.

Item 36, to provide for the maintenance of Maternity Hospitals, District Hospitals, Outpatients Clinics, Dispensaries, residences of District Medical Officers and includes buidlings under School of Health Sciences. This amount will be controlled by the Ministry under the Executive Engineer, and the majority of this work will be done by contract to provide and carry out repairs. We have found that it is cheaper. I have visited certain of our Infirmaries to the north and you will find floors with a few bad boards or something of the sort; under the conditions prior to this we would have to wait till the Ministry of Communications and Works could send down and put in a board or two and this is not good enough. The Ministry should be in a position to carry out repairs to these buildings, and there are so many of these various buildings under the control of the Ministry that we feel we should have a maintenance staff to carry out repairs immediately, rather than having to depend on the Ministry of Communications and Works which in most instances would cost the Government financial embarrassment by accidents happening to people through the delay by the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Item 37 – Housing. Mr. Chairman, on various occasions doctors and other people come into the Ministry of Health on contract and provision must be made for them, we cannot wait until they come in then to put money in the Estimates, we have to provide for their housing or hotel accommodation, and this amount is to pay hotel expenses or rent houses for their residence during their stay in the island.

Item 38 – Family Planning Associaiton. The Association is a voluntary body affiliated to the International Planned Parenthood Foundation and receives financial assistance from that organisation. The Family Planning Association is doing an excellent job in educating people in approved methods of planned parenthood and they also issue free and subsidised contraceptives. It is held that the Association's efforts, together with emigration, have resulted in the reduction of the birth rate in this country. The people also have television to watch at night; they was only one sport before, but since the Democratic Labour Party came into power we have television, radio and a multitude of other things which help with the reduction of the birth rate.

Mr. FORDE: I hope the Hon. Minister is not seeking to minimise that sport of long ago.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, by no means. We will control it, not minimise it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I asked if the Family Planning Associaiton publishes a report and if the Ministry receives a copy.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Yes, the Ministry receives a copy. Item 52. The hon. member for the City asked about small carts going into New Orleans and these other small areas. Where the big sanitation vehicles cannot go through these areas, three small vehicles specially designed for going into these areas to move out the stuff go in and bring it out so that the big vehicles can then transport it to the quarries and other places where it is dumped. These vehicles are specially ordered for this purpose and are now being put into operation. They have just arrived.
10.40 p.m.

With regard to the Barbados Nurses Association, the subvention is based on a request made by the Association. The Association raises revenue from other sources such as cake sales, tag days, etc.

Mr. HINDS: What about a pension scheme? Are you doing anything about this?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: The matter is being considered, but nothing has been done along that line as yet. We have had demands from various Associations such as the Child Health Committee where these nurses have been working for quite a long time without any prospects of renumeration.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I think those people are in a different position from the Child Health Committee. This Organisation probably has between four to six of these nurses, many of whom have put in a long spell of work. Unfortunately, the organisation has never been able to build up sufficient funds for this purpose, and I am aware of the fact that representations have been made to the Government for a considerable time on this point. I wonder whether the Minister could try to press ahead with this matter, because many of them are now reaching the age of retirement; they are very anxious about their health, and I think at one time there was a scheme to incorporate them into the overall Health Service and to count their years of service rather than to have a specific Pensions Act. I have been associated with the Barbados Nurses Association as their honorary legal adviser for several years, and I should like on their behalf to ask very strongly that some steps be taken to reassure these oldish ladies – I would not like to say that they are old ladies, but they are getting to the stage where, like me, they have more corpulence than opulence.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to assure the hon. member that they are being looked after. Not only are they getting old and have put in a lot of service, but under present conditions no new person would go to work at that type of organisation. The organisation will experience difficulty in getting new people to work when these people have gone home. I assure the hon. member that I should do all in my power and endeavour to have the matter settled as soon as possible.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister has not forgotten the question I have asked him.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, with reference to Item 53 – Child Care Board – additional staff has been requested by the Ministry to improve the efficiency of the Board, and just a few days ago information was received that approval had been given for some of the posts requested.

With regard to child legislation, the report has been submitted to the Cabinet for information. Since then, Probation has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and a joint Committee of Health and Home Affairs will shortly consider recommendations for drafting the necessary legislation.

The question that the sum of $4,619,418 under Head 37(1) – Ministry of Health and Welfare (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (2) HEALTH SERVICES

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (2) Health Services – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,112,146 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (2) Health Services – stand part of the Schedule. There is an amendment on page 107, Item 50, allowance for cars to be increased to $50 in place of $15 as per Chief Establishment Officer's memo.

I now beg to move that Head 37, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let the Minister tell us something about his unestablished staff as at Item 34, and we will go from there to Item 38 which deals with the Laboratory and unestablished staff working out of normal hours. We are sure that the Minister will have this information. With regard to Item 43 – School Health Services – we are sure that all cases are not receiving treatment as readily as one would like to see, and we should certainly like to know that the Minister is doing all he can to see that this service is speeded up. If it is a question of not having staff or not having specialists available, we would appreciate that special time be set aside for dealing with these school children. We believe that if they are given attention at an early hour it may save malignancy in the long run.

With regard to Item 48 – Special Services – how is the programme for providing spectacles for cataract cases progressing?

10.50 p.m.

I prefer to ask the Minister if there is a waiting list because we note that there is a decrease of $70,000. I see you have School Health Services provided at Item 43. Now it is also known, Mr. Chairman, that some of these people who have to have treatment are delayed for very long periods before they can get the drops and the like that may be necessary, and whilst I am going to deal with that a bit fuller under another Head, very often you find that a person who cannot see a wink is waiting while some person who led him to the Hospital is standing by to assist, and it means that two people are held up. We would like to know that something is done in this matter.

At Item 53 which includes provision for dietary supplement, medicines, medical and surgical equipment, I think I should say that we are satisfied that a problem has arisen where each and every member of the Indian community has been seen to cease paying private doctors for treatment they used to receive and are now taxing our welfare services very heavily. Since the coming on the scene of a number of Indian doctors at the Hospital, every Indian in this community has withdrawn himself from his family doctor of the past and is seeking attention from his Indian doctor at the Hospital. I am in a position to state here and now that what we have discovered is that as many as 30 capsules costing $1.50 each are prescribed for some of these Indians at one time. You would know the cost of that prescription which is coming out of the health services. I know that it might be said that they pay their taxes, but I give it to the Minister and he must now tax his brain to know how best to get around the problem. I want to let the Minister have an easy passage of this Head, and I think the hon. member for Christ Church West wants to ask one question.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the only Item I want to draw to the Minister's attention is Item 62 and the provision for improvement of toilet facilities for poor and destitute persons. I believe that for some years the scheme was started in order to provide such facilities and one of the conditions was that the person should pay a sum of money towards helping to make the slab and having a form of pit. I have had numerous complaints from people both within my constituency of Christ Church and otherwise that they have paid their money and nothing has been done about the matter. In some instances in fact I have myself drafted letters for them which they have sent, and we have not even been favoured with a reply. I think that in areas like School Gap in St. Matthias and Forde's Road where people live cheek and jowl and in other areas, it is very necessary that we should hurry on with trying to establish as much as possible proper toilet facilities for poor persons, and I wonder whether the Minister has any proper scheme of supervision in this respect, what priorities are given to people and whether he could step up, having regard to the size of the vote, this part of his programme in the coming years in order to assist in what ways he can. Perhaps the Minister on this point could let us know what procedures he has and what are the priorities he has in this respect.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, on Item 34 I would like to inform the hon. member for St. Peter that I will furnish him with the information relative to this subsequently. With reference to Item 43 – School Health Services, the services will be expanded early in this financial year. A paediatrician has been appointed and will be responsible for supervising and co-ordinating the services which will provide medical, ear and eye checks for children on entering primary and secondary schools and on school leaving.
11.00 p.m.

As soon as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital refers patients, an order is given for the issue of spectacles or hearing aids to the patients.

Mr. HINDS: Is there a waiting list now, Mr. Minister?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I have been informed that there is no waiting list. Item 53 – Medical Supplies. The supply of drugs referred to is properly given at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It should be noted that treatment at the Casualty of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is free, and I will investigate what the hon. member mentioned to me.

The question that the sum of $1,112,146 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (2) Health Services – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (3) MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (3) Maternity Hospitals – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $79,379 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (3) Maternity Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (4) LAZARETTO

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (4) Lazaretto – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $24,573 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (4) Lazaretto – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how many inmates there are at the Lazaretto at present.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, for the information of the hon. member for St. James, there are at present four inmates.

The question that the sum of $24,573 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (4) Lazaretto – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (5) St. MICHAEL'S DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (5) St. Michael's District Hospital – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $835,685 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (5) St. Michael's District Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that there is a considerable amount of uneasiness as far as the St. Michael's District Hospital is concerned.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what Item are you speaking?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Items 14, 26, 27 and 28. They are all related to what I am going to say, and even to some extent, Item 31. There is a considerable amount of uneasiness amongst the staff at this institution, and I am sure that among the Maids and among some of the Unestablished Staff at Item 28 there is a lot of unnecessary bickering. I am mentioning these things in the hope that the Minister will use his good offices to have the officer in charge of this institution take steps to see that this type of behaviour is stamped out.
11.10 p.m.

There are quite a number of reasons for this, and this is why I said that Item 31 was somewhat related to what I have to say. For some time I have been trying to point out to the Ministry of Health that, as in another institution, one worker was bold enough to tell some of the other workers that the Government had introduced a School Feeding Programme and they did not have to steal things that should be given to the inmates to carry home to feed their children any more. She said that she would not be part of that, and the others got up against her. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, in that institution other workers felt that this person was a spy, and they tried wherever possible to render this person's life miserable. I should like to know, Mr. Chairman,...*(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This will be the last time that I am asking the hon. member for St. Michael West...

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If you ask me now, I will ask what you have asked me before. This is the first time you are asking me a question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I agree. This will be the first time I will be asking the hon. member for St. Michael West to be silent when other members are speaking.

Mr. HINDS: It is a situation, Sir, which does not ensure the smooth running of the institution. Mr. Chairman, neither you nor I can put a mind in any member of the staff at these institutions, but we feel it is our duty where we see certain situations obtaining and where, as in the case at Item 31, we know that the poor, sick inmates are lying on their beds and are being deprived of what should be served to them, to say something about the matter. We do not feel good about it. We feel that the staff at these institutions are represented by the Trade Unions, whether it is the Barbados Workers' Union, the Public Workers or at whatever trade union level, and their salary structure is based on the demands that are made on their behalf from time to time. If they are being justly paid for the job they are doing, we

cannot support any action on their part to do wrong. This means that they are being paid at the end of the week or at the end of the month and they are paying themselves at the end of the day as well. What they take away they are taking from the inmates. The inmates are people who cannot help themselves. The inmates are, for the most part, people who have given of their best years to this society in some form or other, and they need all the succour that they can be given at this stage. We would like to know that they are given all of the care that can be provided wherever possible.

Now, at Item 32 the sum of $125,000 is provided for Medical, Surgical and dental supplies and dressings. It also includes dietary supplements. Now, these dietary supplements are, undoubtedly, ordered by the Medical Officer. Here, again, our information is that whilst the Medical Officer may order this or that for a sick person, there is no evidence that the sick person is receiving the benefit of these supplies as ordered by the Medical Officer. We would like to see that proper supervision over the institution is carried out. At the moment peoper supervision is lacking, and, if this could be improved to any degree, it would make things much more comfortable for the staff, the nurses, the cooks, the inmates and so on. In that case, there will be every reason to feel that the patients will have a chance of enjoying some measure of happiness that might trickle through to them.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of Inmate Labour as at Item 39, it is a very good thing to find in an institution such as this that there are some people who can perform some small task. I believe that is what is referred to as a sort of therapy, and they receive some small token payment in return for the services that they perform. It would be well if more of these inmates could reach a physical condition which would permit them to join the work force of the inmates.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to know that there is a big enough area over which they could roam and enjoy the sunlight as much as the Doctor would permit them to get whilst performing these various chores. It is certain that all of this will help to rebuild the torn tissues of the body depending upon the person's particular ailment. We would like to know that something is done to increase the number of these inmates who are capable of working. I should like the Minister to tell us how the payment for this work is assessed. Is it that the Superintendent or the Officer in Charge just decides that A is worth so much as against B? What is your yardstick for determining the wages paid to these poor people? 11.20 p.m.

I know that the mere knowledge that they are going to receive something in return for the work they do will spur them on and will at times lend them strength which perhaps would not otherwise be available to them. Now the amount is only $500 at Item 41 that is available for entertainment and Christmas festivities, and this also provides for excursions. Now I believe that there are some organisations which from time to time render some assistance to the inmates at these institutions such as the District Hospitals, by providing them with some form of cheer and taking some of them on excursions, and doing what can be done by way of making these people happy.

There are no two ways about it that the St. Michael's District Hospital cannot now provide accommodation for the number of people who are really seeking admission, and the Government must look about to see how best they can cope with the situation, and perhaps in the case where the Old People's Home has been established at the Pine, some sort of consideration might have to be given in the not too distant future to removing some of these welfare cases from the District Hospital to the Old People's Home at the Pine or to any other Home that might be established anywhere for their accommodation. Considering the high cost of everything today, and knowing that bus fares will have to be increased...*(Long pause)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. HINDS: I have not been addressing my remarks to anybody else. We are sure that $500 does not but touch the hem of the garment in meeting the needs of these poor old people, and as for Christmas festivities, what can it really provide them? I am sure that this makes provision for hardly more than 75 cents expenditure on a Christmas gift or whatever one may choose to spend the money on at Christmas time, and if you do this, what is going to be left to provide for excursions or anything like this. I feel that there has been some under-estimating in this particular instance, and we are satisfied that $500 is certainly not going to be enough to cover this item.

Now the maintenance of grounds. Now the amount to be spent on the roadways, grounds and gardens at the St. Michael District Hospital is $1,200. I have seen what some of the roadways

look like. I do not pretend to have any knowledge of road building, but surely I am aware of what the cost of road building materials is like today, and I am also aware of labour costs, and if we are going to spend any money at all on the upkeep of the roadways, here again the full sum of $1,200 will have to be spent and still much of the roadways will be left untouched. The grounds and gardens are to be maintained from this vote, and while we bear in mind that there will also be inmate labour in this, we still feel that although a pittance will be given to these inmates for what they might do, we have still got to approach the matter not placing too much faith in inmate labour; and when we look to see that the lawn mower is to be serviced from this vote as well, one can judge for oneself exactly what is going to be the position with the people who have to manage that vote. At an institution like the St. Michael's District Hospital the upkeep of the gardens, the growing of the flowers, the cleanliness of the place mean a lot not only to the inmates, but to the people who visit there from time to time and we are sure that this matter definitely falls within the range for some reconsideration, and we would certainly like to know that this is given.

Now at Item 34 is the question of Linen, Clothing and Bedding. We would like to see a change in the clothes that are given to some of these inmates. The old long gown for people who are free to move about the institution is not something of which we can be proud in this day. I appreciate that efforts will be made to run the institution as cheaply as possible or at least to keep expenditure down.
11.30 p.m.

At the same time we should pay some regard to how these inmates look about the institution, and particularly those who are able to help look after their own cleanliness, help to tidy themselves and to move from place to place and engage in group conversation or otherwise with others. If something could be done at the institution to foster a bit more of this to help some of these old people to recall perhaps the best of their old days, and some form of entertainment to help keep them going, apart from the television and Rediffusion, I feel that it would help them quite a lot and would go a long way in bringing about a state of recovery in some of them.

I believe I have covered a few items under this Head which require some sort of examination, and I would certainly like to hear what the Minister has to say on the points I have raised. There is one Item, Item 43 – Furniture and Equipment. I believe that I am right in saying quite a bit of the equipment at this institution is best suited for the scrap heap, and replacements are very much needed amongst many of the items that I see here at Item 43. If an examination is carried out on the hot water geysers and similar units at the institution – because these mean something to these poor old people – we may find that they need attention. Similarly, the stretchers, and some of the blankets I have been advised are just strands, torn and tattered and really do not become an institution such as a District Hospital, that they are just as bad as in the old almshouse days. We would like to know that it is in keeping with its name, and we are hoping that these matters will be attended to.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to inflict the House, and moreso the staff, because if I had my way I would act differently, but I think it is not only unkind and uncharitable for any hon. member of this Chamber to be as tedious and repetitious and unkind to the staff as the hon. member has been for this whole Session...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order, I am not hearing you. You have the option to reply to anything that is said.

Mr. HINDS: Do you mean you are not hearing me on a point of order? Well then, carry on.

Mr. WALCOTT: Not only has he been unkind to the staff, but he is unkind to the people who work there. I would not sit here and hear an hon. member making these serious indictments on the staff about larceny at these institutions. The hon. member of all persons has the affrontery to get in this Hon. Chamber and say that under Item 31 – Provision for feeding staff and inmates, that the people who work at these institutions are the ones who are carrying away the food from little children. When hon. members could come into this Chamber and have the gall to look upon the people who work at these institutions, because they cannot come in here and defend themselves,...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will now hear the point of order.

Mr. HINDS: What I said was this, that a member of staff found it difficult to work, that

conditions were being made difficult for her because she refused to be associated with anybody who wanted to indulge in such things, and she promptly made it clear that she felt that such action should not be encouraged because, as she said, the Government has set up the School Meals programme so nobody has any right removing anything that patients should have to carry home.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member has come in here repeating an indictable matter against somebody. Not only did he hear it, but he comes in here and repeats it, that the poor ones working at the institutions are the ones who carry away the food to give their children. Under Item 32 – Medical Supplies, he has not said that the doctors or any of those people carry away any supplies, but he is satisfied that these people have been carrying away the food.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, if the hon. member for St. Michael West has information that the doctors are carrying away things, let him say so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: What I am saying is that the same indictment the hon. member can make about people telling him that other people are carrying away food is only an indictment that he intends to make against these people who are defenceless. These people are working like anybody else, and this idea about slander...

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is accusing me of being slanderous and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has taken objection to the word "slanderous" and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member can have the Ministry prove that they are presently investigating reports from members of staff who complained of exactly what I have said in this House, and it is nothing I have manufactured.

11.40 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, if you say that I should withdraw the word "slanderous" I would do so, but I am saying that the statement made by the hon. member about the staff is a slanderous statement. He goes on to justify it by asking me...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking that the word "slanderous" be withdrawn.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, if you ask me to withdraw "slanderous", I will withdraw "slanderous", and I will say that a very indictable statement has been made, because this is defamatory. The hon. member has gone further and asked me – of course, no person from the Ministry speaks in here other than the Minister. The Minister has not replied; the hon. member has made his statement, and there is no point the hon. member making a statement on the allegation that it has been told to him. When you make a statement that is defamatory of people it is a statement that you are repeating...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is, again, accusing me of making a statement that is defamatory of people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am also asking you to withdraw that. It is offensive.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, he made the statement in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you to withdraw it.

Mr. WALCOTT: Which statement must I withdraw?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Defamatory.

Mr. WALCOTT: Defamatory in relation to what? The hon. member said in here that the people who work at the institution...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not the point. I ask that you withdraw the word "defamatory". That is all I ask you to do.

Mr. WALCOTT: I withdraw it. I will repeat, however, that the hon. member made statements in here that are damaging to the character of the people who work at these institutions. He has done that because the people are not here to defend themselves. When he begins to talk in one term about one type of civil servants and the civil servants are not in here to defend themselves – to make a statement about them is just the same as making a statement about a Permanent Secretary. If somebody told you something about a Permanent Secretary is carrying away the things in order to go home and give them to his children, you would not want to make a statement like that in here. I am saying that if you would not make that statement about one person, you should not make it about another. There must be equality in our position. Members of this Chamber who profess to be representing

the working-class people especially must not come in here and make these statements about working-class people.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have further stated that the Ministry is investigating some of the reports that I have made in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Mr. WALCOTT: When he said that, I said to the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown in a *sotto voce* remark that it was an indictment against some of his constituents because some of the people about whom these statements have been made live in his constituency. It is a serious statement to make, and if an hon. member is making it he should know that it is true. I repeat that if he is making these statements against these people he is doing so because they are poor people and because he thinks they are defenceless. When it comes to the poor people in the Public Service everybody feels that he can make any sort of statement against them because they have no means of going to a lawyer, and they cannot meet certain people in drawing rooms and so on. They have to sit down and take this sort of thing. Any time you see a poor woman coming out of an institution with a basket, regardless of what she has in it, some people will say that she is carrying away the stuff from the people.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, speaking as the representative of my constituency, I should like, first of all, to compliment the present Minister as well as the past Minister on the new policy directives which are being taken in order to upgrade and improve conditions at the St. Michael District Hospital. I note in particular that this is a new Head in that the items here appear to be separated from the provisions previously made under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

In my commendation I should like to include those officials of the Ministry of Health and Welfare whose task it is to see that the new policy directives are implemented, and that both in terms of the medical care delivered to the inmates or patients at that hospital as well as in terms of their welfare that this care and welfare are both delivered at a standard appropriate for a District Hospital. I should merely like to state that I hope that, as time goes on and the provisions appear inadequate, experience will show in what areas they should be improved. I want to say, at this stage, how very pleased I am at this new policy in order to upgrade conditions at the St. Michael's District Hospital. I hope that it continues and, in due course, also that the Hospital will be staffed by not only with a Senior Executive Officer, but with the medical staff which is supposed to deliver the medical care at that Hospital.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have listened very attentively to the hon. member for St. Peter, and I will pay due regard to several of the points he has drawn to my attention in relation to medicine and so on. I should like to mention that as far as entertainment is concerned, the St. Michael's Hospital is the one Hospital where various organisations contribute and visit more often than the other District Hospitals. There are 5 District Hospitals, but the St. Michael's Hospital receives the bulk of aid, and this is why the amount for the St. Michael's Hospital is far less. This Hospital could practically do without the amount received when compared with the other four District Hospitals.

The Welfare Department takes them out on excursions and so on. I should like to tell the hon. member that I have visited the St. Michael's District Hospital, and I look on it more as an institution of despair than an institution to build up the minds of people to a stage where they have a chance of getting better. I am very serious about this, because people who go to an institution like this automatically feel lost. I feel that people entering this type of institution should be given some ray of hope of returning to public life.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is now actively organising the entire set up of the 5 District Hospitals. We hope to use the St. Michael's Hospital distinctly as a Hospital whereas the others could be more regarded as a Welfare Home. As it is at present, each of these Hospitals is a combination of a Hospital/Welfare Department. I think that we can get a better service by bringing all of the sick cases to one institution where better medicine, better nursing and so on could be concentrated on that particular institution, and the others could be looked upon as Welfare Homes, but the Hospital would be looked upon as Hospital in the terms of a Hospital. I think there were about five children up there. I do not know if they have been able to move out the five children during the last few days.

11.50 p.m.

We have moved out all the other children. If there was some other institution where the buildings themselves could be brought up to a higher standard, we would move the inmates, because I happen to know several of the inmates there and I would say that they lose their sense. There are men who are regularly sick and they get the idea that the nurses are there to look after them. Some of them are strong enough to move around the institution, and I feel that they should be used in keeping the institution clean

and be paid for it. I think there should be a change in their attitude of just staying in the institution depending on the nurses. I know a good many of them. There is one who for many years would leave the institution whenever I came in on my boat and he would live on the boat because he said he felt better off, but he would do nothing for himself, and every morning I would have to give him a fresh cup to put his tea in because he would throw away the other one because there was no nurse around him. Those that could help themselves should be made to do this. As it is at present, I look on it as an institution of despair. I visited it when they knew I was coming and you can consider that the wicket was rolled, so you can understand if I went there a Monday morning when they did not know I was coming what the situation would be. I am sensible enough to appreciate that if they know the Minister is coming, everything will be put in the best order for my arrival; but I believe in walking in haphazardly. I have friends in there too and I can drop in like anybody else and not as Minister just to look at it.

I feel happy with an institution like St. Thomas. I have never seen a better group of people, they were far cleaner and livelier, and I agree with the hon. member that it is unfortunate that you should have among the staff people living like cat and dog. It is depressing to the very inmates at the institution, and I feel that in an institution like this, the better you can have the people around them living and setting an example, the more incentive it would be to the inmates to live better as I have seen them at the St. Thomas District Hospital. I felt happy to see the people there in that frame of mind in contra-distinction to the people at the St. Michael's District Hospital, because that is an institution of depression to my mind, and I am prepared as Minister to do everything possible to upgrade and uplift the standard of that institution.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I rise not to be critical of the Minister's speech, but to tell you how I wish all the Ministers could put over their arguments as well and as sincerely as the Minister who has just sat down, not that the others are not sincere. I have long wanted to hear somebody express himself in such a manner by conveying what he has seen. He said he paid a visit to the Hospital when they knew he was coming and everything would be put in good shape, but even then it was a burning shame to see the deplorable state of the institution. I would like to add at this point that his speech is contrary to the speech made by his Parliamentary Secretary only a few months after the honourable lady came in here; she said it was a place with which she was satisfied when I was critical of the cups and plates which they used. I paid a visit to a friend and I looked around...

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, if the hon. member is referring to the utensils and kitchen equipment, as far as I remember my Parliamentary Secretary, the hon. member for St. Michael North East was speaking relative to cooking utensils and the kitchen department. That is only a minor part, but I am talking about the concrete floors that my father in his life time would refuse to put cattle on. There are floors that you can hardly keep clean because they are pitted and rough and the Parliamentary Secretary agreed with me; but the kitchen department has been upgraded in all the institutions and there is a high quality of utensils, and we hope and intend to do everything to bring the entire institution up to the standard of the kitchen. I am sure that the Parliamentary Secretary made reference to the kitchen rather than to the institution as a whole.

Mr. CRAIG: The Minister is quite right in saying this, but I recall that she went on further to say that she was satisfied and I took it as a far-reaching statement, because I visited there and I felt embarrassed to see how people who have served their country over a period of years have to be subjected to this type of treatment in the evening of their years, and it was regrettable when I heard the statement coming from the hon. lady who I am sorry is not in her place, because I paid another visit and I saw no immediate signs of improvement. The Minister himself paid a visit and is satisfied that we must do something now to make sure that the old people of this country are not forgotten. You have heard me say in here that this question of youth is overstated, and I feel sure that we must pay some attention to the elder citizens.

I am glad the Minister has taken this stand and he can rest assured that I am going to watch him with the eye of a hawk to make sure that when we come here next time we would not hear that they have not been able to do this and the other, because he has given this Committee the bold assurance that it is an institution of despair as far as he is concerned and he is going all out to make sure that the entire Hospital is upgraded. I look forward with anxious eyes to this, and I once again congratulate the Minister on his frankness regarding this part of his Ministry.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, there is one question that was asked by the hon.

member for St. Peter respecting Item 39 – Inmate Labour; cleaners get $1.50 per day and other cleaners get 50 cents per day. Some receive pay on a task basis of approximately $3.00 or $4.00 per job. There are also two needle workers who receive between $8.00 and $10.00 per month.

The question that the sum of $835,685 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (5) St. Michael's District Hospital – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

GIFT OF BIBLES BY GIDEONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the motion for suspension is made, I think I should say for the records of the House that as you will have seen in the papers, the Gideons have presented 28 bibles for hon. members, not individually, but on behalf of their constituents, and I took the opportunity of thanking them on behalf of all hon. members. Quoting Psalm 33 Verse 12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 21st March, 1972.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
12.02 a.m.

On Resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply.

Hon. C. E. Talma: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to lay some papers.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 29th February, 1972. On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, I am commanded to lay the Film Censorship (Fees and Travelling Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 1972 and also The Film Censorship (Charges) (Amendment) Regulations, 1972.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Waterworks Act, 1895.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Waterworks Act, 1895 be read a first time.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (6) DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (6) District Hospitals – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $681,886 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (6) District Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we should first concern ourselves with trying to find out exactly how many District Hospitals we are trying to provide for under this Head.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, there are at present five District Hospitals, and provision will be made for these five District Hospitals.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that it is a good thing to try to upgrade the staffing of these institutions. We find that there are cases where nurses who have been trained overseas come back and are posted to these institutions but are not ready to adapt themselves to the situations that obtain at these institutions. I am not saying that these institutions could be expected to provide in every detail what some of these nurses might have been accustomed to abroad, but there are cases where some of these nurses are trying to make it difficult for other staff members they might find there, and there is one case which I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister.

This happened in the St. Philip's District Hospital where a patient was ordered for transfer to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Matron evidently detailed whom I feel she thought best suited amongst those on duty at the time to accompany the patient to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The patient was a female. It so happened that certain of these nurses, because they reach a certain position up the ladder, as we may call it, the feeling is that certain functions they must not be called upon to perform; all in the field of nursing. However, it so happened that the transfer from the District Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital did not go on as smoothly, and as quickly as the doctor had requested, and the vehicle to carry the patient was delayed in the District Hospital yard for several hours. Eventually, when the nurse decided that she would leave with the vehicle she did not leave in her uniform, she put on her own clothes and what she did was, she did not accompany the patient to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, she got off on the way leaving only the driver of the vehicle to take the female patient – the driver was a male – to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It so happened that the patient arrived at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and died in the Casualty. That is a fact.

I have my own views on what actually should have followed immediately, but I would like to see that every effort is made to iron these situations out so as to make it possible for the Matrons, or whatever title you give your senior officers at these institutions, to control whatever staff is attached to these institutions. These nurses, whether they are S.E.N. or S.R.N., it must be made abundantly clear to them that they have gone to these institutions not to give the Matorn or a senior officer the run around, to tell her what she knows from what she does not know and the like, but to help the sick and above all to make the working of the institution such as to enable those sick patients to benefit from all that is being spent for their care.

Mr. Chairman, if we were to look at these Estimates we are going to find that it is a repetiton of what we voted in the case of the St. Michael's District Hospital, with the exception of the figures, and I do not think that there is much to be said, except that we would like to see that there is better coordination and co-relations of all the Welfare services so that the people who are to benefit will in truth and in fact get that benefit.
2.40 p.m.

Now, before I close, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you might want me to turn to Item 15 for your convenience. I am very glad that the Health Department, in conjunction with the Sanitations and Cemeteries Board, are carrying out their Rodent Extermination Campaign. I am compelled, Mr. Chairman, by dint of circumstances presently prevailing – I want to lay some emphasis on the words "presently prevailing" – to ask these bodies to extend their campaign to the northern most part of the Island to the St. Lucy District Hospital where there is evidence that the rats are still taking possession of the Institution by day and by night. The position is that when some of the old people in these institutions get their meals and they are unable to consume all, they usually tie things in a handkerchief and put it under the mattress. We cannot blame them *in toto* for this, but they are really encouraging these rodents and inviting these unwholesome guests.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the officers in the Institution are not responsible for the presence of these rodents. We may have to carry out some rat-proofing at the Institution, but we will have to give consideration to the general health of the people. We must allow them to get as much fresh air as possible. However, we would still like to know that, if relatives visit inmates at the Institution and give them some cake which they cannot consume entirely, there should be some place where they can put the balance.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to reflect on anything that has gone before. If you and I were to go and discuss matters with some of these patients, they will give us of their experiences when friends or relatives brought them a cake or some fruit; they gave it to A or B to put up for them, and that was the end of it. I do not want to accuse anybody of stealing from the patients or anything of the

kind. All I am saying is that these poor people will tell you that they have given gifts to some of the Nursing staff and others in the hope that it would be kept for them until they remember – some of them give the staff these things to put away and they never remember anything more about them. Some of them, I believe, depending on their state of health, will say that they have given a Nurse something such as money which may never have occurred. In any case, Mr. Chairman, I have drawn to the attention of the Committee the situation in respect of the rodents, and would ask that any steps that could be taken to rid the Institution of these rodents be embarked upon with as little delay as possible.

Now, at Item 14, I should like to tell the Minister that there are some members of the staff who are entitled to uniforms at some of these District Hospitals who are not receiving their uniforms and shoes on time. It means, therefore, that they have to wear their own shoes on the job. Some of them have to go and buy a pair of shoes to wear to work, and with the limited wage they receive, that is asking too much of them. We would urge, Mr. Chairman, that wherever possible stores should be kept up to date so that supplies of uniforms can be made available to these people when the time for issuing these uniforms arrives. I do not think there is anything else I need raise under this Head, and I shall await any replies which the Minister might have, unless any other member has something to add.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like to make a comment on the outlay of the Estimates. I observe that there are 5 District Hospitals. There is a vote for the St. Michael's District Hospital which is under Head 37(5), and then under Head 37(6) it simply says "District Hospitals." I take it that one can only conclude that there is a separate Head for the St. Michael's District Hospital, and all of the other District Hospitals are under another Head. This is a bit confusing, because one cannot determine what is the outlay expenditure for Christ Church as against St. Michael, and St. Lucy as against St. Peter and so on. I think you should have had all of these District Hospitals under one Head instead of putting the St. Michael's District Hospital under one Head and the others under another Head. This is just an observation and not a criticism in its fullest sense.

2.50 p.m.

The Minister yesterday evening spoke quite passionately in respect of the St. Michael's District Hospital which I would say he condemned, and that brings me to ask what is the position with the Christ Church Hospital. I do not think the Christ Church Hospital is in any way better off than the St. Michael's District Hospital. I have visited it and it remains the same, and the patients look as if they have been forgotten. After the Minister spoke on the St. Michael's District Hospital, I looked at the Head more closely to discover that there is a separate vote for that hospital, and then the other hospitals are combined. There are a number of things lacking at the other District Hospitals which, if this had been shown quite clearly in the Estimates, we would have tried to draw to the attention of the Minister. I would like to know also what is the provision for the preparing of meals at these District Hospitals, whether there is any dietitian or qualified person assigned to take care of the preparation of meals. You may only have a matron whose profession is only that of a nurse, but what about the diets provided for these people? As I said earlier, they are in the evening of their days, and I do not feel they should be forgotten; I for one would not try to forget them, and I do not think that any socialist Government should forget the elder citizens in any way knowing that they are responsible for whatever we achieve today, and I would like to know what provision there is for the additional hospitals.

Mr. Chairman, I visited the St. Lucy's District Hospital about two years ago carrying a bit of cheer with the present Minister of Agriculture, it was in its infancy then because transfers had just taken place, and I made a quick observation. I have not been there since and I would like to know if there has been any upgrading because at that time it was just a matter of moving persons from one infirmary and bringing all the inmates together. Sir, I would like to draw to the Minister's attention that it would be better for hon. members if these Hospitals had been combined under one Head, or have them under separate Heads such as 37(1), 37(2) and so on, and name the particular District Hospital. You will observe that there is $125,000 for medical supplies alone for the St. Michael's District Hospital which I dare say may be the largest, but then you have the other District Hospitals combined for the same amount of $125,000. How do you arrive at this? Are we to say that the St. Michael's District Hospital has 100 citizens, and the other four together have the same amount? This to my mind is only a guess vote, or to use a parliamentary term "a token vote". My colleague has drawn to my attention that there is a reduction on the part of the staff, and I would like to hear from the Minister what is responsible for this. If you have less, how then can you have $125,000 for medical supplies for one hospital, then you reduce the staff at another hospital and have the same figure? I would say that a reduction in the staff means a reduction in the number of persons in the hospital.

I would like to draw to the Minister's attention that the Christ Church District Hospital needs a face lift both inside and outside, and also a lift in the hearts of the patients. The Minister said what he is prepared to do for the St. Michael's District Hospital, and I would like to hear what he has to say about the other hospital and in particular the one in Christ Church which I know is an old building, and whose condition is the same as at the St. Michael's District Hospital. The people look as though there is no ray of hope for them; *(Asides)* What is not so? That there is the same look of despair on their faces as at the St. Michael's District Hospital? Do you mean they are better fed? I have been into both hospitals, Mr. Chairman, and my observation of a man's external appearance is not necessarily that of my colleagues. A man may appear healthy and strong to you, but when I see him he might be in low spirits. So do not say that because you visited them on one occasion that they look better there than at the St. Michael's District Hospital. I am saying that the conditions at that hospital are not much better than at the St. Michael's District Hospital, and I would like to hear the Minister on this.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I will answer the questions of the hon. member for St. James first. As he said, two people can look at the same object and have different opinions about it. I have been through the other four District Hospitals, and if the St. Michael's District Hospital was anything of the standard of the other hospitals, I would feel happy, because the tendency is to upgrade the hospitals, and the four other hospitals are far above the standard existing at the St. Michael's District Hospital. For instance, if you go to the Christ Church Hospital you will see female patients doing work, making doilies, small table cloths and other things. As a matter of fact I asked whether there was nothing for the men to do, and I promised to see if I could collect some old rope and give them and show them how to knit mats, because I felt happy to see how the women were employed. This is one of the things to bring back a ray of hope to them, and there is absolutely no comparison in my opinion with the St. Michael's District Hospital. I have visited the hospital officially and unofficially more than four times since I was Minister. Again one must think of the climatic conditions. They are right on the sea and they can get a breath of fresh air there as compared with the close quarters of the St. Michael's District Hospital. St. Thomas' Hospital as I mentioned to the hon. member yesterday is one of the best I have seen with respect to the condition of the patients and the association between them; they were more grouped together playing games, and there was a more friendly atmosphere than the depressed situation at present existing at the St. Michael's District Hospital. That is why I can afford to tell the hon. member that there is a far higher standard there, and that is one of the reasons why I am so interested in working on the St. Michael's District Hospital.

3.00 p.m.

We have started already, because one of the things we have done is to move out the children, so that the rooms where the children once occupied can be used as one of the wards and do repairs ward by ward. It is unfortunate that we have to do it this way, because it would take a much longer time than if it was an empty building where we could carry out mass repairs, but we have to do it bit by bit under the present conditions that exist. We have moved some of the children to Sterling and I think at present there are about six children there.

The hon. member for St. Peter spoke about overseas nurses, but I would like to tell him that I have had several complaints from lots of these nurses who come from overseas, because a lot of them feel that as soon as they return to Barbados we should automatically disregard our qualified nurses, and this is something we have got to watch. Because a lot of them have overseas experience they think they have come to tell rather than to be told, and this is one of the unfortunate things that you get in these institutions. They want jobs as Matrons and not nurses, they feel that they have superiority over the local nurses, and we have to tell them that they are still Barbadians who have been here all along and have qualified as well, so there can be no priority in getting rid of who was here all along just to give them jobs. As fast as we extend and require more nurses and they are available, then consideration will be given to them but we will not send home those who were here before and have qualified just to give them jobs.

The hon. member for St. Peter also spoke about rodents, and I would like to state this. I have been in these institutions and I have seen old people putting down things until later, but to each bed there should be a small locker, and we are looking into this, so that they can have somewhere where they can put their own belongings. On the beds you can also see a combination of all sorts of things that visitors give them, but they should have a locker to keep these things so that the place can be kept in a tidy and sanitary manner and keep down the number of rodents.

With reference to shoes and uniforms for the nurses, I will make an investigation into this. I have not heard anything about it or received any complaints, I do not know if anything has been forwarded to the Ministry, but I have not seen anything and I will investigate this. Under this same Item, Item 14 – Clothing and Uniforms, two

practices exist in providing uniforms. In one case a sum of money is provided and paid to the nurses who are responsible for buying the uniforms in accordance with the approved designs, so there can be no delay with nurses who adopt this practice. In the other case uniforms may still be provided by tender and this often results in delay due to the inability of contractors to satisfy the demand on time. Supply by tender was the former means of providing the uniforms, but this system is being replaced by providing the actual funds, so it seems, Mr. Chairman, that the entire method of providing the nurses with the necessary funds and the design of the uniforms will be the custom adopted rather than the two-way system that at present exists.

The hon. member for St. James asked why the St. Michael's District Hospital is considered by itself and the four others separately. St. Michael's has a very large amount of patients as compared with the others, and then it is also the intention of the Ministry gradually to use St. Michael's for medical cases rather than welfare cases, while the other four Hospitals will be regarded as hospitals for welfare cases as distinct from St. Michael's District Hospital which will be a hospital in its true sense and all the sick patients will be stationed at the St. Michael's District Hospital.

Mr. CRAIG: That answer does not satisfy me, because if you are going to use the St. Michael's District Hospital for other purposes than a welfare home, what is your actual position now before this money is voted? I take it that you will have to be doing it from the financial year 1972-73; have you started on this premise yet? This is why I am not satisfied.

I also asked the Minister a question which to my mind is a very important one, but somehow it fell on deaf ears or perhaps he did not make the note. What is the position with the diet at these hospitals? Have you a qualified person at these hospitals providing the citizens with a proper balanced diet? I am not talking about a Chief Cook, I am talking about having proper food, because I think this Committee knows my views on the prisoners in this country, and if you can provide a prisoner who would not allow you to sleep at night with two eggs and ham for breakfast, all the more you should provide good food for those people who made a contribution to society and are now in the evening of their years. They should not be pushed around, but this is what is happening, they are forgotten people.
3.10 p.m.

I hope that the Minister will give me an answer, because I will hate to rise again. The Minister must tell me if there is a properly prepared diet by a qualified Dietitian or an intermediate Dietitian, and I will be satisfied with that. Do not tell me that you have a chief cook taking care of the food. I can go and do that, too. I have been told that the Prime Minister is a very good cook. The Minister of Health has been for many years a sea-faring warrior, and he knows how to cook. Anybody can put on a pot and cook some food. I should like to know who prepares the diet for these people.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Will the Minister explain to the Commitee what type of individual the St. Michael's District Hospital will be catering to as against the other four District Hospitals? I wonder if the Minister knows that there is a waiting list of over four hundred sick patients seeking admission to the St. Michael's District Hospital and they cannot be admitted. If this is the case in respect of the St. Michael's District Hospital, Has the Minister a list indicating the position of the four other District Hospitals that are going to cater to the other cases? Mr. Chairman, I am sticking my neck out that there are over four hundred cases seeking admission to the St. Michael's District Hospital, and I am going to back it by medical evidence.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised to hear the hon. member say that there are over four hundred patients seeking admission. I have no information on this, but if it is so it will be necessary to have another hospital to take care of 400 patients. I will give you the number of patients presently in the Hospitals:

St. Michael's District Hospital			465	patients
St. Philip	"	"	125	"
Christ Church	"	"	96	"
St. Thomas	"	"	57	"
St. Lucy	"	"	71	"

If what the hon. member says is true and there are really 400 patients in St. Michael seeking to enter the St. Michael's District Hospital, it would be necessary for us to have another District Hospital as large as the largest we now have. The present compliment of the St. Michael's District Hospital is 465. I am not sure, but I do not think there is any Dietitian at these District Hospitals.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Will the Minister tell us who is responsible for the preparation of the diet? I am concerned with who is responsible for the preparation of the diet for these unfortunate people. Do not let us get in here and play that we are overlooking them. It was either fortunate or unfortunate that one of our colleagues died in one of these institutions after serving the country so well. That can happen to any one of us in here; therefore, I feel that we should make an effort to protect the elder citizens of this country. That is why I have always stated that this argument about doing things for the youth is overstated in this country and elsewhere. Everybody is talking about what the youth should get, and nobody is doing anything for those people who prepare the ground for the youth to walk on and so on. Now you are telling me that their is no Dietitian and you believe that a Matron or a Chef is preparing the meals *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is interrupting me repeatedly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Allow me to deal with him, and I am going to deal with him.

Mr. CRAIG: There is an invalid out there talking nonsense all the time. This is where a member by accident and not by design can come and sit in here and feel that he is God Almighty and forget those by the wayside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no member in here by accident.

Mr. CRAIG: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I apologise and I will rephrase that sentence. It is not a member who came in here by accident, but a member who is existing by accident. His financial existence is by accident. I should like to hear what the Minister has to say on the matter I have raised. The Minister said that at the St. Michael's District Hospital you have proper plates and crockery and everything is first class. Who is to make sure that the people are given a proper diet? That is, why when the Minister goes to these Institutions, he must say that it is pathetic to look at the people.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the Nutrition Officers from the Ministry go to the District Hospitals and prepare diet sheets and menus. I can say that there has been a great improvement, because prior to a few months ago Nurses were fed separately and distinctly from the patients. The preparation of food has been upgraded today to such an extent that all of the kitchens in these District Hospitals have been furnished with new equipment, new stoves, etc., and the Nurses now partake of the diet that is cooked for the patients. The staff, the Nurses and the patients have the same type of diet, unless a special diet has to be prepared for a sick patient. All of this is done by the Nutrition Officers. It is proposed to appoint a Dietitian at the St. Michael's District Hospital, and we will have to get a Barbadian trained for the job.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it will take about three or four years to become a qualified Dietitian. In the meantime, do not let us wait until 1975 to appoint one. Let us try and recruit one now while you are about to have a Barbadian trained. *(Interruption)* Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to your attention that I am hearing an interruption from the Gallery.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

Mr. CRAIG: Let us recruit one from overseas while we are having a Barbadian trianed. I believe that the British High Commissioner may be in a position to recruit one on a contract, so that we will have a Dietitian here before 1975 or 1976.

Mr. HINDS: On this question of the preparation of the diet and these Nutrition Officers preparing these diet sheets,I wonder how qualified are these Nutrition Officers.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: As the Minister pointed out, the work is done by Government Nutrition Officers. You know of Miss Bourne and Miss Jackman, and these are the people who are qualified to advise these Hospitals on menus and diets.

3.20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Members must argue one against the other.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are here debating, not arguing, because arguments lead to fights and we do not have fights in here. Carry on and keep the debate at its highest level.

Mr. HINDS: You have verbal battles, and you have fisty cuffs and so on. Now the Hon. Minister for Agriculture took the opportunity to give us the names of two Government Officers whom he said are qualified officers. He mentioned the name of Miss Jackman. I want to ask the Minister where did Miss Jackman get her qualifications. My reason for asking is to see whether she is not perpetrating a fraud on the Government, because I am going to introduce evidence as we go on to discuss another Head to show that the same Miss Jackman is flying false colours, taking the menus drawn up by other people and running here and there trying to make people believe they are her own. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It is all right if they are good.) I understand the Minister to say if they are good she is quite in order. What worries me is that we have in the same Government Service people who are qualified to prepare menus for the experts, and they get no recognition whatsoever by Government for their ability to prepare these menus and doing a lot of more work than any of these nutrition experts can ever attempt to do for the same Government. I will go into detail on that when the time presents itself.

I was very glad when the hon. member for St. James raised this point, because here we have 465 patients in St. Michael, 125 at St. Philip and the like, and all we are hearing is that the nutrition officers of Government are going around and giving people diet sheets. Are they sure that the people understand what is on the diet sheet and can follow as meticulously as dieting really requires? It is all right for anybody who has been trained to prepare a diet sheet and hand it out, but a diet sheet requires that you put certain things into effect, certain measurements are required to be brought into play, and I feel that the Government is trying in one respect to upgrade the standard of these institutions, but in the areas where it could be reflected most visibly what Government is doing, you will find that Government is letting itself down, and a re-examination of the whole scheme of things is very urgently needed. A lot can be said of what has gone wrong during the past months. I know what is going on, but I believe I have said enough at least let the Minister begin to know how we feel about certain matters, and hope that the necessary corrective measures can be taken.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on this subject because anybody hearing hon. members on the other side speak on this matter today would think that Barbados only began yesterday. Anybody hearing the hon. members speak would wonder whether they or their party had anything to do with the administration of governmental affairs in this country, or whether they have just appeared on the scene and positive action is not being taken by this Government to improve the standard of living from the poor standards maintained for 300 odd years in these institutions. I want to be specific. Let us take the St. Michael's District Hospital. We had a situation there where children were put to sleep in the same room with people who had various types of diseases, – people who were subject to the worst type of conditions. We have taken over the administration of these institutions. Rome was not built in a day. We have been trying to improve the conditions in these institutions, and I do not think one would expect us to do more than we have been doing. But what is amusing is that in the face of the attempts made by the Government to improve the living conditions of the people in these institutions, rather than come in here today and laud the Government for the action which they have taken to improve the living conditions of the poor people, hon. members want to run down the efforts of the Government.

Let us take for example the question of a dietitian. You only heard about a dietitian since the Democratic Labour Party took over these institutions four years ago. Where were the dietitians before when the others were running the institutions? Who came in here and asked for dietitians? We saw the need for dietitians. I have already pointed out that over and above the fact that we have our nutrition officers going around inspecting the kitchen and advising on menus and diet sheets, we have voluntary organisations and even international organisations assisting us in the administration of the affairs of these institutions; for example, before our time no cooks in these institutions ever had a minute of training, but today you have PAHO giving some sort of training to the cooks and other people employed in the institutions. If the hon. member had done his homework as he usually does, he would know that PAHO has assisted in training cooks and placing them in a position where they can understand and appreciate the advice given them by the nutrition officers of Government. The hon. member usually has all his information and this is one time he did not have it, but if he had had all the information, his approach to the matter which we are now discussing would have been different.

The position is that since the re-organisation of Local Government, since we have taken the children from the institutions, since we have tried to separate the sick from the well, things have

improved. As the Minister quite rightly said, it is proposed to use the St. Michael's District Hospital for geriatric patients and for paediatric cases, while those who are only destitute will go into Homes. We have just established a Home at the Pine, and the Minister of Housing looked at me yesterday and told me that these people live in luxury there. 3.30 p.m.

This is the first step to bring those people who have laboured and toiled over the years out of the institutional atmosphere and place them in positions where they can live the evening of their days in comfort. We feel this is what they should have, but it takes time.

We do not say we do not need a Dietitian at the St. Michael's District Hospital, we have already said that we are on our way to appointing a Dietitian, but in the absence of a qualified Dietitian there we said the Government Nutrition Officers are instructed by the Ministry to go and visit these hospitals and advise on menus, not to visit this morning and a year from today go back and visit again, make regular visits, and the Minister has pointed out this. I think that rather than criticising the Ministry on this action the hon. member should say he is pleased to hear that this is happening and that he hopes we will get a Dietitian appointed as soon as possible. If we send out of the country and bring in a Guyanese Dietitian we are going to hear that Guyanese Dietitian run down in this Chamber, but it takes time to train people and the hon. member knows what I am talking is true because some of the same people who say we would need Dietitians contend that we must have Barbadians. I agree we must have Barbadian Dietitians, but let us have properly qualified Dietitians and let us be patient, let us deal with the matters as they come, let us accept that the Ministry is doing its best to improve the conditions of these people, and let us not criticise the action, let us ask to speed up action. You can see what the Ministry is doing, let us speed up action, we are all concerned about the welfare of these people. It is not that the Opposition is concerned more than everybody else, we are all concerned, and when we look at it seriously we can see that every attempt is made to improve the lot of these people, so we would hope, as you hope, that we will soon find somebody even coming back to us to take care of not only St. Michael's District Hospital but at all the hospitals, but in the absence of this we have our experts, people who advise us on the School Meals Programme and on other aspects of nutrition in the country, we encourage the PAHO people who are concerned about nutrition generally to come and carry out courses, hold seminars and that kind of thing.

These are the things that are happening which you do not know about. I do not mean you, Mr. Chairman, I mean the members on the other side, and rather than doing a little more research and finding out what is going on they will come and raise these issues and give the impression that nothing is being done. The whole point is that we are thinking ahead of them, the things that they are asking about are things that we have already discussed and are doing.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I think that when the Minister said that you will have these Nutrition Officers advise the District Hospitals, all we on this side are trying to make sure is that the old people do not get minced rat.

The question that the sum of $681,886 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (6) District Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (7) DISTRICT MEDICAL SERVICES

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (7) District Medical Services – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $164,808 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (7) District Medical Services – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, here again we come to the point of these Nutrition Officers because at Item 2 we are asked to vote $56,640 to provide for staff pending establishment as follows:-

1 Nutrition Officer, 1 Assistant Nutrition Officer,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking on the right Item?

Mr. HINDS: I have turned to Head 37(8), Sir, I am sorry. At Item 13 of Head 37(7) we are asked to vote $1,500 for supplies for clinics and dressing stations not attached to District Hospitals. We believe that the Minister would give us some little idea as to how this is worked and if it is functioning satisfactorily.

At Item 8 we are glad to see that the payment of fees of $5.00 per day visit and $10.00 per night visit will be made, but the only trouble is that our

experience is that when a doctor is summoned to attend some of these people the waiting period is so lengthy before the doctors can really get to them. We know that in most cases doctors attend these clinics after they have completed their practices in their offices, but in the case of some of these doctors this in itself goes on to a very considerable time of the day and there have been cases where doctors have been asked to attend sick persons today and never turn up until the following day. We would like to see this situation remedied if there is any means of having it remedied. In our Medical Health Service we cannot yet provide a 24-hour service, but if there is any means of regulating this I am sure it will be beneficial to us all.

The question that the sum of $164,808 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (7) District Medical Services – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (8) NATIONAL NUTRITION CENTRE

Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (8) National Nutrition Centre – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $73,090 under Head 37 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (8) National Nutrition Centre – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 38 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – was called.

3.40 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,292,025 under Head 38 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 14 there is an amount of $4,800 to be paid to a member of the Medical Staff to advise the Hospital Director on Medical matters. There is no doubt that at this Institution there must be staff meetings, whether they are held at monthly periods or more often. The position is that in the past much service was rendered by people having the welfare of the nation at heart and an altruistic spirit, and we are now licensing and providing payment therefor.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have overlooked an amendment at page 119, Head 38. The amendment is as follows:

Page 119 – Item 18 – Apprentice Engineer

Delete the word "Engineer".

I beg to move that Head 38 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that much of what we are now asked to pay for could certainly be obtained from the regular staff conferences, or at the regular meetings which the Director must have from time to time with the staff of the Institution. I do not expect, Mr. Chairman, that merely mentioning this will make Government try to alter the situation, but I feel it is my duty to bring to the attention of the Government the way we feel on a matter of this sort.

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to Student Nurse at Item 42. There is some dissatisfaction about the conditions under which these people are working. There is dissatisfaction arising from the Student Nurses having to perform duties which really ought to be performed by permanent staff at the Institution, and we find that in many cases it is not a case where these Nurses are put.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, we would like to find out the Item under which the hon. member is speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Items 39 – 42.

Mr. HINDS: Item 42 – Student Nurse. These Student Nurses have to learn, and we must appreciate this. It is not for them to dictate the pace of the Training Programme, but there are cases where these Student Nurses are put in the wards and left in charge of the wards. In other words, they are given duties in these wards which could better be performed by people in a much senior position. That is not, in our view, in the interest of the patients that this should be done. I trust that the matter will be looked into with a view to making it a little more palatable where these Trainees are concerned.

Mr. Chairman, let us go to Item 54. There is a very serious situation obtaining at the Hospital at the present moment. It involves the question of missing records. I believe I am right in saying that one case, at least, has been drawn to the attention of the Director where persons have been patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for varying periods and when a request was made at the Hospital for the records of these persons there was no such record to be found! How dangerous such a situation really is can hardly be described in words. I happen to know of a case where a husband and wife have been engaged in a court suit, and the point was reached where the absence of the Hospital records as to the period during which the wife was in Hospital and other relevant data being absent the dispensing of justice has been interfered with in some respects.

3.50 p.m.

This is not an easy matter. There are numerous complaints coming out of the hospital where people go into the Casualty Department and their cards cannot be found, or the officer is not willing to find these cards as his or her duty requires. There are complaints again that others who develop a close association with the officer in the Records Office are more quickly accommodated. This, Mr. Chairman, is a situation which ought to be put right, as this type of complaint can do the institution no good whatsoever. It is a case of first come first serve except where there is an emergency that might necessitate having to leave those who were waiting and provide the record of the person who has just come because of the person's condition. Mr. Chairman, everything must be done to ensure that the records of this institution are kept in such a manner that they can be found at all times, because when the records cannot be traced when required, even when they are found at a later stage, some doubt will be cast upon them unless you can have it verified by the doctor or officer who actually wrote it. These are things that must cause people to shudder, because if the records at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are no longer considered safe, then I think the institution is beginning to tumble.

Now let us look, Mr. Chairman, at Item 60 which makes provision for one non-established post of Dietitian. I believe I have been at pains year after year since I was a member of this House to point out to Government the benefits to be derived from having a smooth and harmonious relationship existing in these various services that are rendered in an institution such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It may be said that I am not competent to judge a person's qualifications for a post. When a person produces a number of certificates, we accept it that he is qualified to perform certain functions, but that is not all. You will find as has happened at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital over the years that an officer who possesses certificates has found it extremely difficult to work with people who have given their services to that institution in the particular department for fourteen, seventeen or nine or ten years, and I do not mean merely warming a chair, but they put their heart and soul into everything they were doing for the benefit of the institution, but you will find that this officer came on the scene, and the Government has all the evidence that the reason why this officer with all these certificates has to try to hold on to Barbados is because she has a record of not being able to get on with people even in the land in which she was born. Mr. Chairman, if that is the case, it is reasonable. You have here Barbadians who have been abroad and studied and come back here qualified and are performing services superior to those of this officer with all these certificates. I speak of a qualified dietitian who is performing these services, but it is because the senior officer just finds it difficult to get on with people under her that you are getting this problem. Here is a Barbadian who goes abroad and studies to become a dietitian; she qualifies and comes back home and takes up a post at the Queeen Elizabeth Hospital, but there is a senior dietitian attached to the Hospital, and the Barbadian who is willing to do all, every time she has an occasion to go to the office of the senior officer, the senior officer and her secretary burst out in a big amount of laughter and try to make the officer feel uncomfortable. In the first place, the secretary to the dietitian needs being transferred, and I am asking that this be looked into immediately.

4.00 p.m.

What we are saying is this, Mr. Chairman, on another occasion this Dietitian, a Barbadian, who goes out, qualifies and comes back is in this institution and is going to one day find posted on her desk a notice to the effect that she should not eat in the institution any longer because she is going to be poisoned. If you were a patient in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and it reaches your ears that the Dietitian has been warned by a notice posted on her desk that she must not eat food in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, would it help to make you better? It would upset you, Mr. Chairman, and that is the type of thing that has been going on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and we would like to see it stamped out. Nobody is bringing these things here because he is glorying in them, we want to know that this institution is functioning without any of these things we have to mention from time to time. What is wrong, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, we quite appreciate the hon. member's concern with respect to this alleged notice on the

desk of the Dietitian, and as the hon. member quite rightly said, it would not do the patients in the hospital any good, but I think it could do the patients in the hospital more harm when it is said in here. I think this is a matter which the hon. member should have drawn to the attention of the Minister so that it can be investigated.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Minister is serious. Could the Minister believe that a Dietitian is going to find such a notice posted on her desk and it is not going to run through every ward in the institution? This is not irregular. What is going to happen in the institution that is not going to reach every ward? What does the Minister expect? Mr. Minister, let them do what they like.

The question that the sum of $5,292,025 under Head 38 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS,

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD's name was called.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member for St. Michael South was not in here.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member cannot get up and speak during a Division.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When I looked above I saw the hon. member for the City and the hon. member for St. Michael South sitting there. *(Asides)* Are you going to argue that I did not see both of them sitting there?

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, with the greatest respect, I have to rise on a point of order since the Speaker has ruled that you cannot sit down and speak covered to a point of order, so I must rise, and I will ask the hon. member for St. Michael South if he was in the House when Your Honour put the question, because Your Honour was looking at us and I saw him with these two eyes after the AYES had voted and after I had said NO, before God I saw him come through that door. Ask the hon. member for St. Michael South if he was present and let him say that he was present when the vote was put. I saw him come after I had already voted.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can only say what I saw. When I put the question I looked above and I saw the hon. member for the City and the hon. member for St. Michael South sitting there.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, this is an occasion where I think the hon. member for St. Michael South could assist the Chair and the Committee as well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The fact remains that I am not arguing one way or the other, I was sitting in this position when the hon. member sat and I heard no other voices and I decided to put the question. When I looked above I saw the hon. member sitting.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I have always seen in this House the Presiding Officer ask the Clerk "was Mr. So-and-So in his seat"; I saw Your Honour leaning back in that position from which you cannot, with great respect, see the chair in which the hon. member is sitting. I am not telling any lies on anybody, the hon. member for St. Michael South would be the last – I hope he would be the last – to say he was in the House when the question was put. After I had voted he came through the door.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clerk has instructed me that when he looked he saw him sitting, therefore there will be no further argument. *(Asides)* When I rule I rule, get that straight. I have asked the question, I have received an answer and it stands at that; there will be no further debate on it.

AYE: Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD,

Mr. ADAMS: Dishonest vagabond!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are disrespecting the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not disrespecting the Chair, but that is an act of dishonesty and I am prepared to leave the House for that. I am not leaving the House in any way as a protest against the Chair or the Clerk, I am leaving the House because an hon. member has acted dishonourably, and I will say it outside on a platform so that he can sue me for slander if he has the nerve. The whole Gallery of people saw him come in the House after the vote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will leave the Chamber forthwith for your dishonourable conduct.

Mr. ADAMS: I am leaving voluntarily, let that be made clear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member to withdraw from the Chamber. I am well aware that he is leaving according to my instructions.

The Leader of the Opposition withdrew from the Chamber.

AYES: Messrs. F. L. WALCOTT; A. MORRISON.

At this stage all the members of the Opposition walked out of the Chamber.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. You will note that hon. members have walked out and are standing in the corridor. I will draw to your attention that the Standing Orders do not permit hon. members to stand in the corridor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 29(5). Five members have voted "Aye" and no other hon. members are present within the Chamber; so I declare that the "Ayes" have it.

HEAD 39 – MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head 39 – Mental Hospital – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,083,765 under Head 39 – Mental Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask one question as regards the Mental Hospital. I should like to know how far has the Government gone on the question of providing an integrated Mental Service. Some time ago it was suggested that at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital wards should be provided for psychiatric treatment.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, as we have been having answers all morning from the Government side, I hope the Minister will give my colleague the answer to his question. *(Asides)* Why cannot you behave?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to warn you again. I am going to use the Standing orders. I want to have a high standard of debate in here. I am prepared to maintain order so long as I am in this Chair. I want all hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 29(6).

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to know on what Item the hon. member is speaking.

Mr. CRAIG: My colleague referred to Item 19 where he was speaking of Student Nurses. If the Minister is prepared to give us some information on this, we could go along in the same manner in which we were going all morning, in spite of the unfortunate incident.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my opinion there was no unfortunate incident.

Mr. CRAIG: Are we getting a reply?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 51 – Medical Supplies – we are asked to vote $195,000. Our first concern is that for some reason or other many of the patients who are discharged from this Institution and are given medicine to take home do not take the medicine after they leave the Institution. As is known, Sir, these patients develop mistrust for everybody around them. They fear everybody and everything, and when they return to their homes and families the medicine is put aside and it takes some very good coaching from somebody who can exercise some sort of influence over the sick person to get that person to take a dose of medicine as prescribed by the Doctor at the Institution. It means, therefore, that if the money we are voting under this Head is not to be wasted – It is known that after the medicine leaves the Institution, although the suggestion has been made to patients from time to time that they should bring back the empty containers and any medicine they do not use should be returned to the Institution, I still feel that the incidence of waste must be very high in these circumstances.
4.20 p.m.

It means therefore that we require a very large number of officers trained in carrying out follow-up work, and it would be of interest to know how successfully; that is, how many of the cases that are followed up have been found to be responding in any appreciable manner to the instructions that the officers give from time to time, because we know that an officer who has got to deal with this type of individual has got to have very special training and must possess a liking for this type of work. He must have an aptitude for getting around to this type of individual and have him do not as he feels he should do, but have him interpret in his own way what the trained officer would have him do, because it is for his betterment in the long run. After all, we appreciate that nursing the mentally ill is no easy task. We appreciate that the families of these people are in many cases afraid to have them back home, and when they return from the institution they are allowed to rule the roost. It is necessary I know for these after-care officers to lecture in some cases to the members of the patient's household more than to the patient, because it is the conduct of these people that can either prolong the period of illness

of the patient or lend itself towards the illness continuing in its normal way. In any case, Mr. Chairman, I think that if something can be done to increase the numbers that are presently engaged in this type of work we may find that many of the incidents in which the people become involved after they are discharged from the institution could be avoided.

We know that there are some cases where some of these patients after they have been discharged for long periods have been known to commit some very serious offences; some have committed murder and some wounding, but we hope that enough officers and enough money will be found to cope with the situation, because as I understand it, by the type of treatment given when they go to the institution, the patients do not remain in the institution for as long a period in most cases as they used to in former years. We are glad to learn this, but we want to be sure and want society to feel as happy and comfortable as could be expected that these people have regained a measure of normalcy, and that their activities are subject to a fair measure of control, and chiefly by their closest friends. You must remember that however bad the cases of these mentally ill patients are, there is still someone whether from the district in which they live or somebody in the institution from whom that patient would take advice and act upon any suggestion that that particular favourite may tender from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, the task of these After-care officers is a tremendous one in that sense because it can mean going into the districts in which these people go back to live and even going beyond the household; it means seeking up all their past associates and having discussions with those people to find out who can best be of assistance to this sick person in these days of recovery. It is not an easy task and we hope that the field will be broadened to such an extent that a fair percentage of the cases that are discharged from the institution receives this type of treatment. We realise, Mr. Chairman, that it would be impossible to be able to follow-up each and every case, and there will be times in the course of this officer's functions to leave many of these people unattended for periods of from one month to six weeks or longer at times so as to be able to give some little consideration to some other case, but in any event, we are hoping to know that as many as possible are receiving this kind of attention that is very much needed if these people are to begin to take their place in society at any later stage.

Now Mr. Chairman, if we turn to Item 56, I believe that this item is one that needs publicising. We need to see more demonstrations of the work that is undertaken by these patients in this institution. I believe that there are many people in our midst who would willingly give of their time, energy and materials to help these patients in their occupational therapy.

4.30 p.m.

I know that there are some teachers whose services could be made available to the institution, and these are teachers who possess an abundance of skill, people who can use their hands and turn items out to the pleasure of each and every one. You will be surprised to see that some people can take scrap as we would call it and make toys and other objects, and we would find the Mental Hospital patients showing a love for this type of occupation. It is something to be encouraged, but here again we have got to try and bring as many people into the fold, get as many people as are available to come and assist, and as I say, Sir, we know that some people will have to be paid for their services because you must have a permanent staff of instructors for this type of work, and then any voluntary or monetary assistance which might be given to the institution can all be used to help further the work. We would like to know that everything that is humanly possible is done to assist these poor unfortunate people.

I believe that one of the problems still confronting these people is that the public outside has got to see and accept that mental illness is just another form of illness, and if we can begin treating our patients in this way we feel that our efforts at rehabilitating them will be rewarded. Then, if we found that while a patient was in the institution he took a delight in manufacturing stuffed dolls or ponies, rabbits, whatever was his favourite engagement, whatever he adored whilst in there, if efforts could be made to have him continue in this particular field on his discharge I think we will be beginning to get somewhere with this.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is one institution where the clothing and uniform problem needs looking into, and if possible an entirely new system of issuing has got to be brought into being. We do not for a single moment subscribe to having nurses attached to this institution, some being supplied with uniforms and others having to walk three or four times and are made to feel as if they are begging for what is rightfully theirs. After all, it is known that this cannot be expected to make for the good working of the institution. We know that at this institution there have been conditions affecting members of staff quite recently occasioning stoppages of work. It is all right for us

to hear that there was a strike at the Mental Hospital, but what we have got to realise is this, what effect is this having on the sick patients? That must be our main concern. We are not trying to ignore what conditions might have brought about the unsettled state of affairs, whether it is between the senior nursing officer and the other members of staff or whoever is involved, what we must keep before our minds' eye is the fact that when patients at an institution such as this find that all members of staff except one leave the ward and you next see 20, 30 or 40 people assembling somewhere as if you are going to hold a political meeting or some sort in the institution, Mr. Chairman, you and I who are normal people will become curious, and these people with an already upset frame of mind have every reason to become increasingly so, and this we would like to know is being thrashed out at every level so that we will have the institution functioning to the better and to the advantage of the sick people who go there from time to time.

There are many avenues for improvement in the administration of the hospital, but here again unless there is cooperation amongst the administrative staff, unless the various Heads of Department, the senior officers, can cooperate, and unless there is provided in the institution a liaison between the top and the lower ranks of the Service, nothing but chaos can come about, because this is a day when people are just prone to misinterpreting every action.

You will find, as at Item 46, we hear complaints or allegations about feeding.
4.40 p.m.

From what I can gather, Mr. Chairman, I feel that I am right in saying that to suggest that the Mental Hospital is not now being better cared for from a dietary point of view than in the past, and this includes the staff and patients, would be a very unkind remark. There are patients in that Institution who come from the parish of St. Peter and from some of the other northern parishes. I am in contact from time to time with the relatives who visit these patients, and I have heard many of them remark how clean the skin is of some of these patients and that all of the scurf that was once there is now absent.

Mr. Chairman, I have been curious in hearing these things, and I have carried out investigations. I have learnt that there is a new and scientific approach to the preparation of the diet which these people now enjoy. I understand at one time there was some misunderstanding and some members of the staff expressed their dislike for the quantity that was offered in some cases. But, Mr. Chairman, upon investigation, and members always say that I get my facts and more information than anybody else. I can get information if I seek it. I try to find out things for myself, and what had been obtaining in years past at the Mental Hospital is that there were a lot of people working at the Institution who used to subsidise their income by the rearing of pigs. It meant that what the patients should have been eating was presented to them in such a poor state that they could not enjoy it to the extent that they can today. As a result, the unused portion from each meal in those days was more than the portion consumed.

From what I can gather, I understand that someone who had contracted for receiving the swill and so on from this Institution was annoyed because there was nothing to receive. The patients, I understand, are now enjoying a well-balanced, well-prepared, well-taken-care-of diet, and that is what we want to know is obtaining at all of these institutions. We want to see this done especially at the stage where people cannot help themselves. We should like to know that the services of the people who are placed at the Mental Hospital are made available to the other Institutions, and perhaps a greater measure of appreciation shown for the type of work that is being rendered by any individual who is so placed.

Mr. Chairman, at Item 50 provision is made for better kitchen equipment than what was found there some time ago. As you would appreciate, Mr. Chairman, no matter how skilled or what expertise a person might carry to a job, unless certain basic equipment is available the end product cannot be what one would like it to be. We are glad to see that, after years of waiting, the Mental Hospital kitchen will be better equipped for catering to the large number of patients than this Institution is providing for. You will be surprised to know, Mr. Chairman, that this Institution has on some days a greater population than the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

With regard to Item 54 – Maintenance of Vehicles – it is time that better control be exercised over the use of the vehicles attached to this Institution.
4.50 p.m.

We are not satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that every time one sees a vehicle belonging to this institution on the road that it is being used for the institution's business. You may find, Sir, that instructions are issued that each time a vehicle is going through the gate a report should be made to the gate-keeper. I do not want to question the accuracy of these reports. A report has to be given, and if the gate-keeper is told that a van is leaving

this institution to go to another institution, it is no concern of his to follow the vehicle to see that he was given accurate information. In any case we would like to know that the vehicles attached to the institution are used specifically for the duties of the institution.

At Item 60 – provision for upkeep of buildings – $75,000, here is a place where it is absolutely necessary to let these people see brightness and cleanliness. We would like to see that on this matter we no longer find a situation where an inmate is given the keys to a building in which is kept implements like cutlasses and the like. There has been a case where at this institution an inmate was entrusted with keys to a building for a very long time and he defied a member of staff asking for the delivery of them. As a matter of fact, I can state that things reached a point one day when the inmate saw that pressure would have been brought upon him to deliver these keys to a member of staff, and that inmate went to the telephone in the institution and telephoned the member of staff who was then off duty and reported the conduct of the staff member who was demanding the keys from him. One has got to understand that we cannot rough it up with these people, but certainly that is going too far, and when a patient can get on a telephone and report what has taken place, then I think everybody will agree that the limit has been reached and we must take steps so that we will feel secure that there has not been a complete break-down in administration in this institution.

I believe at Item 61 – Medical Library – that a mere $900 is being sought. We feel that with more and more students acquiring a greater appreciation of the value of reading and becoming aware of the necessity to improve themselves that some better consideration could be given for the purchase of reference text books and such text books as the training school would require from time to time. Now there are some students who start off their training at the Mental Hospital and engage for some time in the psychiatric aspect of the work, but after being there for some time they develop the idea of a transfer to medical nursing, and I wonder what happens in such cases where a person has been doing psychiatric or mental nursing at the Hospital Training School and later wants to branch off. We would like to know that no obstacles are placed in the way of anyone who is so inclined.

There is at Item 44 an amount to pay the wages of two carpenters and two watchmen. I would like to have an idea, Mr. Chairman, of what the two carpenters are kept doing beside what we know.

5.00 p.m.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I have covered enough under this Head, and some other hon. member will wish to make a contribution.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, my speech on this Head will be very short, but I believe that the question I will raise is one of great urgency. Not since 1951 has there been a revision of the legislation governing mental illness in this country, and indeed the legislation which was passed in 1951 is of a very rudimentary type, and certainly one of the problems surrounding mental illness in Barbados is to get people to accept that it is one of the vicissitudes of human life, and it seems that the time has long since past when as a matter of great urgency the Government should take positive steps to reform the laws governing mental patients in this country. Those of us who are concerned with the day-to-day administration of this Act are deeply conscious of the number of loopholes and the many hiatuses which exist in the legislation, and it strikes me that no matter how concerned the Legal Department may be with urgent Government Business, that as an Act of social legislation if not an Act of health legislation that some priority should be given to these people. I think the same attitude which is being shown towards this legislation in the scheme of priority helps to bring to the community the view that mental patients should be ostricised and treated even worse than lepers, and in this respect I believe that the method of administering the Mental Hospital almost although not completely in isolation from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is perpetuating this attitude.

I know that nowadays it is possible at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to have training given in a limited number of health subjects, but I think the time has come when there could be a greater inter-changeability between the staff at the nursing level, and even at a higher medical level in some instances at these institutions. When I was a student at the University of Cambridge I took time off to visit surrounding institutions in that country, and I was always impressed by the fact that this interchangeability existed, and it led to a greater awareness of the problems of mental illness, and certainly helped people in appreciating the difficulties involved and in solving the problems of some of our less unfortunate people and I will counsel - indeed I will request - the Ministry to try and see how far it can integrate these separate services, not merely have them under the umbrella of one Minister, but to make sure that wherever possible the staff appreciate that this is only one other form of illness which deserves medical treatment.

I am not advocating, Mr. Chairman, the lack or necessity for specialist training, I am merely saying that the specialist training should be properly integrated in the overall plan for health services in this country, and I trust that in the next Estimates, probably within this year, a draft Bill will be presented to this House updating the mental health legislation, and that steps will be taken departmentally to see that there is a greater interchangeability of staff.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, some time ago the Leader of the House mentioned that we were training enough nurses for Barbados and that we were even supplying other territories with nurses, but I believe the Minister would be in a better position now to state whether or not there is still a shortage of nurses at the hospital and whether there has been a complaint that when a number of people go overseas on courses, perhaps for two or three years, there is no one to take up an acting appointment and because of this you are putting additional work on the other members of staff.

I would also like to know what type of training is provided for the Orderlies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and I ask that for this reason. I must confess that gone are the days when you would think that an Orderly's job is only to throw people out of the hospital or to stop them from rushing into the hospital at visiting time. I remember as a boy there was a very rough customer as an Orderly, and he saw his functions as Gatekeeper, he was there to see that no one could pass. I think much of this has gone out of existence, and I feel that Orderlies should not only be used for the purpose of taking people from one room to another, but they should also have additional training for the purpose of doing first aid. I want to know if this is done, and if it is not, this is a suggestion I am throwing out to the Government.

If you had to get a hospital ambulance to go to a sick person, while they are travelling the person might begin to feel worse, and if anything should go wrong with them I am wondering if the Orderlies are equipped with a knowledge of first aid so as to assist them in matters of this nature.

The next point which I would like to enquire of the Minister at this stage is if the Minister can tell us if there is any training for the nurses who work in the theatres. The reason why I ask this question, Mr. Chairman, is that I have known of student nurses who work in the theatres - they are qualified nurses, but perhaps you refer to them as Nursing Assistants -

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, we would like to know what Item the hon. member is speaking on so that we can follow, and I hope he is speaking on the Mental Hospital.

Mr. CRAIG: For the Minister's assistance, Item 19.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: I am using Item 19 - Student Nurse - for the Minister's assistance. I am referring to Student Nurses and making reference to orderlies.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to know if the hon. member is referring to theatres at the Mental Hospital, because we are dealing with the Mental Hospital!

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am dealing with Head 39, and out of courtesy I have drawn to the attention of the Minister the number of the Item.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The point that I am trying to establish is that we are dealing with the Mental Hospital. When the hon. member is referring to theatres, I take it that he is referring to operating theatres which are located at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and, as far as we are concerned, we have already passed that Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am well aware of that, but he has not said an operating theatre.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Does he mean the one in Probyn Street?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It does not necessarily mean the one in Probyn Street either.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Nurses at some times have to go to the operating theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and patients from the Mental Hospital at some time have to go to the operating theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. What I am trying to establish is that we would like to have things done in order. Hon. members had their opportunity to speak on the operating theatres at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the Head of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and they sat down there trying to embarrass the Government. The point is that we are now dealing with the Mental Hospital, and I cannot tell you how you must do your job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will see to it that he deals with the Mental Hospital, and not with the Queen

Elizabeth Hospital. I was only waiting until he had developed his speech, so that I could tell him that we are dealing with the Mental Hospital. A theatre does not necessarily mean an operating theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said that we are trying to embarrass the Government. The function of the Opposition is to first oppose, second oppose, and third oppose. I say that I am speaking on Item 19 for your assistance and for the assistance of the Minister; that Student Nurses and patients at some time go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment, and this is what concerns me most.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, put the question for the satisfaction of the Minister, so that we will no longer embarrass the Government.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I was elected to speak in here and nobody can stop me from speaking as long as I am in order. The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that the hon. member is trying to circumvent what they have failed to do on that side a few minutes ago. They have come back here to talk about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but, as far as we are concerned, we are finished with that. Next year you can come back and talk about the operting theatre under the Head of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but, as far as we are aware on this side of the House, the Nurses at the Mental Hospital do not go to the operating theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am putting it to the Minister that Nurses at the Mental Hospital at some time in their lives have gone to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I rule that this question is completed, and I want to hear absolutely nothing more relative to it. You may proceed with any other Head or Item. I am not prepared to hear anything further about the operating theatre. You can speak relative to Student Nurses and leave out the operating theatre. We have dealt with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; that Head has been passed and, therefore, you cannot deal with it again under Head 39.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I accept Your Honour's ruling, and you can rest assured that I am not going to deal with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The point which I was trying to develop is that attendants or orderlies, or Student Nurses - people who are not fully qualified in these places such as the Mental Hospital or even at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital - I am not using my argument on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The point I am making is that where you have an attendant or Student Nurses at the Mental Hospital.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member looks through this Head under Establishment, he will find that there are no orderlies at the Mental Hospital. Let him keep in order when he wants to deal with orderlies.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was coming to the point. I realise that there are absolutely no orderlies or gate-keepers under this Head. I see porters, so the hon. member will confine his remarks to what is mentioned under the Head.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I dislike using terms like porters and maids, and that is why I was trying to use a more sophisticated term. Instead of talking about maids, I would prefer to refer to them as domestic helpers, and what you call a porter I may term an orderly. If Government wants to continue to use this colonial approach to a porter and a handyman, I would prefer to use more sophisticated terms.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get along with Head 39.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, you will have to excuse me. I really would not like to say porter. I know that some people are van drivers at the Mental Hospital, and I would have preferred to call them orderlies or gate-keepers. I assumed that people at the gate of the Mental Hospital were orderlies. I know of Male Nurses, Female Nurses and Student Nurses; so when I see these people in different uniforms, I came to the conclusion that they are not porters, as may be referred to by my more seasoned colleague on the other side of the House, but orderlies. The point that I was developing is that I should like to see these people trained. I should like to find out from the Minister what training do they get. If they had to go out to bring in a out-patient - I refer to someone who was discharged from the Mental Hospital and had to be brought back - Can the Minister tell me whether the van driver would be trained to deal with such a patient? What type of training do you give these poeple? That is all I wanted to find out from the Minister.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, at Item 43, there is a personal allowance for L. C. Daniel which appears to be a new amount brought into the Estimates this year. I should like the Minister to give us some information on this matter.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church West has asked about health legislation. A new Act is now in its drafting stage following consultation with a Canadian Lawyer who left here a few weeks ago. Cabinet has already agreed to a new Mental Health Act, and the Attorney General is presently preparing draft legislation.
5.20 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Peter asked a question about staff relations. The Ministry is devoting strenuous efforts to ensure that everything possible is done to advance the staff relations and general conditions at the Mental Hospital. The services of a P.A.H.O. short term consultant are expected to be available in April to carry out a survey in patient care at the institution and arrangements are being made for an in-service training programme to stress among other things the human relations aspect of staff communications.

With regard to clothing and uniforms, up to 1971-72 there was usually some delay in obtaining the supply of uniforms for staff due to difficulties with the contractors. From the next financial year however uniforms will be made in the sheltered workshop at the Hospital and some improvements are expected as a result.

With respect to planned programmes, there are five regular out-patients clinics at the Mental Hospital. There is one clinic now held at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and there will be two next year. The District psychiatric nursing service in St. Andrew is a pilot scheme. It is proposed that the new out-patients clinic at the Mental Hospital will be opened six days a week during the next two months. Improvements in the Mental Health Act will be made to ease the admission problems. A new in-patient clinic for mental health will be established during the next four-year period.

Mr. Daniel who was formerly employed as a superintendent at the Marketing Corporation got injured and went to Jamaica for treatment and returned, but his health never seemed to have recovered. He was always sick after he attended work at the same institution in the abattoir section, and he was transferred to the Mental Hospital, but the salary there was not equivalent. In other words, he would have been losing a certain amount of his salary, and this is compensation to bring his salary to the equivalent of what it would have been had be not been transferred from that department to the Mental Hospital.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that the uniforms will be made in the covered workshop, but I do not see any provision made for staffing this workshop.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The sheltered workshop has been in existence for some time, and as it goes on it will become competent to take over this provision of turning out the uniforms as they do other things at present.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if they are going to manufacture the uniforms there and do it satisfactorily to meet the nurses on demand, it must require staffing and equipping the workshop.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, a lot of work is at present being done in the workshop by patients who have recovered. I have been to the workshop myself and there is a lot of excellent tailor work and other work being done, and it is just a matter of various organisations giving help in the repair, say, of chairs. I can well see that in a short space of time a lot of chairs that are condemned by the Government can be transferred to this workshop to be repaired. Various organisations like the Lions Club have given tools and good equipment and the work forms a sort of occupational therapy for these patients; so that instead of paying money to contractors, it can be used not only as savings, but as part of the mental therapy of the patients under the health regulations.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand what the Minister is saying, but if the uniforms are going to be made there, he must admit that you cannot rely wholly and solely on inmate labour.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, it is not only inmate labour. In many instances the work is done by people who are no longer patients there. There are some patients who have been discharged who go back to the institution to keep themselves employed. Although they are back in society, people still have a certain amount of dread for them and are not prepared to give them work. Very often the patients have learned this profession while they were in the institution, but people are sceptical of giving them work so they go back to the institution and work there.

The question that the sum of $1,083,765 under Head 39 – Mental Hospital – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 40 – WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Head 40 – Welfare Department – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,472,910 under Head 40 – Welfare Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal under Item 28 with the question of the provision for legal aid. The note reads "Cost of legal assistance in bastardy and alimony cases", but I think they mean "affiliation and alimony cases".

We on this side have been pressing for quite some time for an amendment to the Legal Aid Act to bring under its provisions cases of affiliation and alimony. Those of us who practise in the Courts would know that from time to time you get many requests for assistance purely because the mother in affiliation cases or the wife in alimony cases is unable to get outside legal assistance, and therefore you get a request from a person in one's constituency or another constituency for legal assistance.
5.30 p.m.

We on this side of the House would like to see the Government seriously consider that this subject is not really a subject that should come under the Welfare Department as such and have what can only be considered as a token vote of $250, but it is a subject that should really come under the Legal Aid Act. I know that members of the Bar Association would only be too happy to be able to assist the Government with the provision of legal assistance for people who are unable to assist themselves in bastardy and alimony cases. It may very well be that even in cases of adoption or divorce the Government may very well consider the provision of legal aid, because particularly in divorce you may find that there is a wife who is being sued by her husband for divorce, and such ancilliary questions as the custody and maintenance of the children, and to some extent the matrimonial home will arise, but the wife may not have the wherewithall not only to brief a barrister, but in this case since the matter is one which goes before the ...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I think we discussed this earlier in the debate and the hon. members on that side were given the assurance that this will be looked at. I remember the hon. member for St. Michael South Central spoke for the Government and stated that we will be looking at this matter. I do not think there is need to go over this because you have the assurance already.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Since this matter comes under Welfare I would prefer to have the assurance of the Minister responsible and not the Minister responsible for everything.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The position is that under Legal Affairs provision is made for Legal aid in respect of criminal cases and so on, and the assurance that was given from this side is that it would be looked at with a view to expanding the scope of that provision. We want to do it on a broader scale, for example, a person qualifying for welfare assistance may have to produce a Public Assistance card and so on, but we want it done on a wider scale and it would be more appropriate under the Head under which it was previously discussed rather than here. This is just for the recipients of Public Assistance, as I understand it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Not that I question the reliance or the statement made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, but he speaks so often on so many topics that now that the Minister who has just spoken, or even the Minister responsible for the Welfare Department, gave us the assurance that this matter will be looked at we will be quite satisfied. I think that there is a real urgency in these cases, and I would really like the Minister and those responsible to give it urgent attention. As a member of Parliament you may get people coming to you for assistance and you may have to send them to the lawyers in your political Party.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I have sent people to him too, and he does not belong to my Party.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am glad to hear that the Government will give this its attention, but I would like to see that we deal with it some time before the next Estimates. I think that the need for legal aid in welfare cases is on par with legal aid in criminal cases.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a vote for $4,472,910, and when one looks at the volume of work that even these notes explain here, the explanations given from Item 15 to Item 31, and relate it to one's experience over the years in dealing with this Department, one must come to the conclusion that it is time we consider serving people who have got to depend on welfare a little better than we are doing at the present. I feel that 90% of the officers presently engaged in welfare are trying to do their best, genuinely so. We have a Chief Welfare Officer and I want to say this of him. I would like to see that this officer is relieved of some of the duties that are thrust upon him, he has got too much to attend to, and you will find that there are many people who can turn away from

that Department annoyed over the fact that they have gone there to see the Chief Welfare Officer and have been given the turn-around, and not having seen him or not having got the type of reply or satisfaction they feel they would have got from that officer they are dissatisfied.

I believe we have one Deputy Chief Welfare Officer at present. Believe me, Sir, the volume of field work that is entailed we need a Deputy Chief for Field Work alone to deal with these officers. From the twenty four Welfare Officers I believe we could certainly do with a doubling up, because they really cannot begin to carry out thorough investigations. Mr. Chairman, you will understand that when a person has got to make an application, the time lag before the application is processed, before it reaches the Board so much time is taken up that I feel that there should be a Deputy Chief for administration alone, let alone the fact that we have an Executive Officer.

All of this I would like to see gone into as soon as is practicable to see if we can relieve the officer, because the Chief Welfare Officer has to function socially, he has got so many irons in the fire, so many demands are made upon his time, attending conferences and meetings, and some of these things I feel he should have a Deputy to assist him and we might get better results from the money spent in this Department.
5.40 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if we were to look at the Welfare Grants of $728,750 ...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I just want to correct the hon. member on a particular point. If he looks at Item 2, he can see that there is provision there for a Deputy Chief Welfare Officer. An Officer is already appointed in the job. There is provision for four Senior Welfare Officers. I was not sure whether the hon. member had seen that there was provision for a Deputy.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have seen that there is a Deputy, and I am suggesting that there should be two. You should have one dealing with Administration, and one dealing with Welfare Statistics and so on. If welfare work is to be done properly, then we need much more staff for dealing with it than we have at present. When you find one willing officer doing the work, too much is thrown on him.

I will turn to Item 24 – Welfare Grants – $724,750. I will deal with the special cases with a minimum of $2 a week and a maximum of $5 a week. I wonder whether the Minister knows that there are special cases receiving more than $5 per week. If that is so, why should the note here tell us that the special cases get from $2 to $5? The note is misleading, because there are cases that have to be given more than $5 per week.

With reference to Item 25 – Old Age Pensions – I do not want to go into the question of the means test, because it has been discussed so often; promises have been made to give some consideration to this matter, and I do not propose going into it now. We know that there are very many people who have reached the age of 68 and whose circumstances would qualify them for two pensions, but under our present set up they are finding difficulty to get assistance. Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that we have several people who are entitled to pensions and are not receiving anything. I am asking the Government to act speedily and do not think in terms of its costing the nation so much. Let us tell ourselves that whatever might be the additional cost, we are doing justice to people who readily deserve this $5 per week.

Mr. Chairman, from the note we see that there is provision to pay over 13,100 pensions at $5 per week. Not so long ago in this House the figures presented by the Government were challenged by me on this very issue, and I want to challenge this 13,100 today. We have to bear in mind that provision is made here for pensioners presently on the roll. These are estimates, and I should like to hear from the Minister what has been done beyond this. If proper calculations have been made, I am sure the Minister will have to tell us ...*(Asides)* Suppose no more pensioners other than the 13,100 were put on the roll this year, at the end of the year the Minister would find that a week would come when he would have no money to pay those pensioners. That is the basis on which the Department make their calculations and that is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, the note says that it is an increase to provide for additional Grants during the year. You make provison for additional Grants to how many, Mr. Chairman. That is what we want to hear. The note should have informed us that the additional Grants would have been estimated to be so many during the year, but this vague way of putting it will forever make those of us, who follow the statistics on old age pensions, cast grants to pensioners, and so on as closely as we do, challenge these figures. I can show Government today whether my figures are right as compared with theirs.

With reference to Item 26 – Assistance in Kind – we have to tell ourselves that there are too many people who go to the Welfare Officers, state

their cases, and some of these Welfare Officers are taking it upon themselves to decide whether or not these people should be given assistance. I do not want to tell myself that some of them are coming to these decisions because of political reasons. I should like to dismiss this from my mind altogether. Sometimes poor, old people come to me with their complaints based on this, and I try to erase it from their minds as best I could.
5.50 p.m.

I am satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that there are just too many people requiring this type of assistance – people who have to pay house rents. There are many people in out midst who were working but for some reason or another were laid off for a number of weeks, but they have a good record for the paying of their house rents. Some people neglect feeding themselves to keep their house rents clear, but there are cases, I am sure, where some of these people go to the Welfare Office, state their case as best they can and have had to turn away without assistance. On the other hand, some people go to the Welfare Office without a case to state, but depending on the person who sent them to the Welfare Office, they get assistance. That is not welfare. I know there are some officers in this Department who genuinely feel for these people and would like to render them assistance and do render assistance within the context of the Budget and the needs of the Department taking all other cases into consideration, but we are satisfied that there are still too many of these people who are not assisting.

I am not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that the Government must send around persons asking if you want help, but there are some people who are poor, starving and dying in their little one-door houses, but they would rather die before they accept a suggestion to go to the Welfare Department and get enough to buy a meal for a few days. That same person would tell me of his plight. I feel that the Welfare Officers should in the course of their day to day duties take note of those cases which would form good background knowledge. A Welfare Department must have information on as many poor people in our midst as possible.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, could the hon. member, being an outstanding representative, supply us with some of the names of the people he runs into? Certainly if he wants to be more outstanding as a representative and help these poor people more than anybody else, he would give us the names of these people so that they can be passed on to the Chief Welfare Officer, and not come in here to debate the matter in this way.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will do so with all the pleasure there is, but for heavens sake I would pray that the Chief Welfare Officer would not have to refer the cases back to some of the Welfare Officers who function in the parish of St. Peter, because that is the trouble. I may submit a list, but I am not suggesting that because as a member of Parliament I may submit a list of persons who in my assumption are eligible for welfare assistance, that they should be granted assistance merely on the basis of my submission. Each and every case must be investigated, but I want them investigated without political bias. You will find that a lot of people in the parish of St. Peter who are entitled to Welfare assistance are not now getting it and some of these Welfare Officers are telling the people that they cannot get any welfare assistance because they did not vote for anybody to represent them in the House of Assembly.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, as far as I am aware, the Welfare Officers in this country are Civil Servants appointed by the Public Service Commission, and not political appointees. As a matter of fact, they have got to make their application and go through the same interview, and the hon. member for St. Peter has on his right a former member of the Public Service Commission who can assure him that appointments to these posts are not made because of the political affiliation of any particular individual, but in accordance with the merit and qualifications of the person, and I do not think it is fair to state there that a Civil Servant is carrying out his functions with political bias, because the moment that happens, it is the democratic right and duty of the hon. member to report the matter to the Public Service Commission or the Chief Personnel Officer and have the matter investigated, and those officers will be disciplined. I do not think it is fair to come here and say that they operate with political bias. It is all right for us to come in here and make blanket and vague statements, but if the hon. member can satisfy the Commission that those persons who operate in St. Peter do so on a political basis, then the officers will be disciplined.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the Hon. Minister who wants to make it appear as if I accused the Public Service Commission of being politically biased in making their appointments.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Oh no!

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I object to that very strongly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am here to rule and to guide, and I should be able as Chairman to arrest any mistake. At no time did I hear the Public Service Commission come into ridicule. All that was stated is that if any Civil Servant commits an offence, it is the democratic right of any member to make the necessary complaint so that the officer can be disciplined.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I said from what I heard it would appear as if the Minister was accusing me of charging the Public Service Commission with political bias.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He did not say so.

Mr. HINDS: It is not a point that needs pursuing further. What I am saying is that it is all right for the Minister to get on the floor of the House and tell me that if I have a case I should refer it to the Chief Establishments Officer.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I never said the Chief Establishments Officer, I said the Chief Personnel Officer. The Chief Personnel Officer is the Permanent Secretary to the Public Service Commission, and if the hon. member finds that a particular Civil Servant has a bias and a partial manner in a public office, he can make a complaint to the appropriate authority, and I am satisfied, as his colleague on his right will tell him, the officer will be disciplined. I heard the hon. member for Christ Church West say last week that the Public Service Commission operates in an unbiased form and that they take positive action in disciplinary matters.

Mr. HINDS: That is why we are here still waiting to see what disciplinary action is going to be taken when it was stated in this Hon. House in the presence of the same Minister who is now jumping up and down that the Labour Department is not functioning. In other words, that the people down there are not doing their jobs and are obtaining money by false pretences.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, nobody in this Hon. Chamber during this period we have been considering the Estimates or at any time I have been in here ever suggested that any Civil Servant at Labour Department has been taking money on false pretences.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, to say that the Officers at the Labour Department are not doing their jobs but that while they are in office they are looking for jobs with the Employers' Confederation, is that not the same thing as saying that the salaries they are drawing at the end of each month they are not earning it and therefore it amounts to obtaining it by false pretences?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is under false pretences, because if a man is working, even if he does not put in eight hours you cannot accuse him of receiving money under false pretences.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us leave that out, we will only accuse him of cheating for the time he did not work. What we are saying is this, we need the type of Welfare Officer in whom these poor people can confide, we need the type of Welfare Officer who is ready and willing to interpret the language of these people. Many a poor person would leave his home and go and sit down in the Welfare Office to let the Officer know that he left his wife and children at home with nothing to eat, he has not been working for weeks, he wants him to know that they are hungry, he wants him to know that some of their clothes have not been washed for weeks, but still there is a cetain amount of pride in him and when he goes to the office he expects the officer to push his hand in his pocket and give him money. I know some of what the Welfare Officers have got to meet, but it is after getting into conversation with these poor people you ask a little question here and there and you learn.

I know the problems of these people, Mr. Chairman, and our main contention is that not enough of them who are entitled to benefit from this welfare assistance are benefiting. As to the question of spectacles, Sir, yesterday I had an occasion to ask the Hon. Minister about a waiting list with respect to spectacles, and I was told there was no waiting list, but in the case of these people, these welfare cases that have got to be assisted, what we are saying is this, that from the time the ophthalmic surgeon, the eye specialist decides that they need spectacles, let the Minister deny that some people have been known to wait for 18 months before they got the spectacles. In such a case it meant that the condition of the eyes ahd so worsened that everything had to be gone over, but I must admit that in the second instance the proceedings of the whole business did not take a long time and evidently a senior officer, not wanting this matter to be exposed, not wanting it to become public property, saw to it that a re-examination of eyes was carried out promptly and that a new pair of spectacles was provided. Mr. Chairman, nothing but credit must be given to an officer who takes the functioning of his Department upon his shoulders under those circumstances, accepts full responsibility, he does

not want to know about any blame attaching to his Department to bring it any discredit in any sense for anything, so he goes all out.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I want to see the Welfare Office functioning in such a manner that all of the cases going before it can be speedily executed and given the assistance they require. With regard to the issuing of milk and Cod Liver Oil, do not let us go back to the days when we used to talk about a former member of this House who was the Lord Major of Cumberland Street and so on. Let us face the fact that our children will benefit from the use of Cod Liver Oil. Cod Liver Oil gives some assistance to the eyesight, and we are asking that the fullest attention be given to providing all of the Cod Liver Oil and milk that are necessary. I think that the Minister must have before him the cases of children – I am not referring to the school children – requiring milk to assist in the sound formation of the teeth. Why should we deny our children this, Mr. Chairman, when we as hon. members have every opportunity to give it to them? Do not let us vote the money here for the children to get these things, and then put obstacles in the way of the children getting them.

We are not suggesting for a single moment that political affiliation should be the only criterion for securing a voucher to go to any of the supermarkets. I am sure that we do not want that, and I am also sure that there are some Welfare Officers who do not function on this basis. I am convinced that there are some Welfare Officers who are not concerned about political affiliation, or about how the people voted and for whom in any particular area. They are concerned with the fact that you are poor and that your circumstances merit their immediate assistance. They operate on that basis, and we are happy for those officers. We would wish to see an increase in the number of those officers.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have dealt extensively with Item 26, and we should go now to Item 27 – Educational Assistance. We cannot but feel proud of those parents and guardians who are trying in every way to provide for their children what some of them did not get for themselves. I am referring to an education at a secondary level. I feel that it is our duty to give these people every form of encouragement. We have to smile at some of the cases which come before us from time to time. Parents often make sacrifices and have the first boy or girl entered at a school to make a start, but it is then discovered that the second or third child has a greater aptitude for assimilating things or is more inclined to learn than, perhaps, the first child with which a start has been made.

Mr. Chairman, the parents under those circumstances try to push two here, one there and so on. We know that they rear pigs; somebody may give one of them a calf to keep; they keep a few sheep; they rent a plot of land and plant vegetables and so on so that when the time comes for paying the school fees, how some of them measure up to this God alone, Mr. Chairman, can explain. I cannot and they cannot explain. Perhaps it is due to the fact that it is a good cause they are pursuing that the good Master is encouraged or invoked to answer prayer. There are numerous cases such as these which will come before the Welfare Officer from time to time.

With regard to uniforms, the various schools change uniforms from time to time. I have said that in some cases they change the uniforms too often at some schools, and they create hardships on the children. Mr. Chairman, you will find that a child has gone to school for the greater part of three terms, which is a full school year, without having a textbook or two textbooks, and that child is expected by its parents to take part in the examinations that are held at the school. That child is expected to perform creditably at the examination, but how could it, Mr. Chairman?

I know of cases where the Welfare Department has come to the assistance of cases that have been presented to the Department. I also know that there were times when the Welfare Department would have been glad to extend assistance to some of these people, but it had no money to do so. I know that in the case of the other forms of assistance such as clothing and so on, there are times when the Welfare Officer is satisfied that there is a necessitous case, but there is nothing in the till.
6.20 p.m.

I would like to see adequate provision made for assisting parents and guardians so that the performance of these children in the schools can measure up to what is really expected of them. I can tell you that a lot of the children who are going to Combermere School and the other Government Secondary Grammar schools, and 99 per cent of the ones attending St. Leonard's Comprehensive School and Ellerslie need assistance with their lunches in addition to assistance with their textbooks. I am telling you that it is the pride of our people more than anything else that prevents the Welfare Department from making out to Government the

necessity for doubling and possibly trebling the staff to deal with cases that need to be dealt with at every level taking into consideration the various items we are dealing with here tonight. The Welfare Department is trying its best, but too many cases are left unattended. It just cannot cope with the volume of work to be attended.

Now let us go down to Item 30. I wonder what figures, if any, the Minister would have on those cases during the past year, and on what projection is his $23,000 based with respect to dental treatment for discharged patients. We do not think, Mr. Chairman, that dental treatment to poor people in this country is all that it should be. Some dentists, I learn, do not work on Sundays, and even some medical doctors do not work on Sundays. They must know how to run their business but unfortunately we still have in our community people who will have a bad tooth which will pain them on Tuesday, but they will carry on groaning and bearing the pain until Sunday approaches as if it comes out of the mouth better on Sundays than on any other day. I do not know what the Minister will have to say on this question of dental treatment to these patients. I would certainly like to hear what figures he has at his disposal.

I would like to hear something too on Item 19 and its relation to Item 22.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am not replying to the hon. member's address, but as a citizen of this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what item are you speaking?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am speaking under Welfare on Old Age Pensions...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am also speaking on Item 28 dealing with welfare grants. Now I want to preface my remarks by saying how pleased I am to see hon. members coming to an awakening and supporting the policy of the Democratic Labour Party because in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party no provision is made for any increase in national assistance by way of old age pensions or otherwise. As a matter of fact, the only thing that was said in the manifesto...

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, I would refer him to page 22 of the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, and it reads as follows:

"To raise the level of assistance to old people through an increase in old age pensions and the providing of free medical services.

To give special assistance in housing for the old.

To provide physical facilities for proper geriatric treatment for the old and sick.

To provide health visitors and social counselling for old people."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Anyhow, what I am saying is that I see under "National Assistance":– "The administration of National Assistance in Barbados needs complete re-organisation. The party will undertake to ensure that hunger arising from unemployment or any other reason does not take place in Barbados and that assistance is given immediately to those in need, with the minimum possible delay and without political interference or the hope of political advantage."

Now look at the difference. The hon. member did not preach what is embodied in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, but what was embodied in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, and what in fact has been declared as the policy of the Democratic Labour Party in the Throne Speech. When he talked about a means test in old age pensions, we came out specifically and on page 16 of the Throne Speech the D.L.P., the Government he is now praising, states: "The existence of old age pensions will be improved. The means test whereby the pension is reduced according to the financial ability of the pensioner will be changed to assist them whereby more old people will qualify for a full Pension."
6.30 p.m.

I mentioned that to say this, what the hon. member this afternoon is asking us to do is what we have already declared we are going to do in this very Session, because as you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the Throne Speech is a policy statement on what would be the positive action of a Government, and what the hon. member is asking us to do, the question of looking at the means test, is what we have already declared and it is pointless coming in here telling us about looking to see how many more people could be brought under the umbrella of the old age pension scheme, this is what we have already begun and this is a distinct policy of the Government, so let us get our records straight.

When we come to the question of Welfare Grants to school children, an hon. member said that the Department finds it difficult – or words to that effect – to satisfy the needs of the poor guardians and parents of these children, and that it is heart-burning to see how many of them have got to be turned back. The hon. member forgot one thing, that the Ministry of Welfare, only a few weeks ago on the recommendation of the Chief Welfare Officer brought a supplementary resolution to this House, and the hon. member spoke on it, asking to supplement that very vote which was at the time $50,000, and there was a supplementary resolution brought here to increase that vote to meet the increased demand of the Department for grants to these people, so it is not a question of people being turned away because there is no money.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, all the Minister is doing is saying I am right.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am saying the hon. member is right when he talks about the increased need, but that the hon. member is wrong when he says that the Department has got to turn back people because there is no money.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, sufficient that the Minister admits that the Department had to come and ask for a supplementary which had to come here. The supplementary was not decided on tonight and brought before the House the day following, cases were coming before the Department and I myself made contact with the Welfare Officers on behalf of people and they had no money to meet the requirements.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain to the hon. member that if something like that happens it would have to be gross negligence on the part of the Accounting Officer, because in the first six months of the year you can calculate, if you have about half the amount left in the vote, what your requirements would be for the next half of the year under normal circumstances, and if you see you would need more money you should prepare a supplementary resolution before the money runs out.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the Hon. Minister has just said, but the Minister must bear this in mind, that when the various Departments make up requisitions for what they need to run the Departments for a year there is a paring knife that cuts down on the amounts and the Departments are not granted what they ask for, and I am told that when an officer submits what he knows the Department will require for a period and a reduction is made they are very reluctant at times to go back and ask for these supplementaries, and in the meantime, the work of this Department has got to be carried on.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The point I am making is that the Department anticipates what its expenditure will be. When the cases are interviewed in the early part of the year and the Chief Welfare Officer or the Ministry of Welfare sees the need because of the requests made for grants from this vote, and as the Minister quite rightly said, in the first six months or so requests are made for supplementaries, as long as a case is made out to satisfy the needs of the people – and as far as we are concerned the needs of the people must play an important part in providing the financial administration of the Government – and the hon. member was right when he said that there are people who are in dire need of this assistance, but he is wrong when he says that they have got to be turned back. The point I am making is if the funds look like running out the Department must put up a supplementary. What is the purpose of coming here for supplementary estimates? We are only estimating here what we will spend, especially in non-recurrent and other expenditure, we are only dealing with an estimate here, and if later in the year we find that our estimate is wrong we will come to the House and ask for a supplementary, so if it is seen that there is need for an increase in this vote I am sure that the House will be asked to make the provision to supplement the vote. I am not quarrelling with the hon. member, we know that our people are in need, but what I am saying is that this does not mean that the $50,000 is all that is spent, but even here the hon. member will see that the vote is increased this year, and if after spending for the first six months of the financial year it is seen that because of the monthly rate of expenditure the vote needs to be supplemented to meet the needs of the people we will be coming again with the appropriate supplementary for it. That is all I am trying to point out, so you just cannot say that the Department has got to turn back this large number of people who make requests.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I never said the amount of people was large or small, I said there were cases that the Department could not attend to because they did not have money, and that is true.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, it is not easy to estimate the number of cases which you will have in the course of any given year. For example, under Item 24 – Welfare Grants, as far

as I remember the number that was estimated for at the beginning of this financial year was 10,000, but in these cases numbers fluctuate and the numbers are increasing. The same thing applies to the old age pensioners, the number has now increased to 13,100. The position is that the Welfare Department made a fairly good estimate but they did not get the full amount which they asked for, it was pared down a bit, and we have to come for a supplementary at a certain time of the year. During this year we had to come for two supplementaries. It is not that cases are not dealt with, probably they did not receive the assistance as soon as they put in the request, but the cases are dealt with.

I am trying to say that it is not easy to estimate how many old age pensioners there will be because the number 13,100 which was given when the Estimates were being prepared which was about October last year, but probably by now it may be 13,500 now that the Estimates are being considered here.

6.40 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 27 - Educational Assistance - I should like to hear from the Minister responsible, the policy in relation to a case where two or more members of a family apply for assistance. I have known of at least two cases in which two children each from the same family applied for assistance in respect of textbooks and clothing, and the parents in both cases were told that where one child was assisted they could not assist the second child. I should like to know the policy of the Government in relation to this matter.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to raise one point on the question of old age pensions. A lot has been said during the debate on the Supplementary Estimates last month and again today. My view is that there is one aspect of old age pensions which is left very much undone. I believe that the artisans of Barbados are very much left out in this question of old age pensions. These are carpenters, masons and painters; they may have a nice little house painted; they have reached the age of 68 and their houses are on rented land. These people are still working and they have to work after the age of 68. These are poor people who will never get a pension from any employer because they have been their own employer. I think that the fact that they continue to work after reaching the age of 68 dis-qualified them from getting old age pensions. I think that the Government will have to look into this question. As I have said, Sir, these people are renting the land on which their houses have been built, and the reason why they continue to work is because they have no means of sustenance when they reach the age of 68.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member for St. Peter that hardship is faced by certain people in this community while others, eventually, slip through with a pension. I know of numerous cases in the parish of Christ Church where people in well-to-do homes, owning private property, who have benefited from old age pensions. These artisans are always left out, because of the fact that they live in nice houses and are renting land. I feel that the Government should do something for these people. I think that, in order for old age pensions to be shared fairly, the time will come when the Government will have to make the age qualification the sole means of awarding old age pensions. Rich and poor alike who have reached the age of 68 should be given pensions as a matter of age, otherwise things will not be shared fairly.

Mr. Chairman, the Welfare Officers do a very good job; they have to work hard to arrive at the means test; they have to evaluate the man's position, and they could very well be fooled by what they see. A man may have a nice house and so on, but if you do not own land in this country, or if you pay rent for land you do not enjoy that economic standard as other people who own land. Any man who is still renting land at the age of 68 should be given an old age pension. At the age of 68 he will never be able to buy land nowadays. I should like the Minister to bear these things in mind and look at those forgotten artisans, who are always left out when it comes to the means test, because it is felt that they are still working for money. In most cases they cannot stop work because they cannot get a pension.

With regard to Welfare Cash Grants, I wonder what is the position when a Welfare Officer goes out on his beat and comes across a youngster who wants immediate attention. It might be a $1 in goods. I know that with the present financial procedure of the Government you will have to get a local purchase order to the shopkeeper in order to buy food. I do not think that shopkeepers will entertain an L.P.O. for $1; so there should be some means of equipping a Welfare Officer to deal with such cases. I should like to know what is the practice. The Welfare Officer should be in a position to give such a person ready cash. I know that shopkeepers are not going to take an L.P.O. for a $1 and then have to come down to the Treasury to cash it. I feel that some provision should be made in the Financial Rules in respect of the Welfare Department whereby Welfare Officers should be given hard cash with which to walk around to meet the needs of the people. By the time you get an L.P.O. a man may drop dead from

hunger. I should like the Minister to bear this in mind when he is reviewing the whole system of Cash Grants in this country.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, lest it be said in this debate that it has gone by default that the Barbados Labour Party has never gone on record as being concerned with the aged people of this country, I think I should restate the attitude which the Opposition has taken and has always taken, even when it was the Government of this country, towards the Welfare Department. It is only recently that National Assistance Grants, as you very well know in 1969, has been centralised by virtue of the fact that the Local Government Councils and formerly the Vestry have been abolished in this country. Prior to that in 1954 under the Public Assistance Act, the Barbados Labour Party set out to have some control over the dispensation of what was then referred to as poor relief. Indeed, it laid down as the duty of each District Council including the City Council that they should provide certain Welfare Grants in this country.

I think it is a tribute to a former senior member of this House and a Mayor of Bridgetown, Mr. E. D. Mottley, that the example which he set in dispensing certain types of aid has come to be recognised by every politician as something which he supports in an effort to maintain himself in office. I want to make it quite clear that, in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party in the last election, we highlighted it and intended to see it implemented had we been returned as the Government of this country.

I will draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries page 22 of the Manifesto:

> "No just society can neglect its old people. Because of the mass emigration of Barbadians in the 1950's and 1960's many of our old people are now without the care and company of their children. The Party proposes:
>
> 1. To provide physical facilities for proper geriatric treatment for the old and sick.
> 2. To provide health visitors and social counselling for old people.
> 3. To raise the level of assistance to old people through an increase in old age pensions and the providing of free medical services.
> 4. To give special assistance in housing for the old."

6.50. p.m.

"To provide health visitors and social counselling for old people;

To raise the level of assistance to old people through an increase in old age pensions and the providing of free medical services;

To give special assistance in housing for the old."

That is not the only part of its policy. I am happy to say.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, and my order will take the form of elucidation....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Oh no! You either are going to raise a point of order or a point of elucidation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will speak on a point of order. The point I made in respect of the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party *vis-a-vis* the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party is that there was no provision in respect of looking at means test which the hon. member for St. Peter was speaking about, and I pointed out that the hon. member was taking a leaf out of the book of the Democratic Labour Party when he spoke about the infelicities in the means test, and I pointed out clearly that it was the declared policy of the Democratic Labour Party to abolish the means test so that more people would come under the umbrella of the maximum for old age pension. I do not know if we are at cross purposes or if the hon. member did not understand the point I was making, but I hope he understands now.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, I just want to correct the Hon. Minister, and my colleague is willing to give way. It was back in 1969 when as the then senior member for St. James I brought a Resolution into Parliament asking that old age pensions be increased, the age be lowered and the means test be increased. It was not the Democratic Labour Party as the hon. member is saying that had it in their manifesto; they were taking a leaf out of my book by way of imagination.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We were not talking about increasing the means test because if you increase the means test the level of old age pension can still be reduced. We are talking about getting rid of the means test so that everybody would receive the maximum benefit from old age pension.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. FORDE: I am indebted to the hon. member for showing so much interest in this part of the debate. I said that welfare is always a subject in which politicians have an interest; but the point remains that so far as the Opposition is concerned in this House and in this country, whenever the Government brings down a measure to this House that is in the interest of the people, regardless of whether they believe it is their idea or we believe it is our idea, we will support it, and where it is not adequate we will tell them so. The point which is being made here is that there is really no significant increase in the welfare grants being made in these present Estimates, and that the national plan for pensions is being too long delayed having regard to the adequacy of the situation. There are many measures that the other side has adopted. What are we to do when we come into power, just scrap their measures because they brought them into being?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, if they come into power.

Mr. FORDE: I do not mind if and when. There is one thing the Almighty has not given to any of us...

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of explanation, did I hear the hon. member for Christ Church West say that there was no significant increase in the welfare grants? A sum of $550,000 was provided in the 1971-72 Estimates, and in 1972-73 the amount is $728,750 which to me would represent a significant increase, almost 50 per cent.

Mr. FORDE: I accept that to the Hon. Minister of Education it is a significant increase in the context of figures, but in the context of the needs of the people it is not a significant increase. That is the point we are making. So I am not concerned with the arguments as to who built the Deep Water Harbour, who built this or who built that; I am very much concerned to see adequate steps and high priority being given to a National Pensions Act in this country, because there is still too many hard-luck cases, and I am sure that the Social Welfare Officer must tear his hair on nights to know how he is going to meet the demands which are being made on him, and in this way, let me end on one note, not a note of rancour; I do believe that in this society until we can level the society much more than we have done in the last forty years so as not to offend either party, we still must look to some of the people in private enterprise who think it is easier to stay at home and hold a cocktail party and spend $50 or $300 a night rather than to help many people who are going to sleep in this country without the necessary assistance and aid, and I appeal very strongly to Barbadians, be your neighbour's keeper, and if you are not your neighbour's keeper, very soon none of us will be able to keep the peace in this country.

The question that the sum of $4,472,910 under Head 40 - Welfare Department - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without divison.

HEAD 41 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 41 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $998,565 under Head 41 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - stand part.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, some time ago I recall.... *(Asides)* It is there for good, you cannot rub it off.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG: It was only an aside.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well I do not hear asides.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I recall that some time ago the Prime Minister warned a former Leader of the Opposition that he was going into deep waters. I do not profess for one moment to be an expert in commerce, nor in industry or trade, but in my general remarks on this Head I wish to draw to Your Honour's attention two items which I would like to make a few points on. I shall attempt to make out a case for the Opposition.

Trade is a very important sector in our community. Industry and pride which should go hand in hand are very important factors in the community, and more so commerce; so I consider this Head to be very well balanced.

Under Item 29 - Books and Publications, there is a booklet published by the Industrial Development Corporation, and on the inside of the cover - if not now, a few months ago - it advertised Barbadian skills and what would attract the investors to this country. In that booklet it was made very clear that the Barbadian is a well educated, easy to train....

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of order, Item 29 - Books and Publications, is for the purchase of books and publications, and not for the printing of books and publications.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not take the Minister very seriously. In this booklet advertised overseas, you will see.....
7.00 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, we are just trying to be helpful, I think what my colleague was trying to explain was that Item 29 deals with the purchase of books and publications for the Ministry, but if he wants to deal with publications of the IDC he could certainly do that under Item 35 and make his points there.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Item 29 - Books and Publications under Head 41 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce. I will continue. On the inside cover of this booklet which is put out by the Industrial Development Corporation it makes it quite clear to our overseas friends and investors that Barbados has an easy-to-train work force, well educated, 98.7% literacy rate, and it goes on, "high productivity with surprisingly low wages." It is really a booklet which I shall always and at all times keep, and if I may even add, Sir, there is no doubt at all in my mind that even the Prime Minister's statement that cheap labour is better than no labour at all for this well trained, well educated work force, easy to train, that we are to be paid low wages.....

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way a moment.....*(Asides)*

Mr. CRAIG: If the Minister for Housing cannot make a contribution on his feet, let him make it from his seat; I will appreciate that. Not only was that statement confirmed, because the present Minister of Trade bandied the sentence that cheap labour does not necessarily mean that it is inexpensive labour. You know my position, Sir, I did not go to school long like some of the other fellows, but I went often and I did not go to school in August when the others might have been on vacation, so I can take it that whether it is inexpensive labour or cheap labour it conveys to my mind that it was a matter of encouraging overseas investors to come here and exploit the labour force of this country. This has been my own view and one which no one can deny, because in some of the industries in this country we know that you have young boys and girls earning as little as $10 and $12 per week.

I will give you a classic example of what took place at one of these industrial places which was formerly known as International Scientific Ltd. For a boy or girl to earn $30 or $40 a week they had to work an additional 40 or 50 hours a week overtime. You can say they were receiving a good pay cheque, but what about the man hours they spent for it? It is on this premise that I must condemn the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, because do not tell me that if you advertise abroad that you have an easy to train labour force, the highest literacy rate in the world, and then on the other hand you come back and say you can use these people at surprisingly low wages, I would then say that the Government is responsible for encouraging investors to come here and exploit poor people of this country. This is my humble opinion and no one can change it, and I shall die at the stake like Joan of Arc for it. How can one combat the spiralling cost of living when you are told overseas by your overseas investors that you can pay us low wages? In the meantime you have one of the highest costs of living in the entire world.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, there is a West Indian or Caribbean journal known as Cajanus, and I exhort the hon. member to read that journal which was issued some time last year where it was stated that from a survey carried out in the Caribbean area, including the United States of America and Great Britain, that Barbados had the second lowest cost of living rate in the area. The lowest was Guyana's, and subsequent to Guyana's taking control of the importations in Guyana, Guyana then went above Barbados, and that Cajanus publication pointed out clearly that with Guyana going above Barbados, Barbados had the lowest cost of living rate in the area, so do not get in here and tell lies. I withdraw that, Mr. Chairman. Do not get in here and try to mislead people that Barbados has the highest cost of living rate in the world, it is utter nonsense and anybody saying so does not know what he is saying.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not think the member has any idea of what he is talking about, this is my view. However, I maintain what I say, Mr. Chairman, and I would be glad to have a look at the magazine if he would make it a document of the House. I would therefore like to draw to Your Honour's attention that in the light of this vicious magazine - I consider it vicious, because of the policy of the Government to encourage that type of thing to go overseas, I cannot consider it less than a vicious type of publication - but this is my view. If you have low wages I feel you should have a low cost of living. I am told that experts, the economists and all these people, tell you somewhere along the way it is difficult to lower the cost of living, but this is my view, when you

have a wheeling capitalist system which still exists in a community such as this - when I say a wheeling capitalist system I mean to say that you may have a half-baked socialist Government in power but you cannot stop the capitalists in this country from controlling the economy of the country - and that is why I say it is a wheeling capitalist system, a vicious system, and its functions touch among the strong and even the strongest human motive to make profits.
7.10 p.m.

Since you have this vicious capitalist approach – money, money – the others must die. I think that it was Karl Marx who discovered this system. Mr. Chairman, it is my humble view that, unless a serious assault is made upon the rising cost of living in this country, and an assault is made upon the importers and the commission agents of this country, the cost of living must continue to rise and it is the Government's duty to control this. I know that three of the most important things in a man's life are housing, clothing and food. These are the three basic things. If the Government had attempted....*(Asides.)* Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to you to ask members on the other side to stop interrupting me, because I am a good heckler.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask the hon. member to carry on. I am sitting here and I have not heard....

Mr. CRAIG: I am appealing to you and I am begging you, Sir. I will heckle all the members over there for the balance of the night, and they know that I am capable of doing that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No one is going to heckle anybody in here as long as I am in this Chair. You will heckle outside and not inside this Chamber.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is my view that it is time that the Government must make a serious assault on the cost of living of this country. I should like to see sooner or later a Central Purchasing Agency whereby you will be able to control some of these Commission Agents who sell to the wholesale merchants, and then the wholesale merchants sell to the retailers who in turn pass on things to the consumer. I should like to draw attention to the fact that, if an hon. member imported something from overseas and there was an agency here, the Commission Agency would still be entitled to his commission from overseas. I am not saying that the Government should control every conceivable commodity, because I know that it is not possible to do so. I am saying that the Government should endeavour to control the most important items.

Under Item 33, there is provision in the sum of $17,800 for the Prices Commissions. If we were to ask in here how well it has been functioning, or what is the policy of the Government apart from the Act, you could say that it is another non-functioning organisation. The Act states quite clearly that the Commission was set up for the purpose of controlling the prices of foodstuffs and commodities that come into the country. One can only conclude that it is a complete waste of time and a complete failure in the particular Ministry. Do not let us fool ourselves about this, Mr. Chairman. I would make a very strong recommendation to the Government that the same way the Barbados Marketing Corporation can import milk into Barbados and sell it to the retailers, and the retailers pass it on to the consumers and still be able to control the price of milk in this country, then the B.M.C. should be in a position to control the price of certain important commodities which the Commission Merchants import into the country.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is now criticising the Prices Commission. When we established the Prices Commission we asked two members of the Opposition – the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition – to serve on this Commission and they refused. Tonight they can come in here and say that the Prices Commission is not functioning. If the Prices Commission is not functioning, I submit it is the fault of the Opposition.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is not quite correct when he says that the Leader of the Opposition refused to serve. What the Leader of the Opposition said was that if the report was going to be made public and published in the newspaper he would serve, but he was not serving on a Committee where the report was merely going to the Minister, nobody would see what was in the report, and therefore nobody would know when things are acted upon.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, when the then Leader of the Opposition was asked to serve on the Commission, he did not even have the courtesy to reply to the Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is quite sufficient.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I take the hon. member's point very well. It is that the Government cannot function unless a part of the Opposition is with them. We can appreciate this. I was not critical of the Department. I said it would appear that since the cost of living is rising day after day and year after year, and since the Act

made it quite clear that the Commission was set up for the purpose of making sure that there was a close look at prices in this country, it would seem not to be functioning.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. The Prices Control Commission has recently been reorganised and reconstituted. I am quite sure that, under present arrangements with the present Chairman of the Prices Commission and his experience, we will get good results out of this.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister says he is quite sure he will get some results. I can only come to the conclusion that he is not getting any results at the moment. He bears out exactly what I have said, that it would appear to be a non-functioning Department of the Ministry. As long as the cost of living is increasing at the pace at which it is increasing – the Minister says that he is hoping to get results, so he is not getting any results now. He has given me the assurance that he will get results. There were no results in 1970, so I am not too far wrong when I say that it would appear to be a non-functioning Department. That is why we are having this spiral cost of living all the time. Let us get this very clear. I am concerned about the man in the street.
7.20 p.m.

When I state here that the Government should set up a Central Trade Agency through which it can import, I do not want to be told that you do not have at your disposal the necessary people such as an economist, people who work in the Customs for the purpose of costings and so on through which you can import the most important things that the poor man normally sets out to buy. Let the Commission Merchants import the whiskey, Vodka and tobacco, the tomato ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise, but I am concerned with what the poor man's pocket can afford to buy. The Government must make a bold assault on the cost of living of this country. I walked into a store a few days ago and the man in the grocery said to me that they were no longer importing sardines because there is a controlled price on sardines; we are importing herrings because there is no price control.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the hon. member is now coming back to a very salient point. Barbados is an importing community. The cost of the imported commodity hinges largely on the c.i.f. value. The next point which the hon. member has got to bear in mind when he says that the Price Commission is not functioning is that the Price Commission recommended to the Minister what price ought to be attached to sardines, and after the Minister made an Order putting a price on sardines which the importers did not feel because of the world-wide economic trend, gave them a large enough mark-up and a high enough profit, they decided not to bring in sardines. Because of the fact that we are an importing community, the question of the cost of living is a complex matter, and that is why we thought that Government and Opposition should get together and try to cooperate in this field, and that is why also we called on the Leader of the Opposition to be Chairman of the Prices Commission so that we could get together and resolved this matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled that I want to hear absolutely nothing about that. Let us leave out the Leader of the Opposition and the talk about price control.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member jumped to his feet and said that the Price Commission recommended to the Ministry something or the other in relation to what I said about the Commission Merchants refusing to import sardines, but are now importing herrings because there is no price control on them. I understand from the Minister that the only thing the poor black man must eat is sardines, so he is controlling them.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I cannot allow the hon. member to get away with that. If the hon. member wants to be fair, he would know that the Government controls most essential commodities in this country.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I do not even believe that if the Minister of Trade was in this Chamber that he could pass notes fast enough to assist the Minister who wants sacking from that Ministry because the present Minister was only in the Ministry for a few months and is not *au fait* with everything yet, and the Minister of Agriculture will have to try and to make out a case.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, these allegations are unkind. I am not making out a case for any high cost of living; it may be a case of cost of high living; but the point I am making is that the Government sees to it that the essential commodities in this country are subject to price controls (Mr. CRAIG: Name some of them.) Flour, sugar, corned beef, rice, saltfish. The whole point is that if the hon. members would encourage their supporters not to try to circumvent the price controls that are put on certain commodities, things would be better. First of all, what the hon. member and his party have got to do is to tell their supporters to cease trying to circumvent the Price Control Orders which are

made. When you make a price control, they say they are not importing the commodity. When we put a price on butter, they kept the butter in bond. Whenever the Ministry of Trade puts a price on an essential commodity, they either hold it up or circumvent the issue to see that they create panic. You would hear the Chairman of the Provision Merchant's Association or the Retail Merchant's Association criticising the action of the Government, and they hoard up the goods in the warehouses because they want higher prices.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order; that is a point of elucidation.

Mr. CRAIG: The Minister can rest assured that he is going to get up quite often. He said we should ask our supporters not to circumvent the price controls. I will not call any names, but I think you have something in common with the horse racing, and you know about the $38,000.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is in Guyana where there is an External Trade Bureau.....*(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you still addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG: I was under the impression that the Assistant Deputy Leader of the House was asking what time I would finish, because I believe that the Leader wants to find out. If he would like to have a break now which I would enjoy, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 8.45 p.m

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. Deputy Speaker suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.30 p.m.

On Resumption:–

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Head 41 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – was resumed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the sitting was suspended the hon. member for St. James was addressing the Chair. He may continue.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, at the time of the suspension I was drawing to the attention of Government that it is my belief, call it what you may, a Central Trade Agency which would be my suggestion, there is an Act under the Miscellaneous Controls Act under which the Prices Commission falls, and I was not critical of the setting up of a Department in the Ministry but I did imply that it would appear as if that Department of the Ministry was not functioning in a manner in which we would like to see, and the Leader of the House gave us the assurance that he would try to make sure that there be some satisfaction in the functioning of that Department of the Ministry.

This brings me therefore, Mr. Chairman, to what I consider a failing in Government's policy in making an assault on the high cost of living in the country, and I am not going to be only critical of the Ministry and its failures, but I should also like to put out what I consider, in my humble way, a few suggestions. In the first instance, no man could be satisfied to pay his money for a product that is not in keeping with the highest standard of quality, and in the last session I requested Government to make sure that there be a Bureau of Standards whereby when these industries turn out their products we in Barbados and our CARIFTA neighbours would be satisfied that we are getting top class quality.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw to the hon. member's attention that it has already been discussed in here, that is, the setting up of a Bureau of Standards, and it was ably demonstrated that the Bureau has already been set up so I would not like you to continue on that.

Mr. CRAIG: At this stage I will apologise for not being in the Chamber on that occasion, but

there are quite a number of things that Government sets up that do not function satisfactorily, just like the same Prices Commission, and I am sincerely hoping that since they have set up this Bureau of Standards that we can have a standard of which all Barbadians can be proud. I am not going to sit by, whether I am in Government, in Opposition, or whether I am a supporter of a Trade Union of my own choice, and see these things not function, I am concerned primarily with the little man and his little wage bill combating the high cost of living in the country, which only Government must take the blame for, and do not get up and tell me that we are absorbing inflation of other territories. There is an argument I daresay that one can put up. One can say that if wages go up in one country the cost of our goods that we import must also go up, but my argument is this, that Government should set up an agency whereby the retailer, say as they are doing at the Barbados Marketing Corporation, let them buy through a Central Trade Agency or whatever name you care to call it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, we like to hear the hon. member speak but we would like to suggest that he desist from making the number of repetitions which he is making. I would like to draw it to your attention that we have been hearing that the Government Prices Commission is not functioning, we have been hearing for almost an hour now that we should set up a Central Purchasing Agency and that kind of thing. The hon. member is going over what he said before we went on recess and I would like to draw this to your attention.

Mr. CRAIG: I was under the impression that you, Mr. Chairman, are the person to determine this, and I consider him rude to the Chair for drawing that to your attention, that means that you are not following the debates and I am sure you know every Item in the Estimates.

Sir, the need therefore for such an agency would be to secure a sufficiency of those essential products for the well-being of the community, equitable distribution and availability at fair prices. This is what we are concerned with, because we cannot consider them to be fair prices as they are now when the Commission Agent is going to import, he passes on the cost to the wholesaler who in turn passes it on to the retailer who passes it on to the consumer, and if you have an agency of this nature Government would then be in a position to control what I consider the important commodities which come into this country. I am not concerned with lipstick and stockings which I see people wearing all the time in the tropics, I feel they should not even come in, you should be able to control your imports and exports and to ensure generally that the resources available to the community are used and are calculated to serve the interest of the community. This is the whole point I am making.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, the hon. member has been calling on Government to set up some Central Purchasing Agency, and I would like to say that this is part of Government's policy as stated in its Manifesto.

Mr. CRAIG: I know it is likely that the Government members will get up and say that it is difficult to find a structure, they argue it is a specialist division, but there are quite a number of people who for several years worked in Customs work and these type of people can be absorbed in an agency of this nature.
8.55 p.m.

I feel very strongly about this, because not only would it assist the small man and give him an opportunity to purchase items at reasonable prices, but it could even be related to a National Commercial Bank. This can go hand in hand. I know that Government can argue that you have the Industrial Development Bank which provides the small business man with loans, but it depends upon the amount of redtape he has to go through. The Minister of Agriculture said quite recently that the small business man is going to ask where he is going to get money from and how he will be able to repay it. He made it quite clear that if the man could not pay he should close down the business. It was Government's policy to assist the small business man. If you are going to assist the small business man, then you should also assist a small man who cannot afford to buy things at extravagant prices.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given sufficient latitude, and I am going to ask all members to confine themselves to the Items under this Head.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, you want me to confine myself to the Head, but I do not think that I have overstepped my bounds.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must confine yourself to the Items under this Head. I had given enough latitude for a member to ramble all over the whole Head, but I realise that the rambling is going on, and I now want hon. members to confine themselves to the Items under this Head. I want to be able to follow you carefully.

Mr. CRAIG: In my opening remarks I drew to your attention, Mr. Chairman, that I was making a

general comment on the Head which we were discussing, and I drew to your attention Item 39 and Item 33. I drew that to your attention to assist you. I did preface my remarks by saying that I was making a general comment on Government's policy on trade, commerce and industry. I feel that there should be a control of drugs in this country, and the Government should take the very bold step to control the importation of drugs. It is very, very hard on poor people who are earning a small amount of money weekly to be confronted with a Doctor's prescription, they go to a Drug Store, and they have to pay $15 or $20 for medicine. I should like to see the Government taking full control of drugs or making a review of the Drugs Act. These are what I consider as the essentials. I am not concerned with the luxuries. Let the Commission Merchants fight with the luxuries and cut each others throats in dealing with the different brands. I am concerned with what we must have in the society for the masses. My whole argument is based on the masses. I hope that the appropriate Minister will take a very close look at the Drugs Act, and use the powers vested in him to control the importation of drugs.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken with a number of people who serve this community in the field of medicine. I am sorry that the Minister of Home Affairs is not in his seat on this occasion, because I believe that he will agree with me that you have a very high mark up, sometimes as high as 300% or 400% on drugs. Do not tell me that you must be subjected to going to the Hospital and spending hours waiting there in order to get drugs. There should be some form of relief through the National Insurance Scheme, so that when people go to Doctors and are given prescriptions to have certain reductions similar to what is done in England by way of the National Health Scheme. You may ask why I have taken this stand. I have made my position quite clear. My simple view is that the only assault on the high cost of living is for the Government to set up a Central Trading Agency whereby your experts would be in a position to control the goods which the masses find themselves in a position to buy now. We know that the classes would be in a position to buy things at a better price.

Mr. Chairman, as my Prime Minister has made it quite clear that cheap labour is better than no labour at all and he was ably substantiated by the present Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce that cheap labour does not necessarily mean that it is inexpensive labour, admitting there that labour is cheap. I sincerely hope that the Minister or the person in charge of this head would not allow all that I have said here this evening to fall on deaf ears.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I saw the Minister standing and I thought he wanted to make a particular statement, and that is why I sat down. This Head of the Estimates, has, as far as my research can show me, always been treated as the cinderella of things. Indeed, I think if one might look at the historical process in this country, the subjects of trade and commerce have always been relegated to the field of private enterprise and have remained there essentially as though they happen to be some sacred cows. I believe it is still true to say that by and large the interference – if you like to use that word – or the intervention of the State in certain aspects of trade and commerce in the outer world has hardly commended itself to people in Barbados. It seems to be an agreement to a lot of people to recommend, in some instances, that there should be some form of participation to some degree in an economy such as ours which, after all, is a mixed economy.

If, therefore, we on this side this afternoon look at the broad policy of this Ministry, it is because we are deeply conscious of the fact that mixed economies in the West Indies must exist, and if they exist they must function and function properly. We are not saying on this side that there is no room in this country for private enterprise, but we are saying that there is no room in this country also for active participation by Government in the process of trade and commerce. 9.05 p.m.

I trust that when I have spoken this afternoon on certain specific Heads which we hold very important that the position of the Opposition will not be continually misrepresented in Barbados and put forward as a position of backing merchants. People believe that you cannot maintain your integrity and yet have convictions, and that is why I think we must speak out boldly.

I would like, Mr. Chairman, as you are very concerned and rightly so with items, to deal first before I go into particular items with the Public Utilities Board. I hardly need remind this House that it was under the Barbados Labour Party's Government that the first Act of nationalisation took place in this country, and that the Public Utilities Board was set up to regulate public utilities and to control to some extent in the interest of the consumer the price structure in certain essential commodities. It is an undoubted fact that although that Board functions, it does not function adequately, and if I may cite a recent example of the telephone enquiry where the Government quite rightly through its Attorney General intervened in the dispute, I think that everyone can well be satisfied that what has happened there was that unless some

private individuals had first started the rumpus – I refer to Mr. Elton Mottley – followed by other persons, there would hardly have been a public challenge to a monopoly organisation in this country.

Now I want to state this very strongly, because one of the things which satisfied all of us including the state representative in those proceedings was that a Public Utilities Board was not functioning adequately. It is impossible to review so far as this Board is concerned the prices that are being charged by the Telephone Company or the Electric Company or by Transport in this Island unless the Commission itself or the Board has its own skilled staff who are properly geared to do the necessary research, and as happens in places like Canada and the United States of America where there is a long history of activity in this field, who can act and present their own independent view to the Commission so that the Commission or the Board could come to a proper decision on all the facts in the interest both of the producer and of the consumer, and ultimately in the interest of the State as a whole. It is still true that the Chairman of this Board who has given quite long service to the country is a part-time officer, that he has attached to him no adequate staff at all, and I cannot understand how the Public Utilities Board can be asked to function on a mere vote of $12,000 to review private enterprise or quasi-public enterprises whose budget alone exceed this by several million dollars. It is not remembered, and perhaps the Government should bear this in mind – unfortunately the Minister is connected with the Other Place and I do hope in due course he will hear my words -- that the cost eventually can be recouped from the utilities themselves, and I am sure that the utilities themselves would be interested to see a properly constituted Board so that at least an aura of fairness can be manifested in these proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, not so long ago we amended this Act to move Natural Gas outside the aegis of public utilities. That Bill went through without very much debate in this Chamber, and I think that that itself is a commentary on the lack of proper functioning in this particular Board that Government should find it necessary to move Natural Gas completely outside the range and control of the Public Utilities Board; and so I am appealing to the Government that there are still a lot of evils of the public utilities that must be cured. For instance, I think there should be legislation controlling public holding companies. We said so in that enquiry and I believe that no attention has been paid to this fact. I think that Government next time it comes with the Estimates must show a greater awareness of the role which this Board can perform in helping to regulate properly and not on a mere *ad hoc* basis the operation of the public utilities in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to venture into other areas which I think can usefully be brought under the control of this Board. I hope at some stage in this session to talk about that. I would only say that if one aspect of telecommunications is to be controlled, it surprises me that other aspects escape that control, and I wish very strongly that the Government could advert to that comment.

I should like to move on from there, Mr. Chairman, and deal with some other areas in which these provisions seem inadequate to say the least. I would look particularly at things like the Industrial Development Corporation and the Prices Commission. Now fortunately or unfortunately, it depends on how you look at it, the policy of Government since 1951 has been to promote industrial development and a lot of people have conceived that the duty of industrial development is merely to sell incentive legislation abroad and bring in as many people as they want as soon as they want, but there is a whole field of concomitant legislation and concomitant causes and results which have never been looked at, and it is surprising that since the first legislation introduced by the Barbados Labour Party in the industrial development field, that other than updating to some extent the legislation in 1963, nothing positive has been done about dealing with these other areas of operation. I cannot see how we can boast of promoting industrial development and yet exist in a situation where we have no national designs centre. This is important. I believe that hon. members who go beyond the confines of Barbados and see newly developing countries as well as developed countries must know that a designs centre is a necessary place for encouraging young people who are fashioning in the arts and crafts, in industry and in other fields, all of the designs which are important for the total development of industry, and that is why we make bold to say that the Barbados Labour Party included it in its manifesto clearly and boldly, and we are asking the Government to please accept the idea in the interest of the people of this country. But that is only part and parcel of what is needed. There is no use in having a centre without having legislation to back up the centre, and to try to promote our designs. I will come down to specific instances.

In the Industrial Estates today we are having people who are producing and designing some of

the best dresses, some of the best shirt patterns, some of the best designs in furniture if you need, and they have no protection at all, because we lack on the Statute Book of this country a registered Designs Act, and the result is that the designs are being pirated, stolen and used in other places much to our detriment because in short we cannot maintain to any extent a monopoly for any time in this field so that our people will have the benefit even within the Carifta area and beyond of designs which they themselves have through their skills and enterprise been able to fashion. Instead Mr. Chairman, I should like to draw to hon. members' attention that the only substantive legislation of any note dealing with this subject is the United Kingdom Designs Protection Act of 1936 which gives priority to certain designs registered in the United Kingdom under the Patents and Designs Act of 1907 and 1919 and gives to them privileges and rights as though their certificate of registration in the United Kingdom had been issued with an extension in this Island.
9.15 p.m.

They give it in terms of things like printed or woven designs on textiles, piece goods other than checks or stripes, printed or woven designs on handkerchiefs and shawls other than checks or stripes, printed or woven designs on textiles, piece goods, handkerchiefs or shawls being checks or stripes. Five years after independence and in the sixth year we find the position where this I consider like any similar legislation is the archangel of imperial domination of the economic life of the overseas territories, and we hear a lot of talk and a lot of chat when we are on political platforms, but when we come down to real argument and we ask for a test on these matters we find that we could have a Ministry of Trade and Industry operating in this country and not even having the time to recommend that this Act be revoked. That is not satisfactory by any standards, and we cannot indulge by allowing this type of legislation, even if we do not bring forth our own legislation, to remain on the Statute Book.

When I talk, Mr. Chairman, I like to talk on concrete examples, I do not like to go off merely in political by-play with the other side, as the hon. member for St. Michael South East would say, we have finished that on the platforms, but I am very concerned that when we are being judged on this side we should be judged correctly, not on what might beat us – 18:6 – but on what we truly stand for, so that when the history of this country is written our true position will be stated in black and white.

I want to move from there to Trade Marks legislation and I am not going to dwell on this subject for a very long time, but I have adverted to it already during the course of these Estimates. I would like to draw attention again in that legislation to the provision in the Merchandise Marks Act where we give priority treatment automatically to the United Kingdom designs and trade marks. They are protected within our market and we have no reciprocity, we have no reciprocal treatment for our new industries, for our new trade marks or for our designs within the United Kingdom itself. If there is one fundamental between independent countries in the field of trade, it is that you do not surrender your trade rights and your markets unless you can get some bilateral consideration in this field, and if the Government is really looking at a proper foreign economic trade policy it must make these things as an important element of its policy, and that is why when you look at the vote for the Industrial Development Corporation I must to some extent criticise the manner in which the Corporation has continually functioned as though all it has to do is to peddle a few trade incentives overseas without adverting to even protecting these new industries outside of the tax statute on a wider field in the country. I am not levelling the criticisms at any particular individual, it is the policy I am concerned with, and I want to move on from there to deal with another subsidiary field, the field of anti-trust legislation or what is referred to as restrictive trade practices.

We need this urgently for many reasons. There is almost a contradiction in our policy, Mr. Chairman, because to some extent we are by means of the industrial incentive legislation encouraging monopolies in some fields. I am sorry sometimes when I see that we maintain that some companies can only get incentives for exports, although I believe this has been modified to a little extent, and they do not get incentives in the market because it is said that they may be damaging somebody else here, but are we looking at one of the resultant and bad effects of this, in that we are encouraging the person who has the total monopoly in Barbados to operate in a complete monopolous situation without the necessary element of competition and without the levelling effect of anti-trust legislation.

I believe that urgently, not necessarily copying the Sherman Act or the Clayton Act or any modifications of the United States legislation, or even copying the United Kingdom Restrictive Trade Practices Act, I believe we have within Barbados in all fields, and in the West Indies in general a sufficient and capable body of men who

can examine the legislation and fit it to the economic circumstances of this country. That is why we ask not only in relation to the new industries but also in relation to established businesses, commerce in many fields, that the time has come when we should look at some part and parcel of this legislation and see where it is relevant. If it is relevant we take it, if some of it is irrelevant and more harmful we discard it, and this brings me to the Prices Commission.

In my opinion this Commission has not functioned and again will not function adequately despite the assurance of the Minister on this point, with or without the Opposition being on that body. I do not believe, although the Minister has made some by-play on this matter, that the presence of the past or present Leader of the Opposition as Chairman, although I may state that we acknowledge the Minister's bouquet in thinking that it is only our presence that will ensure its proper functioning and I am glad he has recognised the vital contribution which both gentlemen had to make.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I did not say only their presence will ensure its proper functioning, as I pointed out, and I think I made my point as clearly as I could, that it failed because of the fact that they refused to sit on the Commission to make their contributions towards making the Commission function. I suppose they knew their limitations and knew that they were incapable of doing it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would indeed be doubly surprised if the Government were so short-sighted that it would have invited to sit on the Commission two people who had such great limitations that they could have made no contribution, so we will take that as another political gimmick that I am accustomed to. The talk that you sell to the public when you are campaigning is all right, but when we come down to basic points it must be recognised that that is really a political gimmick, what really matters here is that the Commission as at present established cannot function, and proof of this is the intervention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. In fact, when he was in that Ministry he himself had to intervene on his own without reference to the Commission on many occasions in matters of great urgency, and it cannot function because it is not properly staffed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I have never acted on my own without consulting the Prices Commission when the Commission was established, I acted on my own before the Prices Commission was properly constituted, but the point is, any action of mine as Minister of Trade during the time that the Prices Commission was functioning was done after having discussions with appropriate members of the Prices Commission, and I must say that I had the co-operation of the Prices Commission and the hon. member is missing one point, that the Prices Commission is advisory to the Minister.

Mr. FORDE: That is just the point I am criticing, because it will never be able to act adequately, it has not got teeth, and it sometimes has happened that these advisory bodies look over the shoulder at simply the political effect of their actions rather than the true substantive effect of their actions. This is the sort of body that if it is really given teeth should be performing even some of the functions which you would expect from anti-trust board, and that is why I say when you get a vote in this House of something in the region of a mere $17,800 for this Commission to function, what real sort of Commission are we talking about? What is its research staff? There is no research branch of this Commission that can sit down day to day and look back over the last three years even to see the difference in changes in prices at different levels of the distributive trade to find out how it can in all fairness to importers, distributors and the consumer and to the overall economy, control where necessary, restrict where necessary and help to import if necessary.

9.25 p.m.

It has no adequate staffing nor has it any adequate legislation dealing with it. That is why when you hear there is the rancour between the parties about the increase in the cost of living, and this is being made a big issue, it is to some extent, I believe, that the Government is failing to isolate this issue into the proper arena where it should be.

Mr. Chairman, there is no point saying that there is sufficient staff in the Ministry, because this is one Ministry that has always been treated – if you even look at the type of establishment that it has – as almost a second-class cinderalla industry right through the Service. It is true, and some of the civil servants who have gone into it have always been overburdened with a lot of things to do, very little time in which to do them, and not enough material with which to do them. I do not want to be told that there is staffing in the Ministry. The Prices Commission needs its own private and independent staff.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is missing

the point. The Prices Commission is an advisory body to the Minister of Trade; the Prices Commission advises the Minister of Trade; the staff in the Ministry act on the advice of the Commission to the Minister of Trade. The staffing is provided directly under the Ministry of Trade. If the hon. member is contending that the $17,000 is inadequate, I want to correct him by saying that, because the Prices Commission is not an autonomous body, it does not have a large number of staff under the control of the Prices Commission. The fact that the Prices Commission is advisory to the Minister of Trade, the Commission can advise the Minister that it needs a man for research and so on. That is the function of the Commission, so you do not have to put $1 million in the vote for the Prices Commission. If more staff are to be provided, they will be provided under the Ministry of Trade under the appropriate Head on the advice of the Prices Commission.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a word on this matter, too. The hon. member goes on long about this. We have all heard the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce say on more than one occasion, and it has been in the Press, that he intends to increase the quantity and quality of his staff which are there to service the Prices Commission. Now it is one big issue and it is a whole new thing, as if it has never been said before. The Minister is a new Minister in a new Ministry; he has a new Prices Commission; he has a lot of things in his Ministry and he simply cannot do them all at one time, but he has stated that this will be done.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether the Minister of Agriculture speak with the same voice as the Minister of Tourism and Information. If one examines the arguments, one is saying that staff are already in the Ministry, and the other is saying...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not want the hon. member to misquote me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You will have to hear the point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to stop this type of behaviour.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I want you to get it straight that I was not brought in here in a donkey cart!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I never said that any member was brought in here in a donkey cart.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: When I stand to speak on a point of order, you nor nobody can stop me from speaking on a point of order. Get that straight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to get everything straight now.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I will sit, and I will get back up on a point of order, so do not tell me any damned nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no nonsense in here. I am saying that I will decide what is a point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: After I speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not after you speak. According to the Standing Orders, you must allow me to know what is the point of order. *(Asides.)* I will understand them to suit myself. As long as I am in this Chair, you will have to abide with them – *(Asides)* Well, that is what you will have to do. When you bring in a vote of no confidence or any other member in here brings in a vote of no confidence, you can then tell me not to sit in the Chair.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am on a point of order. My point of order is that the hon. member has either been misquoting me, or he has misconstrued what I have been saying. I specifically pointed out that the Prices Commission is an advisory body. I said that the staff which the Prices Commission would like to advise the Minister to provide for the proper functioning of that part of the Ministry would be provided when the Prices Commission advises the Minister to get them. I do not want the hon. member on the other side to twist what I am saying to suit his purpose. Nobody can tell me that, if a member misconstrues what I have said and he makes a statement which is not in keeping with what I have said, I cannot stand up on a point of order and correct the impression that has been given. Get that straight.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, even if we take the last statement made by the hon. member for St. Andrew, what he is now saying is that the Prices Commission is an advisory body and the staff will be provided or are being provided when the Prices Commission advises the Minister that it needs a relevant staff. Mr. Chairman, let us deal with that statement. If the Prices Commission has failed to advise the Minister up to now that it

needs the necessary staff, then the Prices Commission has failed.

Secondly, if the Minister has failed to see that the Prices Commission does not have the necessary staff so that it can advise him properly, then the Minister has failed. One cannot have it as many ways as possible and get out of it. The point is that the Prices Commission is functioning inadequately. I will deal with the statment made by the Minister for Tourism and Information. His statement is that this is a new Minister, and he has said on the radio and all over the place that he will be dealing with it. Why is there no adequate provision,if he is going to deal with it, in these Estimates? We are dealing with the policy of the Department for the next year, on this particular point.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is aware of the fact that staff are not dealt with in the Estimates. Established Staff are dealt with by means of an Establishment Order made by the Prime Minister and brought to the Legislature for approval. The hon. member is out of order when he asks why are we not coming here in these Estimates for the staff for the proper functioning of the Prices Commission. The whole point is that when the staff are recommended, the Ministry makes the appropriate request to the Ministry of Establishment. After the Ministry of Establishment is satisfied, having carried out its investigations and found that the staff are absolutely necessary, the staff will be provided. I am not saying that this is not being processed. I am aware of the fact that the Establishments Division is currently working on several proposals for the Ministry of Trade, and the hon. member will soon be seeing positive action in this respect. He cannot expect to see anything about the staff in these Estimates before a Civil Establishment Order is made.
9.35 p.m.

The hon. member knows very well that you can deal with an established staff. There are many ways of dealing with this, and furthermore the hon. member likewise knows that a Civil Establishment Order could have been brought down at the same time as these Estimates as was done in relation to another Department. So it is not true to say that you are going to move about. The point is that the Commission has been established for some time and has never functioned properly, so let us concede that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I do not understand how many mouths the hon. member is speaking with. He said that the Commission has never functioned a few seconds ago, and now he says it does not function adequately. Which does he mean?

Mr. FORDE: If the hon. member was listening he would have heard the adverb "properly." I will draw the hon. Member's attention to many parts of these Estimates where he will find headings for provision of staff pending the establishment of staff. Don't hide behind the Civil Establishment Order, because I am as aware as the hon. member of how to work these things. I might not have sat in the Ministry, but I take sufficient interest in the country to know this is how you work it, and I am saying the time is long overdue when this should be attended to. I am not accepting the statements made in "Telling it to the Nation" as an excuse for not coming into this Parliament which is the Parliament's main function, to tell the nation what is to be done.

I want to move a little wider on this field from the Prices Commission to have a look at some of the new industries, Mr. Chairman, and on this point I believe the hon. member for St. James has made a point about some of the new industrialists who are coming in here and not providing adequate wages. That is only part of the story. I believe you have heard enough and you will hear a lot more from the hon. member for St. Michael West about some of them who do not even understand the first basic concept of the fundamental provision of this Constitution where they must give people the right to organise and to form their own Trade Union. You will hear a lot more about this, and I do not want to steal the hon. member's thunder, but I advert to that and to working conditions under which they are not providing adequate facilities for the people in the new industries, and are not making as I have said in here before, provision for people like the worker's representative to inspect their premises in cases of industrial injury. I have said this to hammer one point. I believe that the industrial incentive legislation itself must contain fundamental provision dealing with these matters so that there can be no misunderstandings after the industries have come in here.

I will move on from that point, - I do not want to dwell on it - to deal with another point. Within the last few years there have been some of these industries collapsing overnight and nowhere have we had a proper enquiry done or given as to the reasons for the collapse. In some of them they have not only had the benefit of staying in the industrial estates, leaving here without paying their rents, but they have had the benefit of

having got money advanced to them from the Industrial Corporation, and then you find the Government has to scramble....

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of order, I would like to correct the hon. member. The Industrial Development Corporation does not advance money, and he should know that.

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member is probably only now being aware of some of the legislation on the Statute Book, but it used to advance money in this country.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: The Barbados Development Board did that.

Mr. FORDE: It used to advance money only up to about two or three years ago. If the hon. member is not aware that for instance the Supreme Court of Judicature was formerly the Supreme Court, but in speaking of it today you call it the Supreme Court of Judicature, he would never understand. But the point remains, Mr. Chairman, that these people must be investigated not necessarily to hound them down, but because in many cases the birds have already flown; they must be investigated so that we can find out the causes for their failure and how we can prevent a recurrence of the failure in these instances.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I wonder if we have monkeys in here. I know you are sitting back, but if you look around the Chamber you will see some of the antics.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not here to see antics.

Mr. FORDE: I can assure hon. members that in my short time of life I have taken everything. I have debated in Chambers not as august as this one, but almost as "sprancteous" if I may coin a Barbadian word, where the interventions have been fast and furious, and I have faced the full onslaught of the Democratic Labour Party in no uncertain terms, and I have replied and come out of it in full colours; so I can take it.

I am still going to come back to my point without being rude to anybody. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, I mean for the Government to take this seriously - they must not take this as merely politically beating them on any point. The session is too young for us to do that. This is trying to tell them the experiences that some of us have had when we see things happening. Some of us speak about them in different areas, but it is an undoubted fact that some of these failures are engineered by some of the very industrialists because when you look at some of the documents concerned with them, you will find that they always have a double dealing agreement with their Holding Companies overseas, and at the correct time they are doing various things; some of them, for instance, are sending up the price of raw materials in here, some of it invoiced at different prices for various purposes, and when you look and believe there is a collapse and the workers are given short notice and the country is bereft of employment opportunities and money which we have been trying to provide, we find that they have gone. I do not want to mention any particular industry - and the long and short of it is that we are the much poorer for this.

My contention is that it is pointless trying to promote these industries if when we have them we cannot maintain them here, or when they must go we cannot ensure that they go without too much detriment being cause to us. I am asking the Minister, if he has not done it already, to try and investigate those which have failed and publish the causes of their failure and draw lessons from why they have failed and to try if necessary to provide in the legislation against any such failure in future.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Government and ourselves are *ad idem* on this plank of policy, that there should be hastily as much localisation of the ownership of the resources of Barbados. Some people like to say they want black ownership. I prefer, and I make no bones about this, to say I want Barbadian ownership regardless of what is the colour of the ownership, and I go further so that I am not misrepresented to say I want to see that ownership truly reflect all of the constituent ethnic, cultural and racial groups in this community. Let us get that as a policy between us. I think the Minister and the Government should in this session and in this present year state the avenues that are going to be restricted to local ownership as soon as possible. There are certain areas that in my view can very well be restricted to local ownership. Let people know and let the policy be encouraged where necessary in this particular field, and also state as soon as possible the criteria that are going to be applied by people who are coming into the new industry.

Mr. Chairman, I go a bit further. Under the Head of Commerce, I am dealing with these related fields to say that no attempt has been made in some cases since the early 19th Century to upgrade the commercial legislation in Barbados. Let me give an example. The Bills of Sale Act is outdated; it is not performing properly. I give another example; the Hire

Purchase legislation needs being dealt with effectively in order to protect consumers as well, and this is where the Ministry needs adequate research staff and a vote in these fields to deal with these matters.
9.45 p.m.

We will ask the Minister seriously to look at this as a matter of priority in the years to come.

I move from there, Mr. Chairman, to our foreign economic policy in relation to trade and industry in particular. It seems to me that one of the things that certainly if both the Corporation and the Prices Commission are properly established they can do, and that is to try to look at a proper system of a common trade mark policy for the region, a common patents legislation and a common anti-trust legislation in the particular region, and I believe that in this respect Barbados can take the lead. I do not know how many members read Schomburgh, but if you look at Schomburgh you will see that in the nineteenth century our exports and re-exports in the area were almost in terms of real money, if one takes into account inflation, worth more than what we are doing in the export field today. In my view this is not good enough, we are slipping up somewhere in this respect, because once before when we were looking at this only as an instance as the Industrial Development Corporation is still looking at it, as a question of merely import substitution, we must reach out in the area where we are now looking at selling our goods and our trade to other people as well so that we can have a proper balance of payments position, and in this respect I think we can invite the Minister not merely to have, as the hon. member for St. James sought to recommend, an import-export board, but to go further and have a sort of guaranteed fund for exporters so that you insure or underwrite them in a way to encourage the promotion of our overseas trade, so when I began by making statements, Mr. Chairman, and saying that there is an area for State participation, there is this area, and I trust that I have outlined in some way some of the measures.

We do not intend to go on to give all our shots, we let some go now, we trust that next year we will hear that positive steps have been taken in this respect in order to upgrade this Ministry to give it its true functions and to give it a sense of performance that is very vital if we are not only to play our true role in the economic community of the West Indies, which we hope will come sooner rather than later, but in the wide world. Barbadians usually say that we are behind somebody else, and West Indians in general only seem to learn from the examples of others rather than leaping forward and devising our own forms and our own ways of solving our own problems. I hope that with the new Minister this Minister in particular will see to it to try to see where he can not only encourage pioneer industries but be a pioneer in trade, a pioneer in commerce, and a pioneer in industry and industrial development in this island.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church West has made a very good speech, and I would say that some of his colleagues should more or less follow him and do not speak on every Item. There are only two Items here, the Prices Commission and the Industrial Development Corporation, I intend to speak on.

I disagree with the hon. member - I believe he is afraid to go further, he is in company with a lot of people who are as afraid as he - but there is no point in talking about Barbadian ownership unless you want to identify the ownership you are talking about, you would be a hyprocrite and I do not mean that the hon. member is a hyprocrite, but any person in Barbados is a hyprocrite if he is not clear in his mind what he means by ownership. Basically Barbadians have been owning things for the last two hundred years, but they are not the Barbadians you could identify with the total population, a minority of the people in Barbados owning things cannot be regarded as Barbadian ownership in the context of reflecting the total population of this society. You cannot talk about Barbadian ownership when you are only talking about black porters, black maids, black messengers and white General Managers and white businessmen, the white people controlling the top and the bottom people are dealt with by the black people, you have to face it as a bold, unadulterated matter that if you want to identify the ownership in Barbados you will have to see if there is a fundamental change.

All the talk we are having about the Governments, and whatever Governments we have we are not going to have a change until this identity is changed. This is where the whole problem resides. You must be able to change this, a minority of white people in a community like ours owning the wealth of the community that is divided among a very few people, we are bound to get an uneven distribution, and that is what the position is. We are going to have this as a problem, because a small ethnic group is controlling the things that we eat, the things that we buy, the things that we wear, and they are going to see to it that they can control it. We have boldly come face to face with a matter that we will have to look at it as an economic

challenge to the future, and we will have to try and change it. There is no point in talking about a mixed economy, we have a mixed economy but it is controlled not by a mixed ethnic group but by a specific ethnic group at the top, and I have no compunction about that. I do not owe any allegiance to anybody in this country other than the workers in this country, and I want to say, I was a member of the Industrial Development Corporation and the Corporation has to do a lot of spring cleaning.

There is no point anybody beginning to fool himself about this. I do not know what is said to the people who come here, they have been bringing people into this country on the basis of poeple who have an anti-discrimination and an anti-trade union attitude. That is so patent that tomorrow morning you are going to find a demonstration in this island that we are not going to ask anybody to take part, the workers are going to do it, and you are going to have that until there is a change, because the workers are not going to sit here in Barbados and allow any man to come from Alabama, from Florida or from down south where he is running from certain things and come to Barbados on the guise that he is going to give trade and put up industries and tell them they cannot join the Union. Mr. Chairman, I have in my possession a paper which was written by the Datacraft Management Company in Barbados. All these companies have been given pioneer status, some of them have been given land to operate on, and that is the workers' taxes. International Scientific Ltd. which is owned by Plesseys, all the land that is going up at Wildey is the taxes of the people of Barbados; the workers are the biggest taxpayers in this country, this is a predominant wage earning society, and I have a very cruel outlook to this, we are quite content to pay a man $1,500 or $2,000 a month - and I want to be very blunt - we cannot justify in Barbados at any level paying any Permanent Secretary or paying anybody the salaries we pay and in the same breath, whether it is the IDC, we cannot justify the salaries they pay out to the staff and then in the same breath allow a company to come here and pay $16.00 per week.
9.55 p.m.

The I.D.C. cannot justify the salaries that they have to pay out to the staff, and then in the same breath allow a company to come here and operate and pay people $16 a week. Nobody can justify that. If you are running a philanthropic organisation, or an almshouse, you can pay anything because the inmates do not pay any money, but the moment you are running an organisation for profit, then wages must be the first charge. You cannot operate unless it is a wage that is fair and reasonable.

Mr. Chairman, it will amaze people to know that the Datacraft is paying people $16 and $18 a week. We do not want the community to be fooled in that you are going to employ 1,000 people and then underpay them. I could take the whole amount of wages of the Barbados Workers' Union and divide it among 1,000 people, and you will see 1,000 people coming out of the Barbados Workers' UNion on evenings, if I want to give somebody $16 a week. If we intend to pay somebody a wage that he can buy food, pay rent and live a decent life, can go to the Doctor and relieve some of our social services, then I cannot employ ten times the number of people I am employing.

Mr. Chairman, I am in favour of industrial development. Industrial development is a must. We have to look at industrial development in the light of our population and in the light of the distribution of the economy of the country, but do not allow ourselves to be lulled into any complacency. Those of us who are the sons and daughters of the downtrodden and underprivileged slaves know what some people have gone through, and that is why I cannot subscribe to what the hon. member for Christ Church West has said. With my beginning in life; with my upbringing, and with my roots, I cannot see the economy functioning in Barbados for people like myself other than that I am identified in a way different from when I was a boy, when my father was a boy, and when my grandfather was in a cane field. I cannot see it being in the same hands of the people who control their lives, and I am what I am as a result of the economic control being what it was. I am no hypocrite, and I cannot be a hypocrite. I see today, unfortunately, that we have to be aware of some of our own people who are not sufficiently emancipated that they do not see the true identity, and in this Industrial Development Corporation you can get a situation that can be extremely difficult and dangerous, if we do not watch it.

Today I was talking to a man to whom I was introduced, and one of the men who operated the I.S.A. here said to me that the Industrial Development Corporation do not tell these people – he is out now, and he is like a Daniel coming to judgment. He agrees with me now, but his company is New York did not agree with him. His company in New York is closed and the people are not working. There is a belief in Barbados that if you are not willing to accept the lowest of low wages from any of these people

they would not come here, but the only way they will come is if you are going to accept the lowest of wages. That cannot be our policy. We must accept a wage that is fair and reasonable and tell them so. It means that when wages are at the lowest and the business cannot pay they will still leave and the people will be out of employment.

Mr. Chairman, if a man is running a business badly, he runs it badly. No matter what he pays, if you tell a man you do not have any wages to pay but he is running a business badly, then that business will soon be out of his hands. You will have absolutely nothing. It is just like a man who wants to make bread, but he has no flour or water. In the circumstances, he cannot make bread. If a man wants to run a business, he must have the intuition and the knowledge to make a success of the business. If he does not possess those qualities, it does not matter what wages he pays he will soon be out of business. I do not subscribe to this idea that you must have this.

Now, this is a fact. The wage levels in Barbados are different from the wage levels in the United States of America. That is quite obvious, because the *per capita* income of the United States of America is something like $3,500 per annum. That cannot be compared with Barbados, becaust it is one of the highest wage levels in the world. The Scandinavians have high wage levels, but the American wage is still higher than the Scandinavian wage; however, the standard of living is nothing to be ashamed of when compared with that of the United States of America.

Now, the Ford Motor Company has businesses in Europe. The Ford Motor Company as a result of the multi-national situation wanted to move their headquarters into a different part of Europe, because it was said that the British Trade Unions were giving the Comapny trouble. The wages that you pay to a man in England are different to what you would pay to a man in West Germany, and similarly the wages are going to be different from the wages you pay in Australia where the General Motors have their Company.

Now, these foreign companies are operating in Industrial countries, but they are not operating there on the basis that they are going to pay the lowest of wages. We have some concept in Barbados that, the only way these people will come here is if they are allowed to pay wages that seem to be lower still than the lowest in Barbados or even equivalent to some of the wages paid here.

Mr. Chairman, I have gone to some of these places down here after the workers had joined the Union, and I have discovered that some of them were resisting the Union on the grounds that we would have exposed this. Some of them were paying wages below what was the lowest in this country. The same Datacraft people are giving the Union a lot of trouble, and you will be amazed to know that they are paying trainees $16 a week. They are not only paying them $16 a week, but they are resisting them joining the Union. They are putting every obstacle in their way.

Now, I am not making this as any appeal, because I do not make any appeal to the Minister of Labour or any of the Ministers to carry out the basic function of the Trade Union. The union is strong enough to do that on its own. As a matter of public policy, whether the people are members of the union or not, if the entrepreneurs are given the impression that they are coming to Barbados and they can resist the trade union movement, then they are making a big mistake because I want to make it clear that it is going to cause a lot of industrial dislocation in this Island if they persist in this direction. Do not think that the workers in Barbados do not understand the meaning of the word "union". They know what is unity nowadays. Do not think that a worker who is not offended in one area is going to sit down quietly when a worker in another area is offended. He will not say that it does not affect him. It will affect him, and he is going to react when the time comes.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, because the days are over when the workers are going to take these things quietly, because they know that the only way of bringing these things to a halt is by having complete unity. We have this as a lesson to teach not only people in Barbados, but the people in the Caribbean. We have been warned about these entrepreneurs coming here 10 years ago. Ten years ago I attended a seminar, and we were told by the United States people that these people since the end of the war were travelling all over the world. They went to Hong Kong; they went to the Middle East; they went to Asia; they went to Africa; they went to Latin America and got all of these incentives. They got an incentive here for 5 years; they make another one and push it up for 10 years, and after they have done a circle of 25 years you are told that they are out of business.

10.05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to say anything more than is necessary. Barbados is a predominantly wage earning society, and if the

Industrial Development Corporation is encouraging industrial development, it has to be against a background of clear understanding. We have a problem in St. Lucy where the employer was so stupid that when the workers organised, he closed down the plant before he would treat with the Union. I do not know if it is the same company and commonsense has prevailed, but they have now recognised the Union. I have said earlier that there are some things that lawyers think only they understand. There is freedom of association in the Constitution. I can go to the Roman Catholic Church or any other church that I want to, but there is no freedom of association in regard to industrial relations and collective bargaining because you are free to join a Union and the employer is free to refuse you. There is a convention that was passed in 1949 by the I.L.O. giving the right to organise and freedom of collective bargaining. It is Convention No. 19 which is a completely different thing from what is written in the Constitution. In 1947 there was freedom of association, but they had to turn around and pass another convention giving not only freedom of association, but the right to organise, because a man can tell you that you are quite free to join a Trade Union of your own choice, but he is not going to recognise the Trade Union, which is a different thing; so they had to pass a second convention in order to make the first convention have some teeth.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has said that it proposes to pass this kind of legislation. Now I just want you to listen to some of the ignorance you get from some people in situations like this. This was written in a letter written to us and dated yesterday: "We have not barred nor do we intend to bar any employee from exercising their free right to join a Union". I can only call these the commandments, and I am going to deal with them more extensively tomorrow morning at 7.30 o'clock. Secondly, "Each employee has the basic free right to choose or not to choose the Union membership." It is not a question of to choose or not to choose; only idiots who do not understand industrial relations would tell you "to choose or not to choose" membership in a Union. It is just like a man going to play cricket; he does not make nought, because nought is there already; he makes one run or two runs. In the same way it is not a question of "Not to choose". It is when you have chosen that they are acting against your choice, because they are telling you that the vote of those who have not decided is going to nullify those who have decided to join as if you are having a referendum. Now if you are having a referendum and you ask a man to vote "yes" or "no", you count the "yes's" and the "noes", but you cannot take those who have not voted and say they have the majority and therefore the others have to come out. This is like the situation with Ian Smith in Rhodesia. The black people cannot vote, so when you take the number of white people who have voted, you say the majority is not against this.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, because this same sort of thinking permeates the cranium of some of our officials because they have not been properly emancipated, and that is why I am hoping that the Government will send some more of them to I.L.O. conferences and allow them to get exposed to international affairs and get out of this little Barbadian corner of being down in Broad Street and going home and sitting down on evenings and thinking that this is the end of the world. Commandment 3 said: "A recent tally taken by the Chief Labour Officer's representative reveals the fact that 113 dues paying members of the B.W.U. are employed at Datacraft. However this is not a majority of our employees." He is doing as if we are having a jurisdictional row in which there is another Trade Union. What these people who come here from America do not understand is that the National Labour Relations Board Act came up in the United States of America because it is a continent where you have a lot of unions fighting for the same membership, and in order to determine to whom you will give recognition, you set a figure in law, so that if you have 50 percent, other persons would not be able to come along and say they have 33 1/3 percent or 20 percent, and then you do not know where you are. That is a jurisdictional situation, but where there is no jurisdictional situation and there is no other union, you cannot assume that the others who have not identified themselves with another union or another organisation are against it. What he is doing is adding up all the persons in his organisation and saying that they are against the union. He says "The majority of our employees have chosen not to join the Union". Have you ever heard more ignorance than this? There is no choice in so far as not joining is concerned; it is when you exercise the right to join that you join the union of your choice. That is what is written specifically in the I.L.O. When you do not join, you are just where you were, because you have started off not having joined. When you went to work you were not a member so you do not have to decide that you are not joining. This is the sort of situation you have, and I will tell you why.

I am not accusing anybody but what I want to say is this: I have heard about cocktail parties and so forth, but some of these new entrepreneurs believe that people are for sale,

not only the workers but officials too. Now the I.D.C. gives an entertainment allowance to their officials so that when these people come here they can be taken to, say, the Holiday Inn. If they did not have an allowance, they would not be taken to the Holiday Inn, they would be taken to Gwen Workman; and some of these officials get some fuzzy idea that these people are different from what they are, and the Union sometimes is played in the back.
10.15 p.m.

They come here, and the behaviour of these people seems to come from something in the back of their minds that they believe it is all right. I would not say they are encouraged, I believe it is the atmosphere, because encouragement is to do something positive to make a fellow believe he can do this, but I know a little about some of these people. There is a man at ISL, sometimes they give them jobs, pay them salaries in U.S. currency, sometimes it is deposited in the banks from which they came, one of them put up a house at Atlantic Shores and the rent is being paid, I do not know if income tax is being paid to the Government on the rent that is paid for the house, they live that way, and some of these people can only find that they can pay out $20 and $25 a week. If these companies are not making money, if these companies are poor, dilapidated companies which are struggling, let us examine them. I am not even dealing purely with the question of the wage, but I am dealing with a fundamental question, the affrontery that these companies can come here, foreigners can come to Barbados and have the gall to set up industries, in some instances set up industries occupying Government-owned property, taxes from the workers, and looking at the workers' representative and give him this kind of chat.

Somewhere, some time they get the feeling that they can do this, I do not know from whom, if I knew I would say. I do not like to go in for guess work, when I know I say. I know they rented a house at Atlantic Shores and I can say that I know what I am talking about. The statement I made about the wages I knew what I was talking about, because the girls had informed me about it. I have this document from Datacraft here, I see what they have written. I have spoken to the Director of the Employers' Confederation, and I know that this is the sort of thing that he does not understand, this clear distinction between majority, they think that 50% is something sacrosanct. Here in Barbados the Government recognises Trade Unions, not based on a percentage, the Union of Public Workers did not have to submit a percentage of the workers it represents, the Barbados Workers' Union did not have to submit a percentage of the workers it represents to get Government workers organised. I agree where you have a jurisidictional row you should have that, but where there is no jurisdictional row the question of percentage is important. Do you know what happened? The same Datacraft people said that a count was being carried out by the Labour Department and that they had 113 people, suppose they had 300 and you have 113 they cannot claim the other people in the company do not want to join the Union, because you have not asked them to vote. Mr. Chairman, tomorrow we will not ask for a vote, we will take to the road, and our attitude is that you should make the company operate tomorrow and see if the Chief Labour Officer, the Minister of Labour or anybody else can get the wheels going tomorrow when we say we are not working. That is the answer we are going to give everybody on the basis of recognition. Sometimes people like to see certain things fail and when this happens they think Frank Walcott has failed.

What I am prepared to say, Mr. Chairman, on this issue, I am prepared to go to gaol to see Barbados reach the stage where any employer coming here must of necessity get the respect that this is our country and he has to respect us, and I would go to any length to make them understand they have to respect us in this country.

The only thing I would say in a broad way on the Prices Commission is that I do not think at this stage until you revamp your economy, Barbados is a slow place and people have been talking about the Prices Commission, but I do not believe the Prices Commission in itself can do the kind of job in this area that we would like to see done, for one reason. The hon. member for Christ Church West spoke on this, but in Barbados we do not have enough people in surplus for this kind of work, we have a lot of people each time you put them on a committee they are looking for jobs for their wife, brother-in-law, cousin, and when people have not yet got out of the woods they cannot sit on these committees and carry on this sort of brutal job like a man who has passed through the woods and is either poor or rich already, but you still have people looking about to see if their son or brother's son can get a little place in here, because we have not built up a society yet with our own people who have enough that they can sit down and do a job without worrying about whether their brother wants a job. That is one of the problems that we have, and I feel until the economy changes we have to face this.

I believe in Barbados there is an overdoing of this phrase "the cost of living", I do not believe any sensible judgment has been made when people talk about the cost of living, what do they really mean? Mr. Chairman, the man at the lowest rung is hit hardest in anything apart from the cost of living, the floods, the hurricanes, the hands of God hit him harder than anyone else because he is nearer to the elements, but I feel the Prices Commission is an attempt to find out some areas. I have said already, and I will repeat here, what I think Barbados will have to judge and look at, I feel the time has come that a National Economic Council should look at the overall economic picture, not taking the place of the Economic Unit, because that is a place that will give marching orders, but a National Economic Council not looking at the cost of living but embracing the economic life of Barbados, looking at the Tourist Board, looking at the Industrial Development Corporation, looking at all the little bits and pieces, looking at the private sector, having a wide spectrum of the whole situation, and I am not speaking now of the productivity and management setup now, because this is a predominantly management oriented organisation, I am talking about something that is not sectorial in its outlook but it looks at the national economy not from the point of view of anything other than seeing if these things can be co-ordinated or embraced, because I am a strong believer that with the size of Barbados we have too many subdivisions.
10.25 p.m.

I believe that some day the Tourist Board, the Industrial Development Corporation, and the various elements that operate in their separate compartments will have to be viewed in a different light, because in a small community with 250,000 people and 166 square miles you multiply so many bits and pieces of things that sometimes you can get a powerful man, pay him a good salary, pay him well for the job he is doing and let him get on with the job well rather than having these little republics that you have. Everybody will be the President of a little republic and, therefore, you will have 24 little republics operating. I do not believe in that. I feel that the time has come when you will have to co-ordinate the work, and a National Economic Council is likely to help us.

I feel that the Industrial Development Corporation in its way does a good job, but the Industrial Development Corporation is going to have a problem in this sector in that we do not have a Trade Department as such. Barbados' trade is the merchants in town, or the people in Broad Street sending you information and getting back things from you. I know who every public servant in Barbados is going to work with next. I will not call the name of a top public servant, but I know it. You have to broaden your base. I sit on Boards with public servants, and I can get what some people call a feed-back. *(Asides)* Yes, when the fellow's transistor is too high I can get a feed-back. I can get a better feed-back if one fellow is in a corner and another fellow is behind me. I will get the feed-back because I will be between the two stations. This is one of the problems, and that is why we have to get a bigger area in which to deal with these things.

Mr. Chairman, when it comes to trade, development and money in a small community where everybody is looking to get on quickly, it is difficult to ask people not to look at these things. I feel that a National Economic Council will be of some help. I hope that the Minister of Trade and Commerce will find that the Prices Commission will need a wider area from which to draw advice, especially in a country like Barbados where trade is predominantly in the hands of the private sector, and the Government itself is not a big trading partner. The Government has one or two elements in Agriculture, but agriculture is basically non-trading. Agriculture is not trading from the Government's point of view as a trader. Government agriculture is more on the basis of the research element for providing the nucleus of thinking and providing the area of experimentation, but not in trade *per se*. For that reason, as Barbados is not a public sector trading area but the trading area is the private sector, then it means that we do not have a Trade Department to give us the kind of statistical information that is carefully analysed by experts. Even at that you would have to rely to a large extent on people.

Mr. Chairman, finally, in a society like ours the thinking even of your public servants will be dominated by the sort of economic society in which they live, and it is going to be extremely difficult to find public servants with a different kind of mental orientation from the one they now have as long as they are forced to live in a society that is dominated by private capital as we have in Barbados.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this debate has turned in a way which I had not anticipated. I feel that some of the issues which have been raised should have been raised under Heads not yet before this House and will soon be brought before this House. However, for the records, I want to make this very brief statement. The hon. member for St. Michael West referred to the problem or the issue which he has with

the Datacraft Company. In one of my regular meetings with the Chief Labour Officer he informed me of this problem. In fact, he told me at the time that he was going to advise the Company to recognise the Union, because, in his opinion which coincided with mine, the Union had a sufficiently substantial portion of membership to warrant recognition. I have since been advised by the Chief Labour Officer that he has advised the Company to recognise the Union. If the Company has taken it upon itself to act contrary to the advice of the Chief Labour Officer, and indeed contrary to good sense in a matter like this, then the Company will have to stand the consequences. I merely want to make that brief point for the records.

The other point is that the freedom to associate and the freedom to organise is indeed recognised by the Constitution. We are, in fact, giving this some teeth in legislation. The fact that it is not yet before this Honourable Chamber is that I have held up the amending legislation which has been cleared by the Attorney General, because in amending legislation I always like to have a look to see if the legislation we are amending does not need further amendment. That is the only reason that this legislation is not yet before this Chamber. I am looking at it with a view to introducing a further amendment to the amending Bill.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like to draw attention to certain facts. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central tried to make out that the hon. member for Christ Church West did not know what he was saying when he said that the I.D.C. used to lend out money. I have used a remark in here and I am going to use it again. Some people who cannot swim will always jump into a swimming pool at the deep end and end up muddying the water.

If the hon. member will look back he will notice that the hon. member for St. Michael West spoke about the company which used to be called I.S.L., but today it is carrying on the same discriminatory practices which it carried on before when it had a different name. A leopard cannot change its spots. The same I.D.C. used to be called the Barbados Development Corporation, Plesseys, or the Barbados Development Bank, and they have only changed the name to I.D.C. The hon. member must have been outside flying when the names were changed over, but I should like him to know that the same Board was the one which was responsible for lending out money to a number of Industrial Companies which came here and some of which have failed.
10.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member give way a moment while I try to explain the situation which I tried to point out to the hon. member for Christ Church West? It is not the same as the Supreme Court changing its name as the hon. member for Christ Church West mentioned; it is not the same as I.S.L. changing its name, and the hon. member saying that a leopard cannot change its spots. In fact, it was a complete re-organisation of the Barbados Development Board when the functions of lending money and the promoting of industry were separate and distinct. The former Barbados Development Board used to have both these functions, but the present Industrial Development Corporation is solely concerned with the promotion of development of indistry, and the loan function is now the function of the Barbados Development Bank.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. member is not with it. The policy remains the same. I can tell him something, Mr. Chairman, if he does not know. Only last year a client of mine went to the Board making enquiries about starting a business here, and as the hon. member for St. Michael West has said, until the members of the Board or people of this country get to understand that Barbadians are entitled to a foot-hold in their own country, all of us will soon find ourselves outside and the expatriates will be inside, because they told my client, and I have letters to prove, that there is a company from outside which is enquiring about doing the same thing, and the Board's policy was to encourage those who came from outside who would not need money from the Board to set up business.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of order, would the hon. member give way while I ask him a question? He talked about last year and made mention of the Board, and he is even now more confused than he was before. Last year there was no Board; there was a Bank and a Corporation. Which is he talking about?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if I say something it might be considered rude, and I do not like to be rude in here with Your Honour sitting in the Chair. All the fancy technicalities about the Board and Corporation boil down to the same thing; a leopard cannot change its spots. Interpret that and see what I mean. We are dealing with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, but every time you talk about

ex-patriates, some people will defend them. I heard the hon. member for St. Michael West say that whenever you have a dispute with expartiates, there is always some humbug getting in the way. I endorse that statement 100 per cent. Whenever you have to stand up for the rights of the nationals of this country, there is always somebody to get in the way to plaster over the evils of these companies which come from outside.

The hon. member talked about a company at Grazettes that is folding up now, and if you look around you will find that the Banks have a hand in it, and this is why the Minister has got to open his eyes and see what is going on. The hon. member for Christ Church West talked about Hire Purchase and Bills of sale legislation. Mr. Chairman, I do not mind the hon. member for Christ Church North Central because he will make me say things that he will regret. Go into Bridgetown tomorrow morning and go into any of the Banks and tell them that you want to borrow $6,000 to buy a piece of land and see if you can get it. But tell them that you want to buy a motor car with a Bill of Sale and you will get it, and one hour after the time comes for you to pay the monthly instalment, the Bank's bailiff is on your back and the car is seized. Now let an expartriate go to the Bank and ask for $60,000 to build a hotel and you will see how quickly he gets it.

I have spoken to the Leader of the House about the Hire Purchase Act in this country because I know what is happening under the Bills of Sale which the Banks are issuing. I also know what is happening under the Hire Purchase Act because it is, in my opinion, outdated; so these are things to which the Minister should pay attention now, because it affects the nationals of this country. When I hear the Minister talking about fancy Boards, he is going to defend anything that touches expatriates, but I will tell him that when it comes to the nationals of this country I am like the hon. member who said he will go to goal because part of this country belongs to me and mine. Since 1970 I have been saying that the people at Datacraft have an iniquitous policy. When you go to apply for a job, there is a question on the form which reads: "How much salary do you require", and if you put down more than $25 you do not get the job. You cannot find that with a Barbadian company. Barbadians know how to argue with Barbadians; but let us argue with ISL. I have first hand information of ISL. They fired a girl who was a foreman on a line getting a salary of $EC300 per month and brought a man from the deep south to Barbados to take over her job at $US800, a house at Atlantic Shores, and a motor car for which they were paying - I know the company from which they were hiring it - and at the end of the week when the man had to write the report he could not even write like a primer standard child in Barbados, and when he took the card to the person under him to write it up, she refused and they attempted to fire that girl too, and she came to me. Well I told the Personnel Officer that if the Union did not look into the matter and they fired the girl, I would make political capital of it.

Mr. Chairman, these are the things which the Minister has got to look at. A company called Prosan Ltd. folded up leaving a gas station with a bill of $700 for gasolene; the workers did not get their last pay. I know how I got the money for the workers in a company I am folding up now in Court. I do not mind the Hon. Minister talking because he has to back-up the expatriates, but I heard one of his colleagues say in the yard that the time will come when the writing will be on the wall. As I heard the hon. member for Christ Church South Central say, the poor people in this country will get up one day; we do not have anywhere to run, because our passports are stamped "Barbados". We do not have any army or any gun boats to move us to Pelican and back; as a matter of fact we do not even have Pelican now.

Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the Public Utilities Board my colleague has dealt effectively with that. I have another angle which I am going to take up with the Public Utilities Board shortly. The next point I want to deal with is the subsidisation of foodstuffs. At the moment I have been given to understand that the poor people of this country are crying out because they cannot get dark crystal sugar. You talk about a Prices Commission. The hon. member got up to justify the quality of the staff etc., but if the Ministers were listening last night they would have heard in a programme on C.B.C. a woman complaining that week after week she goes to the Supermarket, sees the dark crystal sugar there and she cannot get any.
10.45 p.m.

She even said it was being offered on a weekend at 16 cents per pound, and one of the panelists said that the control price was 11 cents. I understand there is dark crystal sugar in the bonds in Barbados, I understand the new dark crystal from the crop is also flowing in but the commodity is not on the market. We hear about a Prices Commission, the Minister said it before, but while the grass is growing the horse is starving, and it is the poor Bajans who cannot afford to buy anything but dark sugar, the others can buy their fancy cubes and their hard crystal rock sugar and all such like, but it is the man in the street who is crying out, he is entitled to live although not as happily and as luxuriously as anybody else, he is entitled to live in this country, and the Minister or

whoever is shadowing for the Minister should be able to tell the country now what is going on with the situation of the dark crystal sugar, put the people at rest.

Then there is the question again of the Ministry working hand in hand with the Ministry of Agriculture. I must again compliment the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, he is trying his best in difficult circumstances. I said the other night, and I meant it, that he is trying his best, but how can the Ministry of Agriculture prosper when the Trade Ministry on the other hand will sit down and allow the hotels to import all kinds of market gardening produce into this country? There was a time when the Abattoir used to set aside cold storage room for two hotels around here to store agricultural products. The Ministry must work hand in hand with the Ministry of Agriculture. I have said before, take a Sunday and go to any Barbadian home, middle class and down, and you will find on the table what one can determine as agricultural products taken from a tin. You will find diced beets, diced carrots, all laid out on a table.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, if the hon. member will give way, the question of the dark crystal sugar will be settled some time next week. The main cause of this slight delay is owing to the late start in the crop of about two weeks.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister said the crop has just started. I would like the hon. member to go down in the bond, I can tell him to go up in Country Road and he will see the sugar up there packed up, so I do not know about the crop having just started, my opinion is that there is sugar being held in Barbados but not being released.

What I was saying about the question of the Ministry of Agriculture, one cannot expect the Minister to put forward a policy where he is going to encourage people to plant agricultural or market gardening produce. He said he has earmarked the St. Joseph–St. Andrew area to grow fruit, but what is the situation? The Ministry of Trade must work hand in hand with the Ministry of Agriculture, because at the same time ...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member will give way, I want to disabuse from his mind that there is any difference in policy between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade. I want to assure the hon. member that there is very close collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture, and in particular between the Minister of Trade and the Minister of Agriculture, and that we are working together towards a common goal and the situation which was experienced in the past I can assure him will not be experienced in the future.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has got the knack for diving in when things are down to bottom and trying to hold them up. I do not doubt that the Ministers are working hand in hand, but I wonder what the effect will be. I do not want to prolong the debate much longer, but I am very disturbed when hon. members who want to masquerade, as a certain friend of mine has said, like a Bank Holiday, you are human during the week and when a Bank Holiday comes you put on a bear mask and jump like a bear. We have got to take this question of ownership, the question of participation, the question of reasonable living in this country very, very seriously. We have got to stamp out anyone of those who should attempt to mislead people into believing that Barbadians are not entitled to a just and equitable livelihood in this country.

Mr. Chairman, another point which I mentioned in this House before, which my colleague has just reminded me of, is the question of a single Rum Marketing Board. I believe I have said in this Committee before that particularly in places like New York and there are certain areas in Canada where people complain that they cannot get proper Barbados rum, and I would like to see the Government take a bold step and stop marketing rum under the various names like Mount Gay and have a single Rum Marketing Board controlled by the Barbados Government. We have made mention of this in our Manifesto, and I do not want the Government to be ashamed, there is nothing to be ashamed about when you are working for the good of the entire Barbadian population, I hope that they will take the policy put forward by us and have this single Board in respect of many of these services. I envisage that with the agricultural development of this country we may be in a position where we can supply places like New York with certain commodities during the winter season when they are unable to grow such crops, and I believe the sooner we come around to single Marketing Boards it is going to be better for one and all.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I should not allow this debate to end without at least getting the record straight in the absence of the appropriate Minister. Many unfair criticisms have been levelled both at the Government's policy and the Industrial Development Corporation in particular, but how can any honest person sit here and condemn the Industrial Development Corporation for the wonderful work it has been doing over the last few years in providing employment opportunities for the thousands of

young girls in Barbados? As far as the question of wages is concerned, I want to make it crystal clear that the Industrial Development Corporation hopes the current wages which are paid in Barbados to investors who are coming in here and see as far as possible that those wages are paid.
10.55 p.m.

Apart from that, we have a strong union in Barbados, and the union's chief, the hon. member for St. Michael's West, has stated the case of the union; he can state it quite adequately, and give protection to those workers to see that they get a living wage commensurate with the wages paid in Barbados locally. A Minimum Wage Committee has been set up, and it will be reporting shortly. The Government is taking active steps to see that minimum wages are paid, and that the workers' rights are protected. I think most of us, when visitors come here, take a delight in showing them what the Industrial Development Corporation are doing and what progress we have made in the industrial sector. Of course, many hon. members do not take the trouble to read what is going on. They merely come in here and attack the Industrial Development Corporation despite the constructive work they have been doing over the years.

I have a short report here, Sir, and I should like to get it on the record. This is a short report of the Industrial Development Corporation. It is the performance of the I.D.C. since 31st March, 1971.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Are you going to make it a document of the House?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, I will make it a document of the House, and I want to get it on the record. It states:

"BARBADOS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Performance of IDC since 31st
March, 1971

The IDC's promotional activities have continued to add to the growth of the manufacturing sector, to the creation of job opportunities for our growing labour force, and to provide import substitution benefits as well as export expansion for the nation.

Twenty-five (25) applications for approved status were processed during the period.

Fourteen (14) companies were granted approved status. Four of these were export industries. There are four other companies who will be granted approved status on registration.

Eleven (11) new companies commenced operations during the period with a capital outlay of $1.7 million. Their products included Business Forms and Stationery, Plastic Products for commercial, domestic and industrial use; Towels and sophisticated electronic assembly of such items as electron mounts used with picture tubes in television and related applications.

Another instance of the level of confidence which investors now have in the Barbados Work force has among other examples, the assembly of key boards used for communication in flight control towers of international airports.

1972-73

The prospects in 1972-73 are very promising. One major international company whose factory is now nearing completion at the Wildey Estate is gearing to employ over 200 persons during the fiscal year 1972-73. This company is expected to attain a maximum employment level of 500 after 3 years.

Yet another international company listed among the first 50 U.S. Corporations (by sales volume) is expected to set up operations in Barbados in the near future. This facility will employ 100 Barbadians by the end of the fiscal year 1972-73 and will reach a maximum of 200 after 2 years of operations.

The question of job creation is of paramount importance in the promotional efforts of the Corporation. Those companies which established industries in 1971-72 are now employing 350 persons while in their start-up phase.

Expansion in enterprises established before April 1971 (notably among them Standard Memories Caribe Ltd., Plessey Memories Ltd., and Data Craft Ltd. – all electronic components export Industries) accounted for the provision of about 450 jobs during the period."

That is the position, Sir, and it gives you a rough idea of what IDC has been doing. We cannot sit here and criticise the work of IDC. The IDC has created job opportunities, the Minister is taking active steps to see that the Prices Commission is working on a proper basis, he has reconstituted the Board, he has different people on the Board, he has an able man as Chairman, and I am quite sure that the Prices Commission will do some useful work in this country. This is not an easy problem.

The question that the sum of $998,565 under Head 41 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd March, 1972.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
11.05 p.m.

Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

IN COMMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – was called .

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,039,955 under Head 42 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this Head covers Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance. At the moment I want to direct my energies to Item 33 – Maintenance of Parks and Beaches. This sum is to meet the administrative expenses of operating the Parks and Beaches Services. I believe that everywhere it is accepted that the Parks and Beaches Commission is performing a very worthwhile function and, with very few exceptions, it has to be said that the work so far is good. My feeling is that what the Commission sought to control or manage at its inception is now much more than it was in those days, and the functions of the Commission as we now know – we learn more and more as we go along – make us admit that the decision to appoint a Manager to the Commission is something to be commended on the part of the Government. We sincerely hope that, in making the appointment, every effort will be made to find the type of person who is really capable of doing the job and enhancing the statue of the Commission in every way.

As I understand it, there are people who have had considerable training in Agriculture. Whilst the functions of the Commission are not purely and simply agricultural and are allied to it in every possible way, we would like to know that someone who is familiar with such functions as the Commission will be called upon to perform from time to time, is appointed to the post. Under such circumstances, we would be able to expect nothing but the best from him.

I know that there is a bit of conflict in the functions of the Public Health Authorities and the Parks and Beaches Commission where the disposal of dead animals found on beaches is concerned. In the past whenever this occurred contact would be made with the Public Health Authorities, and I think in several areas they kept people on hand to attend to these matters. In other words, a worker was posted in an area that he had to cover. Those workers became known to householders and people living near the beach who would see these things from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, a situation cropped up some time ago, and I think it is currently existing at the moment, where a barge on the beach was causing a nuisance to people in the Paynes Bay area. I do not know if the matter has already been settled, but I should like to hear from the Minister what the Commission has done and how it is proposed to deal with such matters from time to time. I know that there was a case where a whale, I think, was

washed up at the Crane Beach. *(Asides.)* That is the type of thing the Commission finds itself having to look after. I am sure that, say, 18 months ago none of us had been thinking in terms of the Commission having to deal with these problems. It is the function of the Parks and Beaches Commission to keep the beaches clean, and it means that whatever is found on the beach that does not measure up to health standards will have to be removed.

Now, with reference to the disposal of the whale and other dead animals, there is still to my mind a health problem with which to deal. The Parks and Beaches Commission may send staff to bury a dead animal, but there is still a health element involved. There should be somebody from the Public Health Department present to make sure that the disposal of the dead animal is in accordance with Public Health standards. As far as some labourers employed there are concerned, they might just cover over the body, but I do not think that is enough. I should like to know that a better relationship exists between the Public Health Authorities and the Parks and Beaches Commission so that there may be greater co–operation when matters such as these crop up from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, there is also the question of our Parks. I believe that some of the Parks we now have such as the National Park at Farley Hill, Queen's Park and King George V Memorial Park contain some trees that are worth preserving and should be given special care and attention.

10.40 a.m.

It would be a good thing, Mr. Chairman, if the botanical names as well as the local names were painted and posted on these trees for the benefit of our children who go there as well as visitors to these parks, and it would be a good thing as well, Mr. Chairman, if the attendants at these Parks were given a little lecture from time to time so as to make them *au fait* with what is going on so that they would be able to explain to persons who visit these parks and would like to gather some sort of information. I think that one of the first supervisors at Queen's Park was a retired member of the Police Force, and I understand that he had made a study of the history of the park and took delight in meeting people who went to the park and could tell them something about everything that was to be found in the park, and we would like to know that we have attendants of that calibre who have an interest in conducting people about the park and explain things to them. I feel again, Sir, that enough use is not made of Queen's Park. We do not see enough organised activity by some of the schools in the area; I refer to some of the primary schools. There are Buxton, Hindsbury, Roebuck and St. Mary's Infants which could certainly make use of the grounds at Queen's Park for physical exercises much more than we see now. In other words, the more activity we can see in a place like Queen's Park by our children particularly, the better it is for the nation, and this is something we would like to encourage wherever possible.

There is also the case, Mr. Chairman, of those officers who are employed at our parks and their behaviour generally. We believe that their concern should not be whether a person visiting the park is black, white, grey, blue, brown or khaki colour. Every visitor to these parks should be met and offered the same measure of courtesy. I am not suggesting that these attendants must be given directives to say "Yes, Sir", "please" and "madam", because in some cases in Barbados to use these words is offensive; that is the pattern of behaviour that is developing in our midst. We believe that our park constables should be people who could meet whoever it might be in that way without feeling servile. There is no servility attached to this at all, and we are not suggesting that for a moment, but we would like them to be as courteous as ever to whoever enters these premises, since one of the reasons for doing so is to give them an idea from the moment they enter the premises of what he expects their behaviour to be during the time they are on the premises. I believe I need not go further into this matter at the moment, and I would like to hear what the Minister has to say on this. There is another matter under this Head that I will deal with at a later stage.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there are some general remarks I would like to make under this Head, and the Items I will touch on are 39, 40 and 42. Before I do that I must make my position very clear that whatever I say comes within the broad framework of the policy that is enunciated in the last manifesto of the party to which I have the honour to belong. I want to say that I would not be a member of a party on the basis that I believe the party would win the Government; I am a member of a political party based on the philosophy of the party and not waiting to join when the party looks as though it is winning, because that has never been the basis of my entry into politics. I entered politics when the party of which I was a member did not have a chance of winning. They could not win at that time, so it was not a question that my involvement in political life was looking for office, for a haven or security. Now the party has stated its position on the question of full employment and it comes within your labour policy, and I want to say that one of the aims of our party is increasing the purchasing

power of the worker. Our manifesto is not as well documented as that of the Barbados Labour Party, but its contents are better. This is stated under the Head "The well-being of the Worker".

On the question of trade disputes, from time to time, there have been trade disputes, and although there is a token provision of $1.00 in connection with investigation of disputes under the Arbitration Act, when these disputes occur there seems to be the idea that this is something new. There is a Trade Disputes Act enacted since 1937 and some people say it should be amended; so the question of trade disputes is nothing new.
10.50 a.m.

As I said yesterday, you have to understand why trade disputes arise. You have a situation in Barbados, and I think the Prime Minister in this House spoke about the Department of Labour and he made the statement that the Department is weak, but I said so already and I make no apology for that, I do not believe the Department of Labour is weak for any one reason, it has been so with all Parties. The Labour Party had this dicotomy of Trade and Labour, but even now – and if the Prime Minister was in here I would say it – I am aware that labour in this setup is not going to receive this sort of attention that the importance of labour demands, because labour is mixed in a Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, so labour is only an incidental department within a Department where you are going to have housing, lands and national insurance, and it is only a sort of technical department, because there is nothing in National Insurance *per se* this is an administrative structure where you work out national insurance from time to time what is your policy, and after that this is to be conducted by the National Insurance Board, so Housing is going to be a big issue, Lands is going to be a big issue.

One of the things that I have criticised as a person is that a Permanent Secretary or Minister here – and I would say this quite frankly of any Government – I have not seen a Minister of any side pursuing a rigid policy of increasing the purchasing power of the worker by any particular ministerial projection, because I have not seen any labour projection from any Minister to say that this is an increased purchasing power projection from his Ministry. Far from that, even on training within industry, labour training here is more an Education matter than it is a labour matter, and there is not that relationship with Labour initiating this in respect of getting the co-operation of the Department of Labour. I say this, Mr. Chairman, because there is a general feeling that labour matters are *ad hoc* matters that will only arise when a dispute arises, and when the dispute arises, I even had the unfortunate remark being made to me on one occasion that when a dispute arises that it was a matter between the Director of the Employers' Confederation and myself as if I had a personal dispute. I want to make it clear that I am not a man who has any personal dispute with employers, because I do not work for any employer, my employer is one of the best employers in Barbados. I have better terms of service than any of the Ministers in Barbados, because I cannot be removed from office very easily, I have terms of employment that are written in a Constitution, and therefore it is not easy to remove me, there is no single person who can remove me from office, so it is a different thing. *(Asides)* An hon. member wants to know if I wrote the Constitution myself, but the Constitution was written long before I went to the Union. I went to the Union in 1945 and I found that the Constitution was written long before I went there, but I would not have accepted the position – I have been General Secretary of the Union for 25 years – on the basis that I was looking for a job, I accepted it because there was a job to be done.

I do not approach disputes on any personal basis, disputes occur and when they occur you have to examine what is the nature of the disputes. Disputes are going to occur, because fundamentally as long as you have a private capitalist system, and where a private capitalist system is controlled by private people, you are going to have disputes with people who are working under that system because they have not reached the stage where they are going to give up what they regard as their rights to the workers, and the workers are going to have a dispute when it comes to this question of increasing the purchasing power. We feel the increasing of the purchasing power is very important from the workers' point of view, and that is where the disputes arise, and you will find that the majority of the disputes anywhere in the world are going to be disputes on the basic question of wages. There has just been a dispute in the United Kingdom, the first time they had a general strike in about 45 years of the miners; it was not a question of a 40-hour week, it was not a question of silicosis, that the mines were not cleaned, it was not a question of the safety of the mines, it was a basic question that there was a dispute based on money.

They had a dispute in the Post Office in London, the first Trade Union Act was in 1871, one hundred years ago, but yet you find they had a dispute in the United Kingdom on money. You are going to find money is going to be the basis of any dispute that you are going to find between an employer and the workers, moreso in a private enterprise system, because in a private enterprise

system wages are imposed by employers, conditions of employment are imposed in a general way on workers, and a change only takes place when the workers become organised. When the workers become organised it changes the power of the employer, and that is what the employer does not like, and therefore he resists the Union because it looks to him as if you are usurping some of his authority. I say that because disputes are going to arise, but your Department of Labour must be so staffed that it is capable of dealing with the disputes. There is a concept in the Ministry of Labour that the Department of Labour is really not to deal with disputes in a manner that would really settle them, but they are only there as what they call themselves, conciliators. I disagree with that policy because in a small community like this the Ministry of Labour must mean more than two sides sitting down and talking, you must be capable of initiating your point of view on either side and on both sides of the position in order to get both sides to come to a decision. That is the whole theory of having people there, not to sit down as a Chairman, because if you are going to sit down as a Chairman and you regard yourself as a Chairman, and you say you are an impartial Chairman and you hear both sides, that is not the end, industrial disputes mean that the person who sits in the middle must be capable of telling one side or the other it is right or have enough authority that he can say he does not see any point in going any further on this and that they should concede on it and bring it to a halt, without losing his own dignity. I do not see anything wrong with that.

I do not subscribe to this view that if a dispute arises that the Ministry of Labour – and when I say the Ministry of Labour get it clear that I am talking about the technical aspects of the Ministry of Labour; I do not want anyone to get the impression that I am talking for the Minister, because I have never asked a Minister of Labour to intervene.
11.00 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, that is simple. A Minister of Labour is a politician, but the trade union is an independent organisation. If the trade union go cap in hand begging a Minister to intervene the Minister will get the impression that the trade union cannot do its work and is asking him to do its work. What the union feels that must be done is in the Ministry of Labour where in some of the agreements both sides have agreed in their agreements that if a dispute arises at domestic level the matter will be referred to the Ministry of Labour for the purpose of having a third person to deal with the matter at domestic level. There are some instances at domestic level where you will never reach an agreement, because if the employer is the host organisation he is the Chairman at the time and if I am the host organisation I am the Chairman. You will reach a stage where as Chairman you will be putting your side and you are not likely to get an agreement in this atmosphere, but if you change the atmosphere you are likely to arrive at an agreement; therefore, we go to the Ministry of Labour.

Now, I do not like to deal with individuals as such, but I have to be brutal and frank about this. The Ministry of Labour has been staffed for many years now with inadequate personnel to deal with this matter. They either have one man who is the Chief Labour Officer, or the Acting Chief Labour Officer, and apart from that single person you will have to look as though you were looking for a needle in a haystack to find a *locum tenens* in the Ministry who you can accept as an officer with the calibre to deal with these issues. In Barbados where the employers' organisations have grown and the trade unions have grown, there is no point in having a Ministry of Labour with personnel that are not of the level to deal with matters where you will have to respect the ability of the people whom you have to meet and deal with. This is not a court where you have the majesty of the law surrounding a magistrate or a judge, and it does not matter if you are dealing with a mad man as a judge or an ignorant judge as regards what he is talking about, and you will have to respect the majesty of the law and bow to his ruling. In industrial matters we do not have to bow or even listen to a man when we realise that he is mad or do not seem to be clear about what he is doing. This is a question of the content of the business.

Now, an idea has grown that sometimes people are expecting this Department to do their work for them. I am putting it quite bluntly that in our trade union we employ people that we consider to be of the calibre to be able to meet the demands that we have to face in the future. We feel that similarly the Government must staff its Departments with such people. Unless Government does that, you will get some people feeling that they do not have any respect for the Department.

Now, I am putting things on a broad basis. The Department of Labour must be strengthened. It is weak, and I have excellent knowledge of the Department. I say it is weak, because I have had experience with this Department over a number of years and not only during the regime of this Government. The Department was weak during the Barbados Labour Party Government and it has not been strengthened since then. There has been a tendency, from what the Prime Minister has said, not only of the Department of Labour in Barbados but of the Department of Labour in the Caribbean

that the people who work in these Departments in a general way find themselves working for management on retirement or before retirement. In Trinidad you had about three or four of them. One Labour Commissioner is now working with the Oil Company; one is now a Consultant; one is working with the sugar people in Jamaica; and you have a situation of one working with the Employers Manufacturers after he left the Labour Department and he has become the head of the organisation.

Mr. Chairman, as we are living in a predominantly private enterprise oriented society, people who retire from the Service find it easy to get a job in those places. They are looking for employment and where they get employment they will accept it. It is likely to colour the judgment of people in retrospect when they look back at these situations and people. I feel that this is an area that should be made clear. Yesterday I referred to the I.D.C. and I spoke about industries coming to Barbados. We have supported the idea of giving people more opportunities for employment. In this same policy it states:

> "The creation of full employment. The aim of the Party and its record has shown, is to provide work for all with maximised employment opportunities."

Now, any trade unionist in any part of the world must agree, or and socialist must agree with full employment. Measures to create full employment have to be pursued by a bold and imaginative labour policy; therefore, we could not subscribe to anything other than full employment. But full employment must mean that you must safeguard the rights of the workers to make sure that by full employment they will get fair wages.

As has been stated here, there are some areas of employment – and this is where the Ministry of Labour comes in – in any community where you will have difficulties. Every worker in the United States of America or every job in the United States of America is not organised. In the United Kingdom they have a labour force of something like 20 million or 25 million people, but only about 9 million to 10 million people are organised. There are some 50% of the labour force still organised; some are going to be people outside the active labour force, some will be just entering the active labour force, some are going to be employers, some are going to be self-employed people, and therefore you have a labour force like that. There are certain trades that are not suitable for organisation.

For instance, the trade union in Barbados would not go to attempt to organise domestic servants as a class of employment, because they are working with a heterogeneous group of people scattered all over the world at different income levels. That is not a class, but it may be representing 10,000 people and that is a sizeable portion of your labour force. It would represent about ten per cent of your total labour force, so there would be no point in anybody saying, "Why do you not have more people organised?" You cannot organise that class of people easily.

Now, in a community where you still have a lot of underemployment and disguised unemployment in the area where you have a lot of people selling nuts and so on, those are not people to be organised because they do not come within this. But within the areas where you have organisation of workers, Barbados is well organised and it is in those areas that you are going to get conflict, and you are going to get conflicts that lead to the Ministry of Labour. Outside of those the Ministry of Labour will have to defend the other people. For example, the army of people who go to the Ministry of Labour for information about their own affairs – a worker may be employed and the employer dismisses him. Those are the areas that the Ministry of Labour will have to take care of.

11.10 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, the whole theory of how you are going to treat the question of severance pay will come under the Ministry of Labour. An Act has already been passed and it will have to be administered by the Ministry of Labour. It is true they have sent some things to the Union to get the Union's views, but this is fundamentally a matter you will have to reach. I said as a member of the Committee that a tax should have been put on the employers from the word given go in order to provide a fund for severance pay for the workers, and after you have imposed the tax by law and have collected the money, you would decide if there was any flaw how you were going to deal with it; but you would have collected the money first, rather than the people waiting on you to see if they were going to get any money or not. If you are not careful you will have had an Act passed and will be in the same position as when you passed an Act in 1956 for the sugar workers, but it could not get going until 1969, thirteen years after, and you find that you cannot administer it. These are some of the views I have.

Finally, when I spoke on this matter yesterday, I heard some of the members say that sometimes they look at the member for Christ Church North Central. I would like to make it clear to the other side that I am a member of

this party. I fought the Barbados Labour Party tooth and nail when some of the members in here were going to school; so it is no point any member on that side telling me to look around at some other member. Since 1954 there was a continuous battle that I fought with the other side in order that they should not form or retain a Government. I have assisted, aided and abetted in removing them from power. I fought them when they were in power; so I am not anybody looking for an office. If I were looking for an office, I could have gone in 1954 with cap in hand waiting to get something at the door. I did not want any office from anybody. If I am fighting you, I am fighting you, and I do not want any office from you. You know the battle that we had in 1956 and I can bring papers from 1956 written by the hon. member for St. Peter condemning the party of which he is a member, and praising this party which was not in power yet. (Mr. CRAIG: That is politics.) I am talking about philosophy which is above politics. Anybody can be a politician, and some politicians have a price, but a philosophy has no price. You cannot put a price on to me. If you offer somebody over there a Ministry over here, he would come over. If I am a back bencher over here and all six of you over there were to be Ministers over here, what would be my position? It is not a question of an office with me; it is a matter of philosophy. There is no point in making a statement about the member for Christ Church North Central because if I have to tell the hon. member for Christ Church North Central or any hon. member anything, I would say that to him; I would not have to get up in public to say it to him. I have enough maturity to know that I would not have to speak to any of my party members in public. When I have to speak to them in public, then I have lost the art of negotiating and the art of good manners. I can speak to any member of the party in private on any issue. What I say in public is a matter of my philosophy which is above party and above the Government because that is what made me a member of the party. I would like to say that the party to which the hon. member belongs carried on a relentless battle to destroy the very organisation that I have the honour to represent, and it is the alliance between the Barbados Workers' Union and this party that I consider is more important than the individual. I believe that the cause is greater than the man, and I believe in the total unity and solidarity of the working class movement, and those people who are dedicated to the total unity of the working class movement cannot see the individual, but must see the cause and the advancement of the worker, cannot see the individual rising in office, but can see the worker moving from one stage to another and the gradual advancement of the down-trodden and under-privileged worker who never had an opportunity in many ways. If we today have the opportunity to make the lot of this man better, we must do it; so it has nothing to do with the narrow basis of any position. Do not let there be any misgivings in so far as this position is concerned, because I am too much an independent person in so far as my total life is concerned. I do not have to look for any particular thing in politics, and there is no point in telling me that because it means nothing to me. If it had any meaning to me that would have dominated my life when I was much younger when influences like that seem to affect you rather than at the stage which I have reached. I have passed all those stages where there can be any offices or anything dangling in front of my face as a influence on what I have to do or say to any individual.

I would like to make it clear, Mr. Chairman, that it does not matter to me what any member or any person feels about me. I am not a person given to looking into other people's faces to wonder if they are vex or pleased, because you must know that I am at this stage above looking at any member of this Chamber to see if he is vex or pleased. I only see the Ministers when they come to this Chamber, when we meet at party meetings, or if I have to meet them on official business of the Union. We do not have private relationships. I have cut that out of my life a long time ago. I am dedicated to a cause. I feel that this Ministry has to be strengthened if it is going to carry out the work on behalf of the people of this country. I do not want to say anything more. I think the Prime Minister has made statements on this matter in so far as the personnel is concerned in which I would not have gone so far, but the Prime Minister has more information at his disposal than I have and is in a better position to make certain statements as head of the Government. My statements are related to what I see when I go to the Department of Labour and the Ministry of Labour, and I say they have to be strengthened, if not, when it comes to dealing with this question of trade disputes there is going to be a serious break-down, and we cannot afford to have a Ministry of Labour which is not staffed with the personnel that are capable of meeting all the consequences of what this Act says. If you look through it you will see that they are paying out in salaries over $1/4 million, and when you are paying out that kind of money you have got to get the kind of reward and the kind of people in it that are satisfied.

Those are my views and I am presenting them from the point of view of what is

happening today. There is a dispute going on today and I told members of the House that we are not asking anybody for assistance. We are carrying on the dispute ourselves; but some disputes are going to affect the community, and when it affects the community do not say "look what has happened and the community is doing nothing about it," because sometimes this can happen. Sometimes the Union or an employer can take undue advantage of a situation; sometimes the Union can overstep and become unreasonable and take advantage of a situation.
11.20 a.m.

Sometimes the employer takes advantage of the situation not in the same manner but in a manner that will affect the worker. The position is, when an employer takes an advantage it does not look as if it is affecting the community in the same manner, but when the Union is strong the Union can take a stand sometimes – and this is where sometimes you find that the action of the Union would create that feeling – and that is where your technical people must be *au fait* and very clear on these issues, because industrial relations is something that you have to give a lot of time and study to, and I am very happy to hear that there is a possibility – I said so in Jamaica and I said so to the Principal of the University of the West Indies – that there is the likelihood that there may be a chair at the University for industrial relations, and I believe this would be a very important thing not only for Barbados but for the Caribbean. These countries are left to us now, and if I were running these countries I would know, labour has been the beginning of the problems in the Caribbean. If you are going to study the problems of the Caribbean, you have to study what happened in 1934, 1935 and 1936, if you are making any study of the Caribbean situation, the Caribbean emancipation was a labour situation, a labour problem that has brought these Caribbean islands to the fore and has made them what they are today and has given us the kind of emancipation we have, therefore now that we have reached the stage where we are in power do not let us be complacent about that; that is where it originated and we could as well be clear in our minds when we go back to those halcyon years when we brought Englishmen who received salaries at the time equivalent to that of the Chief Justice because they regarded it as being very important.

I hope today that it is understood the calibre of the people you should have, because when the problems arise they are going to arise with you own people, with your own Ministers. They would not arise with anybody at the Colonial Office or any metropolitian power, and it is necessary that these departments must not be run down, and therefore you put anybody to run them who has been in the Department for some years and is going to get promotion by sending him to the Ministry of Labour and that is the end of it. I know I am going to hear that this is not the responsibility of the Minister to send anyone there, but I am aware that when you are running a Government you have to tell even the Public Service Commission what you want in certain Departments, and when you are running a country you have to say if the calibre of people is not good enough, but we have to stop – and Mr. Chairman, if I may use a term that is quite a dictionary term – we have to stop this pussy-footing. Too many Barbadians are afraid to say something because it is going to hurt somebody that they know and because that person is right in that position, but I am not concerned with that, anybody I know is going to die, I am going to die, but these things will live on, and I am not going to allow something wrong to live on because my friend or somebody I know had been there, when that person dies you might not get the opportunity to change it. When you reach my stage of life your friends begin to diminish, because the ones you started with are growing old and dying and the ones who are left are going to be fewer because at my stage of life you connot be looking for new friends, you would have to be a fool. What I am looking out for is what is important so far as this country is concerned, and I feel as far as the Labour Department is concerned – and I have a deep concern about this – every day of my life I go to work on this matter. I have been doing it every day for the last 28 years, and I have been General Secretary of the Union for 25, so this is not anything I am speaking of out of turn, this is something I know from the beginning, and I am satisfied that this is a Department that you have to do something about, the quality of the personnel in this Department if we are going to face the future with the sort of feeling that we would like to face the future with, because these problems are going to arise and somebody must be there to face them.

I do not want to be conceited, I am not going to live forever, and I can say without conceit that if I were not the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union this country would face a lot of problems on industrial matters. I have saved a lot of problems because of my experience and people will listen to me more than they will listen to any of my successors because they feel they have not been there long enough. Unfortunately people look at the length of time you have been in a job and that is the problem, but you do not want to have a situation in which the influence of any one person is going to be so major that

you will get these things, and I know what can happen. It has happened in too many instances already and I do not want to relate those instances where we were on the brink of catastrophe because you did not have the people there ready to grapple with the situation. If you do not have the people to grapple with the situation, then you have a crisis, and I have said on many occasions this is too much of a crisis community and too many people always wait to see if somebody is going to fail as a result of the crisis. However, Mr. Chairman, all that is over, the crop has started, a new agreeement has been reached and it shows that there is some industrial maturity on both sides. I do not take the credit that there is industrial maturity on one side only, and I am very pleased to see that we have men and women who are capable of dealing with these things before a third person comes in.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to give hon. members an opportunity to raise any points they want to raise under Head 42 which we are now debating, so that when the hon. members have made their contributions and I thought this Chamber needed any further elucidation I would have replied, but it appears as if no hon. member wishes to make a contribution which would merit a reply from me, because when I have taken my seat I have no intention of rising again, so hon. members may speak after me if they want to and raise any questions they want to raise, but I will no longer be rising from my seat in order to answer any further questions. I am entitled to hold my peace should I so desire, I am entitled to talk should I so want, and there is no hon. member here that can make me answer any questions, not even the Chairman can make me answer any questions.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, why is the Chairman involved in this? I just want to get the debate on a higher level.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. I want hon. members once again to realise that whenever I see all hon. members sitting after any debate has taken place and I say "The question is..." it is useless any member getting up to speak then because I will put the question. Every hon. member has the right to speak, I am going to give you the opportunity to rise and speak, but when I have given that opportunity and no one rises to speak, I will put the question. If any hon. member rises when I begin to put the question I will ask him to sit.

11.30 a.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to reply to the matters raised, and that is what I am doing now. Some matters were raised under the item entitled Parks and Beaches. In fact, I should like on behalf of the Commission to accept the compliments paid to the Commission by the hon. member for St. Peter who has spoken on it. He raised certain issues which were in the nature more of advice than, in fact, criticism and these are accepted, Mr. Chairman, in the light in which they have been given.

Now, any suggestions made by any hon. member on any subject whatsoever falling under my portfolio, I want to assure you, Sir, and this hon. Chamber that so long as I consider them to be worthwhile and worthy of a trial, I will give them due consideration. If after giving them due consideration I still think that they should be tried, I will at that stage try them. That is my position. I do not pretend to be the repository of all knowledge and I never have, and I never will, because I know that there are certain worthwhile suggestions that can come from the worst of us. Us means mankind, and I am not necessarily speaking about hon. members in this Chamber now. When those suggestions are worthwhile, Mr. Chairman, those suggestions will be tried.

With regard to the Parks and Beaches Commission, the hon. member for St. Peter wanted to hear something relevant to the efforts made by the Commission to have a barge removed from the beach at Paynes Bay. Now, this barge has been there ever since the flood, I think, in October, 1970. The barge was washed up on the beach. Efforts have been made from time to time to contact the owner of this barge, and from time to time the owner has promised the Commission to have it removed. As a matter of fact, the owner of the barge at one time went to the site and did some work ostensibly to remove the barge from the beach. I am not so sure that the efforts of the owner were directed, indeed, towards ridding the beach of this hazard. It is a hazard to people walking the beach. I have seen it myself. It is a hazard to people bathing and especially children. My information is that a child had suffered injury as a result of the barge being on the beach. I know of this very case. The barge still remains on the beach.

Mr. Chairman, letters have been written to the owner of the barge and, in fact, I have only recently asked the Minister of Communications and Works whether the barge is half submerged and half under water. It is half on the sand and half under water, according to the tide. *(Asides.)* Of Course, it is a wreck. I have spoken to the Minister of Communications and Works and to the Harbour Master. The Harbour Master is the Receiver of Wrecks. I have asked him to see if

the Harbour Master can arrange to have this barge towed out to sea. It is now so firmly embedded in the sand that it would require all sorts of efforts to have it removed. At this moment it will be a big undertaking, because the sand has it almost completely covered. I have asked the Minister to have this barge towed away and sunk – that will be entirely left to the discretion of the Harbour Master, if it is a danger to shipping – and the owner of the barge charged with the expenses of having this barge removed from the beach.

With regard to the question of preserving the Parks, I want to say that the Parks and Beaches Commission is not a destructive Commission. Three Parks have been mentioned: Farley Hill, Queens Park, and King George V Memorial Park. Indeed there is another Park for which the Commission will shortly be made responsible. I refer to Folkestone, St. James, which will soon be developed into a Park. First, there will be an underwater park in the ocean just beyond the land limits of Folkestone as well as the compound of Folkestone itself which is quite a few acres. It is not the policy of the Commission, Mr. Chairman, to destroy certain trees in particular manchineel trees have been trimmed along the beach and not cut down. It is not the intention of the Commission to destroy any of the trees in any of the parks, except such as are absolutely necessary. As regards the naming of trees, I want to assure the hon. member that this is the policy of the Parks and Beaches Commission. This policy was arrived at more than a year ago. The trees will be given both the botanic names as well as the local names. This is not really a new suggestion, because it is a matter on which the Parks and Beaches Commission are working.

My Ministry has already approved a Training Programme for the officers connected with the Parks and Beaches Commission, and that Programme will be put into operation. I think we all agree that the Parks and Beaches Commission is a Commission that is doing some very worthwhile and useful work in this community. The results are seen and commented upon by all and sundry.

A contribution was also made on the items dealing with labour. There is not very much for me to say here, except that so long as I am Minister that Department – it is an integrated Department of the Ministry and not a separate Department as some Departments are; it is now a few years since it has been integrated into the Ministry responsible for labour -- it will not be treated as an incidental Department. We have a labour policy on which we have gone to the people. The hon. member for St. Michael West referred to and quoted from our Manifesto on which we fought our last election. I want to assure the hon. member that any project on any subject dealing with any matter for which my Ministry is responsible, whether it be Labour, National Insurance, Parks and Beaches, Housing and Lands, it does not matter, so long as we have fought the people on that issue I will be doing all in my power in order to get those plans and programmes implemented in accordance with the policy of the Ministry responsible for Labour if it is a labour matter.

A lot has been said about the quality of the personnel in the Labour Department. I want to say, first of all, that the Civil Service is a career Civil Service. The hon. member for St. Michael West, of course, anticipated his own answer by saying that he knows he will be told that the Ministry, the Minister or the Government has no responsibility for who occupies the posts at the Ministry of Labour. I want to make this absolutely clear, having said that, I am making no apologies for any of the people that we have in the Department of Labour.
11.40 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, there have been regular meetings between the Chief Labour Officer and officials of my Ministry, and I can say that there has at no time been other than the fullest cooperation from that officer. The people who occupy positions in the Department of Labour are subject to transfer in and out of the Department like persons in other departments of Government. In fact I have had to comment on this in another place, because very often I would walk into my office and see a new face there. This has not happened so far in this new Ministry, but when I occupied the position of Minister of Home Affairs, I would walk into my office and see a new girl because I had to pass through the typing pool to get to my office.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I do not want to cross the Minister, but I want to make the position clear. I never made any comment about cooperation or non-cooperation of persons in the Department. Apart from dealing with single items under the Head, I made a general comment about the knowledge of the personnel, but I have not had any experience that they were unwilling to cooperate.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I understand the hon. member now as I understood him then, and I hope I have not said anything that might make him believe that I felt he had

not received the fullest cooperation from the Department of Labour. The hon. member for St. Michael West said that the Prime Minister had more information than he had, but it looks to me that they both have more information than I have, and I too like the hon. member, can only comment on my experiences. I have only dealt with the Chief Labour Officer because after all he is responsible for the running of that Department, and I want to state that at all times I have had the fullest cooperation.

Now as regards the question of purchasing power, I know that the Minister of Labour has been pursuing a purchasing power projection. My conception of the Ministry of Labour is that it should look after welfare in a general way, but so long as I am Minister I certainly do not want to put the hon. member for St. Michael West out of a job. If I understand purchasing power correctly, it must refer to the wages and earnings of the labour force, and my Ministry has no intention of affixing, apart from a minimun wage, any level of wages for any sector of the community. We as a Government believe in free bargaining between employer and employee; we believe there should be a minimum wage below which no bargaining should take place, and that is why the Ministry some time ago set up a Minimum Wage Committee to deal with all aspects of wages in this country. That Committee has not reported one way or the other; it has been having considerable difficulties and has been unable to report in the time it was given to report because several of the members of the Committee appear not to have very much interest in having a minimum wage affixed. I believe that to be the main problem. I know how the Chairman of the Committee feels on this matter; he has my sympathies, but I am looking forward yet to a useful and worthwhile submission from him in due course. Apart from setting a minimum wage, my Ministry will not be setting any level of wages for any of the workers in this country. In fact that is not our responsibility, and we would not be going outside of our responsibility to do this.

During October of last year there was a strike in this country which almost developed into a general strike. There was a dispute between the Barbados Workers' Union on the one hand and several employers on the other as represented by the Barbados Employers' Confederation. On several occasions the Employers' Confederation made attempts to get me as Minister to intervene in the dispute, and I make no apologies to anybody for saying that I had no intention at that time of getting into that dispute as Minister of Labour. We have certain laws in this country which have to be respected, and those laws have to be followed through to the end before I as Minister would intervene in any such matter. The law clearly lays down where the responsibilities reside and these will have to be followed and will be followed so long as I am Minister. I replied to the Employers' Confederation who wrote me several letters and told them that I would not get into any disputes between the Employers' Confederation and anybody else unless to avert disaster.

It was my privilege some time in December on the morning I was leaving the Dominion of Canada where I had paid a private visit to hear on the radio that the Minister of Labour had stated that he was through with intervening in labour disputes between employers and employees and that he was now going to sit down and write labour legislation. I cannot promise to sit down and write labour legislation, but I will certainly direct labour policy. I will only intervene as Minister of Labour in any dispute in this country when it appears to me that the economy of this country is severely threatened.

Those, Mr. Chairman, are the facts, and now I want before I take my seat to make a slight amendment to the motion made by the Hon. Leader of the House.
11.50 a.m.

The note to Item 40 reads as follows: "Token provision in connection with investigations of disputes under the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Act, 1937". In fact, the year should be 1939 and not 1937, because there is no Trade Disputes Act of 1937, it is the 1939–6 Act, and I move that the note be amended accordingly.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, quite some time ago in this House the question was raised as regards the Labour Department having certain offices established throughout the island, so that you would not have concentrated in Beidgetown the Department dealing in particular with unemployment. The reason given was that where you have areas like Industrial Estates in Christ Church, you find that because of not having a Labour Exchange or something like that situated in that part of Christ Church, that people from the area were not getting employment in the particular Industrial Estates and that there were

people coming from outside gaining employment in these areas. If industrialisation is to be really meaningful so that all people from whatever parish could have an opportunity to gain employment, I think I would recommend to the Minister to look into the possibility of having these offices established in various parts of the island to ease the situation whereby people from a particular district, as in the case of the Industrial Estate in Christ Church, will be employed in that area, and likewise the Estates on the Harbour and at Grazettes, the people from those areas will be employed there.

I want to address you, Mr. Chairman, on the question of Public Officers Housing at Item 44. Let me begin by saying that the note reads: "Estimated part interest on capital of $1,800,000 raised by the Housing Authority. Includes office expenses of Public Officers Housing Loans Office." I intend to deal with the policy in respect of housing, so that if the Minister at this stage, or if the Government is going to object at this stage I will leave it and discuss it in the Capital Estimates, but what I would like to suggest rather than have these things dealt with piecemeal from time to time in an effort to accelerate the programme, they should be dealt with altogether when we are dealing with the revenue of the particular Ministry, but if the Minister will object I will wait and deal with them under Capital Estimates.

I want to deal broadly with the policy in respect of housing, and in actual fact the only thing for housing under revenue is at Item 44. I shall probably deal with it at length under Capital Estimates.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk a bit about housing, but I believe what I want to deal with might not fall under Capital Estimates. I remember, and most of us who were in this House some time ago would remember, everybody in Barbados heard the speech made by the previous senior member for St. Joseph when he praised the Government for creating the Lammings Housing Area.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, he cannot deal with Lammings here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is Public Officers Housing, and under Capital Estimates you have the option to deal with it at length.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this is not Public Officers Housing.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, the only Item which deals with housing under this Head is Item 44, Public Officers Housing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I know that, that is why I told the hon. member that he can deal with it under Capital Estimates.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am always willing to accept your ruling. I am not going to argue with you, I can deal with it probably under any other Head than Capital Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is Capital Estimates; that is my ruling.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister knows what I am going to say so he does not need to keep talking at this stage.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 48 – Emigration, yearly our farm workers programme continues, but there are reports coming in where these workers are not being fairly treated in Florida by their employers and have complained on their return to Barbados, and they write letters home stating that they can see on every occasion the Jamaican representative of the people there but they cannot see any representative at any level from Barbados to look after their interests.
12.00 noon.

There was a strike there just between Old Year last year and New Year 1972 involving quite a number of Jamaicans and a few Barbadians. Letters have reached me to the effect that the Barbadians were caught looting and so on. Surely, I think that report would have reached the Ministry of Labour here as to what has happened with those people, and we would like to know exactly what is the position. There are also complaints that the contracts that are signed are, apparently, not investigated sufficiently, because Barbadians leave here expecting to receive a certain amount of money for doing a particular type of work, but on reaching the farms in the U.S.A. they find that there is much more work than they had expected and the conditions under which they have to work are far different from what was told to them in our Department of Labour.

Mr. Chairman, if they are sending our people abroad, we would like to know that everything is made as comfortable as possible for them. We are prepared to admit that whatever you do to make some people comfortable; if you give them the best contracts, you still find some who will drop out. Nevertheless, there is some dissatisfaction amongst them over having to pay for their repatriation. The feeling is that they are now charged more than was charged formerly. In

other words, a heavier deduction is made from their earnings to pay for their repatriation than they had to pay in earlier years. I should like to know from the Minister what is the true position. I should appreciate hearing from any hon. member who could give us information on this matter.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, at this point I should just like to say that I was in Washington not long ago, and the point which the hon. member has made is familiar to me. I think the Government will have to look into this matter since Barbados has become Independent. I think the Barbados Government, the Jamaica Government and the Trinidad and Tobago Government – you had a situation between Barbados and Trinidad when these two countries were Colonial countries, and the British Government through the American Government set up an organisation in the United States known as the C.L.O., and it is, as a fact, dominated by Jamaicans. In 1962 I went there and I have a good idea of the position.

Of course, the Minister says that he is not going to write labour legislation. If he does not write it, then I do not know who is going to write it. I am not going to write it. This is why I say that people in Barbados do not understand the immigration point. There is a man in the United States organising workers in the Farm Labour Programme. He is not organising our people, but he is organising American workers. The American employers are opposed to it. Fortunately, he is not *au fait* with the CIO. There is likely to be a clash between these emigrant workers in the United States and the United States workers through this man trying to organise them. If these people get in the way, it looks as though our people will get a lot of blows in the end. That is what I am afraid of.

What I should like to see done is that now you have Ministries and Embassies in those countries, I believe that an officer of the calibre of a Labour Attache should be placed in the Embassy in the U.S.A. in Washington and one of his functions should be to take care of these people. This is a problem, even apart from what the hon. member has said, which is going to loom. The organisation of these people as workers is going to create a problem. We had one of these problems already, and I know that the emigrants are going to get more blows because they will be outnumbered by the Americans. I think the time has come for the Government to look into the question of having a Labour Attache in Washington to help with this Farm Labour Programme and not leave it to the Jamaicans. To be quite frank, they appoint all red–skin Jamaicans to these posts.

The question that the sum of $1,039,955 under Head 42 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 43 - NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 43 - National Insurance - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $40,760 under Head 43 - National Insurance stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 44 – LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Head 44 – Lands and Surveys Department - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $75,608 under Head 44 – Lands and Surveys Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 45 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 45 - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,552,792 under Head 45 - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are sure that we are going to hear from the Minister that this is a new Ministry and that he will need time to get his teeth into certain things, and that we are willing to grant. What we are fearing is that whilst the Minister is trying to gear his machinery and to get set for the task there is ahead, and there is a big task ahead, that we are presently

witnessing that there is not that due amount of care that ought to be taken in seeing that accurate information is broadcast or relayed to the Nation. There are things, Mr. Chairman, which will be said even in this honourable House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to draw to the hon. member that anything relative to broadcasting would be better dealt with under Head 46, Item 17 - Broadcasting - and not under Head 45.
12.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: I must grant you that, Mr. Chairman; I turned a page too many. I will turn then to Item 17 - Tourist Board. The Tourist Board of today is constituted quite differently from what it used to be in years past. It is engaging in activities far beyond those of earlier years. We are willing to admit, Mr. Chairman, that the growth of our economy as reflected in the amount now spent in tourist promotion must be seen to go a long way, but we find that the Tourist Board has its advertising programmes stretching here, there and wherever it is felt that tourists can be attracted to come to Barbados, and we find too that we are not getting the best there is that should come from the dollars we are spending. Everywhere it is to be said that tourism brings with it the good and the bad, and we must be prepared to cope with it. We go after the tourist dollar because the contribution which it makes to our economy is more in some respects than sugar, and even then, Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is necessary for me to express an opinion as to whether we should stake too much hope on this. As long as it lasts it is our duty to try to make the most of it; but I think we have got to provide ways and means whereby whatever the tourists bring, only the best is left with us. That is most important.

We believe, Sir, that the type of promotion campaigns that are put on at the other end are in some measure responsible for the type of tourists who come to this land of ours from time to time. You will find that in the campaigns there are certain attractions which must be offered, because were there no attractions to offer there would hardly be any encouragement for the tourists to come; so it is a question of gearing our campaigns not only to suit the country in which we are advertising, but more so with a view to bringing from these countries and attracting to our lands the type of individual who can best fit into our pattern of society even for the short period in which some of them happen to be here. We believe that this would entail much more attention being directed to the type of propaganda that goes out from the Tourist Board, the type of literature that is put out, and what we are very interested to know is that the Tourist Board is trying hard to see that the hotels in our midst do not advertise something to the tourists which they do not have for themselves. I remember having to bring to the notice of this House the case of a hotel advertising bathing at a private beach. That is something that the Tourist Board to my mind should be acting upon and not encouraging the hotels to send abroad, because when people come to Barbados expecting that they are going to a hotel where they would be able to bathe at this private beach and they see our local people appearing at the same beach at the same time, one can very well imagine the feeling, and as you know, Mr. Chairman, our local people have a first and prior right to the uses of these beaches and the facilities they offer. When an attempt is made by the hotels to give away that right, you can see where by misguided and faulty advertising trouble is invited to come right home in our lands.
12.20 p.m.

We do not want to see this and we would wish that everything possible is done to keep it away from our shores. We believe that if we look at the way some of these people carry themselves on the streets here on their shopping expeditions, some of the tourists who come to this country, we want them to know, Mr. Chairman, nobody wants to make the tourist who comes to spend his dollar feel unhappy, he has come for relaxation away from the worries of work and the other ills that beset him in his home country, but at the same time we have got to be careful that in inviting the tourist we are not sacrificing all that is morally sacred to us for so many years. I believe that if our Tourist Board in its promotion campaign was to do something to let these people understand before they leave their own countries, wherever they are, what we are expecting of them when they come to us, it is not going to keep them away, it is just a question of having them condition themselves, because I am sure that no visitor would stay away because he is told that there are certain standards which are repulsive to our conduct on our streets and in our society and in the hotels. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that every dollar spent with the Tourist Board is an investment, and we want to let it be known how we appreciate the increased numbers of tourists, and we accept it that the tourist trade means something to the economy of this country, but that is not all, the tourist dollar is one thing but there is much more to be considered than this.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make my contribution under Item 17 – Tourist

Board. What I want to say is that I read some time ago in the *Advocate-News* about an admission made by the Minister of Tourism while at the seminar that the coloured tourists are discriminated against in the hotels in this country, but all I searched and I re-read the article I have not seen neither have I heard – because the Hon. Minister gave a Press Release and it was broadcast on CBC, and he spoke about discrimination at hotels, be blamed the waiters, and as the hon. member for Christ Church North Central...

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, that is a very unfair statement. I did not blame anybody.

Mr. BOLDEN: As the hon. member for Christ Church South Central would say, nobody stood up for the poor black waiter, because I have never seen anybody of any other ethnic group in that category, but since that day the Hon. Minister has not come out and said that if the waiters exercise a discriminatory practice against coloured tourists it has been taught them from time to time the ex-patriates came to this country in the tourist business, and it is still taught to them up to this day, and up to now you have not heard the Hon. Minister come out and say that he has told the hotels and the Tourist Board that they must not tell their staff to discriminate against coloured tourists. When I said last night that a leopard cannot change its spots I meant every word of it.

Only about a month ago I went to a St. James Hotel with a friend of mine and I walked into the hotel, and a gentleman of the other ethnic group than mine was standing up by the door...(Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Indian?) You are not going to bait me, I have never seen an Indian in a hotel standing up in that supervisory position. He looked at me and looked off and I graciously took my seat in the foyer of the hotel. I was dressed no differently from some of the tourists sitting around, and the gentleman walked around me at least three times, then I put my hand up and asked if I could have two scotches and water, the waiter looked at me and he looked off, and I was prepared to make a noise that night, but one of them recognised me and said "that is Mr. Bolden, the M.P." and then the same man came back to me with a decent bow and said "Good night, Sir, what can I do for you?" That is the attitude, Mr. Chairman.

Let us assume it had been the hon. member for Christ Church South Central who is not very well known in the political field – his name is well known but as a person he might not be well known – if he entered the hotel I believe he would be sitting there until now waiting for proper treatment and service. The same way it has been meted out to one of us, a national of this soil, it works in the reverse order with the coloured tourist who comes here. Some of our local people who have a different colour will tell you they will go into a hotel and will get a certain service, but from the time they speak that service will come to an end because of the Bajan accent, so there is no difference. The hon. member for St. Michael West will tell you that he is going to stand up for the workers, but it is time somebody stands up for the employee who has been trained and who up to this day is being indoctrinated into the fact that when a coloured man walks into a hotel they must ignore him. I have an example of a Chef who used to work at Sandy Lane, because I settled the case against Sandy Lane for him.
12.30 p.m.

He was dismissed from his job because they said he was too friendly with the local blacks. There is no maybe about this. They did not say the locals, but the local blacks, and he was dismissed from his job. The Minister will talk all around in a circle; he will get on the air and tell you that coloured persons are not getting the treatment which they should get as tourists, but I have never yet heard him say that it is the result of a system which was built into the hotel industry of this country, and that he and the Tourist Board will now have to do something about it. You must be fair. Do not go overseas and give people the impression that the local people in this country are so bred and born that they cannot even be civil to their own race, their own colour, and their own nationals.

I will bet any member in here now to go to either of the hotels in this country and, unless he is known by someone in the hotel, the expatriates who command the top positions in the hotel will ignore him until somebody recognises him. I will go further and show you how they operate. At Southern Palms in Christ Church when the new expatriate Manager took over he moved every dark-skinned face from the front desk and put everyone of them in the back room. *(Asides.)* I am now told that it is private enterprise, and that shows the attitude of the hoteliers in this country. How can you tell people about racial discrimination in this country, when it is so openly practised?

The hon. member for St. James referred to hotels advertising private beaches. How many times did lawyers, even on that side, come face

to face with what used to go on in St. James? The Policemen at Holetown Police Station were made the instruments for evicting coloured people out of the sea at Sandy Lane. How many times have people been charged for loitering on Sandy Lane Beach and then the evidence revealed that they had been bathing in the sea? Regardless of who it is, that is what is happening in this country. I would say that it is time that you not only cirticise the employee who is doing the actual day-to-day service, but you should also criticise the hoteliers and let it be known that they practise this sort of business. I do not want any Minister or anybody telling the outside world that it is the servers who practise this sort of behaviour without the knowledge of the hoteliers. It has to be made clear that somebody must defend these people.

An excuse has been put forward that such behaviour may be as a result of the tips which the employees may receive from people. In my humble way of thinking about the hotel trade, this is not a plausible excuse. I understand that a 10% is added on to bills and that 10% goes to the workers. Now, Puerto Rico does not have a 10% added to Bills. From the time you enter your hotel room there is a booklet which you are invited to read. They tell you that the tipping is usually recognised at 15%, but it is not collected on your bill. You are expected, if you have had good service, to tip the people who serve you. If we had a system like this, the excuse that was made would be a good one. In that case, the workers would run to the people who appear to be money trees and might be able to give a big tip. According to our system, and from what I have been told, our tip is added on to the bill. Furthermore, in Puerto Rico if you were not given good service, you did not tip anybody and you showed that you were dissatisfied with the service. In that case the employee would lose money. It will be necessary to educate not only the employee but the proprietor of the hotel, and, wherever it was found that the proprietor was responsible for putting this system into operation, the Government should be in a position to give him marching orders in less than 24 hours. He should be told to get out forthwith. Mr. Chairman, I am sure, as the Minister of Home Affairs has said, many people will complain and tell them what is happening. This is the time when I think you should investigate the complaints, and where you find that the complaints are well founded no mercy should be shown.

The hon. member for St. Peter has spoken about the form of dress. Again, this goes back to the Ministry of Tourism. Let me refer to Puerto Rico again. They tell you quite plainly that while they appreciate your presence and they want you to enjoy yourself, they do not take kindly to bath suits in the cities or in the dining halls. Some people will make an excuse and say that so long as it is tourism, then you must have a certain amount of freedom. While we were discussing the Head of Aviation a few nights ago, the Hon. Minister of Tourism spoke about tourists who were delayed at the Airport while coming to Barbados. These are very one-sided arguments. In Puerto Rico I saw people coming off aircrafts like people disembarking from the buses in Bridgetown. The Customs Officers were doing their jobs, and there was a big sign which stated: "A 10-minute delay can save this country from the effects of dope."

Mr. Chairman, you cannot go outside and make excuses and blame the Nationals of this country all the time. When you criticise the delay at the Customs you are also criticising the Nationals of this country who are performing their duty which, in my opinion, enhances the stability and the integrity of this country. If we are in it together; I am a national, and I will fight with them come what may. They cannot go anywhere, and I cannot go anywhere. All of us will have to remain together. When the tourists pick up their bags and go somewhere else; when the airlines get together and fix air fares at such a level that they discriminate against us, then it will be left to the nationals to devise a way how to live. They who now live by tourism will pick up their bags; they will even leave the buildings as white elephants, and they will follow the tourists to another environment, and we will be left holding the bag. If we criticise and condemn our own people unjustly not knowing that in their limited experience they have been taught to carry out certain actions, then we, too, should be condemned for our actions. I should like the people at the Tourist Board to know how this side of the House feels on tourism.

Mr. Chairman, you merely have to take a look at the so-called Bonanza Tours. Just analyse them and you will see what is happening.
12.40 p.m

One has never yet heard of a bonanza tour to Trinidad. I can tell the Hon. Minister that there are numerous small hotels in this country which are saying that they would be glad to opt out of paying this sum to the Tourist Board in respect of bonanza tours because they do not cater to them.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member give way just for a point of

correction, because it is too much to sit here and hear incorrect information given. I would like to let the hon. member know that practically every year – I could not say with certainty every year – since 1963 or 1964 a promotional group comprised of representatives of the Tourist Board, the Hotel Association and sometimes the local and taxi in-tour people have gone to Trinidad, Guyana, Martinique, Gradeloupe and occasionally to Surinam and Cayenne. I cannot guarantee that this has happened every year, but if it happened for eight years, they have gone to Trinidad at least six years out of those eight.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, do you see what I have told you about the Hon. Minister? He seems to think that the people on this side did not go to school. I was in England and they used to ask me if I still lived in the trees and if I have my tail wrapped up in my pants. He says he cannot sit and listen to what I am saying; it burns his ears and it is going to burn his ears as long as he sits in here and listens to it. He says he cannot guarantee it has happened every year; but we must let him get on C.B.C. and pontificate on things that nobody can question, and when he comes in here and what we say burn his ears, he says he cannot listen to it. I am not going to insult the hon. member, I will not go against the rules, but he will have to sit down and listen to words that will burn his heart out. Why doesn't he tell this Chamber how many times they went to Trinidad? He has the records and he has his advisers sitting on the sideline; why can't he tell us how many small cities or even coloured areas in the United States where there are just as many rich black people they have visited? My people should be as proud to serve their own black people as they are to serve your people, but when your people can run and go, mine have to remain here. The Lord Combermere cannot carry us anywhere other than to the three mile limit, and those of us who can swim will swim back in.

What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that the Tourist Board has got to take a completely different attitude on this question of tourism. How many times do you read where coloured promoters come here and tell you how they can fill the hotels if they got a little assistance and co-operation? But you have never yet heard the Tourist Board come out and say they will take up these people's offer and bring them in. Look at the chartered flights that come here and see with whom they are packed. In the winter they are packed with people for Sunset Crest, but the other coloured groups that come here have to look about for accommodation, and they have got money to spend which is what we are looking for. But they do not count in certain people's estimation. If our nationals do not look around and see what is happening, before long we will be out.

Mr. Chairman, we have been told that somewhere in the Far East, I think it is Malta, the hoteliers are running a system where they completely reduce the rates in the summer months where they only make a nominal profit. I understand it is L2 a room in the summer season, and the reason for this is to train their staff to top level. They advertise the country in the off-season time and I understand that they make it known to you that they are making no profit off the rooms, but they are only retaining their staff and teaching them, and if you find anything wrong you should complain because they wanted to be a-one for the tourist season. I understand that as a result of this the hotels are packed the year round. You do not hear of that down here, because one hotelier has told me that his rates are such that he is opening for five months and closing and re-opening the next season. You have not got to be a genius to know how a big place on the West Coast can open for 5½ months and close for the remaining 6½ months. I do not see how he can do it unless he makes a great haul to pay for his expenses during the tourist season. If you put down a bus for five months, it is going to deteriorate. Something has got to be wrong and the Government must investigate to see how a man can afford to open for five and a half months in a year and close for the remainder. The staff during this time is walking about and you will hear of breakings and robberies.

Mr. Chairman, if you employ staff in a hotel and they know every room and every back door, and he is laid off after 5½ months, it is human nature that when hunger strikes he is tempted to commit a criminal offence in the same area. I am not saying that they do it, and I would hate to think that the people who are employed in a hotel would go back and ransack it, but the temptation is certainly great. The Tourist Board will not admit to these facts.

When the Minister gets on television before a big panel of journalists, you always find that he ducks from questions that burn, but to right thinking people who listen, he has not answered the question. It is all right to claim a monopoly on the air, but when you come in here this is where the people's business is conducted and this is where the nationals will have to be represented.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, there is one point I want to make before I answer any of the questions which I will be glad to answer. I

think it is most regrettable that when people talk about tourism for one reason or another if they wish to say something derogatory, they manage to bring in colour, nationally and the good old sneer of expatriate. I think this is most regrettable, and I would like to say from the beginning that I am not saying this on my own behalf; all the sneering and jeering jibes by the hon. member for St. Joseph both last evening and this morning do not upset me. I have been insulted by experts, and I do not include the hon. member for St. Joseph as an expert in this context, and I hope he will accept that as a compliment and not as a criticism.
12.50 p.m.

I have been insulted by experts, I have lived most of my life in communities, very different ones, where I happened to be a member of a minority rich group and I have been insulted by experts, both black and white, so anything that might be said in here is certainly not going to upset me, because the kind of things that one has heard elsewhere would never be permitted to be said in here. Anything that might be said in here, therefore, is comparatively mild, and one has only to look at the past two election campaigns and the vile, disgraceful, shameful, gutter-sniping things which were said by the Barbados Labour Party on platforms on those two occasions could never be said in here.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am objecting to what the hon. member has said. I have been a member of the Barbados Labour Party for the past two campaigns and nothing like that has ever been said by me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member did not call any names, he referred to the Barbados Labour Party.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was not suggesting for a moment that any hon. member of this Chamber, or indeed of the Other Place, could be guilty of such, but I am saying only that for a number of years of public or semi-public service in my capacity as Chairman of the Tourist Board, Commissioner General of Expo' 67, and as a member for five years of the Other Place I have known what it is to have these jeers and jibes, on account of Englishman, non-national, ex-patriate, however you care to say it, about the fact that my mother committed the cardinal sin by not being present in Barbados when she happened to have borne me, but nonetheless, one survives these things, and I can only remind my hon. friends opposite that if you do not appreciate seeing someone looking like me sitting down on this side of the House, then you have no quarrel with me, your quarrel is with those fine people from the constituency of Christ Church North Central who gave me a far greater percentage majority than any other of the members on the opposite side got in their own constituency, and indeed with the exception of the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Speaker of this House and the member for St. Philip South, a greater majority than anybody else, so if you have a quarrel on account of colour or an Englishman or something like this, please discuss it with the people up there; they put me here.

Mr. Chairman, reference was made to the composition of the Tourist Board by one hon. member, and other reference was also recently made to the composition of the Tourist Board. I think it was meant in somewhat a jocular vein, the form of a question that was put at a time I was not in the country and which would be answered properly in due course, but if we could think again for a moment in the spirit in which I think it was meant, I would like to say this. The question was concerned with the fact that half of the members of the new Tourist Board came from constituencies close to my own or something like this, and would I not please change the other six so that it could be called The Christ Church North Central Tourist Board or something like this. You know, Mr. Chairman, it leads me to believe that whatever you do you simply cannot please people. I really thought I would have been able to please the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who posed the question; after all, there are only two members of the new Tourist Board from my own constituency and yet there are three people who have been nominated to the Tourist Board who are from among the electors of the constituency to whom the Hon. Leader of the Opposition owes such a debt of thanks, the electors of Christ Church South Central, but however he is unhappy with that; you cannot please people all the time. Most regrettable.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to talk a little about the tourist industry in a broad sense. I think every thinking person in Barbados will appreciate the fact that whether we like it or not tourism has become very important to us. Some people may regret it, but it is a fact of life, and since we do not have any meaningful resources that have yet been discovered and we only have agriculture and the manufacturing industry to sustain our economy, I think that we have to push ahead with the tourist industry as rapidly within a controlled sense as we can, particularly while there are numbers of young people still coming out of schools and finding it hard to find work. We do not have too much alternatives, but

I think we must also recognise the fact that this will bring with it all kinds of problems, social and economic problems, problems of ecology, all these things, and I think that it will be generally appreciated that this then, since it impinges upon the lives of all people in this country, is a matter that is not solely the concern of the Ministry of Tourism, it is a matter of concern to every adult person on behalf of the children in this community, and I would certainly welcome any constructive criticisms which might be made at this time or at any future time, and I have always tried to listen to constructive criticism. I think it can be most helpful, but at the same time one hears too frequently too many broad allegations of misdoing, and one heard earlier in the debate on the Estimates allegations of people who are working at certain hotels on the west coast without work permits, foreigners, not even ex-patriates. Unfortunately, the hon. member who brought this to our attention was not able to give us the names of the people, or indeed which hotels the people were working at.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, it is not right for the hon. member to say that I did not give the names of the hotels, I could not give the names of the persons involved because even the people who work there find it difficult to pronounce the names properly, but I mentioned Sandy Lane, Miramar, Coral Reef and Le Bistro.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: This I acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, and I am sorry I gave the wrong impression. It was the question of the names of the people who were substantively working without work permits.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, undoubtedly Sir, there is the Security Service here that can follow up on any lead the hon. member had given to the Minister.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: This is perfectly true, exactly as the hon. member for St. Peter says, but unless one knows about it there is not much the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs can do, and the question was whether indeed the hon. member for St. James had brought this matter to the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs.
1.00 p.m.

Without the names, there is not much point in generally making broad criticisms. I do not like broad criticisms of any kind which are not specific.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, may I draw to the hon. member's attention that this matter was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs and these views were expressed before in the last Session. The Minister is now saying that he does not like broad criticisms. What the Hon. Minister is actually trying to say is that I must go and get the names of the persons, take them to the Police, take them to the Ministry of Home Affairs and so on in order to have action taken on the matter. I have done my duty. It was drawn to my attention that expatriates or foreigners checked in at Seawell Airport under the guise that they were going to spend a holiday at some of these West Coast Hotels. I have named those hotels already. These expatriates then found themselves jobs in executive positions in the same hotels.

Now, I am not a Security Officer, and I cannot go up to anybody in a hotel and ask him if he were working in the hotel. A man may tell me that he is working at the hotel, but I cannot ask him if he has a Work Permit. I have done my duty as a member of Parliament by drawing it to the attention of Parliament at that time. Further, there was no Minister of Home Affairs sitting in this august Assembly at that time. The Leader of the House did say at the time that he would draw the matter to the attention of the Minister. Whether it was drawn to the attention of the Minister I do not know, but it was drawn to the attention of the person at the time acting on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs in this Assembly.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. All kinds of sweeping statements and allegations were made in the last Parliament. I am not suggesting that this was one of them. This was a general statement made in this Parliament and reported to me when I was the Minister of Home Affairs. The Police were instructed to look into these allegations; the Police have reported that they did look into these allegations that people were working without Work Permits and such persons were not identified.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, did the Police say that there were no such persons, or that there were persons and they could not obtain the identity of them?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking English, and, if the hon. member cannot understand what I am saying, I am sorry for him. I said that the Police reported that no such persons were identified as being without Work Permits at these hotels. They carried out investigations and this was the report.

Mr. CRAIG: How soon after this statement was made in here and the matter reported to the

Police did the Police carry out their investigations?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to interject at this moment. This is the end of it. We are now dealing with Head 45 and not with anything that transpired in here last year or anything that has transpired before in this Session. Let us stick to Head 45. I am not going to tolerate this up-and-down fraudulent points of order. *(Asides.)* I know what is a point of order. I am prepared to hear any member - *(Asides.)* – When I speak in here I am referring to both sides of the House. You are now asking me to look this way. This is my position in the Chair, and if you want me to move from this side, I can go to the other side and I will be always looking at that side. Let us proceed with Head 45 in peace.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, in peace. I should like to refer to this question of the number of people or expatriates who are employed in our hotels. I should like to ask hon. members to bear in mind the international character of this hotel industry. In England you will find Italians working; in Italy you will find English people working; in Spain you will find Germans working and Germans working in Spain. All of these people mix around in the hotel industry, and it is my hope that when more of our people advance to senior positions and have attained management training particularly that they, too, will travel abroad and work and gain experience anywhere in the world, preferably in Europe and North America because that is where some of the best techniques happen to be.

Mr. Chairman, I do hope that everybody appreciates the fact that even when we have a University degree in Tourism and Hotel Management at the University of the West Indies, it does not mean that a man comes out with a diploma or a degree and says: "I am now a fully qualified man in hotel management." This is no more in this profession or calling that it is in the law where you would find a man leaving the Inns of Court, but he would not be expected to be pleading before the Supreme Court during the next week. If you had a doctor who was recently qualified as an M.D., he would not be expected to do some big surgical operation shortly after that. There is a question of attaining a qualification and then a question of attaining experience. This is why when we were discussing the matter I emphasised the importance of a degree course at the University of the West Indies in languages, because hotel people should be able to travel from one part of the world to the other to work and to learn and languages can be most inhibiting or become a stumbling block to that kind of opportunity. From my own experience I know that one simply cannot expect to leave a Hotel School or a Training Institution and jump into some big job the next day.

I myself had this same experience. I attended a Hotel School in Switzerland for over two years, and had some practical training in hotels at the same time. When I left there I was not exactly a boy straight out of school, because in the intervening period before going to the Hotel School I had 4 years service in the war as a Company Commander of some of the finest fighting men in the whole world, if I may say so. I left the Hotel School with a diploma, and I was offered a job by Hilton Hotel Corporation or Hilton Hotel International in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I was very please to get this opportunity; I did not know what specific job it was going to be, but I must say that by the time I reached there I was a bit disappointed to find that I was employed as a bell boy. That is after having various qualifications and so on. Nonetheless, one has to learn and probably if I had remained as a bell boy I would have been a lot richer than I am today. One goes through the hotel business learning trade by trade, and department by department.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to give a few aspects of facts and figures on this aspect of training, because it has been frequently said by people who did not know too much about it that the hotels in Barbados had done nothing to train nationals to bring them to positions of seniority. I have no defence to make for the hotels on this score, but I should like to mention one or two facts and figures, Mr. Chairman, if I may be allowed to do so. The Barbados Hilton, for example....

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member is reading from a document, is he going to make it a document of the House?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I will give you a copy, but I only have notes here. I will ask the Chairman if I can refer to notes.
1.10 p.m.

When the hon. member for St. James made the comment the other day, I thought I would try and find out what the position was with regard to some of our leading hotels for my own information as well as anybody else's, and I offer it now simply as a point of information.

The Barbados Hilton at present has 325 employees; there are five expatriates included in that number. Most of the senior positions except

for the five expatriates are occupied by Barbadians who have been trained by the Barbados Hilton including such people as the Fruit and Beverage Controller, the Chief Accountant and the Assistant Engineer. The Barbados Hilton has sent eleven employees as students to the Hilton Culinary School and are now currently sending two every year to do a year's study in the culinary arts, and in addition it sent seven to the Career Development Institute that they have both in Paris and in Montreal. They also point out, and I think quite reasonably, that there are many senior employees in other hotels at the moment who were trained by the Hilton, but who subsequently left, reasonably enough, to take better jobs.

The Holiday Inn employs at present 212 people; there is one expatriate. The present Assistant Inn Keeper,Catering Manager, Supervisor of Food and Beverage and the Supervisor of Beverage Service have all been trained abroad by Holiday Inns. In addition to that there are other people who are trained at the Holiday Inn in Barbados and by the Holiday Inns overseas – Barbadians I am speaking about – who are presently occupying these positions: the Front Office Manager, at the Antigua Holiday Inn; The Chef at the St. Lucia Holiday Inn, the Maintenance Supervisor at the St. Lucia Holiday Inn and the Maitre D'Hotel in the new one which was opened about a week ago in St. Kitts. These are all Barbadians who are employed abroad in senior positions in various Holiday Inn hotels.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is the Hon. Minister saying that the Chef in the St. Lucia Holiday Inn was trained by Holiday Inn abroad?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: This is the information I am giving, and he is a Barbadian.

Mr. BOLDEN: This is where I must point out an inaccuracy because I know the man personally. He went to England with me in 1956, and he is my client since he came back to Barbados. He was in a completely different hotel group, and when he came to Barbados he was bitten by a dog and then went down to St. Lucia.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I hardly think you can call all this information bogus information on the fact that one person having been bitten by a dog,ran away to St. Lucia.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, is the Minister saying that because he was caught on one, that you must put that one aside and take the remainder as correct? Why doesn't he put the remainder aside?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, shortly after the election I spent a couple of days in Grenada and I happened to stay at the Holiday Inn there, and I met the Chef and we had a cordial conversation. He spoke to me about the hon. member for St. Joseph; so the person to whom the hon. member is referring is in fact the Chef at the Holiday Inn in Grenada.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak from personal experience which of these hon. members is correct and which is not. I am merely giving information if anybody wants it, but every time I try to give information to the hon. member for St. Joseph, he waves his hands about and shouts a lot of rubbish and does not really want to listen, which is a great pity.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, we are both shouting rubbish.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. Once again I am calling on all hon. members in this Chamber to keep this debate at the level at which I expect it, otherwise I will put the question, and when I put the Question no hon. member will be able to challenge me.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think I would prefer to hear you say that you will stop hon. members who are shouting but do not put the question so as to debar other hon. members of their right. Let other hon. members exercise their rights.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before you proceed, I would just like to make my position clear. I do not intend at any time to be rude to the Chair, but I think I have the right that if an hon. member on the other side gives inaccurate reports to the Chamber and when it is found out he says that the member is talking rubbish, to be able to answer, because I do not think it can be right for him to tell me I am talking rubbish and I must accept that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you have replied. Since both of you have replied, I want to hear nothing more about it.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, if I may continue: the Paradise Beach Club and Cobblers Cove operated as one business and they employ together 315 people of whom one is an expatriate. They have been training and promoting Barbadians since the previous corporation took over in 1964, and it is to be

noted that both the General Manager of the Paradise Beach Club and the General Manager of Cobblers Cove are Barbadians. The Assistant Manager at Paradise Beach Club was trained at Paradise and subsequently at Cornell, and they at present have at London International Hotel two Management Trainees and one more Management Trainee from Paradise Beach who is presently doing a four year course at the Ealing Hotel School in London. In addition they have one person from the United Kingdom who is a Chef Instructor who is teaching people continuously on the premises at the Paradise Beach Club.

Sandy Lane was also referred to, and the information I have is that they have 300 employees five of whom are expatriates. The present Sous Chef is now being trained in the United Kingdom and he is coming back to take over as Chef at Sandy Lane. Another Barbadian has been trained for two years at the Ealing Hotel School and with Trust Houses in the United Kingdom and he will return in June to take over as Front Office Manager with a view to becoming Executive Manager of Sandy Lane Hotel. The Front Office Supervisor was also trained at Trust Houses in the United Kingdom. The Trust Houses group are also sending a House-keeper Instructor to Barbados for a specific period of six months, who is not only going to be training people at Sandy Lane, but they have kindly made her services available to most of the other hotels who want to avail themselves of the services of an expert Housekeeping Instructress.

In addition I would mention because I think it is worthy of mention that the Trust Houses Group and Sandy Lane are donating $10,000 in kitchen equipment to the Ministry of Education.

There are a couple of other figures which hon. members might like to have. The Coral Reef Club, Sand Piper and Settlers Beach are operated as one group, and they have 315 employees of whom five are expatriate. Miramar has 228 employees with two expatriates among that number.

1.20 p.m.

I hope that information will be of some help and will lead perhaps to a better understanding of what is happening in our hotels. The situation is not entirely as it is always painted.

I would now like, Mr. Chairman, to try and answer some of the specific points which were made by the hon. members who spoke.

Mr. MOTTLEY: How many ex-patriates were there in the hotels you mentioned?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Nineteen. I would like to try now and answer some of the specific points which were made by members who spoke. The dress of tourists which was mentioned both by the hon. member for St. Peter and by the hon. member for St. Joseph. I am the first to agree, and I said it publicly the other day, that we do not wish to come to a point where dress of anybody would be offensive to our population by going into Banks in swim suits or on Broad Street in bikinis and this kind of thing. A good deal is done at this present time to try and ensure that this does not happen. Some of the hotels have signs up, hotel managers and some of the staff tell people who might be going to Bridgetown that they recommend that they do not, and generally speaking, I think as the hon. member said, this would not in any way be found a problem by tourists once they know, but the problem is that it is our responsibility to tell them, and they cannot be expected to know how they are supposed to dress. I will try to look into this further. It is a very tricky problem to make regulations as to how people may be allowed to dress in Broad Street and the environs of the City or in such public places as banks and restaurants. We are trying to find out what other countries have done, and the only country I have heard of having regulations of this kind enforced is Spain, and every now and again you find that some young ladies are arrested for wearing bikinis.

This in itself as we have gone looking into it causes problems, because social habits change. Even our own habits have changed, thank goodness, in the past few months in this Hon. House of Assembly, but if regulations had been drawn up as to how far above the knee the young ladies' skirts could go on Broad Street by this time half of them would have been locked up, because things have changed, habits, styles and mores, so it is exceedingly difficult to make regulations, and it is also difficult to enforce them, because it has to be done with a certain amount of tact. However, we are not unaware of the problem, and believe me, everything will be done to see that offensive behaviour of this kind is discouraged.

I would like to refer to a very serious matter raised by the hon. member for St. Joseph, the point which I made publicly about the coloured people, black people if you prefer the term, being discriminated against in the hotels. This was not made solely as a criticism of the employees, in fact, no particular group was mentioned at the time, simply it was brought to my attention by a member of this Hon. House right now about two years ago that it was a problem, and it was also raised by other people, and particularly in Puerto

Rico, and it was specifically said at that time the problem was with other West Indian people coming to Barbados. The fact is that we do not happen to have a problem, as the hon. member for St. Joseph has said, he has experienced this problem, it is not any particular individual problem, it is not any specific hotel's problem necessarily, some will say yes it can happen and others will say it will never happen, but if it is a community problem and an industry problem, and I should like to reassure the hon. member for St. Joseph that I have been trying to do exactly what he has recommended, and that is talking to both sides about it. I have talked not only with representatives of the Barbados Workers' Union but I have also talked with representatives of the owners or managers, and I have gone further than that and I have said it is a problem that we have in common, it is a problem primarily of education, it is a problem of overcoming some of the things which have happened in the past years, and it is a problem which we all have, not you specifically, not one particular group, we all have this problem and we must join together to see what can be done to overcome it. The employers, and I believe the Union, will agree to meet together at a meeting when I will be Chairman. I have offered to be anyway.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to draw to the Hon. Leader's attention that he gave me the assurance that we would have a break at 1.30 p.m. I am quite sure we are all in sympathy with you, and I would ask the Leader if it is time we should take a break. If so, I should like to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour, till 2.30 p.m.

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

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

1.30 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 45 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, prior to the luncheon interval, I had to leave, unfortunately, before the sitting was adjourned.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. When the sitting was suspended the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations was replying to certain points. I do not mean to be rude to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want the hon. member to realise that we are in Committee. If any member returns to this Chamber and he fails to stand up and speak, then I do not have to call on him. We are in Committee and an hon. member has the right to speak as often as he wants.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I was not here when the sitting was adjourned and that is why I rose. If the Minister wants to reply he may do so.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister for Tourism said that he had spoken to representatives of the union in respect of this question of racial discrimination in the Hotel Service. I wonder what agreement has been reached on the part of the employers as to specific instructions being given to the staff regarding the manner in which they serve guests in general? I wonder if he would give us that information for the records.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am serious about this. I have asked a question arising out of what the Hon. Minister of Tourism has said, and I thought he would tell us something about the matter. I was seeking information which I thought would be beneficial not only to this Committee, but for the inhabitants of Barbados generally. My reason for saying this is that I was privileged to be a member of a Parliamentary Delegation which went from Barbados to Ghana. In Ghana the hotels are now State Institutions. I was very happy to see that the natives or the nationals of the country were entitled to enter any hotel as long as they were suitably dressed and as long as they behaved themselves to a certain standard. They walked in; they sat at tables and service was of the highest order. The Hon. Leader of the House led that delegation,

and I mentioned to him how pleasant it was to see the nationals of a country walking into a hotel, taking a seat at a table, and within a few seconds somebody would come and demand your order. As soon as you had consumed your first order there was no lapse of time before the glasses, the bear bottles and so one were removed from the tables, and you were asked whether you wanted to place another order.

Mr. Chairman, this system served a twofold purpose. It served a purpose of removing loiterers from the hotel in that they were naturally embarrassed to be asked by several waiters: "What can I help you with?" On the other hand, it gave a 100% service. Since the Minister said that he had discussed this question of service and he had agreed with me that there was a lack of education; he said that he had discussed the matter with the representative of the union, and I have no doubt that the union would have instructed its members that they should treat every guest with the same equality. We have not had any prenouncement from the Employers' Confederation; I have not heard any pronouncement by the Hon. Minister in respect of his discussion with the employers and what their future attitudes will be; therefore, I thought that the Hon. Minister would have been pleased to tell us what those discussions hold for us in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I would be the first person to go outside and say to the general public that the Minister of Tourism is genuinely interested in breaking down the discriminatory practices which exist in hotels in respect of coloured people. I should like the records to reflect probably next year or years after that the Hon. Minister had taken a decisive stand. Let him say that he feels that coloured people should be treated with equality at the hotels. Let him say that the employers are of this position, or let him say quite boldly that the employers are putting up a struggle against the people. He occupies a position, as he has said, where the good people of Christ Church North Central has put him there. I want the people to know that he genuinely has their interest at heart. I should not like to misquote his position or to misrepresent the stand which he holds. I would have thought, for the benefit of the Committee, this is something which he would have been pleased to let us know who are the culprits in this most hideous practice of discrimination. If it is the employees, then let us know that; let the representative of the union know, in no uncertain terms, what is the position.

Now, the representative of the union came here last night and this morning, and he said what he intends to teach the expatriates in their dealings with Barbadian nationals. I should also like the Hon. Minister to let the union know what he expects of Barbadian nationals, if they are working and if they are justifiably paid for the services which they are given.

2.40 p.m.

These are burning questions which do not only affect me, but affect every Barbadian who is of a coloured pigmentation and who may go to a hotel. It affects not only the nationals, but the coloured friends of the nationals who may come here and then wait until they get on the aircraft or at the airport or back in their homeland and write a letter such as those seen in the Advocate–News or probably in the Democrat or any other paper which is published in Barbados or elsewhere to say that coloured people are not welcomed in Barbados, because as the Minister has said, whether we like it or not, tourism is a factor which we have to accept. He said I was no expert in this field. I do not claim to be an expert on tourism.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think at this stage you are misquoting the hon. member. He did not say in tourism.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. member said that I am no expert, and that he was criticised by experts. I cannot lay claim to being an expert in anything, but in the field of tourism one does not have to be an expert to observe what is happening in one's country, and therefore I would hope that the Minister as an expert would tell the lay members what we would like to know and enlighten us, because it is the experts who teach the lay members of a society what the true position is. When he spoke about gutter snipe remarks made by the members of the Barbados Labour Party about him, I must say that when the other side go on platforms and make statements that are not defamatory we do not worry our heads, because it is the genuineness of the person in here that really matters. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture went into St. Joseph and said several things about me, and I promptly telephoned him next morning and told him I was going to St. Andrew the following night and he should come down and listen. He would tell you that it was reported to him that I said certain things which I have never said and expressed his surprise in my saying these things. I then told him what I had said about him and said I would go back the next night and say it. There is therefore no question of making gutter sniping remarks around here, but if the hon. member classifies what was said about him in that manner, that unfortunately as far as I am concerned will be a problem he will have to face

for the rest of his life without satisfaction from me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the Head.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am hoping the hon. member will enlighten us as to some of the burning problems. Another point is that the Tourist Board or those who are responsible for making the arrangements always try to tell you how many tourist boats are calling in at Barbados at a given time. The taxi drivers have been complaining that when they go to a hotel to drop a group of white people, they are accepted for a drink, but when they carry a group of coloured people the hoteliers would meet them and say they have no accomodation. A hotelier has told me that he does not welcome them because they have packed lunches which they bring off the ship and are not spending any money in the hotel. I cannot vouch for the truth of this because I have never been present in a hotel when such an incident occurred. I know from prefessional experience that a hotel was faced with a problem of a tourist who went into the ladies' room and the toilet cistern fell on her head. The hotelier contended that she came in, asked for a glass, took a bottle of coke from her bag, drank it and then asked for the ladies room, and the next thing they heard was a crash, and when they went to the ladies' room, there was the cistern on the woman's head. These are problems we have to face. *(Asides)* I heard an aside from the hon. member for St. Andrew saying that this must be a very old hotel.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I always ask hon. members to allow me to deal with asides.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am not criticising the aside, but I am only saying it is not a very old hotel. It would be surprising if I told the hon. member that this is a most luxurious hotel. I will not call the name because I have settled the claim and I know the lady is quite satisfied with the amount paid out by the Insurance Company.

Mr. Chairman, let us be quite serious about this matter. It is a psychological problem which we have to settle, and if the Hon. Minister is now responsible for tourism as an ex-hotelier, he can put our fears at rest. I would like to tell my people that the Hon. Minister is aware of the problems and the suggestions he has in mind for solving them. I would like to help him solve the problems tomorrow because I would not like to go back to the hotel to which I have been and be left sitting. The hon. member in an aside said I did not go to a hotel; he is only baiting me to call the name of the hotel, but I will not do it. I will go outside and tell him the name of the hotel and the price they charged me for a shrimp salad; and if he would enter into a wager with me of a little "hundredert" as a Mr. Miller who once was in this Chamber would say, I would go with him and prove it right now because I would be a hundred dollars better off.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member for St. Joseph spoke earlier today, he talked about one hotel on the south coast where he said that when a new manager had taken over all the black workers were removed from the Front Office and replaced by persons of a fairer complexion.
2.50 p.m.

I think the hotel involved was Southern Palms. What surprised me was not so much the statement made by the hon. member for St. Joseph but a comment made by one of the Ministers who said "so what, that is private enterprise". I think the Ministers know which one I mean, but to hear a member complain of the attitude of hotel managers towards black people and then hear a Minister of Government saying "so what, that is private enterprise" is a most disgraceful and disgusting statement to have come from a Minister, but the Minister did not have the courage and the gumption to stand up and say it. Is it any wonder that the hoteliers and the management can treat the workers in this fashion when you have Ministers of Government condoning this sort of attitude with a lot of silly and stupid remarks in the House that they are not even capable of making on their feet but only make sitting in their places? We on this side find it particularly disgusting that any member of Government can condone the attitude of the hotel management to workers, and this is not surprising. It is not a single or isolated instant where hotel workers are treated like this, because if you look at the hotels closely you are going to see that what is happening where a hotel has been confronted with the fact that it has now got to appoint Barbadians to senior executive positions, and people there would have been in what they call training positions so that they are now confronted with the fact that you train a man, therefore you have to appoint him in this position, they are firing the person whom they have trained on the flimsy pretext that that person does not have the attitude for the job, and they turn around and say they are going to train somebody else for the job.

What in fact is happening with the Barbadian who should be promoted to the job is

that he is not getting the job because the hotel is not training him but is saying he does not have the aptitude for the job, and this is the way in which the hotels are seeking to defeat the Government's policy of appointing Barbadians to top posts. I do not want to call names, if the Minister wants them I can give him outside. I will call the name of the hotel, Tamarind Cove.

I want to deal with the case of Tamarind Cove and its former Manager, because I think that this was a case which was clearly an example of what I have recently referred to, because there was a Barbadian Manager who was fired, but the surprising thing is that the Manager is supposed to have been fired because the hotel was losing money. When you analyse the position you find that the hotel brought in from overseas management consultants, from the Hicks Organisation to be exact, to look at the management of the hotel under the Barbadian Manager, and in all the reports given they praised that Manager, and I remember one particular part of it where the person from Hicks stated that the Manager had so much interest in the hotel that he was running it as though he was not only an employee but a person who had shares in the hotel, so great was his interest and so competent was the job he was doing. A few months later, because they wanted to get rid of that black manager and appoint a white foreigner, they fired him on the pretext that the hotel was losing money, but this same manager when he warned the hotel that the two Chefs they had cost the hotel $33,000 in six months, and he recommended the management to fire them, the Hotel Manager said they could not do it because a hotel like that could not do without a foreign chef, and they kept them, but the hotel lost in six months $33,000 which included salaries and various allowances.

When you analyse even the financial implications of it, Sir, the financial analysis as done not by Barbadian Accountants but by foreign Accountants, where the hotel was depreciated at some exorbitant rate, it is really fantastic, and then they will tell you the Barbadian Manager was incompetent when in actual fact what recommendations he made to the hotel were not acted upon. Where the hotel was depreciated at some fantastic rate, where the hotel was paying very high rates of interest, and above all, where the hotel was charging exorbitant rates to the tourists coming to this country, I think that this is one of the real problems Barbados has got to face. If we are not careful as a Tourist resort we are going to price ourselves out of existence. I know the argument that is put up when you say the hotel prices in Barbados are too high, because they ask how can the hotel rates in Barbados be too high when the luxury hotels are full during the winter season, but it is not only the luxury hotels, it is the A-class hotels, the hotels that charge U.S. $40 and $50 per day. What you have got to realise is this, in a country where a lot of the main hotels are owned not by Barbadians but by foreigners, that as far as they are concerned they have invested money in this country and they want the quickest return and the biggest return possible of their money, and therefore they are prepared to charge exorbitant prices to tourists coming into this country.

3.00 p.m.

You must also realise that once these people who may be described as birds of passage who have no permanent interest in Barbados, but who are only interested in seeing that their money makes the quickest returns, once the tourist industry in this country dies or falls off, then they will move to other areas. I think the Minister of Tourism will know that one of the new areas for tourism is on the African Continent, and you are going to find that the hotel managers and the hotel owners who have invested money in this country, if anything happens and the hotel trade falls off for one reason or another – I think it will fall off because of the high prices that are being charged to the tourist – these people are going to sell out their investments and move to other places like East Africa and West Africa the new tourist development areas.

Now, let me deal with the question of the Tourist Board. I should like to find out from the Minister what is the basis of appointment as a member of the Tourist Board. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I almost said the Minister of Labour. The hon. member for St. Michael West has said that the basis of appointment is to be a man or a woman. I think that when you look at the composition of the present Tourist Board that, obviously, is the only consideration: that they happen to be human beings and are a man or a woman. It certainly cannot be that they are going to make any contribution to the development of tourism in Barbados. I am not prepared to call names. I do not believe in calling names in here unless I have to do so, and I do not think there is any need to call names. It is rather obvious that there is no proper basis of selection to the Tourist Board: It is the fact that you are a man or woman and that you are a member of the Democratic Labour Party. That is not really a good basis for appointing anybody to the Tourist Board.

Let me give you an example of what I have in mind. When the Tourist Board was going on a Bonanza quite recently, one person was asked: "Are you going to Canada and the United States on the Bonanza Tour?" The reply from that person was: "I am not going to Canada with the Bonanza; I am going to the United States, because this is from where our particular hotel gets its trade." This is not really the basis upon which the Bonanza is sent abroad.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the hon. member would mind if I asked him if this is really a member of the Tourist Board that he is speaking about, or is it a hotel person who was going along?

Mr. MOTTLEY: A member of the Tourist Board.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Then I am horrified to hear it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not going to call any names, Sir. If the Minister wants me to tell him outside I will do so, because I do not like calling names in here. I think it is wrong for a person to be on a Tourist Board; to be sent abroad to represent Barbados and to attract tourist to this Island, and then that person can say: "I am not going to Canada because my hotel does not get people from Canada but from America and I am going to America." This is where you get a conflict of interest, Sir. I should hope that the basis of appointment is not the particular interest of any individual because the individual happens to own a hotel or apartment. I think this is wrong. It was said some time ago that one former Chairman of the Tourist Board used to take around his own cards when he went on Bonanzas and give them out for his own personal hotel. I do not know which Chairman that was, but I have heard it said of a former Chairman.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have to enquire about that, because that is a serious allegation. I am the only former Chairman of the Tourist Board who has ever gone on a Bonanza. I should like to ask the hon. member if he is serious. Is he speaking about me, or is he not?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the best person to know if he ever gave out cards at a Bonanza would be the Minister, if it applies to him. If he knows it is himself, then I will have to be referring to him.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I must protest; this is a disgraceful allegation. If the hon. member has some proof of such a thing it would have been different. To come in here and say that I, as Chairman of the Tourist Board, went around handing out my own cards or brochures, I simply am not prepared to accept that. It is a disgraceful thing to say.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it may be disgraceful, but nonetheless it is true.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow the hon. member to stand up and say it is true. If he says it is true, then it is up to him to prove it is true. It is a disgraceful thing to say about another hon. member of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately, I should like to inform the hon. member that he has not made any statement relative to an hon. member of this House. He has made a statement relative to a former Chairman of the Tourist Board; therefore, I cannot ask him to withdraw it.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, the Bonanza Programme started only when I became Chairman of the Tourist Board in 1963. There has been no other Chairman except the present Chairman until this time except myself. He can only be referring to one past Chairman, and if he wants to prove it let him stand up and say so. He could not and he would not prove it. An allegation of this kind is disgraceful.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am glad that you now know the conduct was disgraceful. You should have thought so when you were doing it. You should have known that it was disgraceful when you went on the Bonanza as a member of the Tourist Board. Do not think because you are a member of this House that you can now say it is disgraceful. This is the sort of thing that we have to guard against in this country. We have to guard against people using the Tourist Board for their own interest. It has happened in the past, and I think we should guard against it in the future. We must prevent people from getting into positions and using the Tourist Board for their own personal gain. If it has happened in the past it was wrong, and it is happening in the present and it is still wrong. If the Minister thinks so much about it, then let him appoint peple who can make a contribution to tourism in Barbados and not people because of their own personal interest.

With regard to the question of appointing people with knowledge to the Tourist Board, there was a lady in Barbados who had made a great contribution to tourism when she was in London, but when the Government appointed the new Tourist Board, because of her connections with

the Barbados Labour Party, the Government did not ask her to serve on the Tourist Board. Let me show you the stupidity in appointing people to the Tourist Board. You have one person on the Tourist Board who will go to a meeting of the Tourist Board under one Ministry, and then when he goes back to his job he comes under the same Ministry and the same people that he is dealing with. At one time he is sitting with them with equal membership, and at another stage he is with them as a subordinate employee.
3.10 p.m.

He was obviously appointed because he is a member of the Democratic Labour Party. What does he know about tourism and what contribution can he make? The Minister could not see fit to ask the lady who obviously even he could not say made a great contribution to tourist promotion in London, although she is in Barbados, to serve on the Tourist Board because she has Barbados Labour Party relations.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, I do not think the hon. member should be allowed to get away with that. This is not the first time that a Tourist Board has been appointed in Barbados. In fact it has been appointed every three years, and in my experience as a Minister I think a Tourist Board has been appointed on at least two occasions. I can say that the boss of the same lady to whom the hon. member is referring was the manager of the Tourist Board here, I refer to Mr. Paul Foster, and he left that position for the past six or seven years. It is only a month or two ago that he has been replaced on the Tourist Board; so it is nothing to do with one's political affiliation. The lady's turn will come one of these days perhaps.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Minister is saying that there are so many people with a vast knowledge of tourism that you can neglect putting those with such knowledge on the Tourist Board. It may very well be that somebody considers the gentleman to be a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party and that is why after six years he has been put back on, but the Minister would know better than I would the political affiliation of that gentleman. All we are saying is that there are people who are knowledgeable and can make a contribution, not because they happen to be Chairman of one of the branches of the Democratic Labour Party in Christ Church. That is a lot of hog wash. It may have been the practice of this political party when it was in office to appoint people on that basis, but it is a practice that should be done away with. I believe the Minister is likely to say that when our party was in power we did it too, but I am not interested in that. I believe the Minister was appointed by this party at one stage as a member of the Tourist Board, and that is an indication that we did not appoint other people, unless he has changed his political affiliation since those days.

Now, Sir, an article appeared in the press some time ago...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I would like with the hon. member's permission to point out that the Act gives the Cabinet the right to appoint – in this case it is the Minister – those people that in his opinion can make a contribution to the Tourist Board. I would like to tell the hon. member that when we took over the reins of Government the Tourist Board was bringing in $11 million a year; today it is bringing in $67 million. Are you saying that the people who were on the Tourist Board for those years whether they were supporters of the Democratic Labour Party or not did not make a contribution? How did we get tourism to take over the economy of the country as it has done? It is not fair to say that we only consider people who belong to our political party. The hon. member knows that his colleague beside him has been called on many occasions by this Government to perform functions which we thought he was best suitable to carry out, not that we thought that he was a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party. We knew where his allegiance was, but we thought he had a contribution to make, and if tomorrow we had to make a further appointment and we knew that the hon. member had a contribution to make and time to do it, he would be the first person we would try to appoint because we know that he has sincerity of purpose. The Hon. Minister appoints persons to the Tourist Board who in his opinion can make a contribution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am most shocked by the speech made by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, because I never thought I would have heard anybody on the Government's side ever have a good word to say for the hon. member for Christ Church West. Now he is talking about what a contribution he made, and sincerity of purpose.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I challenge the hon. member to say that the has ever heard me...

Mr. MOTTLEY: I said anybody over there, not you.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You said anybody over here, and I challenge the hon.

member because I give Jack his jacket and I call a spade a spade. I am noting to do with the hon. member's political affiliation; he has been my friend for years and I admire him. I know he has a contribution to make and I have never said less than that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I must apologise to the hon. member because I am not saying that he said so; but I am surprised to hear from anybody on that side that the hon. member for Christ Church West has a contribution to make. I heard remarks about gutter snipe and nasty remarks and I well remember that in the general election nobody suffered from more gutter snipe remarks than the hon. memmber for Christ Church West, not from the hon. member for St. Andrew...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, he is wrong. I suffered more than the hon. member.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You may have suffered, but not from gutter snipe remarks. I appreciate the fact that the Tourist Board is appointed in the Minister's discretion, but all I am trying to ascertain is how the Minister exercises his discretion.

3.20 p.m.

When you look at some of the people whom the Minister has appointed on the Tourist Board, obviously his discretion is misguided in this case. He does not have to tell me if he does not want to, but I am free to comment and I am free to say that looking at some of the appointments made to the Tourist Board I am well satisfied that the Minister's discretion is misplaced and misguided, because some of the people he has appointed cannot make any contribution to tourism in Barbados. There is no doubt about it.

I want to move on to the topic which I intended to do when the Minister made a point of order. I would like to find out whether there is any procedure within the Tourist Board of investigating complaints made to the Tourist Board, and complaints that appear from time to time in the Press, because I remember reading recently in one of the issues of the newspaper a complaint which alleged that two black Americans, I think of Barbadian parentage, were discriminated against at some hotel on the south east coast of Barbados. I do not know if it is Sam Lord's. What I would like to find out from the Minister, and I think the Minister should be aware of the article to which I referred, it appeared on the front page of the *Advocate-News,* is what has been done to investigate that matter and what were the results of the investigation, whether the allegations made by these people which appeared in the *Advocate* were true or whether they were unfounded. Even more important, I would like to find out from the Minister whether he is aware that a report was made to the Tourist Board about a place called Four Acres Apartments in Christ Church, because somebody working there said that a telephone call was made asking whether they would receive some people, a lady's voice on the other end asked whether these people were black or white because Four Acres does not take any black people.

I would like to find out from the Minister if he is aware of that complaint made to the Tourist Board, because I can state as a fact that the complaint was made to the Tourist Board. I want to find out if the Minister is aware of it, whether it was investigated and what steps, if any, are being taken. I believe the evidence of the conversation has been preserved, because I believe the conversation was tape recorded, and the person who made the complaint I believe still has the tape recording of that complaint, to the best of my knowledge and information. I would like to find out from the Minister of Tourism whether or not he has heard the complaint, and if so, if it has been investigated.

One hears ever so often a lot of ex-patriate hotel owners saying that the Government should allow more hotel beds in Barbados. I am not an expert on tourism, but I think the Government should ensure that persons coming into this country to invest money here in tourism should not be allowed to invest money in flats that are not labour intensive. I think the member for St. Michael West will agree with me that they should be made to go into hotels where the money will be invested in a labour intensive industry in the sense that they will be employing barmen and various people as distinct from flats where there is no real overhead, and I think the Government should look into this position, and it should also be as part of a wider process where even on the question of investment as a whole the Government could bring some legislation setting out guidelines restricting certain businesses in Barbados for Barbadian nationals alone. I think that in the last Session when the member for St. Michael South East who was then the senior member for St. Michael brought before this Chamber the question of the Hertz operated taxis in this country, I think then that members on this side agreed that there should be some sort of legislation setting out clearly those avenues in which foreigners would be allowed to invest and to set up businesses, and those businesses that would be restricted for Barbadian nationals alone. I think that as part of the guidelines the question of tourism investment in flats as distinct from investment in hotels should be something that should be done immediately.

I did not hear all the hotels listed by the Minister this morning when he spoke about hotel training, unfortunately. A list was given to this House in 1970 setting out clearly the hotels at which 76 work permits were issued. This was in February, 1970, I think, when the answer was given by the then Leader of the House that there were 76 non-nationals holding work permits employed in the hotel industry in this country, and what we would like to get from the Minister – I am not disputing the numbers he gave – is a complete list of the hotels and the number of non-nationals engaged in each of them. One of the things that surprised me was when the Minister said that the hotels in Barbados have an international character, and he talked about Italians working in London and Englishmen working in Italy, but this is good, they are two developed societies, but tell me how many Barbadian Managers you see working in England or Italy, because what we have got to recognise is this; we are dealing with a developing society with a massive unemployment situation, and because it holds good in England to have Italians working there and to have Englishmen working in Italy the same does not hold true in Barbados, because we have a massive unemployment problem and we cannot afford to provide jobs for non-nationals on the flimsy pretext that the hotel is of an international character. This is not really satisfactory.
3.30 p.m.

If you look closely at the 19 people – the list he gave is not an exhausting one: Miramar, Holiday Inn, and the Hilton – I am absolutely certain that you are talking about the 19 highest paid people in each of these Hotels, because what is still true in Barbados, even though you have 325 people employed; the 5 people at the Hilton, for instance, and the 5 people at Coral Sands, etc. I have absolutely no doubt that the 5 non-nationals at the Hilton are the 5 people who are receiving the best salaries. I think the time has come when the Barbadians who are working in the hotel industry should get some of the best paid jobs that are being offered.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister went on to say that when people become qualified to work in the Hotel that some day Barbadians will be able to be transferred overseas to work in International Hotels. This creates an interesting problem, because I would like to know how Barbadians are going to get qualified to get these jobs overseas. If you cannot get the top jobs in Barbados, how are you going to get the top jobs overseas? It is clear that, in the Hotel Industry, there has been a failure to attract people of top managerial calibre to the Hotel Training School. You can attract a few people to the Hotel Training School, but there is still a stigma in Barbados attached to any job that is not one of the ancient professions. I know of a classic instance where a chap who was working at the Hilton Hotel was offered two scholarships by the Government: one to study history at the University of the West Indies, and one to study Hotel Management at one of the Canadian Universities, but with his Barbadian conservative attitude to the values that are inherent in our society, he took the scholarship at the University of the West Indies. I have no doubt that had he taken the scholarship at the Canadian Hotel School he would have been working for much more money than he is working for today. You still have in our society certain inherent prejudices in our society against any job that is not considered a white colar job or one of the ancient professions.

Now, another thing that has been causing members of this Party some concern is the fact that a high percentage of the Boutiques at these hotels are being run by people who are non-nationals. The Boutiques are either being run by some friend of the 19 people who have work permits, or by the Manager's wife and so on. This is not satisfactory, as far as we are concerned. You are denying Barbadians the right to open these Boutiques in these hotels and make a living. The same thing can be said about the Beauty Salons in the hotel. There are being run by non-nationals.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about the Tourist Industry bringing so much money to Barbados, I think that the average Barbadian should be given an opportunity to derive as much benefit as possible from the money coming into this country. A lot has been said about $60 million coming into this country annually. What has not yet been clearly established is what percentage of this money really remains in Barbados. When you look at some of the large hotels who have their purchasing agents, some locally, the eggs, the chickens and everything comes from overseas through them; so that even though money is coming in and is being circulated in the country, one has to establish what percentage of the money coming in remains in Barbados. You must take into consideration the fact that they buy most of their foodstuffs from overseas, and there is, obviously, a need for more imports substitution.

Again, when you look at the ownership of the hotels, a lot of them are owned by non-nationals and the money is going out of the country in profit. I do not think there is anything more I can add. I have asked the Minister about the article that appeared in the

Advocate about the tourist on the East Coast, and the report about Four Aces. I wonder if the Minister can give us some information about that.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I have sat here during this debate, and it is interesting to see how hon. members on the other side are now the guardians of the unfortunates of this country. Years ago, long before the Democratic Labour Party came into power, there was an opportunity for Barbados to be far ahead in tourism than it is today. What did we hear then? It was said that every canecutter would be coming from the country to be butlers, waiters, and to serve in all other capacities except cutting cane in this country. That is good enough at that time for the people of Barbados. The people in Barbados must pay attention to these things, and they must not suffer from short memories.

Mr. Chairman, I have been interested in tourism for over thirty years. It was out of tourism that I was able to be a ship owner and to operate ships. The Bahamas has been one of the big tourist country in this world. Bermuda is also a tourist centre, and my earnings depended upon the development of tourism in those countries. I made money out of transporting the rum, and Barbados made money from selling them the rum in those days even during the tough war days when Jamaica found it impossible to get rum to the Bahamas and Bermuda. In those days I took those ventures and I was fortunate not to have lost one shipment. It is from these experiences, Mr. Chairman, that I have been very interested in tourism.

A firm and a bunch of nationals invested money in this country to set up a large hotel years ago along the Blue Waters Terrace to develop tourism in this country. The Barbados Labour Party which was in power at that time did not see it fit to create incentives in this country for anybody to develop tourism. The only interest that the coloured man had in this country was to be the cane-cutting line, and it would have affected the industry at that time; therefore, that is the reason why today we are 10 behing where we should have been.

The hon. member mentioned that there were prejudices in certain professions and people were not attracted to them. No man is interested in studying a profession unless it will be remunerative to him, otherwise he would be an idiot. That is why, many years ago, everybody wanted his child to study law and medicine.

3.40 p.m.

It is only now that hotels and tourism have been developed in this country that people would consider going into those fields because it would be remunerative. What would it have valued anybody ten or twelve years ago to study to be a chief cook, management or anything in a hotel? It would have been foolishness. Today there is an outlet not only in Barbados but in other parts of the world.

In 1961 when the Democratic Labour Party came into power I was appointed Minister of Tourism which was under the Ministry of Communications and Works, and I was Minister of Tourism under the Ministry of Trade and Tourism. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central was Chairman of the Barbados Tourist Board, and I can say that he has added his experience considerably to the development of tourism in this country, and it would be unfair to him, not being a colleague, to say that he has not made a worthwhile contribution to the tourist industry in this Island, as well as to the Caribbean as a whole. Anybody who has known of his contribution and has served with him must say that he has contributed well. I cannot stay here and hear the guardians of the people of this country say what has happened. Everybody is now interested and know that coloured people have the right to go into hotels as anybody else. Tourism today is completely different from when I was a boy. When I was a boy we looked on a tourist as the millionaire type, and I can say that the world today is far smaller than it used to be through communications. Fifty years when one would still be hoisting a sail on a square rigger, a plane would have gone all around the world and back before you could get the last piece of sail hoisted. People are more travel minded. When the hon. member for St. Joseph talks, he is proving that he knows absolutely nothing about tourism in this country when he talks about going into Spain and other parts of the world and about high tourist rates.

Mr. Chairman, I contributed considerably to the development of tourism in the Bahamas, because it was money earning to me. The greater the development of tourism the more I could earn. The hotels would open on 1st December and on 15th April every one was closed. Due to close proximity, low air fares and the ease with which Bahamians could get to the United States – from the closest Island over to Miami would be about 45 miles – hotels had to pay the best of their staff all the year round so as to be able to maintain them for the coming season. They would find that after closing a hotel around 15th April then to get ready for October and November the walls and the inside of the hotels would deteriorate greatly due to being closed in tropical climates. I had talks with some of the

people interested in the tourist industry and asked them why not create a summer rate which was much cheaper than the winter rate and get the airlines to reduce their fares so that even if they did not make a profit they would save more than what they had to pay the staff for doing nothing during the summer months and what money they would have spent in maintaining the hotels in good condition, and this was done, and this is how they have developed an all-year round tourist trade.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things I would like to see in Barbados is reduced rates in the winter months and an all-year round season with the hotels full, because as I have said it is a completely different type of person that is travelling today. You get school teachers and a lot of the older people travelling; and tourism leads to industrial development. A lot of these people who have come here and are interested in industrial development are people who have been here at some time, and often when they come to a Minister or to the Ministry they have walked the length and breadth of this country talking to inhabitants about how the country is going, querying how they feel about it and what they think about an alternative Government. They want to know from the local people how they feel about conditions, about the present Government and about an alternative Government, so that when they come to the Government they are well versed from the people they have talked with before they come to set up any business in this country. The hon. member for St. Joseph must realise that there are different rates in these hotels at present. After 15th April the rates are considerably reduced which give the poor type of person an opportunity to travel, and if the airlines would reduce the rates as well, then we would be able to derive greater benefits out of the tourist industry; but tourism is here to stay. One of the things that people have to develop is area tourism. I do not want to pay expenses and go up to France, and while there I might want to see Belgium, Sweden and Norway. People want for one passage to see the area and this is what we are trying to develop in this area. I have worked as Minister with the hon. member for Christ Church North Central for a considerable time, and I can go far enough as to say that no better person could have been appointed in the present Government than the hon. member with his knowledge of the tourist trade in this country.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, my good friend and Parliamentary colleague the hon. member who has just taken his seat tried his best to make out a case in defence of the present Minister of Tourism.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, I am not trying to defend anybody; it is lawyers who make defence. When I say something I say it straight and blunt. I am not a defence man for anybody.

Mr. CRAIG: I know the hon. member will cool down eventually. He tried to make out a case for the Minister of Tourism and for the Government's policy on tourism. He would not give me a chance, and in so attempting to make out a case he referred to my party as a party that only wants to keep the people in the cane fields cutting canes. It is pathetic to hear a responsible member of the Government set out to say this, and it is sad that a person who was appointed to the Ministry of Tourism should know so little about the Ministry which he represented, and I am going to knock down all his arguments with one blow.
3.50 p.m.

This is the Development Plan 1960-65. A powerful, socialist Democratic Labour Party now and still holding the reins of Government took up power in 1961. This was the party which was to keep the people in the canefields, and I shall read from that Development Plan which was produced by the Party at that time which ran the Government, the Barbados Labour Party, the Party that was supposed to keep people in the canefields, the Party that was supposed to keep people in patches, the Party that has never made a contribution to this country. I shall read.

"Tourism

> The encouragement of expansion in the tourist industry is a major policy aim of the Plan. There are indications that this is the quickest way of increasing the national income and providing more employment. Greater diversification of economy would result. The target set the sector is at least 75,000 tourists by 1965."

This was the target the Government of that day set, the Government which was going to keep people in the canefields. The dynamic Government with the present Minister of Tourism could only bring into the country by 1965, 68,418 persons, while we had set a target of 75,000 people, bearing in mind that we were keeping people in the canefields.

> "...or double the 1960 target. This would probably require an additional 2,000 beds, an investment of about $20 million."

This is the Party that has done nothing for the country.

> " It is expected that the national income will increase by about $7 million a year as a result."

This is the Party that is of no use or that has never made a contribution to tourism and want to keep people in the canefields to control them.

> "...In formulating measures for such expansion account has been taken of the considered potential of the industry, its present stage of development and the very nature of the industry itself. Several studies of potential after taking over from some of the reactionaries in this country, after fighting them tooth and nail..."

and I recall hearing my colleague's father who fought the Barbados Labour Party saying "vote Fergusson and Sealy". This was my colleague's father who succeeded Mr. E. K. Walcott, a reactionary in this country, who fought the Barbados Labour Party that tried to change the social structure and had succeeded so far.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, in 1961 it was "vote Fergusson and Sealy" and in 1971 it was "vote for the eight seats in St. Michael that Fergusson and Sealy had".

Mr. CRAIG: We are going to stick to the Resolution. "Several studies have been undertaken by independent investigators who are unanimous in the conclusion that the potential is considerable and is at present far from being fully exploited. Steps have already been taken to overcome the seasonal nature of the trade by attracting more tourists in the summer." Note carefully, since 1960 it was our plan to attract more tourists in the summer knowing that there is always the winter season and today the Government is still struggling under the advice of the former Chairman of the Tourist Board who was paid some $13,000 to go on promotional trips. Let him deny this. In spite of the booklet which he put out, his monthly newsletter, saying that he did it for Prime Minister Barrow because he likes Barbados, let him deny he was ever paid that amount. My colleague said yesterday that there are some people who go along Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday like human beings, but then on Bank Holidays they dress in clothes looking like animals, hence my colleagues, some of them in here walking around pretending they are Bajans. You can move the Canadian out of Canada but you cannot move Canada out of the Canadian, and the Minister is an Englishman. Once a Canadian always a Canadian, and like you, Sir, once a Barbadian always a Barbadian, especially if you are a black one.

Let me read further. "Further work will be done in this direction, and at the same time accommodation in medium priced hotels..." Note carefully where we were helping the small man in Barbados. We were not concentrating on the A class hotels yet, but we were thinking of the small man, because the incentives at that time were already set by this same Party that wanted to keep people in the canefields.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask you not to persist in repeating yourself. This is about the seventh time you have used the phrase "in the canefields".

Mr. CRAIG: I will not argue with you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Get along.

Mr. CRAIG: It is as if I am going to say "the Head or this Resolution", I am only drawing attention to a specific point, and if I say "in the canefields" it is as if I say "on this Resolution". I accept Your Honour's ruling, but I am quite sure that I am not capable of repeating myself, I am capable of helping myself along without repeating myself.

> " The number of tourists who come to the island depend in large measure on the prosperity of their home country, political events, fares to the island, hotel prices and information about the island through advertisement trends in the international economy and events must be taken for granted. However, the Government's policy for developing the industry consists of measures which will sell Barbados abroad to intending tourists, provide the facilities which will enable a reduction in plane fares so that greater numbers may come and stay longer, and increase the accommodation available. The following measures are therefore proposed.
>
> Advertising
>
> The grant to the Tourist Board is raised to half million dollars..."

This was in 1960. We had the Barbados Publicity Committee which was then renamed The Barbados Tourist Board, and it was a Statutory Board. When we took over power in 1948, fighting the archcriminals of this society, fighting a former member of this Assembly, Mr.

Crawford, that is what we had on our hands to break through, it is not like now when you find two Parties with almost identical philosophies, and personalities really count, this was fighting people like the Paynes and the Piles, the Mussons and the DaCostas, this is what we had to do first before we could set the pattern to take over the country's economy in full, but as fate would have it, changes must come, we were taken out of power and we did not quarrel with the people.

"Hotel construction

The Development Board will intensify its efforts to promote the construction of more hotels in the island..."

4.00 p.m.

The hon. member said in his speech that we refused to allow a hotel to be put there. I have heard about that case, and I have been given a reason with which I am satisfied. The Goddards had an interest in it at the time.

"Tax Concessions

Further relief and expansion will be provided for investors in hotel projects and operators.

"Capital Repatriation

Full repatriation and remittance of profits will be guaranteed to investors in hotels.

"Airport

The runway at Seawell Airport will be extended, and put in order to accommodate larger air liners and jet aircraft. (Expansion of tourism requires cheap air passages, which depends on jet service bringing larger plane loads, but needing a longer runway)."

I must draw to Your Honour's attention that this was our 5–Year Development Plan. The Minister said that only since his Government came into power you could see an acceleration in the tourist industry. This was our plan. How could it be accelerated, if we were not in power? I will go further:

"In order to encourage the development of more hotels in the Island, the grant to the Development Board for providing loans to the hotel industry will be increased substantially; but the Board will be asked to concentrate more on loans for the construction of middle income hotels."

They want to make it appear as though people are now hearing about the I.D.C. and the Development Board as something new, or something that came about since the present Government was in power. At that time the man at the Development Board was Mr. Andy Shepherd. I think the Hon. Leader of the House will recall that, because I am of the opinion that he sat in the Cabinet on that occasion when such proposals might have been put up. That is why he must sit there and still be proud of a party of which he was formerly a member, although he is on the other side today. You will never hear him say anything against this party, because he knows the struggle which he went through with the late Sir Grantley Adams. I heard him say in here that he held a latern to enable Sir Grantley to get upstairs at some times after a hard day's work. You, Mr. Chairman, I am sure, were in that bitter struggle.

Now, you find people in here by accident. The hands of democracy are at work. Sometimes I wonder whether it is a good or a bad thing, for the country to be saddled by a Minister of Tourism appointed by the Prime Minister. He should know best and he should know why. One of these days, if I were to quote my representative the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, "You cannot fool black people all the time, and one of these days you are going to get a rude awakening." I hope to be in the forefront of the march on that day, because I have a lot of business with a lot of people. I have a lot of things to say about people and do a few things to them, too. *(Asides)* I have already made my mark, and I do not have very much further to go. I have made the grade, and I am nearly home.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member continue!

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, give me a chance to expand my argument on tourism, which is before this House, and let me do it in the way I desire to do it until Your Honour feels that I have contravened any of the Standing Orders. You have a lot of people in here masquerading. I know a lot of them on the same Tourist Board who go abroad with their pockets full of calling cards on these Bonanza Tours. You will see them walking as if they are queueing up for the theatre; they go up and down and tell a particular advertiser: "You hold my card. Do not forget where I am. I am in St. Lawrence Gap, or maybe in St. James, or at Sam Lords Castle." A racketeer Tourist Board it has been for a very long time. The present Minister must take whatever blows we can throw at the Ministry.

I am sorry that the Minister of Education is not in his place this afternoon, because sometimes when I feel like taking a schnapp of Black and White Whisky I could just look across the floor. I will go on further–

You are now hearing about a School for training hotel workers as if this is something that the Minister of Tourism dreamt of yesterday. He thinks it is now time for him to bat. We made a few runs and declared. The people bowled us out; we did not bowl ourselves out. We declared, and we underestimated the batting strength of the other side. Today I am hearing a lot of nonsense around here about the Government Hotel Training School.

Since 1960–65 the Development Plan shows quite clearly:

"Hotel Workers Training School

Provision will be made for the training of certain hotel staff in order to provide a larger number of trained staff to meet the requirements of an expanding tourist industry."

Today, Mr. Chairman, you are told that there are certain jobs in the hotel industry that cannot be filled by Barbadian nationals, after the Government has been in power for 10 years. Now, 10 years ago the Government started off knowing that it could be done. Only a man who was a retarded child will take 10 years to do medicine. People fight a whole war in a few weeks. Men go to the moon and return in a few hours, but this Government took 10 years to train people to hold executive posts in the hotels. I have a calling card in beautiful print from one of them at the Hotel Training School. He is a Hotel Training Executive Officer. I checked his salary and found that it was $240 a month. He is a Pope; he has a calling card, an air-conditioned office, and he is the Hotel Executive Training Officer of the establishment of so and so. He is an "F.R.I.C.P., A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H.," at $240 a month.

However, at the hotel a cool-out bird from Spain or Swizerland, as my colleague said that after being qualified he ended up as a bell boy. I do not know if he were qualified as a bell boy, but he was given a job as a bell boy. He said he had a Diploma in Hotel Training, but he was given a job as a bell boy. Mr. Chairman, we are fortunate in having hoteliers to prove what we are capable of doing or what we should do. Some of us have certificates to prove what we have done. I do not know if my colleague's certificate was for bell boyship. I will go on to quote:

"The measures proposed create the basis and environment for orderly progress of the industry and it is hoped that these will lead to an enlargement of the economy and consequently to the raising of the standard of living (in all respects) in the Island. A prime necessity is good management in every section of the industry. In particular, orderly development requires that the *pricing-policy* of the industry, from the sale of land for hotel construction to the charging of cab fares, be based on moderation and responsible behaviour. Great care must be taken to avoid the development of practices which price the industry out of competition with other tourist centres, and, in so doing, introduce into the economy the ruinous scourge of price inflation."

Mr. Chairman, note how we operate. We try to protect our nationals or the people in the tourist industry. Now, I can call a number of cases. Even one of them I do not think the Minister of Tourism would recall. It is that I am one of the black people who was subjected to his racial policy when he first came to Barbados and had some connection with Chez-Jean Pierre in Hastings.
4.10 p.m.

I remember going there one night to be told that I could not come in. There was a cover charge and I had $30 in my pocket and I was accompanied by a young lady.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I would like to reassure the hon. member if he would give way that I have never been connected with any business with Mr. Frank de Bueno.

Mr. CRAIG: If not with Frank de Bueno, you might have been connected with the Saint Jean Pierre hotel in Hastings. I think I see the hon. member with a black bow tie and hard bosomed shirt and white jacket with a pretty accent saying! "I apologise but the seating capacity is limited." Now today I have to be confronted with that same person as Minister whom I am told set out to help the people in this country in this industry. What a spin around in ideologies if there ever was one. The Development Plan goes on further:

"The Government proposes to keep a continuous watch over development on the expansion of the tourist industry in order to be able to take prompt and appropriate action to safeguard the high standards of social and cultural behaviour which the Barbadian society has already established."

That is the 1960-65 Development Plan which the present Minister of Health who was at

that time Minister of Tourism got up this afternoon and said that the Barbados Labour Party wanted to keep the people in the cane fields. I have always said that the Minister should be a Marine Minister because he has authority in that field, but the water is a little too deep out here and he should know as a Captain...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no water in this Chamber.

Mr. CRAIG: The Parliamentary waters are a little deep.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not deep for any hon. member in here. All hon. members in here are able to deal with Parliamentary affairs.

Mr. CRAIG: They should be. Sometimes even your own party colleagues cry out that the water is too deep for you, Sir. The present Government has been in power for ten years and are going on to the fifteenth year. We have a problem in this country where black visitors to the country are ill-treated in the hotels, and I will instance Sir Lionel Luckhoo's wife who was refused lunch at Sandy Lane. I brought a question here respecting 114 visitors here who were staying at the Hilton Hotel and at 10 o'clock in the morning the Manager of the hotel called on them to leave when their time should have been up at noon. This brings me to the question of over–booking the hotels in this country. I do not care whether you are red, white, blue or black, if you are brought into a country and you are supposed to leave the hotel room at noon, because if you go after noon you are charged for another day, you should not be asked at 10 o'clock to leave the hotel. I remember seeing these people stranded by the Pebbles, and I brought a question in here. I think they were some Nurses Association that came here from Jamaica, Long Island. I have the letter still in my possession where the President of the Association wrote to say that she was disappointed in the behaviour of Barbadians because she was subjected to this treatment by a man called Mr. Robinson, the then manager. The present Minister of Tourism was at that time Chairman of the Board, appointed by my party. He is very edgy and will edge on to any party. As soon as we were out of power, he was a Dem. I remember that people like Maurice Cave and others had to bow out gracefully, and in came to the Tourist Board a Bank Holiday bear. This is the type of behaviour you have in the Tourist Industry. There are cases of which my colleague spoke on several occasions about Chef cooks kicking the kitchen attendants, and when I drew it to the Minister's attention he told me that Chefs are normally rough. The first day that somebody cuts off the hand of a Chef, I hope I do not hear that the person is rough, because there should be some sort of legislation to make sure that if you have a rough Chef you should have a rough attendant too to cut off a hand for kicking him or her.

I represent a hotel constituency, so I would know. I had to force one called Budge O'Hara some years ago to fight against the Employers Confederation when Mr. Darnley Lewis came here. I think my colleague the hon. member for St. Michael West would remember that I set about to organise the hotel workers to get them over on the Barbados Labour Party side and we had about 230 members, and when I thought I had everything under control the hon. member for St. Michael West bowled one outside the off stump, I nibbled and was out caught. I would say that hotel workers are difficult people to have organised because their work is seasonal. They work for plenty of money between December and April and from then until November you find them working for one week and off three, and it is on this premise that I have repeated said that we in Barbados Labour Party's Development Plan had made it very clear that we would concentrate on the summer trade, and you could only do that if you have a very large reduction in the prices of the hotels during the summer season.

Now, Sir, I see there is a vote for $1,536,000 for the Tourist Board, and I am going to make a suggestion to the Minister. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has an out-door unit, and you can arrange with them to go to the seaport, to the airport and maybe to some of the hotels and night clubs and interview people, and arrange to sell the tapes overseas to some of the countries from which you are trying to lure tourists.

4.20 p.m.

You will find either a Travel Agent or some television station who would decide to buy the film, and you could reduce the cost in your expenditure for the Tourist Board on some of these monkey trips you are giving to people for the sake of hard work during an election. I do not like to call names, but what could Gerry Richards do on a Tourist Board? If you send him to Lords to broadcast cricket, all right, but he is only one. Do you mean because he is the Secretary or President of the member for Christ Church South Central Constituency group? Is this the reward for hard work? What about somebody who can do a better job, who is *au fait* with the tourist industry, regardless of his political affiliations? Send Martin Donawa then, I do not know how he stands politically, I

just called a name at random, what about some of the people who own these small hotels? You have people coming here from Trinidad, Guyana and the other territories and you find them around here trying to find accommodation because they have only come here to get a visa, and you see them knocking around trying to find somewhere to sleep, because they cannot go to the Hilton because it is overbooked, so is Holiday Inn, so you have to send them to Maresol and Maresol sends them to Miss Maitland at the corner and she sends them over the road by Johnny Deane, and that is why I say that the Government must make sure that they assist the small hotels. The legislation is there, I do not have to call it.

There are banks around here just like some of these Mission Houses. Every time you go around a corner you can find a bank, like rum shops, and wherever you have an under-developed country you will find insurance companies. I represented one for twenty years and came out with flying colours, unlike some of my colleagues on the other side, I was not dismissed, I still hold the contract today, I was top salesman five times in the West Indies, the first President of the Lifewriters' Association, all of these things, so do not think this is any yard-fowl here, you might feel so.

The Tourist Board needs revamping, it is not somewhere to cool out. I will go further and give a classic example where the same Tourist Board can always find room for the Merrymen. Nearly every year the Merrymen or the Tropical Islanders can get a play, but I do not hear you talk about carrying Barbara and the Rhythmaires. I have never heard anybody talk about Joseph Niles and the Consolers, to let them see that we have other people in Barbados with all-round ability and at all levels, and if either the Merrymen or people of the ethnic group of the Minister of Tourism could do limbo good, Vere and Vern could not get a place, and this is the whole trouble. You have the Tourist Board saddled with the present Minister who was the former Chairman, and imagine the Minister of Health is saying that he is doing a good job. Do you know how good a job the Minister is doing? Until the first day that he and the member for St. Michael West meet head on in the same tourist industry, you will then know how well he is doing. I know the member for St. Michael West is quite capable of undressing you, tearing every jacket off you.

I, therefore, Mr. Chairman, would like to see a system whereby the hotels – (a) should not indulge in this overbooking, it causes a great amount of discomfort to the travelling public, and (b) I would like to see a number of these hotels upgrade the facilities which they have provided for the staff. Some of these facilities are deplorable. The hotel rooms are well kept, but the staff quarters have nothing. A classic example is the Coral Reef Hotel. All this is in the hotel industry, do not tell me the Public Health Inspectors should look after this, it is the duty of the Ministry of Tourism to make it abundantly clear that proper facilities and cleanliness be carried out at a number of these hotels.

I also feel very strongly that you should have a person on the premises with a knowledge of first aid. You have people working in hotels with hot pans and large stoves. Suppose one of these people gets burned or the stove blows up, there is nobody on the premises, apart from the Manager if he would touch you, because he is liable to kick you; so I would like to see something of this nature. This is a must. This is our country and the Minister of Tourism top country, and something of this nature should be done.

There is something else which is very disturbing to me and which should be rectified, but you will say the hotels cannot provide all these things. Every year I pass along the west coast and I can see three or four wings being added to these hotels, the Managers and their families are away on six months' holiday, but I would like to see some form of transport provided for some of these hotel workers. I am serious about this. You have to see some of the people coming home from work at half past eleven at night and at midnight and they have to walk, in some instances for very great distances, and transport should be provided for them. The hotels have minibuses which go to the airport to bring visitors to the hotels; this sometimes puts the taximen out of business because the taxi drivers come in at the Flash 'N and complain. I am caught now between the Devil and the deep blue sea, because these hotels are providing transportation for their guests to carry them on round trips, so you are now cutting back on the taxi owner who has got himself involved with a Falcon for six or seven thousand dollars.

4.30 p.m.

You have this van lying idle in the hotel yard, while you see the workers fighting hard to get home at night. Before you had this Street Lighting Programme just around election time, you used to see them walking in the dark. A few of them were knocked down by vehicles, by Porters and so on, and a few were knocked down by hit-and-run motorists. These are some of the things to which I think the Minister of Tourism should devote some of his energies, if he is a socialist. I have never heard of an Englishman being a socialist, Sir, but I have heard of a Russian. I dare say, Mr. Chairman, that if things continue in this vein we will soon hear that we are Black Power advocates, but we can retaliate

in many fields most forcibly on a proper and official level. The visitor to this country is left to rely on things like tourist guides or the very good book written by the late Louis Lynch, a former member of this House, or he is left to gain information from probably Schomburg long since past, or the itinerant expatriate visitor who comes to the country for a short time and presents what he considers to be a guide book to Barbados. I can never understand why there is no official handbook of this nation as one finds in places like Britain, if one is looking to a former British connection, or as one finds nearer home in places like Jamaica, where there is a very useful official handbook in which there are advertisements as well to defray the cost so that there is no further cost of it to the taxpayer, but in which very vital information concerning the country, its institutions, its Government, its people, the cultural, social and economic aspects of the country are properly recorded both for the present contemporary times and for the future.
4.50 p.m.

I am amazed that in all the expenses that one sees set out under this Head the Government seems to have no vision on this matter. This is not good enough. Mr. Chairman, if one would take an example, there are very few people who know the glory of our Parliament, there is no official guide to the history of any of these institutions, and we must always wait or seem to wait until somebody comes from abroad, has the idea, able to do it and to sell it as an exercise in commercial expertise. This is not good enough. Something must be done on this subject before this Session is finished.

I should move on from there to look at another subsidiary aspect of this same subject. I adverted in the debate on foreign affairs to the necessity for a bulletin on foreign affairs. I notice, and I must commend the Minister of Agriculture, that his Department put out a very useful Farmer's Calendar and Guide, and the only criticism I can make of that is that its circulation has been so restricted and that it has not been given proper publicity. That is proper public relations; it was not merely political documentation, it was necessary information, well presented, showing an interest in the country, and despite what one may say of this Minister, one can say that when he is in a Department he seems to have his finger on the pulse, so to speak, and looking to the future all the time. I want to make that comment, because it is fair. I think he has got a comment already from his Shadow Minister on this side, and I would like strongly to commend to the Government that in aspects like in agriculture you do not tell it to the nation simply by rushing on television and doing that sort of thing, but you give an objective analysis and pointer to the future.

Education is another field in which this can be done, and I will ask the Ministry of Health when it is putting out its regular bulletins to take some of the expertise shown at that level by the Ministry of Agriculture.

I would like to move on to the relationship that should be shown between journalists and the public relations division of the Ministry. I do not believe that we have been quite fair to our journalists in this country; they seem to be members of the relegated profession, and people seem to have very little respect for their independence of views, and a lot of politicians seem to think that all they need to do is to put a little bit of pressure on them so that they will say what the politicians want to hear. I see in these Estimates no provision for encouraging the journalistic profession in this country, for giving them much needed training, for exchange of scholarships for other journalists to come here and for ours to mix with their compatriots overseas in order to do two things. One, if one is being blunt and self-interested, so that Barbados can benefit from promotion in this regard, and secondly and most important, to give them a little bit of strong stamina and integrity so that the freedom of expression in this country could be preserved, and I would ask the Minister in his next set of Estimates to ask for some money so that we could have some of these scholarships. I have always been struck by the way that in a country like Britain the British have been able to sell themselves so well, to sell their institutions, to sell their ideas, because they have always been conscious of the role which an independent and journalistic profession can play, and we seem instead to be content with trying to restrict our people to just giving the ideas and the views which we want.

I know that the Minister has held a Press Conference with the journalists seeking their ideas and their views, and I trust that he will impress on them that he is one Minister who would like to see them in the next five years exercise their freedom to write, provided they do not abuse the law governing defamation or privacy of character of private individuals, and if the Government must be critised let them be fairly criticised and the Government can reply. It has the right to reply here and elsewhere, but this soft cell idea of confining journalists and not noticing them has got to stop, and it is in this respect I should like to deal with television broadcasting. There is a vote for it. Broadcasting and the television media are today the two most powerful methods of mass

communication, and obviously any political Party would want the maximum of time in order to tell it to the nation, even if the Ministers go on and make *ex cathedra* statements which cannot be subject to proper scrutiny and cross-examination, but I would not like the Ministers to think that the television must be used as a medium for making policy statements all the time which cannot come into this Parliament and treat this Parliament with the contempt of only hearing vital decisions at second hand.

Frequently during the consideration of these Estimates I was amazed at the number of statements made on both sides of the House, and when the Minister was asked about something the reply was that he had already explained that on television in "Telling it to the Nation." This House must demand its rights, and one of the rights that the Government must see is that it does not start to relegate Parliament to a second-class institution, because it is using the whole medium of television where it can have no debate and no criticism of its policy. A Government that only hears what it wants to hear can only last for a very limited time, and therefore I am going to invite the Ministers to use the Standing Orders of this House where they can make statements to the House. They are not made at all. Frequently on the Order of the Day that Head is passed over, but if you look at democracy in other countries you will see that policy statements are first made on the floor of the House, and later both sides are given a chance on cross-examination, debate, discussion as well as people who are not connected with political Parties.

I know that our Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, but I make bold to say in this Chamber that that guarantee, just like the guarantee of freedom of association is being frequently stifled because of the method in which both radio stations operate in this country. Who can really say that we have freedom of debate on political subjects either on television, Radio Barbados or Rediffusion? This is not good enough. Do you tell me that after three hundred years of so-called democratic rule that Barbados cannot take dissent in its stride and deal with dissent properly? Are we really to understand that there must only be whenever a Government is in power one side of the problem being put? I have adverted remarkably on the fact that political broadcasting is only good enough under very stringent conditions during an election, but after the election the very electorate who are intelligent enough to choose its people are cut off from hearing an alternative point of view on the radio. A lot of people at CBC and in this country believe it is the Government's radio station, and that means it is only the mouthpiece for the Government Party, but I call on the journalists as well to respect their profession in this respect. if we are to be a truly democratic people, journalists must have a bit of guts and stand up, and the Government should have a bit of strength and say that it can encourage freedom of discussion on political and other matters on its television station.

5.00 p.m.

This is not happening and it saddens me to think that our people are not mature enough or considered mature enough for this type of treatment. I believe it was the member for St. Michael West who said: "You know how these things are. A lot of people are subject to a lot of pressure, and, in the long run it is their bread and butter." As I have said before, I am deeply conscious that some of us are much more independent than others. I think that people like Clement Wickham, despite the fact that he died in poverty, has gone down as being a strong man because of the independence of views which he always held.

Mr. Chairman, I am appealing to the Minister in formulating his new policy for Information to encourage a bit more freedom of discussion on the radio. Our children should not only have to listen to pop people expressing their views on all sorts of things, and cannot even listen to a sensible discussion from people from opposing camps or even the same camps on subjects that are vital to the welfare and the future of the country. Why should not they?

The Leader and former Leader of the Opposition of this House are so lowly rated at CBC that I doubt whether any of them up there would have the guts to stand up to a Minister and invite him on a programme that would have any element that might be critical or even constructively critical of Government policy. Why is that? Are they really free to act as they choose? I call on all of you to test yourselves and tell me that, although the letter of the law is there, we are really honouring the letter of the law. Why are we such a frightened people from free political discussions in this country?

I hope that the Minister will bear that in mind. He comes from a country that has a great tradition, and if he wants to show how great he is for the future this is going to be one of his testing times. The younger people in this country; my children, and some of your children, even at the ripe age or the young age of 8 are already asking questions like: "Daddy, why is it that I only see Mr. X or Mr. Y on television, and I never see Mr. Adams, for instance, or Mr. Craig, except for the few little things they now put on on what

happens in the House? The members of the Oppositions have to talk, and that is the only time they will put us on T.V. Mr. Chairman, 8-year old children are asking this question in this country, and those are the children that you must watch for the future. I am speaking seriously as a Barbadian, because I want to know what policy the Government has on this matter to encourage freedom of expression.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to move on to the newspaper. I thought and I have said before that the time has come when there are various aspects of our community that must be localised. I believe like New Zealand has believed in 1955 that the ownership of the newspaper in Barbados should be as broadly based as possible, and that foreign capital should be discouraged in the newspaper ownership of Barbados. I invite the Minister if he is a socialist, he says he is, if he believes in Barbadian ownership, he says he is, to have the guts to introduce into this Parliament a measure dealing with newspapers and restricting the ownership on a Barbadian basis. If he does not do it in the next five years, I promise him that he will get a Resolution from me. We will have to divide and we will have to be counted on this issue. I think it is very important that we should have a broadly based ownership. I am not talking about a Government controlled business. I am talking about Barbadians in all walks of life. Also in the Bill make sure that you restrict the number of shares which can be owned by any one individual, so that there will be no control over people's thoughts and expressions, and an editor does not have to sit down and quiver in his shoes wondering when next he is going to be phoned by a high politician to tell him that he said something this morning that should not be said about the Government, or the Opposition. If any Opposition member, in my view, wants to control the press as the press is at present controlled in a stealthy manner in this country, then I would be equally opposed to him.

I am glad to see the member for St. Michael West is in his seat while I am speaking on this subject. The positive step of giving the Union time on the radio is a good one, but do not gainsay certain things. I have watched some of their programmes. So far they have managed to take not merely a partisan view, they have expressed in some of their programmes a broad view, but either the Union should be broad enough, or the Government should be broad enough to give an opportunity, too, to the Employers' Organisation to put their views sometimes. I believe that the member for St. Michael West and his institution can stand up to them if they misrepresent the facts.

Mr. Chairman, let me make a plea for those much-abused persons the public servants. Surely, you can give them some television time sometimes or radio time to talk about their business. The more discussions that we can have the healthier is the community after all. I want to make a plea for them also in the future of broadcasting in the country.

I talked in one respect of broadening the ownership of newspapers. I also want to talk about a respect of widening the area where they can discuss matters. The Libel Laws of Barbados are a shame to a progressive country that believes in freedom of expression. The Defamatory Words Act of 1906 is based on an English Statute of 1887, and since then most of the civilised democratic countries have reformed their Libel Laws, and we are still prepared to put up with legislation that seems to have very little relevance to the tenets set forth in the fundamental provisions of the Constitution. I am calling on the Minister either to bring down a new Act on the matter, or I, supported, I hope, by the hon. member for St. Michael West who believes in freedom of expression, will introduce the Resolution in our Private Bill. That is what we would do, and hope that the Government would give us enough time under Private Business to discuss it.

Mr. Chairman, all of these matters are important. I do not mind when people complain and go to the courts to adjudicate certain matters. The fundamental point is that if we are serious about information; if we are serious about letting ideas ferment and circulate in order to get the best out of them, then we must give spirit to the dry words of the Constitution. The member for St. Michael West made the same point about the provision in the Constitution dealing with freedom of association, and he is correct. I say this both as a lawyer and as a citizen. It is necessary to call for legislation with sufficient teeth to deal with this matter. Likewise on the Laws of Libel the Journalists find that they are hamstrung to a large measure, because the laws have not kept pace with what is necessary for a living and vibrant community.

There is one other matter on which I am going to speak at this time and it is the question of Press Releases. In the United Kingdom the Information Services function properly in that you would expect Press Releases are, at least, given by courtesy to the members of Parliament. I go so far to say that even in this country Her Majesty's High Commissioner makes available through their Information Service to members of Parliament here, their day-to-day Press Releases.

5.10 p.m.

This is not so in this country. Press Releases are never sent as a matter of courtesy. Ask the officials, ask any member of Parliament, any back-bencher, anybody in the Opposition and even some of the Ministers; The first time they read about what is happening in other departments sometimes is when they see a garbled version of it in the Press. This should be a natural facility. For instance, the other night a vital Press Release was made, but when did we see it? We saw it when some issue came up before this House. That is the sort of information that your Parliamentarians can only function properly on if you make it available to them, so that at least they would know what is happening in the country. They would not lack knowledge which we are sometimes accused of, and if they have the knowledge that you say you have, they might help you to improve the knowledge you ought to have. I am asking the Minister seriously to make sure that this facility is extended to parliamentarians; even if there is not a day to day posting of information releases, yet they can be done in the normal course just like how the Official Gazette or other Parliamentary papers are sent out to us.

Mr. Chairman, I said it is a new Ministry. I do not want the Minister to feel that we are going to cramp his style. We are watching his style very closely. I want to see whether he will go down in history as the Minister of propaganda or the Minister who believes passionately in freedom of expression on the widest level. That we will be able to judge after two years in office. He has a two year moratorium as far as I am concerned, but after that we would want to see very strongly what sort of performance he is giving.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to reply to one of the points made by the hon. member for Christ Church West relative to the matter of training for journalists. A Committee was established to consider the most appropriate way to mark the centenary of the death of one outstanding Barbadian patriot Samuel Jackman Prescod, and that Committee recommended that scholarships should be awarded in certain areas, one of which was the area of journalism. I am currently considering the proposals as far as journalism is concerned, and I hope that within the near future to be able to announce that scholarships may be available in this particular field.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, in speaking on the subject of broadcasting the hon. member for Christ Church West made reference to the time given to the Barbados Workers' Union. You will note if you go through these Estimates a lot of half-dead organisations that the Government from year to year have been given money to. The Barbados Workers' Union celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1966 and spent over $100,000 on the celebrations, and part of that celebration was the bringing of an international body here to hold an Executive Board Meeting of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. We were promised that we would have been given assistance having the meeting here since it was the first time it was held outside of Brussels in its twenty year history, but we never got it and we have not worried ourselves about it. We thought we would have received L5,000 because the cost was overL12,000 for the organisation to come here.

I would like to say that the Barbados Workers' Union is a self-generating organisation. The Government does not subsidise the Barbados Workers' Union. Now the gesture of giving the Barbados Workers' Union radio or television time was a very good gesture, but it came from the question of the Union spending money on education. The Union spends more money in educating the workers of this country for the employers than for the Union itself. The Union has a staff of about seventeen persons, but the Union spends over $25,000 per annum on Workers' education which would not be on its members, but on people who work in the various industries, so that when we have given them people, some of them go in management positions. I sat down day before yesterday with a man on the other side whom we sent to Germany and who is now representing the Telephone Company, but we are not against him because he has been promoted, and we cannot absorb every worker into the Barbados Workers' Union. We accept that because we hope that if we train a man he is going to be more emancipated, and if he rises to the position of a top man in management, we have a more emancipated and enlightened manager, and you would not get the problem of unenlightened peple at the top.

I want hon. members to understand that the Barbados Workers' Union is having discussions with a man from the Workers' Education Branch of the I.L.O. on providing the Union with a television camera. When we get the camera we will hand it over to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to use for other purposes if they can reach an arrangement in which we can have our programme. This is for our workers' education and the International Labour Organisation is doing this as a contribution because they are going through this country and having a workers' film on the population problem, and this is after discussions I had with the I.L.O. Education Department in Geneva last year. It is not a question of the

Barbados Workers' Union going cap in hand and asking the Government to do something. We can get a camera and employ somebody outside of C.B.C., but we do not have a studio and we do not transmit television; so in collaboration with them we will give them the camera. It is not a camera that C.B.C. is giving us; it is a camera that we are getting from the I.L.O., and if we hand it to them it adds to their equipment and they can use it.

I would like to make it quite clear that if we had more organisations in the Island like the Barbados Workers' Union that generate for themselves their own income, they could do more. The Barbados Workers' Union is going to build a Labour College out of its own funds as you will see in our manifesto. The Government said in its manifesto that it was going to help the Barbados Workers' Union with land, but the Union has already signed a paper dealing with the purchase of 98 acres of land without a cent being given by the Barbados Government. We do not go cap in hand and ask the Barbados Government for something and wait and see. There is nothing in the Capital Estimates where the Barbados Workers' Union is getting anything although the people of Barbados have been told so and we have been re-elected with this in mind, so we can afford to say that the people knew in advance that they were going to get this; but I as the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union am not the kind of man to go cap in hand to a Minister as if I am going to a soup kitchen and asking for aid and sustenance, because we feel that a workers' organisation must be an organisation that possesses its own independence. In Trinidad and Tobago, in Jamaica, and in Guyana they have these things being done. I would like to point out and I think the Minister will point out that you should not think that the Barbados Workers' Union is privileged in this sense because other people go on television too. The Government has time. I do not like to quarrel, but I am not going up to any Government Information Officer begging for time, but there was a time when we used to go on the Government Information Programme like anybody else, but it seems as if the Government Information Service had the idea that we were given some special dispensation, and so far as I am concerned, to hell with that, because we do not want anybody to advertise us.
5.20 p.m.

Some people believe that the Union wanted advertisement. One of the newspapers believes that we wanted advertisement, and I will tell the hon. member that we told them we did not want any Press Conference from them, we will buy time in your newspaper, and we paid them money for the time, and we see the nonsense that they pay people for, so when it comes to the newspapers I agree with the hon. member. Any law that was made in 1887 should be looked at, and I heard the former Attorney General on this already in this Chamber, but this is a general comment I am going to make. There are too many lazy people in Barbados, and I do not believe lawyers are immuned from laziness. I agree with the hon. member, there are a lot of laws in Barbados that need revision and I am not talking about the revision because unfortunately this is the lawyer's field. Whenever a lawyer revises a law we then have to revise the revision he has made because it is so old it is in need of further revision. The laws we are speaking about started with the Barbados Labour Party, and I made a speech in here saying that I disagreed with taking the laws and not giving them to the people to be printed in Barbados, and there was then a long speech by the late Sir Grantley Adams saying that they had agreed to do it elsewhere because that was the modern way of doing it if you had loose leaves, so that when you have to put them in you would not have to change a whole book. It started with them, and I do not think the lawyers can complain now – I am not against lawyers – but I do not think you ask laymen to revise laws, but I have heard all of them in here saying that drafting is a special art. This is true. Working is an art too.

When it comes to the law of libel, I believe that again they should set up a committee, and I hope some day to see a committee set up to go into the law of libel, because let us be quite frank, there are some newspapers that if you give them their way some of us could not come out of our houses. You must preserve the privacy of the individual. Those of us in public life are exposed to public scrutiny, but some newspapers want to carry this public scrutiny right into every crevice of a person's private life, and those are the things I believe they must pay for.

On this question of broadcasting, I would not like the hon. member to feel that the employers are not entitled to it, because the last programme we had, I think we had a member of the employers. Personally I like the employers to be there, because the employers would make the programme more lively, the people who represent the employers like to hear them, and I like to put the employers there because I feel if I have them there I can deal with them better from that vantage point than I could deal with them if they are not there. I hope that the programme will become so interesting.

I would like to see people doing more about industrial safety. I would like people to know more about industrial relations so that we may be able to pass onto wider spheres. We do not deal in that programme with any propaganda for the Union,

when we want to deal with propaganda we deal with it on the platform and we go and meet the people. I will say that it is a gesture that the Union does, and it is something we are very proud of, and from our point of view we are not going to abuse it. If we do any foolishness the Government will take it away from us after we have paid the costs to the Courts, so I want to make it clear that both CBC and the Government want to be indemnified in this matter and not to be caught up with the Barbados Workers' Union in any financial problem for any damages.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the remarks made by the hon. member for Christ Church West when he said that the law dealing with defamation is outmoded. There are many other Acts that are outmoded in the Laws of Barbados, but this one I will promise to bring to the attention of the Cabinet and the appropriate authorities to see that it is updated, but in doing so I want to make a special appeal to the hon. member, and probably he will emulate other examples in the past, being the prominent and eminent lawyer that he is, I do not know whether he and some of his colleagues will have the time to do what others probably might have done in the past, including your humble servant who is not a barrister, but your humble servant had the privilege in 1946 in bringing the present divorce law up to date, and I did it when I was an ordinary member, and later on I had the honour of doing it as a Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Law and Public Works, so I did it on two occasions. On the first occasion it passed the House but there was no one then to handle it in the Legislative Council, there was no question of salaries or payment in those days, it was a semi-ministerial system, but the fact is I had it done the second time and that was passed and became law.

When I spoke of bringing the divorce law up to date, I refer to this which members generally and more specifically the lawyers would know, that we only had adultery as a ground for divorce but under the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1939, I think it is, in England, the grounds were extended to cruelty, desertion for three years without cause, and incurable insanity for five years, and the period between *decree nisi* and *decree absolute* was six months, but it was reduced under the new Divorce Bill which I drafted and had the trouble of passing in here on two occasions, from six months to six weeks. In other words your humble servant did it on two occasions in order to have it done and have it on the Statute Book, and I am appealing to the hon. member, being an eminent lawyer, not like myself, I am not supposed to be drafting legislation, but as a backbencher I did that in 1946, and then as a semi Government Minister without any pay or anything did it again in 1948, and that is the present law of barbados which very few people know, because I do not get up here and blow my own trumpet all along, but I could hardly be a member of this Assembly for twenty five years unless I had done some contructive work. I have blown my trumpet now and gave you one example; another day I will give you another.
5.30 p.m.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reply to some of the points which have been made by hon. members in the course of this discussion. First of all, I should like to say to the hon. member for St. Joseph on the point of the Film Unit making more films of Barbados that I support this idea. We have very good people at the Film Unit, but at the moment I think the problem is that they have their hands full and this would take more personnel than we presently have. This is not to say that it is impossible to ask for or to get more personnel, but this will be the limiting factor for the time being. The number of people that we have, and the amount of equipment we have despite the kind offer from the General Secretary of the Trade Union. Certainly I appreciate the suggestion and I agree with it.

With regard to the hon. member for Christ Church West, I should like to thank him for the suggestion of the Official Handbook, and I certainly will follow this up right away. This should not be too difficult, because as he said there would be no objection to using advertising to help to pay for the cost, but it would be a little difficult on the question of Guides to Parliament, and I think the hon. member said Guides to the Law Courts. There are probably other places of interest which are not necessarily of immediate tourism interest, but which would be of interest for historical and educational purposes, but this is going to be a matter of where do we find the funds, Mr. Chairman. It may be a question of having gone into it and finding out basically the original ones we want to get written and printed how much it is going to cost, and then possibly coming back to Parliament for a supplementary for that purpose. I also agree with the hon. member for Christ Church West that this is a very good suggestion, and I shall try to follow it up.

With regard to the Bulletin on Foreign Affairs, I noted it down the other day, and I shall discuss this with the appropriate Minister. The question of the freedom of the Press Reporters and the question of the toleration of the criticism of the Government, I understand less well, Even today on the front page of the *Advocate-News* there was a report by the Inter-American Press

Association, I believe, who were primarily commenting on adverse affairs in other countries, but specifically said that they had found no infringements on the Press freedom in Barbados. Barbados happened to be alphabetically the first on the list, if I recall correctly. Mr. Chairman, I do not quite understand that one from the point of view of any inhibition towards criticism of Government.

With regard to a similar thing on C B C television and radio, I should point out, first of all, that CBC is a statutory body; the programmes they arrange are primarily programmes which they initiate. I know of no inhibition which they have from allowing people to go on television. I suppose there are obviously some legal restrictions, but certainly there are no Governmental impositions as far as that kind of thing is concerned. Naturally, the Government is concerned as to what appears on the Government Programme. I refer to the Government Information Programme, because that carries the Government's label. CBC, as the hon. member for St. Michael West says, have their own responsibility for many other things including libel and so on. I do not altogether take the point of lack of freedoms on the air in that kind of way. I have yet to understand what is wrong, as nothing specific was mentioned as far as I could understand.

I have listened with interest to the proposal of local ownership of the newspaper and, at first, I feared that we were going to have the kind of ownership which there was with the *Daily News,* but I understood the point of limitation of shares. All I can promise the hon. member is that I will discuss this with my colleagues. I do not know what their reaction will be, but the point has been noted and will be discussed.

The Hon. Leader of the House has already mentioned the matter of Libel Laws about which I know nothing, but I accept the hon. member's word that they are well outdated. I had intended to say that I would talk to the Attorney General about this, but I would now say that I will support the Hon. Leader of the House when he raises the matter in Cabinet.

With regard to the request for Press Releases, I honestly doubt the value of flooding members of this House with every Press Release that comes out of the Government Information Service Office, but I will see that the Shadow Minister of Information gets a copy of every Press Release if that will satisfy him. If anybody else specifically wants to get copies of all of these Press Releases, I do not see any harm in it but, frankly, I doubt that if you flood busy people with a lot more paper that they are going to read them. If it will satisfy the hon. member, I will ask the Government Information Service to mail a copy of every Press Release to the Shadow Minister of Information. I think that is all I have to say under Public Relations for the time being.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, so far as the Minister is concerned, there is no speech coming from this side of the House. I imagine his back should be sore by now, unless he has the skin of a turtle or elephant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He could not have the back of a turtle!

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, the Minister for Information and Tourism has no reason to be scared of any speech coming from this side of the House by me, because I am sure he does not have the back of a turtle or the skin of an elephant. I believe it should be very sore by now. Some time ago we on this side were given the assurance by the now appointed High Commissioner to London that we would be given time to put our views over CBC. I think my colleague did question this. I wonder if the Minister of Information will give this side of the House an assurance and carry it out now that he is in a newly created Ministry to put it that way. I think it was formerly under the Ministry of Education, and then it was under the Ministry of the Prime Minister.

As the Minister of Public Relations, I wonder whether the Minister would assure this side of the House that we as well as the back benchers – Parliament is comprised of some 46 persons: 24 in this Chamber; 21 in the Senate and the Governor-General – will have an opportunity to speak to the nation over CBC. We can do it in five or ten minutes; we do not want much of your time. We can do our bit in five or ten minutes, while the Minister and his colleagues can do theirs in an hour or an hour-and-a-half. Just give us 5 minutes of CBC's time. We were given this assurance by the former Leader of the House. I wonder if the Minister would have this matter put into operation, and also assure the House very early in this Session that this can be done.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, what I have to say is very short. I should only like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the House when he speaks about eminent lawyers on this side assisting in revising the laws in respect of defamation, that we on this side are more concerned with the laws which affect the man in the street and, therefore, would prefer to do that.

5.40 p.m.

We on this side are more concerned with the laws which affect the man in the street and would more assist doing them. For instance, there is family law which I asked questions about in the last Parliament and up to today there are thousands of people in Barbados walking about who would be glad to be relieved from the burden of broken marriages, but because of the heavy cost involved they cannot meet that expenditure, and therefore they are hanging by the wayside. This in my view is a more important aspect of law which needs urgent revision than one specific law which will help one newspaper run by a man called Thomson who obviously should be able to pay if he goes wrong.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member for St. James, I would only say that this has come as something new to me. I assure him that I will catch Mr. Tudor before he leaves for London and ask him what the intention was and how far he had progressed, what the position is, and after that I will give it consideration.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, this was an assurance which the then Leader of the House gave to Parliament. The hon. member is now Minister of Information and this is within his province. I do not think he has to find out from Mr. Tudor if he said this or not because it is recorded in Hansard. Let us assume that Mr. Tudor says he did not say this. What would be the Minister's position? Are we to be told that the Minister is only prepared to act on Mr. Tudor's advice or his memory?

Secondly, while on this, I am a television viewer at other people's homes – I have not got one myself because I cannot afford it – and I would like to see more local entertainers take part in the C.B.C. programmes. I am tired seeing fourth-hand films brought back from 1901 with Doris Day dancing or some other nonsense. I would be grateful if the Minister would use his good offices to escalate this part of the society and I would like to hear before you put the question what would be his reply if he does not find Mr. Tudor, because we really cannot accept everything Mr. Tudor has to say. We know he is a busy man.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I can only reiterate to the hon. member that I will give it my consideration and will consult everybody concerned.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this Head deals with Public Relations. It comes as we all must admit under a new Minister, and our first consideration of this Head must be to determine exactly what Public Relations mean. We have seen here this afternoon that there is a lot that C.B.C. has to be taught about public relations. There is equally as much that the Government Information Office will have to be taught about public relations. The Press comes in for its share, but to crown all this the Minister responsible for Public Relations must have the very first lesson as he has demonstrated in this House this afternoon, because we witnessed that while an hon. member was addressing remarks to the Hon. Minister through the Chair the Minister was pleased to have his fingers plugged in his ears so that he could not listen to understand what was happening in this House on a matter addressed to the Minister. Can we be expected on this side of the House to accept anything the Minister has got to say on this matter when he is not prepared to listen? What we want to say is that any hon. member who has any respect, if he has been brought up anywhere.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will kindly ask the hon. member to control his voice and not shout.

Mr. HINDS: I am not shouting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am saying that it is deafening to my ears right now, and I can hardly hear what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. HINDS: All right, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I had been discussing another matter it would not be so repulsive to your ears, but that is all right. I will continue to say what I am saying. Any Hon. Minister in this House who has had any upbringing and is responsible for a matter such as public relations, if he is going to bring any relations that have any bearing on his upbringing, could never have demonstrated in the manner we saw the Minister showing off to us this afternoon. Let us go on from there. I want to blame the press in this country, particularly as it is today the one leading newspaper, and every possible member who has ever put pen to paper that is on the staff of that newspaper. They have sold the profession down the drain. They approach it from an angle of looking for friends, from the top to the bottom, and that is why the press has never been respected. They have never been able to approach it in an independent manner.

Mr. Chairman, I happened to publish a newspaper in this country and I want to admit that in the days of my newspaper it could perhaps be considered as one of the only independent newspapers published at the time, but a lot of attempts at publishing independent papers have been made before in this country. We have had people who could have been excellent journalists, and you must remember, Mr. Chairman, that it is our journalists who have an opportunity for

shaping the character or the future of our country in very many respects. They have a very great part to play in all this, but what have they done? They have not tried to portray or to bring upon their writings a feeling of independence or anything aspiring to independence. Every man is looking, in the regular Bajan terms, for rice. In the field of journalism one has got to be prepared to make sacrifices. We must say that some will have to make greater sacrifices than others, but these are the hazards of the game, and it is common knowledge that had our newspapers in past years done their duty to the nation, you would find that a journalist in this country would be a respected person, and many who have tried to follow and play their part would have found it, I do not suggest, easy, but less difficult because I do not for one moment try to make a case for any easy road to success for anybody in any field.
5.50 p.m.

I will just give you an idea of what can be encountered in all this. I well remember that there was a time when a Government Minister – I am not saying in this Government – was proud to close the door of his office in the face of one of the leading journalists attached to one of the leading newspapers in this country, a journalist in search of information for the nation, and the Minister closed his door in the face of that journalist. The journalist just turned away and went back to his Editor and reported the incident and that was the end of it. Mr. Chairman, some may say it is all right for the hon. member for St. Peter to talk, some may want to say the hon. member for St. Peter does not know the strings that could have been pulled and were pulled in those days, but that is exactly what I am trying to cut loose now.

A journalist, when he puts his pen to paper, should put before the public what he feels, not what somebody wants him to put there to please them, to please their friends and to get a good name, not at all. You will find CBC has already started, since the Hon. Minister took charge of this portfolio, to show less accuracy, not to have any high regard for what accuracy must mean in the field of journalism as one would expect. You will find the choice of what should be put before the public; after all, we must remember that what comes over the CBC radio and television station is picked up much further afield than this 21 by 14 island. We have got to remember this, and I remember it was stated in this Hon. House not many days ago when we were discussing the rodent extermination campaign that there were some old people in years past who said that if the rat lives they must live too, and it was put over CBC that the biggest fool hearing it was obliged to accept it as the feeling existing among Barbadians today, and that is exactly what the Hon. Minister has got to see to, that in selling Barbados, that in looking after the affairs of Barbados you do not destroy the nation rather than project a good country in the eyes of the outside world.

There are many things which would happen on the local scene, and I do not propose for one moment to suggest that we must put a lid on our infidelities, I am one who says you should expose them to the world, but the method employed in exposing them is what must count in the long run. In one of these broadcasts not so long ago CBC also put it over representing that our educational system was not relevant to the needs of Barbadian society, and that it had been geared towards turning out all agricultural labourers. Let the Hon. Minister get up and deny this. I am telling you it is dishonest on the part of CBC or whoever might feel that way about it. We do not try to deny that our system, like any other system, would require from time to time a review and being brought more and more up to date so as to keep pace with if not ahead of the people, because the system is to lead the people, but what you will find is this, and this is something we have to get down to most seriously, because these things are being put across as coming out of Barbados and on Barbados' radio station, and if with our bad educational system as these people would lead us to believe we have been able to build the type of image that we have been able to build across the world, you will remember, Sir, our bad educational system produced our Sir Conrad Reeves. I do not want to begin to tell the number of people that this bad educational system produced over the years, from Sir Conrad Reeves right through to Rawle Parkinson and to the late Sir Grantley Adams.

It speaks all for itself, but wherever you go throughout the West Indies and throughout the world, our educational system has stood the test of time, it has given us everything that could have been expected to us. In every profession you find a Barbadian, and it was all based on this bad educational system that some now want to have us believe, that CBC is telling the world that we have had here for so long and that is so bad. I say this, and I want the Hon. Minister to know this, for instance, our people have now been taught to turn their noses up at agriculture. You will find, Mr. Chairman, there is no record to show that school gardening at our elementary schools in those days began anywhere prior to 1912, it began in the year 1912, our children started to study school gardening, and I am telling you something now, Sir, much of what CBC is picking up and telling the world outside is what they are relaying from lectures that are carried on at the Multi-Racial

Society, and it is all right that when people get up to lecture they lecture to the audience that is before them, but there are many people who might attend a lecture, they might hear a lot being said by the lecturer that they know to be wrong but they do not want to have themselves identified, and though we might say they are doing an injustice to the nation or to the cause, they prefer to go home and, let us say, nurse the wound that has been opened, because some of these people who know that the lecturer was wrong one hundred times just cannot sleep when they go home after having heard a lecturer, but they will call me and discuss the matter with me or their mutual friends, but nevertheless, CBC in its own time will relay what the lecturer had to say.
6.00 p.m.

CBC does not now possess the Research Body that can supply it with the necessary information. As a matter of fact, CBC is one of those bodies that is prepared to accept lock, stock and barrel everything that comes out of a University wall. We say that it is wrong in the context of the Barbadian Society. We say further that the history of this country is not something to be ashamed of at every turn.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the fact that the Englishman came to this country in 1627. I wonder whether some people have ever realised that we have had since 1627, four classes of white people in Barbados before the Negroes came here. We had the wealthy classes of the merchants; we had the less affluent property owners; we had the whites of the servants class, and we had the poor whites. This is the type of information that we are submitting is relevant to CBC and to the Ministry at this particular moment.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not like to interrupt the hon. member, because he is having a good time. Nevertheless, I really must point out that this Head has nothing to do with CBC'

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister has not yet read the note to Item 17, I will read it to him. It states:

> "Includes the cost of letra sets, radio and video tapes, photographic requirements, and other related expenses for radio and T.V. Broadcasts."

I do not know if the Minister proposes to have a new type of Radio Station that we have never heard of. I believe that this relates to CBC and the existing Broadcasting Station that we now have, and anything here must relate to CBC.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to explain to him that this does relate to Television Broadcasting and Radio Broadcasting. Firstly, as far as the Government Information Service is concerned, the production cost of shows is for the Government Information Service, and also occasional T.V. scripts are for news reel if there is some particular reason why they should be. As far as programmes on CBC generally are concerned, this is nothing to do with that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I was really trying to get on with my debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want you to get on with the debate. I have given a fairly long latitude because I allowed you to go back to 1627 and make reference to the four different types of whites which is completely out of this matter. You were coming down to the blacks, and.....

Mr. HINDS: That is exactly where I am at this moment.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want you to stick to the broadcasting side of it and leave out the blacks. You have already stated in your arguments that the blacks like Sir Conrad Reeves down to the late Sir Grantley Adams – I want you to leave things there, and continue to deal with the Head. You have already given me everything I want to hear in this debate. Do not allow me to ask you to discontinue. I would hate to do that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to be guided by you. I understand that the members on that side are tired. As I pointed out the history of this country, if CBC is going to put it over by Television or Radio it must be a complete history, and let it be told that the black people were chattel in this country for fully 200 years. The black people were chattel and not people. That is the type of information that should be dispensed. I feel that if anything like that is ever put before the Hon. Minister to read he would have to ask for something to drink, because he could not stand it in ordinary circumstances. That is how I feel about this, and I should like to know that when we vote money here to provide for the cost of broadcasting that we will see that the best of this country is given to the world.

Mr. Chairman, we do not want the Hon. Minister to feel that he is on trial. We know that he could never be on trial in a case such as this. He would never have an opportunity to plea. It is just that he has come to a Ministry and we expect him to do his duty. The hon. member for

St. James mentioned what a former Leader of the House said in respect of the Opposition and broadcast time over CBC. Suppose that the former Leader of the House had never promised this or discussed this with any of us, the present situation demands it. After all, Sir, we are in the Opposition. We are not suggesting for one moment that if we were to take the programme "Telling The Nation" and Government is allowed one hour or two hours a week, or two hours a month or ten hours a month, that the Opposition should have ten hours a month. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, in all seriousness that the Opposition should be given what should be worked out between both parties and be considered as a reasonable time.
6.10 p.m.

We are the Opposition in Parliament, and when the Minister appears on television telling the nation, he is telling the nation what he is going to do, and for him to succeed in every case depends on Parliament. Since we are in Opposition as part of Parliament, we are staking our claim and urging upon Government to give consideration to reasonable broadcasting and television time in assisting the Government in telling the nation.

Now I am not going to keep the Committee much longer. I understood that the Minister in replying to another hon. member to say that programmes coming out from CBC are initiated by CBC and there is no governmental interference. If that were true, Mr. Chairman, we would have no cause for staking our claim for time because CBC would be in a position to become readily aware of its importance and responsibility to the nation, and it would cease to operate as merely an appendage of Government. Every member of CBC staff feels that his first duty is to a Minister. He does not feel he is working for an institution that owes a responsibility to the nation and should discharge his functions honestly, uprightly, fearlessly and sincerely as a journalist. I am not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that you are to have staff at CBC possessing licence to do injury to any member of this Government, and in like terms I do not suggest that they be given the feeling that the best way of doing justice to the Opposition is by keeping them in the background. We believe that the nation can best be told by hearing it from the Government side and having what the Government says countered in some quarter on some occasion by what the Opposition feels in respect of any particular matter.

Mr. Chairman, if we look at how our system operates in this Chamber, it is not a case where the Government because of its numbers is allowed to come here, make a motion and have it carried, and that is why you are there in the Chair to maintain the right of the Opposition to play its part in the proper functioning of Government; and if this is the case I feel that if the staff at CBC had the benefit of seminars organised whether by the Extra-Mural Department, the University of the West Indies, the Multi-Racial Society or whatever body at which lectures were delivered by members of Government as well as members of the Opposition and by others as well who are capable of giving guidance in such matter, then I think the nation would be very well served in the long run, and the journalists attached to CBC and to the various news media could very well benefit from some of the seminars. This is no matter which can be left unattended for any length of time. It might be said that it has been neglected in the past and, why wasn't it thought of? I remember the Minister of Agriculture replying to some question said that Rome was not built in a day. We are aware of all this, but the time for building a structure upon which CBC and its staff and upon which public relations in this country can be anchored is now, and I believe that we stand to benefit from any action that is taken.

I feel as I am sure you and other hon. members feel that this is a very wonderful opportunity for us all. We feel that the debate as a whole serves us all in good stead, and we are sure that when we come to the passing of this Head that the Hon. Minister would by then realise that he has it within him to improve the service which is given to the public.
6.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure I am not one of those people who are concerned with during whose time the Mobile Cinema started to function, it just did function at some time or other and it has served the nation reasonably well and up to a point. All we want to see in the future is that if there have been lapses here or there in the service, if there have been areas which could have been developed or ought to have been developed but were left untapped, we would like to see this Government do everything that is possible to develop those areas so that we will find that the service as a whole is better improved, and the sooner we can get these things over the better it will be for all of us. I am sure that the Hon. Minister did not block his ears while I was speaking, and I am happy for that. I hardly think he will block his ears while any other member is addressing remarks to him through the Chair on any Head that comes under his portfolio.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to prolong this debate, but there are two points I should like to deal with and one is in reply to the Hon. Minister. Another one I forgot to mention while I was speaking.

The Hon. Minister adverted to the article in today's *Advocate* and a report form the IATA on the position of legislation in the Caribbean on the freedom and restriction of the Press. I agree with him that outside of the Libel Act there is on the Statute Book no legislation *per se* restricting freedom of the Press, but what I was drawing to the Minister's attention, I am sure in his heart of hearts he ought to be aware of this, is the atmosphere created in the country where journalists, not only those at CBC but those at the *Advocate Newspaper* and those at *Redifussion* as well, do not express candid views because of fear of victimisation in their jobs because of political patronage and pressure on them, and the Minister must be aware if he has lived here long enough about this matter, and my fear is that if it is not counteracted at this stage future Governments may feel that they can do the same thing.

I will refer to an instance where there was a dispute between the then Minister of Education and the Secondary Teachers' Union, and I think Dr. Payne had to reply in her speech only via *Redifussion,* and the Government controlled Press did not allow her to reply to a speech made by the Prime Minister through that medium. There was nothing defamatory at all in her reply at that time. In my view that is not a sign of a free Press, and unfortunately if this sort of thing goes on you get the impression that people who are concered with the day to day running of the Government are frightened to express independent views because they think they are offending the Government in power, and as a result the Government gets only the advice it really wants.

I want to deal with the other point, and I want to place on record, for instance, the effort made by Mr. Thorne, the then Minister of Education, in inviting Mr. Tudor who was then the Shadow Minister of Education to visit his office to show him over the institutions that came under his portfolio. This is no criticism of my friend, the Hon. Minister of Education, because he has himself said to me that when he gets the opportunity he will invite me to come and inspect not only the Ministry but other work which is being done under his portfolio, but I throw this idea that it shoud be a principle of the Public Relations Division of the Government that Shadow Ministers in particular are not treated as though they are outside the whole gamut of Government but they are invited as Civil Servants, some of whom might be afraid in their minds and feel that they have in one breath to tell the Minister they are politically affiliated and in another breath they may be outside telling the Opposition they are politically affiliated to them. They find themselves with a schizophrenic, but they will recognise that the Opposition has a role to play and is always an alternative Government in the country, not necessarily to subvert Government to get private information, but as an effort of trying to make people focus their attention on the necessity in the country if you believe in bureaucracy to any extent. My fear is that if we do not do things like this, either at some stage in the future if it is not happening now you may feel that some Civil Servants feel they have allegiance only to a Party in power rather than a Government in power, and this is gnawing away at the fundamental freedoms eventually of every citizen in this country, and that is why I am asking the politicians at their level to show that they can cooperate. The fact that I may go up to the Ministry does not mean I am going to take over my friend's portfolio immediately, but I think from his own point of view, from mine and from the country's point of view it would be the correct thing to do, and I should like to state that at least he has already said that, so this is not a criticism of him, it is one of the things that the Minister of Education can draw to the Government's attention so that Civil Servants get CBC there to see that it is done so that you can tell it to the nation that we really have a country in which two people can disagree across the table, put alternative views but be part and parcel of having a proper system.

I would like to appeal strongly to the leader of the country, the Prime Minister, to cooperate a bit more and on national issues consult with the Leader of the Opposition as happens in some countries. Look at the Irish situation today and you can hear the BBC say where the Prime Minister of Britain, Mr. Heath, and the Leader of Opposition, Mr. Wilson, have got together for a chat on the situation. In Parliament they may have on some things identical views, on others they may disagree, but is there any doubt in the minds of the people of England today that at least on some issues which are national issues the two Leaders can speak? When you talk about Public Relations and you get to the stage where sometimes politicians do not even speak, it is because unfortunately we politicians must learn to stop the type of language that we sometimes get on the platforms and use and then bring into Parliament. I am not going to advert to how I suffered, the Hon. Minister says he suffered as

well, but I can weather those storms without going down into the gutter, but if there is one thing I would like to see happen as soon as possible, and where the Minister can begin, is trying to improve the relationships which exists between the politicians in the Government and the Opposition, and if he is really serious, not only to discuss it with his colleagues but to speak out firmly in Cabinet about letting the Parliamentary Opposition – I am not talking necessarily of a political Party – but a Parliamentary Opposition have some time in Parliament to put forward its views on current affairs that are being conducted in this country. 6.30 p.m.

Must I believe that the Government is frightened, and the only way it can propogandise itself and perpetuate itself in power is to adopt the method that Hitler took? He took everything in information for himself, and you always saw his face before the country. Eventually, he fell. Controller though he was of all the media of information in Germany, he was overthrown and his historical future and assessment was doomed. I must ask the Government seriously on this issue to have a wider attitude and approach to the issue of Public Relations, and begin by improving the relationship that exists at a Ministerial and Shadow Ministerial level.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, there are three points I should like to make. There is one that I forgot to mention before, and it is the question of training of Journalists. There is presently in the Caribbean area a team from UNESCO which is making a survey of the needs in training of all news media. The team will be coming to Barbados very soon, and when they have made their report funds will, undoubtedly, be forthcoming from the UNDP for follow up training.

The other matter to which I should like to refer briefly is the very serious question of the finger in the ear. I am sorry the hon. member for St. James will be horrified, but at one time when he was speaking I put my finger in my ear because, Mr. Chairman, just as you asked him to turn his voice down, and just as I am sure the hon. member would be the first to agree that he has a healthy pair of bellows for lungs, when he talks too loud I cannot hear. I hope you will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that I put one finger in my ear only; I turned my head this way and then I can hear.

The question that the sum of $87,067 under Head 46 – Public Relations – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES – POST OFFICE

Annexed Estimates – Post Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Annexed Estimates – Post Office – Part I – Current, I beg to move an amendment: On page 146 – Insert New Item 46 – Grant to St. Michael's Cathedral Fund – Insert figure "9860" under column "Other Expenditure", and make consequential amendments. Insert new note to read as follows:

> "Grant to St. Michael's Cathedral Fund in connection with visit of the Choir to Britain in 1971."

I beg to move that Annexed Estimates – Post Office – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, while my colleague makes the necessary amendment, I should like to look at Item 36 – Allowance for Shortages. I see that $50 is provided to cover losses incurred by the inadvertent acceptance of counterfeit and foreign coins in postal transactions. To cover fluctuations in exchange and refunds of postage in special circumstances. I wonder whether there is a lot of counterfeit coins being passed, or whether a lot of foreign currency is finding its way into the cash till of the Post Office.

I know that it has been said that the American 10¢ is almost similar to that of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board's 10¢, but I believe that with the devaluation and the exchange of this particular coin the Post Office would more stand to gain than to lose in the transaction. I should be glad if the Minister responsible could tell us about this particular aspect of the matter. If you are providing $50 it is possible that the Post Office is suffering in some other manner that we on this side are not aware of. We would be glad to get information on this matter, so that we would be in a position to offer suggestions whereby this practice could be eliminated.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 30 – Commission to Stamp Vendors – I see that $6,000 is provided, and I should like the Minister to give us some information on the matter. I see that the amount has been decreased, and I should like to know whether the commission is now less than what it was before or what is the true position of things.

There is also the question of Item 33 – Clothing and Uniform. The complaint is coming from this Department as well as others that the postmen have not been receiving their boots and uniforms when due. They have to make many requests for them, and they are made to feel at times as though they are forgotten. I should like to know what steps have been taken or will be taken to see that this does not happen again in the future.

Now, Item 44 deals with the purchasing of posting boxes and so on. I wonder if the Minister would let us know his present requests for posting boxes that he has not been able to meet. How many outstanding requests from villagers or villages that could not be met during the past year? I know that there are still some people who have to walk long distances to buy a stamp. We made a suggestion that the Government should increase the number of stamp vendors throughout the country districts in view of the fact that more people are now corresponding with relatives overseas and so on and the more we can communicate with each other the better we get to know each other, and we have been trying to encourage Government to do what lies in its power to encourage more people to come forward and offer themselves as stamp vendors.
6.40 p.m.

I would like to know how successful this has been during the past year. There was a case of a registered letter posted at the Holetown Post Office to somebody, let us say, at Sunset Crest, and that letter had to come to Bridgetown and then go back out in the afternoon to be delivered by the Holetown postman. I mentioned this last year and I wonder if anything has been done about that situation. I remember the Minister promising to look into the matter, because I believe the same thing has been happening in the case of people living in Christ Church, St. Philip, St. John and so on where registered letters must come to the Bridgetown headquarters and then go back out to a person living next to the Post Office. I wonder if a system has been developed where the delivery of mail so posted could be expedited.

At Item 37, we know that there is internal auditing, and surprise checks have to be paid from time to time at the District Post Offices. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us if during the present financial year surprise checks were carried out at any Post Office and a check revealed that there was a money shortage at any time. I sincerely hope that I would not be told by any Minister that it is not within his knowledge, because if surprise checks were made and cash shortages discovered, I am sure that the Postmaster General we have at the moment is not the type of person to keep that within his bosom, and would report the matter to the appropriate authority. I do not want to hear any Minister getting up and saying that it is not within his knowledge because we know what could be within the Minister's knowledge and what could not. I believe that this question can be answered, and arising out of the reply I may find it necessary to ask further questions.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that we on this side have anything much to say at this moment, but under Item 3 – Private Box and Bag Rents, since the influx of industries and so on there is the problem of having additional private letter boxes. I wonder if there is any provision made for these, and if so, could the Minister in charge tell us what provision is made so that we on this side would be able to have an idea of what is going on?

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, owing to unforeseen circumstances beyond my control the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is not present, and consequently I consider it my duty to reply to the members of the Opposition. It is my desire to give the information which has been given to me by my advisers. In reply to the question asked by the member for St. Joseph under Item 36, this is a nominal amount and within the last three years this Item has not been touched.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to have a long discourse involving the Hon. Junior Minister, but I believe that if the father dies the son must carry on. When the hon. member says that this sum has not been touched there must be something wrong because if you look under "Other Expenditure" for 1971-72, you will see that the sum was $20, and there is a sudden increase this year by $30 making the amount $50. Let the hon. member get his information right, because he should be *au fait* with what is going on.

Mr. WEEKES: I would like the hon. member for St. Joseph to know that some time must be given before these questions can be answered, and for the answers I have to depend on my advisers. I do not run the Post Office; the Post Office has a Postmaster General, and not Reynold Weekes.

Mr. BOLDEN: Who is Reynold Weekes, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We do not have any Reynold Weekes in here.

Mr. BOLDEN: I agree with you, Mr. Chairman. There may be one in Gemswick.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We do not have any Gemswick in here either.
6.50 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: I think the Hon. Prime Minister said the alias is still Penny Hole.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not in the least. It is still Penny Hole on the map of Barbados.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you, Sir, it is Penny Hole. I will not prolong the agony any more for the hon. junior Minister, when we come to the Capital Estimates of the Ministry of Communications and Works and we are enquiring about the street lights in Penny Hole, then I will deal with that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I asked questions about letters posted next door to the St. James and St. Thomas Post Offices and having to be sent into the City to be registered, do not tell me that the Minister is going to sit down here and not answer these questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If I see no hon. member on his feet I will put the question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when I asked the question and sat the junior Minister said he required time so that he could be advised by the experts who run the Post Office. Give the Minister the time.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I think I should be in a position now to reply to the question asked by the hon. member for St. Peter on the question of a request for posting boxes. The information which has been given to me states that there were nine requests received during the year and they have all been met. Provision has been made for the purchase of nine boxes this year to meet replacements and anticipated requests.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On Item 30, Sir, the hon. member asked a question about commission paid to some stamp vendors. The commission has not been reduced, it has been increased although the figure there of $6,000 may be $500 less than last year's vote, the fact is that the commission has been increased and it has been put on a more equitable basis. This has been looked into by the Minister of Communications and Works and these are now recommendations which he made in order to encourage more stamp vendors.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is it that they anticipate selling less stamps this year? That is very good information the Minister has just given us, our request here last year at this time was not that you reduce the number of vendors, the burden of our complaint on that occasion was that people now have to travel too far to get a supply of stamps, and we were asking if it were humanly possible to increase the number of vendors.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Government has not reduced the number of vendors; the position is that the vendors made representation that the commission paid was too low and for this reason some people ceased selling stamps because it was not worth their while, and we are now increasing the commission in the hope that we will again get an increased number of stamp vendors.

Mr. HINDS: I wonder now if the Postal Authorities will be communicating with these vendors and publicising it generally so that other people who never sold in the past will now know that the commission is a little more encouraging and will apply for permission to sell stamps so that the public might be better served.

Mr. WEEKES: I think I can give the hon. member for St. Joseph some additional information. There has been no expenditure under Item 36 for the past three years. This can be borne out by the records of expenditure. The increase of $30 is to provide for refunds of postage and to cover fluctuations in exchange. These are normal provisions in the Estimates of all the Post Offices.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is just one point. Item 44 - Purchase of Posting Boxes. Some time last year I know there was a shortage of Post Office boxes at the Post Office because I know at least two clients who requested post boxes and they were told that there were none.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister what is the position when you post a letter next door to the person to whom it is addressed, and you post it either at the St. James, St. Peter, St. Thomas or St. Joseph Post Office, if the registered letter still has to come into Bridgetown and go back to the Post Office before it is delivered. They had a whole year to look into this, and what has been done? That is a matter which ought to have been attended to during the past year, and if nothing has been done, let the Minister say so or that nothing can be done about it.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, the information which I have from my advisers is that there is only one office of exchange in Barbados which is the General Post Office. Mail posted in St. Peter for St. Lucy is kept at St. Peter, but has to await the arrival of the van from the General Post Office.

Mr.HINDS: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that mail posted at St. Peter for St. Lucy has to wait at St. Peter for the arrival of the mail van to take it to St. Lucy? I am asking about a letter registered in Speightstown. In other words, if at 9 o'clock this morning you register a letter to somebody in Farm Road, St. Peter, next door to the Post Office in St. Peter, will the Postman in his next delivery during the course of the day deliver that letter from the St. Peter Post Office and not have to see that letter transported into Bridgetown to be carried back to St. Peter Post Office before it is delivered? That is my question. 7.00 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Will the hon. member give me a few minutes?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. That practice still obtains, and it has not yet been changed. I think the former Minister of Communications and Works has been looking into it, and the present Minister of Communications and Works is looking into it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has asked to give him a few minutes.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister in a position to tell us if there is a shortage of private letter boxes? If so, let us know. Is there any proposal for having additional letter boxes for private use? The Minister said that he would give us this information, and I am awaiting his reply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, if the letter is posted, say, in St. Peter or St. Lucy as a registered letter it will be delivered directly from St. Peter to St. Lucy. It is registered for St. Philip or Christ Church it will come to the General Post Office and then be transferred.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, am I to understand from the Minister that, as from today forward a letter registered in St. Peter and addressed to someone in Speightstown, since that letter is registered at the Post Office in St. Peter, it will not have to go to the General Post at Bridgetown before it is delivered to the person in St. Peter?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: That is the understanding.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, the answer to that is no. It does not have to come to the General Post Office in St. Michael.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, does the hon. member mean Black Rock, St. Michael, or G.P.O. in Bridgetown?

Mr. WEEKES: It does not have to come to the General Post Office. Do you understand that?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be in a position to state if there is a shortage of private letter boxes? If there is a shortage, what proposals do they have for private letter boxes?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I understand that the proposals are to have more of them.

Mr. CRAIG: How many?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Enough to satisfy the needs of the people.

The question that Annexed Estimates - Post Office - as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES – PORT DEPARTMENT

Annexed Estimates -Port Department - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Annexed Estimates - Port Department - Part 11 Capital - page 148 - Item 1 - Marine Equipment - I beg to move the following amendments:

> delete figure "1440" under column "Estimates 1972-73" and insert figure "38,511", and make consequential amendments.
>
> Amend note to item by adding the words "Includes provision for completion of payment for two launches" after the word "agents", and make consequential amendments.
>
> Again, at page 148, insert "New Item 5 – Other Equipment". Insert figure "360,600" under column "Estimates 1972-73", and make consequential amendments.

I beg to move that Annexed Estimates – Port Department – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, from time to time there have been statements that the Port Department is to be recognised and that the Government has specific plans about the Port. As

a result of that obviously there have been various delays in the appointment of persons to posts and a Port Manager, and there seems to be for too long a never, never land in which we cannot understand or cannot be told definitely what are these specific proposals. Is the Minister in a position to tell us now whether the Government is going to take over the running of the Port? If so, when? What are the particular proposals? What are the plans for the extension of the Port? When are they going to be affected?

Mr. Chairman, I do not like to deal in the realm of rumour, and I am sure the former Minister of Communications and Works would not like to hear generally that he is supposed to resign in order to take over the Port Department, and he would like to know specifically what he is going to do. We must ask the Government at this stage to take us into their confidence on this matter. Let us know what are the specific plans they have made for this particular Department. People working in the Department are concerned about it. Will there be a White Paper, a Green Paper, a Black Paper, or a Blue Paper produced on this matter, and, if so, when? When will something be presented to the House on the matter? I do not think it is enough in the current discussions of the Estimates on this matter simply to produce the Estimates and to get no statement from any of the Ministers on this, but some time in the future to hear one night in "Telling It To The Nation" that this is what we are going to do. I do not believe that this is how Parliament should be treated.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could help the hon. member and allay any fears. When the Government's plans are discussed and finalised, in a matter like this the Government would have the courtesy to advise the House by way of a White Paper or in some other form. It will be a big policy decision. It will not be a question of buying a few sheep to be distributed to farmers. The question of the reorganisation of the Port is a big matter, and until the hon. member gets some policy statement from the appropriate Minister on the floor of this House or a White Paper on this matter, he need not have any fear about it. It means that, even if the Government has such plans, the Government is not ready. When the proposals are studied adequately we will have discussions and hon. members will be able to air their views.

7.10 p.m.

The position is that you have not heard anything from the Government on it yet because no decision has been taken. The Prime Minister can make a statement. Any Minister can say that it is proposed to do so and so, but until the actual pros and cons are worked out and discussions held, you do not get a detailed statement. The fact that there is no white paper is evidence that the Government is not yet ready to carry out any such proposal.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed. I make the motion owing to the fact that this is embodied in a Resolution which has to be done when His Honour the Speaker is in the Chair; so the Port Department matter will be dealt with towards the end and not at this stage.

I therefore beg to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

PART II – CAPITAL

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Capital Estimates be now considered.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Before we go to Capital Estimates, we have been working since 2.30 p.m., and I wonder if this would not be a good time to have dinner. I think hon. members are entitled to have a break.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would give way, he knows that the Capital Estimates start with Head 101 – Agriculture. He also knows that there is a perfect understanding between the Shadow Minister of Agriculture and myself and we have had our discussions on it. The Shadow Minister has assured me that he feels we have had our addresses on agriculture and he is not interested in asking any other questions because he has got the answers which he wanted from me.

HEAD 101 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 101 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,598,820 under Head 101 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is only one thing I want to say under this Head. Under Item 8 – Farmers Incentive Scheme, last year I drew to the attention of the Government that there are several bits of agricultural implements which are being imported from the United States of America, and because of the facilities which are sometimes offered, farmers are more inclined to deal with that area in preference to the United Kingdom source, but there is still a 5 per cent duty payable in respect of most of this equipment coming from that area. I have just learned that there are things like fencing – although there is a subsidy on fencing – which is landed here and although it is going directly to agricultural enterprise, one has still got to pay the necessary duty. I wonder if the Minister can tell us what are the proposals in respect of waiving these duties. The Prime Minister did say that he was in favour of removing the 5 per cent duty payable on such items from the hard currency area, and I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture could give us some information in respect of this.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: The position is that the question of payment of duty is the premise of the Minister of Finance, but I assure the hon. member that I will take this up with the Minister of Finance and see that he carries out the pledge he made.

The question that the sum of $2,598,820 under Head 101 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 102 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 102 – Ministry of Communications and Works – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under Item 22 – Transport Board – delete figure "1,031,970" and insert the figure "1,231,970" and make consequential amendment. Amend note by adding the words "Also includes provision for payment of a subsidy" after the figure "26,960".

I beg to move that the sum of $5,900,000 under Head 102 – Ministry of Communications and Works – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I believe there should be an understanding between the Leader of the House and myself. He told me just now that he was going to stop at 7.30 p.m., then the Minister of Agriculture got up and moved the passing of Head 101 after which we could finish.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, a motion has been moved and duly seconded, and I do not see how all this dog dancing about time comes about. You all do not keep your words either, so why should I keep mine? It is not 7.30 p.m. yet anyhow.

Mr. CRAIG: But the Minister of Agriculture said he would do his Head and then finish.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We will take dinner at 7.30 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I think the hon. member should understand what I said. I said that the Shadow Minister of Agriculture said that there would be little or no discussion on that Head, and in the circumstances I moved that the Head do now pass. I do not lead the House. I put my case for the passing of my Head.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under Item 22 – Transport Board, I would like to make a criticism from which I hope the Minister responsible might implement the system. Time and time again we hear people complaining about the behaviour of bus conductors and drivers. We have heard about what it costs to produce buses, what it is costing the transport system in this country, we have heard about minibuses biting into the revenue of the Transport Board and the other concessionaires; we have heard the Trade Union talk about what the workers are entitled to, but I have listened patiently both last year and this year and have heard nothing dealing with the actual training of those employed in the transport industry of this country. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that Barbados should introduce what is called a Public Service Vehicle Licence both for the drivers and conductors, and the vehicles involved.
7.20 p.m.

In Great Britain you can hold a licence for as long as you have been living, the moment you become involved in driving or conducting a bus or even driving a taxi, one has got to pass specific tests in the conduct of these vehicles. This is something I believe should be introduced in this country and introduced quickly. We have had already an incident at Six Roads in which school children were hurt. One can go about the roads every day and witness examples of bad driving.

Take Roebuck Street, for instance; you will see a bus pulling up in front of you opposite Stoute's Drug Store, and the bus driver will pull up right on the white line in the middle of the road. Go a little further on, by Hill's Supermarket, where there is a lay-bye cut out there and the bus drivers will do the same thing, hog up the road and nothing else can pass along as they are stopped there. There will be at least six or seven feet on the left side of the bus, and if you say anything to the driver he will say he has got to let off his passengers. I am speaking from experience. Today you will see a man driving a lorry and tomorrow he is employed by the Transport Board or any of the concessionaires and is put on a bus loaded with passengers coming from Belleplaine or somewhere driving into Bridgetown with absolutely no training, and I have seen no training offered to persons involved in the transport industry in this country, and I consider it a very dangerous practice.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member will give way, I would merely like to say that the Ministry of Education as part of the Adult Education Programme, in cooperation with the Transport Board and the other concessionaires, introduced a programme for training persons in this particular sector. I myself declared open the first course, and the second one is now being organised. Persons involved include representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Transport Board and the other concessionaires, lecturers from the Barbados Workers' Union as well as from the Labour Department, and this course was supposed to cover a whole range of subjects, including courtesy on the buses on the part of conductors, driving hints and so on, computing, general knowledge for the information of passengers in order that conductors can reply to questions, so we are not unaware of the need for training, and such a course has been organised, the results of which is now being evaluated and these results will go into the planning of the second course, so it is not exactly true to say that no training is going on.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have no reason to doubt the Hon. Minister, I read about the course, but the Hon. Minister cannot tell this Committee this evening that there has ever been a bus put on the raod with an "L" sign on it, a driver up front with an instructor next to him and a policeman behind him to see how he conducts a bus on the road. If he can tell me this, Mr. Chairman, I will take my hat off to him and walk out for the remainder of the Estimates. There has never been one, and I am saying you need a public service vehicle licence in which the concessionaires must provide a bus for training and a qualified instructor who will sit down with the trainee driver, even if he holds a lorry licence, take him on the road, see how he stops at bus stops, see how he makes his signs, see how he pulls away, see how he reacts to the bell in the bus before he can put him up front with passengers in the back. That is what I am talking about, and I say even taxi drivers, before they attempt to put passengers in their taxis, should be made to go back to the Police Department or a special department set up and pass a test dealing specifically with passenger transport in this country. It has not been done, I have been looking for it for the longest time. Every one of them has the belief that as long as they are in a big vehicle you must wait until whenever they start up and pull away.

The lorry drivers are included in this as well. Look at the big trucks on the road which carry sugar, molasses and so on, when they are on the road and their side is blocked they pull out and tell you to come but they are coming too, and this is why I say you must provide the necessary training. You cannot take a driver who has been working on a car for a year and put him to drive a bus loaded with passengers. I have had the experience of coming from Massiah Street, St. John on a bus which used to be owned by the late Mr. Hinds, when Mr. Cyrus was in the Police Force, and every morning they used to put about 90 passengers in the bus because they do not understand about the safety of the people who travel in these public vehicles, and unless you institute a particular system where a man, although he has a driver's licence, but before you put him there he must pass a public service vehicle test, he must know when he pulls in at a bus stop he must leave space for people to pass, he must know when he is about to take off again he must give the necessary sign and do not pull out until it is safe for him to do so. He must look in his rear view mirror to see if passengers are hanging on before he attempts to move. It is all good and well for people to sit down and say you are covered by insurance, but the question is, can insurance ever relieve the misery? Go into the bus stands now, Mr. Chairman, and you will see what happens. Bus drivers come in, children are waiting for buses and they do not care, they drive very recklessly. How many times have you heard of incidents of children being injured in the bus stands of this country? I know a specific case where a bus ran over a boy's leg in the bus stand, and it was unfortunate, he went into hospital at a time when there was a surgeon there whom they say every time he operated the persons had contamination of their bones, but had it not been for his employers he would have lost a foot, because he had to go to Jamaica for bone surgery, but he did not get any compensation. I am saying if these drivers had the necessary training they would be more careful. You hear so much of the

Barbadian conductors and how courteous they are, but I have never seen or heard of a Barbadian conductor being trained in Barbados.

You can put people to sit in lecture rooms – and I have sat in several lecture rooms – but if you have to be there you will be there. If it means you are going to get a badge for attending you will attend, but that does not mean when you sit down in the back row looking around that you are learning anything. To know whether or not a person has taken in anything that was said is to put them out there on a test and let the impartial examiner report on them at the end of the test and we will know we are getting value for money, we are updating our transport service.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, there are a few other amendments I would like to insert before we suspend. Part II – Capital, Head 102 – Ministry of Communications and Works,

Item 11 – Private Tenantry Roads

Amend note to item to read as follows:-

"For the re-alignment of houses and the development of roads in private tenantries" (Revote)

Item 15 – Bridges

Amend note to the item by the deleting of the words "Dr. Smith's bridge" and the substituting therefor the words "Belleplaine bridge"

Item 21 – Post Offices

Amend note to the item by deleting the words "commencement of" appearing in note thereto.

Item 23 – Parking Systems

Amend note to the item to read as follows:-

"For preliminary expenses for a parking system to control parking on city streets" (Revote)

Item 26 – Government Offices

Amend note to the item by inserting the words "offices for" after the word "of" appearing in the first line of the note.

I beg to move that the sum of $5,700,000 under Head 102 – Ministry of Communications and Works – stand part of the Schedule.

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

7.30 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reserve my right to speak when we return to the House. I think the Hon. Leader of the House wants to report progress and to ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is, "That Head 102, as further amended, stand part of the Schedule."

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise so that all hon. members on this side as well as hon. members on the other side will understand our position after you have spoken. We are going to debate this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is no trick involved in this matter. It is a question of regularising Head 102, and I am making sure that before we suspend the sitting now that all of the amendments are included, but that does not mean that the Head is passed. I think there was some cross-talk just now when I was introducing the amendments. I think the hon. member for St. James suggested that I said 7.30 and so on and threw me off a bit.

The question that the further amendments be now incorporated in Head 102 – Communications and Works – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 8.45 p.m.

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

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

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that we now revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 102 – COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think when the suspension was taken the hon. member for St. Joseph was speaking on Item 22. Now, it is known that the Transport Board has lost something like $220,000 over the last year through its working. What is happening at the Transport Board is that the workers are not treated like human beings by the management. They are treated as if they were working in the backyard of the manager's grandfather. This is something we would like to see a stop put to immediately. Do not let us fool ourselves. We might hear from a Minister that these people have a trade union, and that they have avenues through which they can express their grievances and so on, but there is a lot that the workers at the Transport Board like other workers in the community are suffering, and it is not always convenient for them to make their grievances known in what, perhaps, Government would like to consider as through the appropriate channels.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that bus drivers and conductors have to leave St. Lucy, St. Philip, St. Andrew and St. George as the case may be and journey to the Transport Board's Office daily to learn that their names will not be put up for work on that particular day. When they were going off the day before there was no notice posted to that effect, but that same worker who would not be earning a dollar during the day when he is not working has to find money to journey to the Transport Board to learn that there is no work for him that day. It is not fair to those workers. If workers are employed at the Transport Board on the permanent staff, and as far as I can gather there seems to be very little permanency where the staff at the Transport Board is concerned, it appears to us that it takes very little to offend the General Manager, and people are just punished by him as if they were agricultural labourers in the days when you could knock them off as you would knock a hoe off the stick.

8.50 p.m.

People are just punished by the Manager at the Transport Board as if they were agricultural labourers in the days when you could knock the hoe off the stick. You will find that bus inspectors who have been with the Board since 1955 are taken and shifted about on punishment. A person living in St. Peter is sent to work in Long Bay, St. Philip, so that by the time he has completed his work he has to provide some sort of transportation to get back home, and what he works for is spent in paying transportation back and forth. It just is not fair to these people. These are matters we would like to see corrected because, even after putting in all these years they cannot lay claim to pension rights and would not like it to appear that they are not obeying what management says, and without provocation they have found their names not set up on the board for work. You might find, Mr. Chairman, that a bus driver or conductor might commit an offence on the highway that may take him before the Court. He is punished by the Court and then the Transport Board takes it upon themselves to punish the man further. How could this be right? Complaints are received at the Transport Board against a conductor or driver, and in many cases the complainants are never asked to come forward, but in spite of this, they should be given an opportunity to defend themselves. There is no reason why a worker at the Transport Board should not have access to the traffic superintendant or whoever is immediately in charge of him. These people should not be so far removed from conductors and drivers that they cannot go and explain any difficulties they encounter in their work. If they know that this is the way they are going to be treated by the Transport Board, when they go on the streets to deal with the public, that is the feeling which they will bring to bear upon their job in meeting the public.

I know of cases, Mr. Chairman, where conductors have been impolite to passengers. I understand from the Minister of Education that there are lectures being given to assist them in overcoming some of these difficulties, but I did not hear from him that the Police are being brought into this, because I feel that if you are going to lecture to conductors and drivers to assist them in the discharge of their duties, and particularly when it is a question bearing on their relationship with the public, you should have some senior officer from the Police Department give them a lecture and this would go a long way....

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, when I intervened first I did say I did not recollect whether the Police Department was involved, but my recollection in fact now is that they are involved as well in this programme.

Mr. HINDS: I am glad to hear from the Minister that the Police are involved in this because I am sure that it will pay dividends and will help to pave the way for our having less complaints to deal with against these workers.

Now I want, Mr. Chairman, to go back to Item 6 – Highway Improvements. On Highway I at

its junction with Archer's Lane at Queen Street, St. Peter, there is a considerable amount of inconvenience suffered by property owners immediately adjoining Archer's Lane/Highway I junction and by passers-by. My feeling is that it is no big engineering problem, and it is something that can be attended to. I have asked the Government about this same matter already, and it is to be regretted that Government has not seen fit to remedy the situation in view of the fact that it does not take any extra amount of rainfall to inconvenience people there. People on the main highway going either north or south encounter considerable difficulty immediately the rain falls, and I am asking the Government to look into this matter.

9.00 p.m.

We have, Mr. Chairman, a revote of $70,000 under this Item out of $175,000 that we are now asked to vote, but nobody wants to say anything against the widening and improving of junctions on the main highways and sidewalks, the bus lay-byes, we know these are necessities and we sincerely hope that the money is being voted for these things and that Government will find it convenient to find a sufficient work force so that the work can be executed for the benefit of the travelling public. The preparation of sidewalks is therefore necessary because these speedsters on our narrow streets are the cause for some very anxious moments to other drivers of vehicular traffic, and when it comes to the pedestrians, you know what is their plight, and measures will have to be taken to control some of them, but until then we are hoping that we will see a speeding up of the provision of these highways and the widening of the roads at many points, some of which I mentioned when we were dealing with the Current Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, this also brings me to Item 13. The note gives us to believe that construction of the by-pass road which is to reduce the volume of traffic along the Speightstown coastal road is to be started. As one very well knows, whatever course is plotted out for this by-pass road, it enters on the properties of many people at many points. It is going to entail demolishing houses in some cases, but with our passing the money here today, with the note telling us that they are going to commence construction of this road and the like, there are still people whose properties will be affected and who have not been given any notice whatsoever by the Government. How can this be? Surely, Mr. Chairman, you cannot expect that people are birds, and nobody would want to hold up Government's project of constructing a by-pass road for the relief of congestion, what we want to do is not to see that we sacrifice our own people to provide a by-pass road to accommodate the foreign investors like the Golden Shores Development people, or if they are even moving to accommodate those people do not let us do it at the expense of our own local people to the extent of having them unnerved, not knowing when Government is going to move, when they will be called upon to shift their positions and exactly what is their position with the properties they have owned for so many years and all that is related thereto. We are inviting Government to carry a sane and decent approach to the matter, so when those property owners who will have some negotiations to go into, look for alternative arrangements, alternative accommodation where necessary, will have an opportunity to do so, but at the same time give the Government an opportunity to get on with its work of progress as quickly as possible.

We may also look at Item 15. We are voting money to carry out a feasibility study of bridges and the construction of the Belleplaine Bridge. I wonder if the Government could really at this stage offer any just reason why the Belleplaine Bridge has not be reconstructed before.

9.10 p.m.

We could hardly be told we are awaiting Engineers. We could hardly be told that material had to be imported, because if we look at some of the construction work that is carried on in other areas in this Island, we would have to tell ourselves that the Government is really not serious when it comes to the question of seeing that the people of St. Andrew and the travelling public generally who must use the Belleplaine bridge – *(Asides.)* Let us take into consideration, Mr. Chairman, the concessionaires and the bus owners in that area. This is now the harvesting or cane-reaping season. We know that the detour that people have had to make since October, 1970, when the Belleplaine bridge was damaged by the flood water, that road is showing signs of wear. That road was hastily constructed with a view to providing immediate relief, because a very bad situation had taken place in the Belleplaine area. We are now including an amount of $1,000 as a revote under this item. Let us hope and pray that we will see something being done in this instance and that we do not come back in another year with another revote and to hear some sort of excuse when at the same time other work that calls for the same kind of expertise is being executed by some construction firms in other areas. Our feeling is that if Government really wants to get this bridge going, Government had the right to move and obtain whatever material was in the Island and was necessary to have the bridge repaired with as little delay as possible. This bridge has been causing inconvenience, in our view, for too long.

With regard to this feasibility study of bridges, the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, and St. Peter are the parishes in which these bridges are contained to some considerable extent. There are the parishes that the drainage which we see at Item 14 would be concerned with this to some extent, Mr. Chairman. The note to Item 14 states: "For drainage facilities at Constitution and other watercourses and outfalls. Includes provision for a drainage survey." If you are going to carry out a drainage survey, it is going to entail consideration of bridge construction where this is found necessary, depending on the course in which we are thinking of directing our water flow or whatever it might be. These are things we know that cannot be done overnight, but we hope that whatever is done we will have something upon which to work. There is no point in having these surveys carried out and then have them pigeon-holed for the next six, seven or eight years, and all we can hear is that some expert came here and carried out a survey of our bridges and our drainage system, and nothing more has been about it.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen that quite recently it does not call for any heavy rainfall to cause flooding in this country. We are very fortunate that when we have a rainfall of more than 2 ins. or 3 ins. it would seem as though the tide is off during the period that the flood waters are coming down. That has saved us from a lot of trouble on several occasions.

With regard to these outfall drains, Mr. Chairman, I have spoken already about the drains along the Prospect/ Fittz Village area along Highway 1. I understand that the Ministry of Communications and Works is waiting until the Estimates are passed so that more money will be available to enable the Department to continue with the drain that runs next to Mr. K. C. Browne's house at Prospect. I have to say that the Minister is not an Engineer, and he has to be advised by the experts. I am asking the Minister that before another penny is spent on that drain that he asks his Technical Advisers to go to the scene and see if the wisdom can be found in throwing any more money in the sea at that point. That is the best way I can put it. After all, the taxpayers need some sort of protection at some point. They might be found to be good milch cows, but the best milch cow will go dry at some time.

Mr. Chairman, at Item 16 they are going to carry out a general development and protection of the Island's water resources. This concerns the parish of St. Peter as well as many other parishes, and I want to say that I should like to see that whatever is going to be done that the situation which affects those property owners who are between Maynard Road, St. Peter, in the North and Rock Dundo, St. Peter and St. James in the South, the area that we call East of Speightstown that is in Zone 1, that everything be done to protect the Island's water resources.
9.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, some sort of consideration should be given to these small property owners. There are just over 779 chattel houses in this Zone I area where for the protection of the water resources people are not permitted to carry out any sort of expansion to their existing buildings, not even making an additional bedroom for the comfort of the people in the area. Mr. Chairman, we realise that in protecting the water resources our minds must come at once to toilet facilities and public health requirements that must obtain at these premises; but let us tell ourselves this; these poor people who own these houses are living in cramped conditions and in some cases are seeking to carry out a limited development, and they are refused permission to do this. It is not a case where we are bringing residents from Zone 2 area or from outside Zone I to put down water toilets to endanger the water resources; it is a case where if six people have been living in an 18' x 10' or 18' x 12' house for the past eight or ten years they have saved enough to put on a little bedroom and shedroof to bring about a measure of privacy as their children grow up, and they are refused that type of extension to their homes.

Mr. Chairman, I am not asking for anything to be done to endanger the water resources of this Island in St. Peter, in St. Michael, St. Lucy or any part of this Island, but I am asking that the applications of these people be gone into, public health requirements re-examined and if it is humanly possible that these people can be afforded a little more elbow room where the extension is of the nature to which I have referred, I am sure that they could be given some sort of consideration.

We are thinking, at Item 17, of laying additional mains and setting up additional standposts. Here again, Mr. Chairman, this is something to be welcomed, but unless the additional mains are going to cause water to flow into channels that have been dry for several years now, unless we are going to put down these additional mains in areas where people have been suffering for several years and crying out for relief, I say our efforts will be in vain. We feel, Sir, that Government must have its scheme of things; it will be giving priority to this area as against that area, and will be taking into

consideration where there are reservoirs or where the supply of water can be found for the mains to lead to the various areas. I have already given the Minister areas in the parish of St. Peter where suffering has placed an indelible mark for years, and I am praying that in this laying of mains we will see something done to assist these people. I have learned that at the Ashton Hall Main Road turning into Millionaire Road something has been done recently and the situation has been much improved, and I hope that the people in the area are being served with water, and if the water is now flowing through their taps I hope they will not waste it.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I should leave some of these other Items for other hon. members who would have some sort of contribution to make, and I think this is the appropriate time for me to do so.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let me first apologise for not being in my place when we resumed Committee on this Head. This was due to the inability of my colleague to manage a more sophisticated piece of mechanical device which I own downstairs.

Mr. Chairman, let me continue from where I left off. Based on what I said before, I am now calling on the Minister responsibile to set up a Public Service Vehicle Authority which would regulate the buses and taxis in respect of passenger traffic.
9.30. p.m.

I am also hoping that the Government would take into account the numerous rumours about discrimination which is so prevalent now in our society, and I would like them to think about the question of having taxis painted in a specific colour. I have heard quite recently of an incident in which a number of young men were coming down Bay Street, they stopped a taxi and the gentleman stopped, he reversed and picked up people of a different colour and then he drove up and said he was not in truth and in fact driving a taxi. I believe that if the Government can institute a system of making it compulsory for taxis to be painted in a specific colour it would also reduce the number of incidents in which taxi drivers are charged for attempting to get a fare by molesting citizens, asking them whether or not they want a taxi. I believe all of these matters can be regulated if we have such a thing as a Public Service Vehicle Authority which would be able to regulate a system of training for bus conductors and it would, as I said, set up specific rules for training of bus drivers. I would also like to see that taxis are made to carry a light on the roof to show whether or not they are on duty. This would relieve quite a lot of the problems.

When we turn to Item 6 – Highway Improvements, the widening and improving of junctions on main highways including sidewalks and bus lay-byes, I would like to remind the junior Minister, since the Minister is absent, about the question of the reconstruction of the junction at Gaggs Hill, St. Joseph. There have recently been two or three accidents occuring on that road. Traffic has got to manoeuvre what I term a difficult situation at that junction, traffic coming from the Bathsheba junction has got to stop on the peak of the hill at a major road before pulling off, traffic coming down from Joes River – I myself am rather doubtful whether you should go around the sign in the middle of the road when you are going left or which way you should go – meets with difficulty there too. Last year there was an accident in which a lorry missed the corner completely and went over the side. I believe something can be done with this junction to relieve some of the problems there.

My colleague reminds me of the entrance to the airport. I believe that with the volume of traffic which goes in and out of the airport there should be a separte entrance and a separate exit. With those few remarks I would like to end my contribution to the Capital Estimates on this particular Head.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the questions I would like to ask are very limited on this. Under Item 20 I note that the amount being revoted this year is a lesser sum. Does the Government have any timetable at all for the construction of the new Post Office? There are many things which are dependent on this, one of which would be the improvement of the Parliamentary buildings, and perhaps they could tell us how far they expect to get in this financial year. I would have expected that last year the feasibility study and the testing of the lands in the area, foundations and what not should have been completed by now; it does not seem as if there is much speed being put on this, there does not seem to be any urgency on the construction of a new Post Office, but it is a necessary matter at the moment, and I think that when we did the Post Office Estimates we saw that it is quite a high revenue earning department, and I should like to urge on the Government to do something more positive than a mere revote and a reduced revote at that.

I see the note to Item 21 says that there is an intention to construct a new Post Office at Worthing, can the Government tell us where in

Worthing, and how soon they intend to begin and complete the work? I think they have accepted the concept that the St. Lawrence Post Office is in the most inconvenient place it could be, and I believe I am speaking for the hon. member, I hope they will switch it from the constituency of Christ Church North Central to the constituency of Christ Church West where there is adequate room near to the Fire Station, they can acquire land in that area, and I should like to ask whether there is any system outside of the Betterment Levy Act for recouping the expenditure under Item 11.

How are the priorities determined under Private Tenantry Roads? Are there any private tenantry roads in the parish of Christ Church and in particular in the area of Christ Church West to which the Government would turn its attention this year? If so, could they let us have that information?

Cane Tracks – $1,000. Is this vote really necessary? I know you are from the parish of St. George, Mr. Chairman, is it intended to spend any in the Chairman's constituency?

Drainage. I know that the vote under this Item consists mostly of drainage facilities for the Constitution River and other water courses and outfalls, and there is another vote for an investigation of drainage facilities. I should like to ask whether any steps will be taken, outside the Constitution River and a few other outfalls, in this financial year to effect drainage in the Barnes Land area. I must emphasise this point because there are a lot of the problems in that area and in St. Michael South, Bay Land and aback of where the new school is going to be built at the Garrison, across that pasture, Kings Village particularly in the last downfall, and certainly there should be some provision for at least a temporary arrangement pending the final report. Particularly in these areas that are so prone to flooding, parts of Bay Land, has the Minister got those under his consideration? If he has not, why not, and will note be taken to do these. I do not want just general answers that the Minister will take note of what I have said, I think it is about time we get some definite promise under that Item.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to keep this Committee for any length of time, but to my mind it has been the practice for a number of years for the Department of Highways and Transport to dig up the roads for repairs, and then you find the Waterworks Department coming along a few months afterwards to dig up the same road, then Natural Gas comes along soon afterwards and does the same thing, then the Light and Power Company has its turn. I am wondering if there can be some form of cooperation between these Departments.
9.40 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if the hon. member was here when the Minister outlined the policy on this matter. He even went so far as to explain that he had recently taken control of the Natural Gas Corporation so that there would be co-ordination. I think that now the hon. member knows that there is a policy and that positive action is taken to co-ordinate everything, I do not think he would continue to ask a question. We are aware of the problem.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is not fair for the hon. member to say that I know that there is a policy.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said I did not know if the hon. member was in his place when the Minister made the statement.

Mr. CRAIG: That answers my question, Sir. With reference to drainage, I am speaking now about the low-lying area of St. James just along Sunset Crest. If you want me to make this letter a document of the House there is no harm in that. Repeatedly I have had this complaint from property owners in that area. The letter states:

> "Dear Mr. Craig,
>
> I am writing you once again somewhat belatedly on this subject of drainage in this area and the flooding of private properties due to the building and development of Sunset Crest."

It goes on to lay out all of the problems with which they have been confronted. They sent in a petition on the 23rd February, 1971, and again on the 21st March, 1971, because they had no reply from the Ministry. I should really like to draw to the attention of the Minister that there is a very great problem just along Sunset Crest near to Jamestown Park. *(Asides)* The white people if you want to know who. The white people wrote to me. They are taxpayers. I am talking about the property owners in that area.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to know who the hon. member is addressing at this time.

Mr. CRAIG: I am just letting the Committee know who wrote me. The people in Holetown have asked me – you do not want to know who they are

now. The people in Holetown suffer great inconvenience even if there is a slight rainfall. I drew this to the attention of the former Minister of Communications and Works and he promised four years ago when I drew it to his attention and up to now no positive action has been taken in the matter. I hope that during this Session I will see some positive action taken in this matter. Those are the items which I want to draw to the Minister's attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that...

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister will have to reply.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will have to get up.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. member for drawing to the attention of this Honourable House the grievances of the employees of the Transport Board. On the other hand, I must let them know that the employees of the Transport Board are members of the Barbados Workers' Union and, consequently, any grievances which these workers have they would have to draw the matter to the attention of the Union. On the other hand, I promise faithfully to draw this matter to the attention of the Transport Board, and I have no doubt that the Barbados Workers' Union will take good care of its members.

Now, the hon. member for St. Joseph raised a question about licences. From the information I have received, I should like him to know that licences to drive vehicles are granted by the Police Department, but the point made by the hon. member as to the necessity for practice on buses will be carefully looked into.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: I am replying to a question asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph. What point of order could you make on that?

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It is not permissible for a member to read his speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: Any Minister is entitled to read any information he has concerning the Ministry. Do you not know that? If you do not know that, I am telling you tonight.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already asked an hon. member not to be extending his voice and shouting. I will kindly ask all hon. members to moderate their voices.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said that a Minister is entitled to read his speech. May I inform the hon. member that he is not a Minister.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order on a point of order. Just reply to the questions.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am not reading a speech. I am just replying to questions. It is no speech. If you are an ignoramus, I am not one.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, ask him to withdraw that. Is he calling Your Honour an ignoramus?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All right.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what have you risen?

Mr. BOLDEN: Before the hon. junior Minister leaves the point, or the answer he has just given, I should like to correct him and those who are feeding him with information that they have not, despite the fact that I have tried to explain it, gathered what I am speaking about. I should not like it to go down in the records that I am satisfied with the answer which the junior Minister is reading. I refer to the member for St. Philip South. He told us that licences are granted by the Police. I knew that from the time I was 15 years of age, because I had one before it was time for me to have a licence.

9.50 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think I can clarify the matter by informing the hon. member that I have also stated that the point made by the hon. member as to the necessity for practices on buses will be carefully looked into.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Philip South talked about somebody being an ignoramus. He does not understand what we are talking about; this is too high for him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am explaining my point. I made a point and I must have it in the records correctly. What I am saying is that to have a licence is one thing, but to have a vehicular Public Service Licence is something completely different. After you have got your licence which entitles you to drive a motor car or a lorry, the

moment you go on a vehicle which involves the lives of human beings, you have to pass another test and receive a licence which is called a Public Service Vehicle Licence which deals with such things as your eye sight, how far you can see at a given time, what your reflexes are and so on. This is nothing to do with the ordinary licence; it concerns how you can manage a bus with 40 or 50 passengers, how you can manage a taxi with six people in it, when you stop at a bus stop how you pull off; how you conduct the affairs of a bus with passengers and so on, but the hon. member does not understand, and what he has said is only part of what I said. There is no point in reading something he does not understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I shall now deal with the questions asked by the hon. member for St. Peter with respect to the Transport Board. The point raised about the treatment of employees of the Transport Board will be taken up with the Board. However, I repeat that attention is drawn to the fact that the workers of the Transport Board are members of the Barbados Worker's Union...*(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask for order.

Mr. WEEKES: We will now deal with the Speightstown by-pass Road, Item 30. The exact line of the road and a statement as to whose property will be affected can only be determined after the plans are drawn up. It is intended however to cause as little dislocation as possible. This road will be constructed to relieve traffic congestion in general and not for the benefit of any one section of the community.

In reply to the question raised under Item 14 – Drainage, also asked by the hon. member for St. Peter, the British Government...

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order...

Mr. WEEKES: A point of order for what?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am asking if the posing Minister is in a position to give this side a copy of the Transport Board's Report for the last year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, it is unkind to ask the hon. member for a copy of the report for the Transport Board for last year. Immediately the Report is ready it is submitted to Cabinet and in a week or two it comes to the Legislature. I think it is unkind to ask such questions to try to irritate a person, or because a person may not be as cool and composed as some of us.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I do not like the hon. member saying that because it irritates a member you get up and ask a question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. a. DaC' EDWARDS: I am saying that it is unkind to try to trip up a person who is exposed to this type of discipline for the first time. It is the first time that the hon. member has had an occasion to reply to questions such as these, and I think we should be helping the hon. member rather than trying to trip him up. Hon. members on the other side know that immediately the Report becomes available, it is laid on the Table. The next point is that the hon. member is being addressed as the junior Minister. I think this is nonsense. The substantive Minister for reasons which all of us know has been asked to withdraw from the House for the remainder of the sitting and the hon. member now handling the portfolio does not sit in Cabinet, therefore it is not fair to ask him to bring the Report. I appeal to hon. members to give the hon. member a chance to answer the questions in the best way possible.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, in dealing with Item 14, the British Government has agreed to provide assistance in an investigation into drainage problems covering the west and south coasts. It is hoped that this investigation will commence early in the new financial year. No major drainage works will be undertaken until the investigation is completed.

In reply to Item 16, it is proposed that a team of consultants will soon commence a study of the sewering of Bridgetown. This will include the Zone I area near the Belle Pumping Station. The findings will be used to provide future guidelines with respect to the water protection policy. In the meantime it is absolutely necessary to continue the existing restrictions to protect the water resources of the Island
10.00 p.m.

Item 20 – New General Post Office. The hon. member for Christ Church West asked questions about this, but plans are now being drawn up and it is hoped that some construction will be undertaken towards the end of the year. This could not be done before on account of the shortage of staff. The new District Post Office

will be built in Worthing View in the area near the Fire Station.

Item 11 - Private Tenantry Roads. Priorities are settled on the basis of need, population density, the number of houses, etc.

Item 9 - Cane Tracks. This money is provided to cut cane tracks or on requests from peasant proprietors to assist them in getting out canes. It will be noticed that the amount provided is less than that voted in 1971-72.

Comment about the necessity for an agency to regulate taxis and buses, and the training of bus drivers will be taken into consideration.

Speightstown by-pass road and the Belleplaine Bridge. Due to the lack of staff, work on the design has been delayed. The main design has been completed, and it is hoped that construction will commence early in the financial year.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary - I almost said junior Minister, but they are taking objection to that term, but I do not see why they should object because my belief is if you are one step down you are getting ready to step up – but I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary could enlighten me as to any provisions in respect of the Gaggs Hill – Joes River junction.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am answering for the Parliamentary Secretary. The point is that the hon. member's point is well taken and it will be given the consideration which it deserves.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, at Item 14, the hon. member for St. Philip South in reply stated that no new work will be undertaken until the survey has been carried out. In that respect I am not asking about carrying out new work, I am asking that they stop spending money on old work, if we look at it in that light.

Mr. WEEKES: I think I should clarify the matter by stating that I really said that new major work will be carried out.

Mr. HINDS: What I am asking, Mr. Chairman, is that before more money is spent they should go and see if it is advisable to continue throwing money into the sea.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, after the floods on 2nd October, 1970 it was realised that the drainage problem of the entire west and south coasts of the island is something that is beyond the average consideration here in the island and we have asked for overseas aid to come and carry out a survey. I thought they would have been here before. There will be no major amount of money spending, but normal amounts of money would have to be spent, as the hon. member knows, to stop the blockage of canals and that type of thing which is still part of the drainage problem, to relieve congestion and to keep sanitation flowing. Like the Salt Pond, to continue improvements or anything like that would be a waste of money, and no money will be spent than to keep the normal flow of drainage for health reasons.

Mr. HINDS: One other point, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Philip South in replying about the island's water resources said it was absolutely necessary to continue the present restrictions. I well agree with that, but what I asked was not at all concerned with below, it is the minor developments above the level of the earth, because as I stated, I am not encouraging the giving of permission or advocating the giving of permission to anybody to dig another pit, for that matter, in the area; those that are already in use let them use them. In such a case, I do not see the restrictions remaining to prevent somebody from adding on two feet more to a bedroom. That is the type of thing we are getting after, and I am sure that this is something that the Water Board.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, we have been listening with rapt attention to the hon. member, and I would like to assure him that I will undertake to discuss it with the Minister so that he will then have discussions with the Town and Country Planning Office and all those concerned to see whether something can be done for these people.
10.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the efforts of the Hon. Minister who has just sat down to get on as quickly as possible with the passing of this Head by accepting full responsibility for doing this and that. I know that he has enough on his hands to deal with.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member knows that if I give him an assurance I will stand by it.

The question that the sum of $5,700,000 under Head 102 – Communications and Works – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 103 – HEALTH AND WELFARE

Head 103 – Head and Welfare – was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,625,000 under Head 103 – Health and Welfare – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under Item 18 – National Cemetery and Crematorium, for some time now, and I am sure the Minister is well aware of this, there has been a shortage of burial space at the Westbury Cemetery, the Christ Church Cemetery and the St. James Cemetery. I know that several requests from the Board have been made in connection with this matter, and this is a very serious problem. I know that the Supervisor and the Manager of the Sanitations and Cemeteries Board are very concerned with the matter, and unless something is done immediately we are going to find ourselves in a very difficult position. The Chairman of that Board is in his place, and I am quite sure that he would support my request.

I should like to know what is Government's policy on this matter. How soon are we going to get a National Cemetery? This matter is posing a very serious problem to the Board, and I should be very grateful if the Minister would tell us what is the position.

Mr. Chairman, this matter must have the attention of all concerned in the country. I am not quite sure on the figure, but I do not think there is very much burial space left at the cemeteries. *(Asides)* I have one put aside for you. You should have been there already. Take it easy; time will tell.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who should be there? There where?

Mr. CRAIG: I was referring to the member for St. Michael West, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Should be there where?

Mr. CRAIG: At Westbury Cemetery, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thought you were addressing the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would say that the member for St. Michael West should have been at Westbury Cemetery already may be as a guard, a watchman or playing the organ, Sir, or even organising the workers. I am not saying that he is Barnabas Collins, but the matter is posing a very serious problem. I cannot remember offhand how many more graves are available at the moment. I am sure we do not have 200 graves.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am fully aware of the situation he is presenting here, and that has been subsisting for some time. I investigated the matter the hon. member is raising and found that there is an area at Westbury Cemetery which was not suitable for burial purposes at the time when we first looked at it, but which had a certain amount of provision for quite a number of graves. My impression is that that area is being used, and the position is not as aggravated now as it was then. I am aware of the matter which the hon. member is raising, and the situation will be grave until the first stage of this new cemetery shall have been opened and ready. I am saying that that area is being used currently for burial purposes.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is that particular area which is now posing a problem. As a matter of fact, I would not be surprised if the Superintendent of Cemeteries tell the Minister one morning that we have five or ten corpses on our hands that we cannot bury. I know that they are now thinking of opening graves at Christ Church Parish Church in case of an emergency here. At St. James Cemetery you are running out of space for graves. There is no mockery in this matter. This is no idle statement I am making. This is a fact when I say that there is a shortage of burial space in the St. Michael Cemetery. I am not critical of the operation of the Board. I am a member of the Board and I cannot be critical of its work. If I want to be critical of the Board I will resign from the Board. I am merely drawing the Minister's attention to the fact that we need more space for graves. This is now a problem beyond the control of the Cemeteries and Sanitation Board. I should like to see some action on this matter as soon as next week. This matter needs number one priority.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. James is a member of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. The Chairman is over here and he is well aware that the minutes of the meetings are submitted to Cabinet. We are well aware of the matter and that is one of the reasons that provision has been made in this year's Estimates and notification has been given for advancement as soon as possible because it is a problem. As the hon. member for Christ Church has mentioned, there is an area where garbage had been filled in and it has not

subsided sufficiently to enable us to use the area as yet.
10.20 p.m.

We are aware of the matter and consideration is being given to the use of this new cemetery as soon as possible. Consideration will be given to the use of one area in the new cemetery to accommodate any emergencies very soon.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this debate on this Head unduly, but I would like to draw attention to Items 11 and 12, Refuse Collection and Refuse Disposal. Mr. Chairman, I like to think about my friends, and in this instance I am thinking of the Minister responsible for this Head. From time immemorial there has been a dust bin erected near the sea in the area where the Hon. Minister of Health lives. I think it offends against the Parks and Beaches Commission in that because of its location most of the garbage thrown into it misses the cement enclosure and ends up on the beach, and any hour of the day you can go there and find garbage littering the area. I would like to see something done about this because it has been there for a number of years, and I believe it is time it should be removed and some other provision made for garbage.

The next point is the question of refuse disposal. Once again I must refer to the agricultural progress which we are hoping to make in the years to come. I would like the Government to consider seriously the establishment of a refuse disposal plant where they can separate the material which goes into the plant and the bulk of it can be used for providing compost which can then be marketed as a sort of manure for vegetable gardens. You can do your separation of things like bottles and tins. Quite recently in the United States they have developed a machine which is capable of reducing bottles to powder and making it harmless. All types of glass and plastic have been going through it and I would think it is time that the Government investigate the establishment of such a plant rather than filling up old quarries and having them smoking for days and nights endlessly. I believe we can put the majority of our refuse now to good use as compost to put back in the land. As they say, nothing is ever destroyed and I hope we can make better use of our refuse at this point. The only thing we may have to worry about are the tins which would be in the refuse, but with respect to bottles, etc. the modern plants are able to cope with these effectively.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not critical of the Minister, but I would like to appeal.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I would like to ask the hon. member on which item he is speaking.

Mr. CRAIG: Item 11 – Refuse Collectors. I see there is a vote for, I think, $35,000. A sum of $35,000 cannot buy enough refuse collectors to convey the refuse to the dumps. There is a great shortage of these vehicles, and I want to draw to the attention of the Minister that the money being voted is not enough for that purpose. I know that we have a number of covered refuse collectors, but when you have two or three in the garage you are forced to go outside and rent refuse collectors, and when you are using these open trucks you might just as well leave the garbage where it is, because you are only creating a greater health hazard by allowing the garbage to be blown off the trucks after it has been cleaned up and put in one place for collecting. I am appealing to the Minister on behalf of the Board. I do not believe the Chairman would like to get up and say this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member should look at his notes more closely. Item 11 – Refuse Collection, the amount to be voted is $70,000, but the amount the hon. member referred to is a revote of $35,000.

Mr. CRAIG: If you are providing $70,000 to buy refuse collectors for the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board to cover the whole Island, I am sure that one of these units probably costs $15,000; so this would only buy four. *(Asides)* The Chairman is in a position but he would not like to get up and say this, but you need approximately six more in St. Michael along, especially having the amount of industries and hotels, and at this time of the year in particular there is a greater amount of refuse to be collected. I am saying with all sincerity that I would like to see an additional amount of money given to the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board for the purpose of increasing the number of vehicles for refuse collection. I am confident that the Minister would agree with me on this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is taking an interest as a member of this particular Board. He knows that we met a fleet of old trucks there which was a legacy from the Bridgetown City Council and the various Councils island-wide, and we have been trying since then to replace these unserviceable vehicles. During my time we ordered twelve and I think we have got those twelve in use, and I think an order was placed for a further ten. I think that at present there are sixteen new ones, but there are further orders already placed for new vehicles, and while I agree that a larger amount should be put in here, yet I wanted to put the picture as it is. There are

sixteen new ones, but there are others which are unserviceable, and we have gone to the extreme of getting smaller units which can go into the alleys and narrow streets. It is more constructive putting it that way.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I know the Hon. Leader of the House is one member who has never said anything to provoke me or any of my colleagues, but to say that to put it his way would be more constructive, I feel is an unkind remark, but I will not ask him to withdraw it because it is not unparliamentary. I think the Minister should feel happy to know that I am paying an interest in the Board not on behalf of myself as Lionel Craig, but as a member of the community, and I do not think there is any person on the Board who is more cooperative than I am.
10. 30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I am not argumentative, but I did say I complimented him for taking an interest, but in taking an interest put the picture as it is, in other words, do not leave out the crux of the whole thing. At present we are doing some good, we have had 16 new units, we have another ten old unservicable ones, but put the whole picture as it is, do not give a halfway story.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, the picture as it is in a nutshell is that I am simply asking the Hon. Minister to give us an additional number of vehicles. I think that is the picture, as simple as that, that is what I was saying all along.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows that the reports, as I have mentioned already, come to the Ministry. I am as aware as the hon. member that a lot of time has been wasted when the vehicles should have been on the road, but due to the dilapidated state they were in, they were not, they spent more time under repairs than actually doing work. The new vehicles are not additional, a lot of them are replacements but they will be in a position to be on the road more often, and what we intend to do is to carry out better and more hours for servicing, in other words, if we get six or seven hours per day out of them we can rotate them and give better service on a shift system or something. This is what we have been doing now for the last couple of weeks, and the hon. member is aware of this. He is on the Board and is well aware of the programme that is being carried out.

The question that the sum of $1,625,000 under Head 103 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 104 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 104 – Ministry of Education – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 104 – Ministry of Education – there are a few amendments as follows:

Item 1 – Extensions to Primary Schools
Amend note to the item to read as follows:–
"To provide additional classrooms and other facilities at Primary Schools. Includes provision for classrooms at St. Margaret's and Hindsbury and for an access road relating to St. Thomas Mixed."

Item 7 – Community College
Delete existing note and insert new note to read as follows:–
"Includes provision for completing and equipping the Division of Technology, and for commencing work on the Division and Science."

Item 23 – Teacher Training
Amend note to the item by deleting the word "providing" appearing at the beginning of the note and substituting therefor the words "to provide for."

Item 24 – Text books and Equipment
Amend note to item by deleting the word "provision" appearing at the beginning of the note and substituting therefor the words "To provide for."

I beg to move that the sum of $3,600 under Head 104 – Ministry of Education – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: In seconding this motion, I think there are two further amendments to be made in the figures though not affecting the totals. At Item 27, instead of the figure $334,423 which appears, this should read $334,023, and at Item 34, instead of the figure $35,000, it should be $35,400. The total is the same.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am going to appeal to the Hon. Leader of this Chamber, we have been meeting for over twelve consecutive hours, we have been meeting for three consecutive days, and I do not feel it is fair to the members of

the staff in any modern community to be asked to write shorthand for three consecutive days at this rate, and the members have not paid any kindness to them whatsoever. I think it is time that these people should be allowed to be relieved from their duties. It is not fair to them, as a workers' representative I would not sit here in this House for the third day and see the members continue, the members can go outside and relax and do as they please, come back in, talk as long as they like, but the members of staff cannot do that, and if this continues I will encourage the staff to take such action that will deprive them of their services. It is unfair to them, and I do not think we should continue debate on people for twelve consecutive hours for three consecutive days, it is not fair, and I think at this time - twenty five minutes to eleven – with the garbage debate we heard just now, and if we can have so much debate on garbage, what do you think we will have on Education?

Mr. CRAIG: I would like to join the member for St. Michael West in some of the remarks he made about the long hours the staff is working, but I would also like to draw to Your Honour's attention that during the last Session there was a time when the Reporters themselves did not come back in because they said they had spoken to an official from the Union and they were instructed to lay down arms or remarks to that effect. I myself feel that they are long hours, and regardless of how we look at it they are human beings, and you, Mr. Chairman, have been sitting there for a long time. I also feel that the Leader of the House should have indicated what time he would have liked to finish.

I do not associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael West when he spoke of a garbage debate. It can always be a garbage debate when he does not feel like contributing to the garbage, because he contributes a lot of garbage but I will never say that his contribution is garbage. I think it is fair to say that if members of the staff, the Reporters, are working for long hours, there should be some provision made for them, whether you bring in extra Reporters to relieve them or the Senate Reporters as my colleague said, but I speak also with a degree of sympathy for the Reporters, for you, Mr. Chairman, the Clerks and the Marshal, but I will not associate myself with the hon. member saying that members of this Hon. House was contributing to a garbage debate, because this also reflects on the Leader of the House, the Minister of Agriculture, all the Ministers, and even you, Sir at times when you take part in the debate. It is a very unkind remark, and I would like the hon. member to withdraw such a remark or have it removed from the records of this House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of both hon. members who have just spoken and of the Committee generally that the arrangement was and has been since this sitting started to sit from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., and at any time when we started later I saw to it through the Clerk that the consent of the Reporters was secured before we attempted sitting any later, and that provision will be made for any extra duties by way of overtime. At present we have just barely passed the mark, because we started this morning at 10.30, and to make out a case that certain hon. members have the consideration of the Reporters more at heart than we have is really a misstatement of fact, because we have been paying particular attention to this all along, and I suggest that the Government has the interest of the Reporters at heart just as much as the Trade Union Leader or the Opposition, and we are suggesting, despite all the filibustering tactics which have been accomplished over the last seven days by certain members, – when we go through Item after Item under many Heads that could not be anything else but filbustering of the worst type – but we are saying that we are not responsible for keeping the staff here writing for seven days on an average of twelve hours per day, and if you were to check on the debates you will see that on certain occasions one member of the Opposition alone spoke longer than three hours, so that is a clear case by itself. I would not like to elaborate on that, but I am just trying to say that when the hon. members are making out that they have the interest of the Reporters at heart to that extent, think of the members who spoke for over three hours without even taking a glass of water or have a rest.

10.40 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have just lauded the Leader of the House for his conduct, but he is now saying that certain members of this Committee have been filibustering. It is a reflection on your chairmanship, and I know that you would not sit there and allow any member in here to filibuster. I regret that a member of such long standing – I have a lot of respect for him – should make such a statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I crave the indulgence of members of the Committee to remain here, state their points, and allow us to adjourn in another fifteen or twenty minutes in the hope that Head 104 will be passed. In other words, as soon as we get through the passing of Head 104 we could suspend at that stage and come back tomorrow may be at 2.30 p.m. or 3 p.m. I will

have a further word with the Acting Leader of the Opposition and see what time will suit us. We are asking you to remain and see that Head 104 is completed tonight.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, earlier in the day the hon. member said that he is not in a position to give his word or an undertaking. I think he will recall such remarks. He said that I cannot take his word and he cannot take my word. I do not know where we are going now. The hon. member is asking us to continue for 15 minutes and give the staff a 15–minute break.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am so often mistaken. I suggested that we remain until the passing of Head 104 and then suspend. I expect that Head 104 should be passed in about fifteen or twenty minutes, if it is merely asking pertinent questions relative to the Head.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, we will be dealing with education. In the light of this large sum of money, I do not think the Leader of the House could expect us to sit down here without expressing our views on this Head whether or not some members feel that it is garbage or we are filibustering. Let us suspend the sitting and come back tomorrow. If you want to see cricket you can come back tomorrow at six o'clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Hon. members have taken a whole day on education already. Are you going to tell me that after spending about twelve hours on education that hon. members will find other things to come back here and repeat themselves on?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, when we leave here the hon. member may go home and rest, but we may probably go and sit down and decide to work out new strategy to discuss the Estimates. He cannot tell us how to run our business. I have heard, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Contain yourself.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, do not tell me to contain myself. If I am speaking too loud, you will have to ask the operator to reduce the volume. You have not heard me yet, and you know me. When you hear my voice I am just within myself. If I am too hard on your ears, you must ask the operator to reduce the volume. I am expressing myself in the manner I think best.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When you are on the platform you can speak as loud as you like.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. Owing to the attitude of certain members of the Committee and the fact that it is late, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would really like to appeal to members to co-operate. I have to catch a plane tomorrow morning to go to some important meetings connected with the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. I would appeal to members to deal with Head 104 now while I am here to deal with any questions which may be asked.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is asking us to co-operate. When we asked him to co-operate only a few days ago when he ran back into the House and took the vote he did not know he should have co-operated then. If the hon. member was asked to leave the House we would have to get through with the business of the people. We cannot on this side accommodate the hon. member because he has to catch a plane tomorrow. We are seeing after the Nation's business here; so do not worry to anticipate how long we are going to take. How can you ask us to co-operate now? When we asked you to co-operate, you would not even come in during the last Session to form a quorum for us to discuss Private Members' Business.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: In what way is the hon. member asking me to co-operate? There was a quorum in this Committee.

Mr. CRAIG: I am speaking about the occasion when you ran out of the House. You did not co-operate then. You should have shown your manhood. Mr. Chairman, I cannot give the Leader of the House any undertaking that Head 104 is going to be passed in fifteen minutes or an hour from now. We are prepared, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will move the suspension, to come back here tomorrow whether it be one, two, three, four or five o'clock in the morning. We are going to ask no quarters and we are giving none. I want to make it abundantly clear to the other side. *(Asides)* You have 18 and we have 6.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair? You must always stand when you are about to address the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, but it was not meant for your ears at the time. Mr. Chairman, passing this Head is only a matter of expediency. They cannot stop it from being passed. The Hon. Minister says that he wants to answer questions. That is treating them with too much courtesy. Let them get up and talk, but do not answer any questions. Let them talk as long as

they like; the Minister will go and do his business in Jamaica, and that is the end of it. Answer questions for what! What is the use of wasting time? We will sit down; you will talk, and whenever you are finished we will ask Mr. Chairman to put the question.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am quite sure that hon. members understand the true position. The Hon. Minister of Education is going on business to Jamaica to attend a meeting of the U.W.I., and he is not going on a joy ride. He is going to attend to the people's business just as he is doing here now. In view of that and in view of the fact that he is prepared and he is the only one of us in a position to answer the questions which will be raised, I would wish that we continue so as to give you the opportunity to ask questions and to get proper replies. If we do not have certain replies tonight, we could give you further replies tomorrow.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the present Minister of Education was not sitting in this House during the last Session, and it was the Leader of the House who took care of matters arising under the Ministry of Education in this House at the time; therefore, I cannot accommodate the Hon. Minister's request.
10.50 p.m.

I am prepared for the Leader of the House to move the suspension of the sitting until tomorrow morning and come back to do the people's business. Let the Leader of the House name the time and we will come back.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we have not spoken to the Reporters this evening, this is the main reason why I am suspending at this stage. We have entered into an arrangement with them and we will try to keep to our agreement by working roughly twelve hours from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., in this case from 10.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. and it is almost 11 o'clock, but the half an hour has just been spent in a lot of useless debate.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, 23rd March, 1972.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
10.53 p.m.

On Resumption

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 104 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 104 – Ministry of Education – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the numerous amendments have already been moved in.

I beg to move that the sum of $3,600,000 under Head 104 – Ministry of Education – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, members on this side have already been warned that the Opposition should talk and talk today on this Head and other Heads, but particularly on Education and then get no replies. In the face of that, we will continue to debate the Head in the way we feel it is our right to do.

At Item 1 – Extensions to Primary Schools, an amount of $150,000 is being provided for additional classrooms and other facilities at Primary Schools, and it includes provision for classrooms at St. Margaret's, Hindsbury, as well as access road relating to St. Thomas Mixed. We are sure, Mr. Chairman, that the number of primary schools that require additional classroom facilities at present could not be attended to in this financial year, and we must say that the state in

which some of these schools are now to be found from the point of view of accommodation is really something to be regretted. Nevertheless we have got to try and provide it where we can as best we can, but we will counsel Government to approach this matter of making additions to these institutions in a manner which makes some sort of relevance to the need at these various schools. I can think of the Boscobelle Boys' and Girls' schools in my own parish. There is a dire need for the rebuilding of both of these schools, but as we know that Rome was not built in a day and that this type of expansion of the building programme has got to be geared in the context of our economy, we would be glad to know that such schools are given priority. It is not good to know that cramped conditions are to be found at some schools and that where more cramped conditions exist outstanding relief is not given there first, and this is what we would like Government to take into consideration when it comes to the question of providing these classrooms and other facilities.

I can say in the case of the Boscobelle Girls' School particularly that there is no ready supply of running water and receptacles have got to be kept for children to wash their hands after taking meals. That is the type of thing we do not want to see existing in these institutions if we can possibly avoid it, and we would be glad to know that facilities are provided at this school to alleviate some of the hardships suffered there.

Now it is a pity that Item 2 – Replacements to Primary Schools cannot be interpreted to mean replacement with respect to the Headships at some of these schools, because I would say that whilst the Public Service Commission is responsible for making these appointments, it must act on the advice or recommendation made by the particular department that has an interest in having the posts filled. We might set about to replace the Vauxhall Mixed School or the Stow Primary School, but all the money we might spend here can very well be wasted if we do not staff these schools with people who have an interest of the community at heart. Nobody wants in the first place to deny anybody an opportunity of earning a living; be that far from each and everyone of us. Nobody wants to make it difficult for a Headteacher, Senior Assistant or Assistant teacher or whatever position one might hold in any school, but I am sure that no member on the other side would feel happy within himself to know that a Headmaster or Headmistress has been appointed to a school in his constituency, and finds that the best exhibition that that Head has to give is one of drunkenness by day and by night. We might give the most stately looking buildings to house these children, they can mean nothing unless matters such as that to which I have just referred are not glossed over, but very careful attention is paid to it. There are, Mr. Chairman, some of these Headteachers and faulty teachers who can be called in.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now I must warn the hon. member that in the Capital Estimates there is nothing relative to establishments. To deal with Headmasters and Headteachers I feel is directly irrelevant to the school buildings, and we should discuss those when we come to Civil Establishment Orders. I want to give the hon. member a certain amount of latitude to develop his points, but I am not going to allow him to develop an argument about Headmasters. The hon. member can speak about materials, the buildings, the conditions of the buildings, but he must leave out Civil Establishment matters.
2.40 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that you will eventually agree that mortar, cement, concrete, board, pieces of steel, etc. are not all we are voting under this Head when we say replacement at Vauxhall. All I am saying is that when we vote this money we do not set up this lovely building there and tell children to go in and take charge of themselves. That is all I am asking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not let us go into the Civil Establishment side of it.

Mr. HINDS: I am not discussing the Civil Establishment side, I am discussing the side where children are concerned. We are doing all this to accommodate children.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed. I have made a statement, let us leave out the staffing of the school from these Capital Estimates. Item 1 is to provide additional classrooms and other facilities at Primary Schools, which includes provision for classrooms at St. Margaret's and Hindsbury and for an access road relating to St. Thomas Mixed. Let us deal with that, do not let us deal with the personnel for the schools, let us deal with the roads and buildings if the buildings are in a dilapidated state. I am not going to allow it at all. When you are discussing Capital Estimates confine yourself to the buildings and not to the personnel. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. HINDS: I have to obey Your Honour's ruling. We are going to provide additional classroom accommodation at St. Margaret's

School. If I said that I am acquainted with the circumstances surrounding the St. Margaret's School and the district in which it is accommodated, and if I went on to say that the demand for additional classroom accommodation is a credit to the Headmaster, would I be out of bounds?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not in the least, but when you are going to suggest that if you are going to build a school or a classroom you should have a different type of Headmaster you are really discussing the Civil Establishment Order and not the Capital Estimates.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, provision is also being made for the levelling of the access road at Good Shepherd Mixed. I would like to hear from the Minister if this road has already been constructed, and if it has not yet been constructed, when it is expected that the children and the teachers, parents and guardians will have the benefit of this road.

We go on to Items 3, 4, and 5, Mr. Chairman, where we are going to have new Secondary Comprehensive Schools, Extensions to Secondary Comprehensive Schools and Extensions to Grammar Schools. Nobody would for a single moment suggest that the St. George's Secondary School should not be completed as quickly as possible, and that it is hoped that when completed it will serve the true purpose for which we believe it has been established, we on this side of the House still pin our faith in the fact that to provide the parish of St. George and the children of the adjoining parishes with the loveliest building and just ask the children in the building to carry on from there, all that we have voted in that respect will be lost. I cannot say why at this stage, Mr. Chairman, because you have already ruled that I cannot say why it will be lost, so I must merely end there.

We are to commence construction of new schools at the Garrison and Fernihurst. I believe that in the face of our being asked here to make provision for this school at the Garrison we should still ask the Minister if Government has taken a final decision with regard to this part of Bridgetown, because we have heard so much, we have seen so many attempts to deviate from what has been aimed at originally that we have come to the conclusion that it is still waivering somewhere along the line by the Government, but when we come to Fernihurst, our view is that we are witnessing the overcrowding of the parish of St. Michael in the secondary schools. It is our view that Government will have sooner or later to return to the system of zoning children. It will not be very pleasing to everybody but it must mean that the high transport bill which we now have to pay for transporting children from St. Lucy to Mapp's College, from St. Lucy to Springer Memorial must be reduced, because in the first place too much strain is placed on the children. They have got to be up very early in the morning to ready themselves for this long journey, and every hon. member in this House knows what hour some of these children reach home again at night. When they return home, some of them still have to help with certain domestic chores in and about the place.

2.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow the hon. member to do that. We are dealing with schools. If you want to discuss the zoning of schools, you must do so in a particular parish. You are not going to be allowed to discuss school children, transportation and so on. I am not going to accept that under Capital Estimates. This is the second time I have spoken, and, if I have to speak again, I will ask you to discontinue. I want to be fair to each and every hon. member in here. I have given every hon. member the latitude to discuss every iota when we were dealing with the Estimates, and now we come to the Capital Estimates we will discuss things as we see them. We are discussing buildings, roads, workmen, but not school children, not teachers, not masters.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, however I might feel, I will continue in the strain and in the vein that becomes this Honourable Committee. What I am submitting is that we are witnessing, by Government's decision to build more Secondary Schools and more Comprehensive Schools in the parish of St. Michael, the overcrowding of the parish of St. Michael with too many of these schools. I go on to explain my reason for saying that, and I give as one reason the strain to which they put the children who have to travel a great distance to get to these schools. Mr. Chairman, if I am not to say it, I will not say it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want the hon. member to understand that with my limited common sense....

Mr. HINDS: Do not try, Sir. I do not think I will understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I realise that when we are discussing the Capital Estimates and we are discussing buildings, if you feel that there is overcrowding in St. Michael, you can say that,

instead of having all of the children coming to St. Michael Secondary Schools, schools could be zoned to accommodate St. Lucy, St. Peter and St. James at a certain point.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, whatever happens in this debate, you will not be able to accuse me of saying that Government is building schools, and that I am suggesting that they are going to put cows in them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Neither have I suggested that to you.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, a school is to be built at Fernihurst, Deacons Road. I should like to learn from the Minister if the transfer of children to Fernihurst has not already begun. We should like to know the number of the children in the classes. We understand that the parish of St. Michael might be further overcrowded with school buildings, because there is a likelihood of a school being built at Jones Land in addition to the Fernihurst School. Surely, Mr. Chairman, an hon. member is entitled to ask this question: If this is true, what purpose will it serve? You will find that, in examining these items for the provision of classrooms, new school buildings, facilities for schools, etc., here and there everything is being done to make it impossible for the plan to succeed, but I cannot venture to explain the reason why that will be so.

Now, at Item 8 we are going to provide for preliminary work in connection with the erection of new buildings for the Polytechnic. We would hope that the day is not far off when we would find Government making provsion not for one polytechnic, but for a minimum of three polytechnics: one for the North, one for the Southern parishes in addition to establishing the Central Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if I were to attempt to support my suggestion, I might again be ruled out of order so I cannot

3 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must understand that I have gone through these Heads as well as he has and in my humble opinion I understand them as well as he does. If the hon. member wants to discuss a trade school and say that he wants one for the north and one for the south, and he confines his remarks to the different trades within the polytechnics, I could not ask him one word, but when he is going to talk about the staff at the polytechnics, he is completely out of order.

Mr. HINDS: I agree, Mr. Chairman, because if I said that there is no point building a polytechnic up north unless you have staff and equipment so that the students who go there can benefit from instructions they are likely to receive, I might be ruled out of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not have done that; but when you want to elaborate on the type of teacher or Headmaster, I will rule you out of order. We have been fairly peaceful all along and I am prepared to keep it peaceful.

Mr. HINDS: I am not suggesting that you are other than peaceful.

At Item 12 – Youth Camp, I understand that this is a token provision, but surely we would like to hear what are the plans for the establishment of this Youth Camp. I do not believe I will be permitted to express my views here again, but I would only like to ask what Government might be contemplating in this respect.

At Item 14 we are going to provide equipment for levelling of grounds, to lay multi-purpose hard courts, and provide furniture and equipment at pavillions and playing fields. I am glad to see that the Sports Department will now be having its equipment carrying out these functions, but my one regret is that whilst we are making preparations for keeping three or four groups of people happy, we are leaving open naked and unattended forty-times four, because there is a lack of playing fields throughout the other parishes, and the absence of any real encouragement to participate in organised sport results from the absence of the basic necessities of having playing fields and centres where people from the various areas can assemble and organise themselves or benefit from instructions along such lines. We do not merely want to see the equipment for levelling such grounds as we have, but everything possible should be done to provide many more hard courts. The people in the northern parishes are crying out for assistance in this respect and we would pray that Government look into this with as little delay as possible. We appreciate the fact that from time to time we hear regrets at the incidents which lead to the absence of money for the acquiring of playing fields, but we still see that there are times when the Consolidated Fund is assaulted, and we are asking Government to do this in respect of the northern parishes so that the people there can enjoy some of the benefits of this land, because it is all the benefits of the land that the people must seek to enjoy in the long run.

At Item 21 there is going to be property acquisition for $160,000 and properties will be

acquired for cultural, educational and recreational purposes. We on this side of the House have no control over the method employed by Government in deciding how they will allocate these funds for spending in the various parishes and areas, but here again when we look back to see the parishes in which something has been done over the past years and we take stock of those parishes that have been the victims of neglect, we feel that a case makes itself out without any hon. member having to say a word to bring this into effect.

Now at Item 24, there is an amount of textbooks and equipment to be purchased with $100,000. We are glad to see that the Government is going to embark on a textbook loan scheme. We are not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that any member fot the Ministry of Education could be a novice when it comes to acquiring a stock of textbooks for the purpose.
3.10 p.m.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I know of text books that have been offered to the Government, and I cannot say that the books should not be bought, but I have had cause to investigate some matters connected with the same offer of text books, and instead of some of the books being current issues, I am sure that the Education Officers upon a thorough examination of what as I understand it has already been submitted to Government, might very well discover that many of the volumes now bought are volumes out of print. I cannot tell the Ministry of Education how to spend its money, they are all experts in the particular field and they must know what the Department requires but there is still the possibility of somebody coming around with a quantity of books seeking an opportunity to off-load them on the Government, and I am just warning the Government that they must examine the offer in this particular respect.

At Item 29, I remember not long ago the Minister of Education replying to a question which I had tabled in respect of telephones gave a reply to the effect that Government would continue to speed up the installation of telephones in the various schools, but what we know is that there are telephones in a number of schools at present but that the staff at the schools pay the rental for these telephones monthly, and we are to hope that if Government is embarking on the installation of telephones at these schools, that the cost will not have to be borne by the teachers at the schools.

There are some schools at which it is necessary to carry out drainage because of water settling on the grounds at time. There are some schools in St. Lucy and some in St. Peter, especially St. Clement's and Speightstown Girls' and the question of resiting the latter has got to be considered in my view rather than merely draining the grounds. I would like to know that the Ministry gives this matter its careful consideration.

I believe I have covered enough that requires being raised under this Head and I leave it to other hon. members to make their contribution.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, under this Head at Item 5 – Extensions to Grammar Schools, the note says it is to provide additional classrooms and facilities at Coleridge and Parry School and other Secondary Grammar Schools. Some time ago the Minister of Education gave a reply to a question which I asked and he said they were contemplating constructing a secondary school in St. James which would have linked the lower areas of Black Rock, part of St. Peter and parts of St. Thomas so as to help facilitate the growing school population. I see there is money voted here only for classroom facilities at Coleridge and Parry and other secondary schools, but no mention is made under this Head for the provision of a new school in St. James. I do not know if the Minister or the Leader of the House will be in a position to tell this Committee exactly what proposals Government has to put up a school of this nature after having the assurance from the Leader of the House during the last Session when he was at the time carrying out the duties of the Minister of Education in this Assembly.

The money to be voted at Item 21 is to acquire properties for cultural, educational and recreational purposes. Either in 1968 or 1969 I asked a question, when they had abandoned the use of the Good Shepherd Boys' School, of the Minister if they could have acquired the land and use the old Good Shepherd Boys' School for recreational purposes which would have assisted the people in that area, from lower Black Rock and other parts of St. James. I thought it was a good site, and the building is of no use, the reply which I got was that until they could establish ownership that would be the only way they could think about it. I wonder if the Minister could tell this Committee if they have established ownership, and if they have not, what are they doing to establish ownership or what proposals they have got for the purpose of using the former site of the Good Shepherd Boys' School for recreational purposes for that area of St. James.

With respect to Item 14, I spoke of this already under Sports where my whole policy on

sport was to erect hard courts at several of these schools where you would eliminate the cost at least and the upkeep would be less, but I do not see any provision made for this. If I do not appear to be selfish on this occasion, I would really like to see at least St. John the Baptist in Thorpes Housing Area, it is a heavily built up area, you are going to have Ideal Homes there where what I always call the fighting lower income group will be going, and it is going to be very heavily populated.
3.20 p.m.

They have just built more houses in that area and there are hardly any facilities for young people to take part in outdoor activities. I do not want to appear selfish, but I should like Government to give that area priority. As a matter of fact, I feel that in all housing areas throughout the entire country there should be a complex of a nature where proper playing facilities should be laid down. You should not put a housing area as some people may say that we did in 1951 or 1956 during our regime, but with limited funds on that occasion we were making sure that the priority was to provide housing for the people at the time. I do not think the imagination of the advisers at the time went beyond providing houses for the people. As you know the politicians have to be advised in such matters. There was an architect in charge of things at the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to warn the hon. member not to let us go into housing. There is a Head here for housing, and when we get to housing you can talk everything relative to housing, the architect who provides the designs and so on. You were perfectly in order relative to the hard courts for St. James, St. Peter, St. Lucy and all over Barbados. So long as you are discussing hard courts and recreational facilities, I am going to hear you.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, when you retire from the House of Assembly you could get a job in the Scotland Yard Department. You seem to be very alert, and that is a compliment which I should like to pay you. I must also tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I was not going off the Head. I was simply saying that if you are building housing areas that the Government's policy should be to provide proper playing fields and recreational facilities in such area. I said it was unfortunate when we were in power that there was a man called Mr. Crowe who had built houses for the then Government, and owing to limited funds we were unable, probably not having the imagination of today's architects or designers, to provide everything with the limited funds at our disposal. We are hoping that this Government would not blunder as we did in this policy. I am not dealing with housing. We have someone who will deal with housing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if these are all of the questions, I will attempt to give some replies in the absence of the appropriate Minister. As far as Item 2 is concerned, which deals with the new access road to Good Shepherd Mixed School, the difficulty in that particular case is the question of where the Spine Road runs. A plan was recently made by the Lands and Surveys Department setting out the area of the land which Government intends acquiring or negotiating the purchase of in order to construct a proper road leading to this School. Of course, there is a right of way which is acquired, but the Government was negotiating for an additional area of land so that we could have a road 20 feet wide and sidewalks about 6 feet or 8 feet on either side, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Communications and Works. They are checking on the Spine Road, and most of the information is at hand at the moment. There is only a footpath leading to this school at the moment, and we propose to build a proper road when things are finalised.

Although the School has been built for quite some time, yet there is no vehicular access to the school owing to the fear that the Spine Road runs through that area. That has been the cause of the delay in this matter. The Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance has been alerted on this matter and has informed the Ministry that there is a survey plan showing an area of 20 feet wide with two 6-foot sidewalks which included a 14-foot wide right of way and this would enable the Crown Solicitor to proceed with the acquisition. According to some of my colleagues, my advice is that the matter is definitely in progress now. The plan has been completed by the Lands and Surveys Department and will shortly be in the hands of the Ministry of Education. We know that the conditions of the footpath are not acceptable, and we are trying our best to try and remedy the position.

The hon. member for St. James asked questions about the Good Shepherd School, and he got his replies. He wanted to utilise the Good Shepherd School for recreational purposes. Specific questions were asked on that, and he got replies. Perhaps he is making a second attempt and he is persisting with these questions. I think the building is hardly fit for human habitation, and I do not think the building itself will stand up to the type of activities the hon. member has

in mind. The question of the ownership of the land did arise, but the building is worm-eaten, old, decrepit and would not be useful for that particular purpose. It may be that a new buidling on that particular site will serve the purpose, provided the question of the ownership of the land is cleared up. It is a question of whether the land is owned by the Government or by the Church. I am not in a position to give the final advice as to the ownership of the land.

In connection with Item 3, the hon. member for St. James wanted to know what provision was being made for the new Secondary School at St. James.
3.30 p.m.

It was originally proposed to site a new secondary comprehensive school for St. James on an eight-acre plot of land to the east of the existing Good Shepherd Primary School. It was subsequently discovered that the proposed spine road would run through the site. The matter was referred to the Central Planning Committee and the Ministry was advised to ask the Town and Country Planning Office to select a site in the Cave Hill Development area, but nothing came of that. An approach was then made to the Urban Development Corporation asking them to point out a suitable site in the Cave Hill Development project area for a secondary school, and the Urban Development Corporation has forwarded a copy of the plan for the area and the matter is being investigated. It is proposed to have the matter clarified with the Corporation and select a suitable site. The plan includes sites for three schools. At present consideration is being given to the possibility of siting a school on the scouts Jamboree site.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member must bear in mind that the St. James area generally speaking is a water restricted zone and building activity is prohibited in this zone; so the site has not been finally settled, but efforts are being made to find a suitable site for the erection of a new secondary school for St. James. A site for the school has therefore not been agreed upon and it is possible that when the Cave Hill Development is completed there will be need for another secondary school somewhere in the general area. You will see, Sir, that this matter is under active consideration, but it is a question of finding a suitable site. The plan to site a secondary school in St. James has not been abandoned but it is through the question of a site, the water area and the spine road that the Ministry of Education is finding a great deal of difficulty.

Both the hon. member for St. James and the hon. member for St. Peter spoke in connection with sport. I think they know as much about that as I do. The policy of the Government is to establish playing fields in various areas. I think St. James is fairly well served on the front area, but Orange Hill and that area can be improved on. The policy is to establish playing fields on an island-wide basis and the competing claims of St. James and St. Peter will not be left out. A playing field for St. Peter has taken a long time, but I am hoping we will find somewhere on the front road near to Speightstown where this can be established.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister know that Heywoods Land is still available? I asked questions in this House as to whether Government would acquire the area from Heywoods.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is the exact area I have in mind. I did not actually spell it out but when I spoke of front land I meant near to Speightstown, and I can hardly think of anywhere else. In my opinion this is the most suitable area and is easily accessible to the people of Speightstown, and that is where the majority of the people in the parish of St. Peter live. I know there are certain Government officials here and I will make a special note of that to see what can be done, but I feel that St. Peter has never had a playing field, and when I was Minister of Community Development and Sports I did go around many places in St Peter trying to find a suitable site, and it would seem that the only site would be on the front along Heywoods. Mr. Chairman, those are the replies to the most important questions asked.

The question that the sum of $3,600,000 under Head 104 – Ministry of Education – as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 105 – MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Head 105 – Ministry of Home Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 105, there are certain admendments:

Delete existing Item 2 and insert new Item 2 – Jetty at Bridge Station. Amend note to Item to read as follows:– "Provision for the construction of new jetty at Bridge Station. Includes revote of $115,100."

Item 4 – New, Oistins Police Station. Amend note to the item by deleting the words "To provide" at the beginning of the note and substituting therefor the words "token provision".

I beg to move that the sum of $925,805 under Head 105 – Ministry of Home Affairs – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, before my colleagues speak, I am going to make a criticism on the lay-out of the Estimates and especially the Addenda. At Item 4 there is a vote for a new Police Station at Oistins. If you are going to construct a Police Station at Oistins, you should let us know where it will be in case we have to make any criticism.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I happen to be Chairman of the Oistins Redevelopment Planning Committee and we recommended that the new Police Station and Magistrate's Court be constructed in the area of Scarborough.

Mr. CRAIG: It is all right for the Minister who has all the files before him, because if we get up and ask where about in Oistin the Police Station would be built, you would hear some Minister say we are talking garbage. I feel we are entitled to know this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There will be no further talk about garbage in here today. That is something of the past; let us keep now to this Head. When garbage crops up again I will deal with it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, apart from being members of the Chamber, we are very friendly. Even my father before me was friendly with you and I know that you will even allow me to take a little latitude, but at times your friendship runs a little too deep. I said that the reason why I have asked this question is that if a member gets up and enquires where in Christ Church the Police Station would be built, some member would say that we are talking garbage. Rather than have a member doing that, we are saying that if in the compilation of the Estimates you say that the new Police Station will be built at Scarborough, we would know where it would be.
3.40 p.m.

Listen carefully to what I am saying. I said the reason why I have asked this question is because you will probably find a member getting up and saying we are talking garbage. If you could say in the Estimates when you are compiling them that the new Police Station will be built at Scarborough or at Oistins we would know and we would not have to ask.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to know from the Minister what is expected to take place at the Regional Training School to warrant the expenditure of $50,000 to provide extensions there. In the same way we have an Item here, Item 7, which is a token provision that orders for equipment needed for the establishment of a Forensic Laboratory may be placed, I wonder if the Minister will ever be in a position to tell us when the Police can hope to have this Laboratory established, when they will have placed orders for equipment, what has been done up to the moment. Year after year we are talking about it and the work of the Department is hampered. Police are hampered in carrying out investigations; are they serious about this or are we just going to toy with the idea year after year? It is time something is done about it.

There is an amount of $50,000 at Item 8 for wireless equipment and accessories for new launches. I wonder how many launches they are going to equip, and if they are equipping the two fibre glass launches that they have brought in from Trinidad.

At Item 1 they are now to provide for additional accommodation at Central Police Station. I think that we are spending money providing additional accommodation at Central Police Station and that money could very well be saved if the decision is taken as it must be taken in the not too distant future to have a Licensing Department set up outside separate and apart from the Police Station to be carried on by persons other than the Police. If that is done, the space that is now occupied by Policemen in the Licensing Department will be made available to accommodate much of what perhaps we are now going to spend money to provide. They must give consideration to this, you do not need to have police experts to renew somebody's license, we are spending money year after year training Policemen to renew licences, and if such a Division is set up it might save money here and there. I hope the Government will give some sort of consideration to a matter such as this.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I notice that there was provision last year to build a Court at District "B" and I wonder if the Minister can tell us something about this or whether this will form

part of the Government's reorganisation of the Magistrates' Courts.

The other point is this, I think that the Government has got to face up to one fact, that sooner or later it is going to be faced with the problem of providing a completely new Central Police Station and all the money that is being spent piecemeal on it will be wasted. If you want to have a modern Police Station, properly equipped, you have to have proper buildings. The facilities provided at the C.I.D. are very limited and you find that from time to time various offices are being renovated, and I would like to suggest to the Government the possibility of looking into it. It may very well be that when this happens they may want to take in the whole of the Supreme Court and the Registry which is being used at the moment by the Judiciary and have the Courts sited elsewhere. They may also take in the possibility of acquiring the entire portion on the other side of the road running between the Waterworks Office and James Street, when the Waterworks Department moves. I believe the spine road will probably affect that, but this may be a portion of land that if the Government desires to take over the whole portion used by the Courts, the other side of the road may be land suitable for the establishment of a Law Court or something like that.

I say this because I think from time to time we spend lots of money on these Capital projects. I see there is a sum of $65,000 to provide additional accommodation for the Writ Department and the Court Prosecutors, and we are going to continue spending money yearly but we must face up to these problems. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say about the possibility of providing a completely new Police Headquarters. Perhaps they may want to do it there or on some other site.
3.50 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I can throw out a suggestion to him. I believe that the time has come when the driver's license should no longer be issued by the Police Department. *(Asides)* Why do you not get up and direct the Chair? What is wrong with you? Why do you not allow things to go on as they were going on? Do you want to get in here confused?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: None of that.

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to throw out a suggestion to the Hon. Minister who is in charge of the matter and who knows what he is about, and you have a member on the other side interfering with things!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Allow me to deal with that.

Mr. CRAIG: I know the position in which you are placed, and you cannot say anything. It is rather annoying. I have already warned the Minister that I am capable of cutting him to ribbons.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get along. I do not want you to cut anybody to ribbons in here.

Mr. CRAIG: I am throwing out a suggestion, and there is an invalid over there pushing up his hands all the time. I apologise to the Chair. I hope the day would come when the Minister would take away the testing of people for drivers' licences from the Police Department and put it into the hands of the Highway and Transport Department. I think this is done in other countries. Make it separate and distinct Licensing Authorities. That is all I want to suggest to the Minister, but you have these political butterflies giving trouble all the time.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to assure members of this Honourable Chamber that we are making a complete re-appraisal of the needs of the Police Force in view of the Developments taking place in Barbados. Changes are going to take place at Wildey, housing development and industrial development in other areas of Barbados, and because of these developments which have already been approved either completely or in principle, we find that the needs of the Police Force in Barbados will have to be reassessed and many changes will have to be made to accommodate new planning processes that have taken place in Barbados.

At the moment, however, there is still a need to attend to the immediate needs of the Police Force. We find that at Central Station there is inadequate accommodation for women members of the Police Force; there is inadequate accommodation for the Inspectorate, and there is also inadequate accommodation for the people who look after the traffic division of the Police Force. These proposals are to take care of these inadequacies. There are women members of the Police Force, and if hon. members on the other side would go to Central Station and see the accommodation provided at present for the women members of the Police Force, they will agree that something has to be done soon rather than waiting for the complete re-appraisal of the needs of the Police Force. These requests for monies at this juncture are to meet the inadequacies.

When one thinks in terms of the need of a Magistrate's Court at District D, again certain proposals have come to the Government concerning the reorganisation of the allocation of Courts in this country and, therefore, at this stage, while these proposals are being considered, we do not think it is wise to make any concrete proposals for the location of a new Court at District D.

As regards the Regional Police Training Station, again, if we are dealing with the immediate needs and not with the needs in the future, the immediate needs of the Regional Police Training Centre demand that something be done at the moment, and we are trying to accommodate these needs. Right now we find that accommodation at the Regional Police Training Centre is inadequate, because the number which the Centre was built to accommodate is now far in excess of that and additional accommodation has to be provided. While we are thinking in terms of the future of the Regional Police Training Centre in view of the fact that some of the members have withdrawn from participating in it, and maybe probable changes which may continue along those lines, we cannot sit back and allow the accommodation there to become more pressing and more urgent than it already is. Something has to be done in the matter.

These demands at the moment are being met out of this figure, and I should like to assure the members of this House that, where the Ministry of Home Affairs are concerned, we would like to see a lot more done but we realise that the financial position of Barbados at the moment is such that we in the Ministry of Home Affairs cannot have all the money voted for Capital Estimates. We will have to take our share and make room for the other Ministries to take their share. We do not think for one moment that $925,805 which is being asked for is the end of the full story concerning the requirements confronting the various Departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

We expect to be able to accomplish this much this year, and next year, obviously, we will come again and put forward fresh requirements. This concerns what we expect to do and what we believe we can reasonably do within this year, rather than coming here and making big requirements for a large amount of money and putting up a large amount of proposals merely to find that by the end of 1972 we are not in a position to complete a quarter of what we have asked for. We believe it is wiser to ask for what we can really complete within the financial year. Next year we will ask for money to start on a new phase of development concerning the different Departments falling under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The question that the sum of $925,805 under Head 105 – Ministry of Home Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 106 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE – (1) AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office – (1) Airport Development – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,787,100 under Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office – (1) Airport Development – stand part of the Scehdule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Hon. Leader of the House will agree with me that this is a very technical field upon which we are embarking. I should be grateful, apart from what we have here in the notes, if the Minister would give us a broader outlook of what is going on at the Airport. We know that we are going to lengthen the runway; we know that this is the Jumbo age; we know that we are going to have a full development at the Airport, but we do not have any information of what is taking place. If the Minister will give us an idea of what is happening up there, he might probably not have any questions to answer. I am not saying that he will not have any questions to answer. We have no technicians in this field to advise us, and we would like to have some information from the Minister about the matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, Seawell International Airport provides a vital transportation hub, not only for Barbados, but for the other Islands in the Eastern Caribbean area. It is Government's main objective that the supremacy which Seawell Airport has attained should be retained as far as possible, and to keep abreast with the continued increase in air traffic. 4 p.m.

To achieve this a Feasibility Study has just been completed for the purpose of providing a plan for the expansion of Seawell International Airport through the year 1990 to determine the feasibility of such expansion. In detail it is intended to provide such New and Expanded facilities for all airport functions, in keeping with ICAO and FAA standards to cope with the rapidly changing technological requirements of the jet age.

It has been recommended that the overall development of Seawell International Airport be implemented in two phases, however, in view of the proposed completion date of Phase I of the development and bearing in mind the continued growth in passenger and cargo traffic, it is obvious that interim additional facilities would need to be provided to ensure the operational efficiency of the Airport.

The Capital Works programme proposed for the year 1972/73 aims at providing such interim facilities as found to be necessary, and includes such new works which it is considered should be implemented at an early date. In preparing this programme, recommendations for the proposed works have been based on the present facility requirements, but at the same time the size of the project has been limited in order to arrive at an overall programme with a total expenditure that could be easily managed from the points of view of construction capabilities, and other constraints.

It should be noted that some of the items of work shown here are normally carried out by other Government Departments. These, however, have been accounted for in the Seawell Airport Development Project Capital Estimates to give an overall cost of the proposed development.

The estimated costs of building works shown are based on basic design parameters and are approximate only. Accurate costing can only follow detailed design, but the cost given in the attached proposed Draft Capital Estimates 1972/73 represents the order of sums which should be allowed for these projects.

The Runway Extension is to provide an additional 225,000 sq. ft of runway and 75,000 sq. ft. of stop way, including grading of shoulders, removal and installation of lights and parking of threshold etc.

This item was included in 1971/72 Capital Estimates, but the commencement of work was delayed pending land acquisition. It is almost now certain however that work will commence in January 1972 and actual expenditure will be approximately $180,000.

The estimates cost of this item as detailed has been revised and now shows an increase of $123,000. This provision therefore includes a revote of $660,000.

Runway Resurfacing – to breaking up and consolidating existing concrete pavement slabs, and applying asphaltic concrete overlay on 150,000 square feet of runway.

This Item was included in the 1971/72 Capital Estimates but the commencement of work was delayed awaiting the submission of the Consultants' report.

The work area has been reduced and the estimated cost is now prepared in accordance with their recommendations.

Every effort is being made to have this work commenced as soon as possible.

Soil Tests – to carry out soil investigations in new work areas such as Runway and Apron Extensions, Control Tower Block etc., and testing of materials to be used on site.

Parking Apron – to provide 20,000 sq. ft. of Aircraft Parking Apron.

This Item was included in the 1971/72 Capital Estimates but was delayed pending the removal of buildings presently located in the area.

Repairs to Ramp – to meet the cost of major repairs to a section of the service ramp in front of the Terminal Building.

Control Tower – To construct a new Control Tower. The Tower shall include adequate facilities for Radar Equipment and Training Rooms.

Construction is planned to commence in the financial year 1972/73 and be completed during 1973/74. The estimates expenditure in the first year is $100,000.

Extension to Cargo Facility – to provide an additional 4,000 sq. ft. of cargo space by extending building westward. This addition is to meet the request of carriers who were unable to obtain space in the present facility.

The provision includes a revote of $50,000.

Extensions to Terminal Building – to provide the following extensions to the Terminal Building:

(a) Approx. 2,750 sq. ft. to Departure Gate area;

(b) Approx. 3,200 sq. ft. to Arrival Hall which includes offices for Customs;

(c) Approx. 7,000 sq. ft. at Western end for Ticketing, Airline Offices and Administrative Offices.

This provision also includes for air conditioning (a) and (b) above and removing existing straight

belt conveyor and installing new race course type unit.

Stores and Workshop – to provide a demountable R.H.S. Steel Building for the storage of materials and equipment, and to accommodate a carpenter workshop.

Repairs to Concrete Roofs – to carry out repairs to leaking roofs and includes for new waterproofing.

Plant and Equipment – to purchase equipment necessary for the efficiency of the Project as specified.

Radar and Navigational Aids – to meet the cost of purchasing and installing Navigational Aids equipment as specified.

There are also other items such as Extension to Restaurant, Water Tank, Leave Pay, Land Acquisition, Road Diversion and New Road.

On Road Diversion and New Road – this is to meet the cost of diverting a section of Highway 7 to accommodate the proposed expansion of Seawell Airport.

This involves the improvement of the existing road from Highway 7 along Charnocks, to Charnocks North-South, East-West junction, and then the construction of a new road from this point to Oldbury, St. Philip.

There is also Runway, Taxiway and Apron improvements.

It is a very big programme, Mr. Chairman, and I have not really given all the information, but I do not think hon. members would want to hear all the details.

I beg to move that the sum of $3,787,100 under Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (1) Airport Development – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

4.10 p.m.

HEAD 106 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(2) REGIMENT

Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (2) Regiment – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $100,000 under Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (2) Regiment – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 106 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(3) JUDICIARY

Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (3) Judiciary – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, this is the Magistrate's Court at Oistins which is to be constructed there in the same compound in the Scarborough area, and it is proposed to remove the Magistrate's Court from District "B" to Oistins. Oistins is considered to be more central for the built up area in Christ Church and more convenient for the bus service, etc. For the people from Below Rock, Oistins and Pilgrim Road and such other areas to get to Boarded Hall entailed quite a lot of inconvenience and expense with transportation costs, with the exception of those who have their own transport, so the Magistrate's Court being sited at Oistins will be more convenient for all those people who have business in the Court. That proposal is long overdue and I am glad it is coming into effect now. It is one of the proposals of the Oistins Development Committee. I beg to move that the sum of $10 under Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (3) Judiciary – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 106 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(4) CABINET

Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (4) Cabinet – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is to provide an air conditioning unit for the Conference Room to replace the one there at present. I beg to move that the sum of $10,500 under Head 106 – Prime Minister's Office (4) Cabinet – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 107 – MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 107 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,457,565 under Head 107 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 108 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Head 108 – Ministry of Finance – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,164,729 under Head 108 – Ministry of Finance – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 109 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 109 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,260,000 under Head 109 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, when we were discussing the Current Estimates I intimated that I would discuss the policy and the programme of Government in relation to their housing programme when we reached the Capital Estimates. You will recall that a few weeks ago, in fact on 22nd February this year, I gave notice of a Resolution in this House and I intended at the time to discuss the policy of the Government as regards housing, in particular the housing of low income families. That Resolution reads as follows:

"WHEREAS a great number of the residents in Barbados live in sub-standard housing;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Government to provide an environment that is satisfactory both physically and socially to improve the well-being of the low income family;

AND WHEREAS good housing combined with community opportunities in health, education, child welfare and useful leisure time pursuits offer a chance of improving family living standards;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House call upon the Government immediately to take steps to provide proper housing and an environment to improve the standard of living of the residents in Barbados."

It is therefore my intention to deal at this stage with the policy of the Government in the light of the Resolution which I tabled.

We in the Barbados Labour Party believe that good housing, combined with community services of health, education, child welfare, leisure time pursuits and also good job opportunities, are the pre-requisites for improving the living standards of Barbadians, particularly the low income families, and will assist them in becoming more independent economically and socially. As far as this Party is concerned, as far back as 1955 we recognised the importance of low income housing in Barbados, and it was in that year the Party established the Barbados Housing Authority. The work of this Government Agency is well known, and I think a look at the reports will show that between the inception of the Authority and the time when the Barbados Labour Party was rejected by the people of this country that they built some 1,300 or 1,400 houses approximately, but in those days the average was about 300 low income houses per annum.

What are the objectives of the Barbados Labour Party as regards housing? The first one is that we believe that it is the function of Government to provide citizens with adequate and suitable living conditions and also an environment that is satisfactory both physically and socially. At a later stage in my speech I shall come back to deal with and be critical of the Government's attitude and its policy in respect of slum clearance, but as the member for St. James said when he spoke on the question of Education

in the Capital Estimates and the establishment of hard courts, he said then that in the Housing Areas you should not only provide housing for people but the environment is of paramount consideration. Even when you look not only at low income housing but at middle or upper income housing you will see that it is the tendency of the developers of the land, in an effort to obtain the maximum amount of money for the land, they do not take into consideration the necessity to provide open spaces and parks in any of these developments.

4.20 p.m.

When you look at the middle-income area or upper-income housing, you will see that there is a tendency of the person who is the developer of the land, in an effort to obtain the maximum amount of money for his land, not to take into consideration the necessity to provide open spaces and parks in any of the developments. If you look at some of the more recent developments such as Regency Park, Paradise Heights, and other more recent middle-income housing, you will see that there has been a failure on the part of the developers to provide adequate open spaces to prevent children from playing in the road.

I think that an attempt was made in the Farm to leave an open space, but even this is not really adequate. As the member for St. James has said, perhaps, at the time when the old developments were carried out – I refer to the low-income family development such as the Pine – I think that the tendency then was not to place much emphasis on things like the environment. I think that today in our changing world, the environment becomes of paramount importance. If you create conditions that are suitable not only must you build proper housing, not only must the house be a house designed for the purpose for which it is needed, but attention must be paid to the environment, open spaces and parts.

I know that one can always argue against these things on the basis that one has to be careful because of the limited land use, but even with the limited amount of land available for development, I think that it is still necessary to provide certain amenities. The hon. member for St. James made the point that the time has come when Health Centres must be established in these areas, you are bringing new people into them, you are creating new communities and, therefore, we feel that when you do this you must of necessity provide the services adequate for such a community. We feel that Health Centres should be established in all new developments on the existing developments. I think that the Government has adopted the principle of placing Day Nurseries in some of the developments. I think we should go beyond establishing Day Nurseries, and provide Health Centres for the number of people living in the housing areas. I think that a check on the number of people living in the housing areas will show the need to provide in any housing area the Health Services to which I have referred.

In addition we feel that there should be more encouragement to assist housing co-operatives. This is something on which I do not have to elaborate, because it speaks for itself. *(Asides)* The Minister talks about the Throne Speech, but later on in my speech I shall show that, despite the fact that these things appear from time to time either in the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party or in Development Plans, nothing has been done about certain of the issues on which they make policy statements from time to time.

As I have said, one of the things about which the Government should consider – I suppose the Labour Party in the past was probably guilty of this; I think that most people in the past were guilty of this, and I think most countries in the past were guilty of this – is that it is a mistake to have a very large low-income development. I think that you create certain social and economic problems when you establish seven hundred or eight hundred low-income houses all by themselves in a particular development. I think it was discovered in the United States that if you established low-income housing areas and you had concentrated in these areas all of the social problems that go hand in hand with such development, you will experience difficulties. The tendency should be to have integrated low-income housing projects instead of having eight hundred or one thousand housing units in one area, and have in that area a solid concentration of low-income families that was far better from a social and economic point of view than to have at least three hundred or four hundred houses integrated with other families on a middle-income upper income basis. In those circumstances, you will be able to get rid of the problems with which you are faced when you have massive low-income housing projects.

I would suggest to the Government that the time has come when developments of low-income housing should really be mixed as far as practicable with other groups. I am not saying that there should be injudicious mixing, but there should be a re-appraisement of the whole idea. If you look at the Pine Housing Area, which is one of the earliest housing estates, you will find that all of the problems associated with low-income

families are concentrated there, and you will hear it said that the people in the Pine are tough and so on and social stigmas are attached to that area.
4.30 p.m.

It is an effort to prevent this sort of thing from happening again, an effort to prevent people from saying that you have come from a particular place or housing area and therefore you have some sort of social stigma attached to you, and that is why we in the Barbados Labour Party suggest that there should be an integrated low income housing with other forms of development. In the Democratic Labour Party's manifesto it was stated that a low income housing development would take place at Wildey, Christ Church. I well remember that when I first came to this Assembly, it was suggested that a low income housing area be put in that area, and it was met with solid objection from the Government at that time; but I was more than pleased to see that the Government has come around to agreeing with the members of the Barbados Labour Party.

One of the other things I think that is necessary for low income housing areas is the provision of tenant relations officers. I do not mean people who are just there to pick up rent, but people who can assist the residents with problems that arise from day to day within the Housing Area. There may be problems dealing with health, education, your next door neighbour, or even with rents to the Housing Authority. It may very well be that the Government could go a step further and try to encourage people to form village councils from within the development to look after their own projects. We know that the Government can do so much and no more; and whether we like it or not, we must admit that the Government has provided one of the best developments at The Farm, but what annoys me personally is to drive through The Farm and see the condition of the open spaces which probably belong to no particular tenant. The grass is not kept in proper condition, and this is where councils encouraged by the Government or tenant council-cum-relations officers could really assist the people in keeping the surroundings and environments in a good condition. I would seriously recommend to Government the setting up of a tenant relations department in the Housing Authority to assist the tenants, and also encourage tenants in the low income housing areas to form their own councils.

There is one other matter which I would draw to the Government's attention. Since the Government is providing these houses and would expect a certain standard of living from them, I would suggest that Government consider in future the possibility of providing at the tenant's expense certain basic appliances such as a stove etc., which would cost a few hundred dollars extra, due to the economic circumstances of the persons who are moving into the houses and who would have to pay one of the furniture stores in Bridgetown fairly exorbitant prices on hire purchase, the Government could consider assisting these low income families in obtaining these things.

At this stage I move from putting forward suggestions to the Government and stating broadly what we in the Barbados Labour Party consider should be Government's policy on housing, to become critical of the Government and its housing policy, and of necessity I shall have to refer to my constituency, because it is within my constituency that you will find that the Government has failed in the objectives it set out as early as 1962. It is surprising that for a number of years the Government has made provision for slum clearance, and to date there has been no massive assault in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people. When you talk in terms of slum clearance, of necessity you refer to the Bridgetown area.
4.40 p.m.

In a few minutes I shall refer more or less to chapter and verse to show you where the Government has failed, and I accuse the Government of a breach of faith as regards the programme of slum clearance. In the 1960's a tripartite survey was done by the Canadian, the United States and the British Governments, and in that survey it was reported that an area of 9½ acres in the centre of Bridgetown was marked for slum clearance development, and that survey pointed out that the basic information supplied by the Housing Authority for the Central Bridgetown area alone, not the need for the entire country but for the Central Bridgetown area alone would require three thousand houses over a period of ten years. This was for the Bridgetown area alone, according to the survey, based on information supplied by the Housing Authority, so that for the Bridgetown area alone you wanted an average of 300 houses per annum.

The record of the Democratic Labour Party in this field has been abysmally poor because for one year alone they build 180 houses. I think the Housing Authority built less than 100 houses; I do not believe that in any year so far since the Democratic Labour Party held the Government they have built 300 new houses, and this is not only for the Bridgetown area, this is for the entire country, this is taking in the requirements of the Bridgetown area plus those for the entire country, and according to the information supplied by the Housing Authority they needed 300 houses for the Bridgetown area. You can imagine the amount

needed for the rest of the country, yet the Democratic Labour Party has failed in any one year to meet these requirements. I do not know if they did last year because of the elections, but I know according to the last report they have never succeeded in building 300 houses for the entire country much less the Bridgetown area alone.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I hate to interrupt the hon. member, on a point of order, for four years during which time I held the portfolio of housing – October, 1965 to July, 1969 – Parkinson Housing Area, which is a big Housing Area, had 300 houses, the Farm Housing Area 350, Pleasant Hall Housing Area 90, and 30 or 40 for the Silver Hill Area were built during my time. The present Minister of Agriculture did the others. Some were built in Lodge Hill, I do not think the hon. member is quite correct, but I am giving you information on the four year period in which I was involved. We have had a good record from 1965 to 1969 when some of the best Housing Areas were established, and the Silver Hill Housing Area is just as good as the Pine or the Farm Housing Area.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying the Government has not built any houses, what I did say was I do know how many houses were built in the Farm, but if you built 300 you did not build 300 houses in any one year. I do not know how long it took you to build houses in the Farm up to the time when the last report of the Housing Authority was issued, according to the report of the Housing Authority which was laid on the Table of this House, Government never built 300 houses in any one year. If I can remember the figures correctly, from the inception in 1955 until the last report just under about 3,600 or 3,900 people received houses, but there were applications from more than 13,300 people who had applied for houses. These are not figures I made up, these are the figures which were supplied in the last annual report of the Barbados Housing Authority. I sincerely hope that the Minister has a report to give us today to show us that in recent years since the thirteenth report of the Housing Authority they were doing slightly better. What I am saying is that as regards the need for housing, the Democratic Labour Party has neglected housing. I daresay the first Minister who really spent any money on housing was the present Minister of Agriculture, and I think it was the first time he got a sizeable vote of over $3 million for housing. It is not surprising that during the last election campaign the Prime Minister said that over the next five years there has got to be a massive spending on housing in Barbados, because housing is one of the neglected fields of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is making an election speech, because in the Estimates now we are dealing with the provision of $6 million for housing, so you cannot say now that no provision is being made. If you look back in retrospect it is a political speech you are making now for the elections, but the elections were held in September last year.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I would like to point out to this Committee that the Labour Welfare Fund in the past provided funds for the building of these low income houses, and over the last few years the Labour Welfare Fund has been depleted and that accounts to a great extent for the scarcity of funds, but in spite of all that, some of the best Housing Areas have been established over the last five or six years, and the number of houses has increased.
4.50 p.m.

Farm Housing Area 350; Pleasant Hall 90; Lodge Hill Housing Area about 200; and Parkinson Housing Area. All of those places have been done within the period. The figures are there, and I can get the exact figures.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have just seen a note in connection with some of the reports. In 1964 – 81 houses; 1965 – 135; 1964 – 128; 1965 – 217. I do not know what is in the 1966 Report. The hon. member for St. Michael West seems to have misunderstood what I have said. I am not saying that there is no money, but my criticism was that even the Prime Minister in the Election realised that they must be a massive spending on housing in Barbados. He realised this, because over the last 10 years housing was a neglected field in Barbados. The member for St. Michael West will know this, because even his Union is going into the field of housing. The Union may be going into housing for many reasons. I would not like to state that the reason why his Union is going into housing is due to the fact that the Government has neglected housing. It may well be for other reasons. One of the reasons could be that he is not satisfied, like myself, with the housing programme of the Government.

Now, when I accused the Government – and I am going to do so at the expense of acting purely parochial – I want to deal with certain areas in Bridgetown. I want to say that the Government is guilty of acting in bad faith as regards the people of the City of Bridgetown and more particularly as regards the residents in Emmerton Lane. Mr. Chairman, let me briefly advert to what has taken place. When the Democratic Labour Party came into power in 1961, a Development Programme was issued in which certain objectives were set out.

It was stated then under the Head of Housing that the population increase and the need to replace the improved existing houses provide a need for about two thousand new houses a year. That is what the Democratic Labour Party was saying in 1962. The average density per house is now about four persons. The policy for housing takes into account the above needs and the limited resources of the Island. The Programme proposed for tackling this problem involves construction of new houses, slum clearance, loans for house buildings and the encouragement of private investment in housing through Mortgage Insurance and the promotion of Building Society.

We have not yet seen the promotion of Building Societies. It is repeated again in the Manifesto for 1971. The Union is starting it. Under the Head of slum clearance, this is what the Democratic Labour Party said in 1962:

> "There are slum areas in the City in the following districts:
> Emmerton, Cats Castle, Bulls Alley, Green Field, Golden Square and Church Village. As the resources of the Island permit, it is proposed to clear these slums and resettle the people in better housing conditions elsewhere. Provision is made in the Plan."

I believe that was the Government's policy as regards slum clearance in 1962.

However, in 1960 the Barbados Labour Party in its 5-Year Development Programme said under the heading of slum clearance –

> "The importance of slum clearance schemes is recognised by the Authority and steps will be taken to implement such schemes."

In 1960 the Barbados Labour Party said that $600,000 was provided for this purpose. In 1961, as I said, the Democratic Labour Party identified certain areas: Emmerton Lane, Cats Castle, Bulls Alley, Green Field, Golden Square and Church Village. In that year under the Development Plan the total expenditure on housing for 3 years was $3 million – $1 million for loans.

In 1965, it appears that between 1962 – 65 nothing was done in the Emmerton Lane area or in Cats Castle, Bulls Alley, or the Green Field, so that when the Democratic Labour Party came again in 1965 to issue a new Development Plan for the years 1965 – 68, again the Democratic Labour Party spoke of slum clearance. It is interesting to note, only by the way, that in the 1965 - 68 Development Plan the Government then saw the need to build 450 houses during the planned period. For three years – house construction and loans – it is proposed to construct 450 houses during the planned period. I do not know if the 3-Year period would mean 150 houses a year, or whether they were going to build 450 houses annually. I do not think that they mean that, because when we look at the Development Plan 1961 - 72, we will see that they provided more money and said that they were going to build 300 houses a year. In 1965-68 the Development Plan, as far as the Government was concerned, the housing needs of the people could have been met by providing 450 low-income houses over a period of three years. When I accuse the Government of acting in bad faith and of not paying sufficient attention to housing, the evidence is here in these documents and it supports my views.

5 p.m.

In that year the Government had something to say also on slum clearance. In the 1960-65 Development Plan the Barbados Labour Party Government allocated $600,000 for slum clearance, but five years later the present Government is providing $500,000, but one must recongise that during that period the slums were not cleared; if anything they were getting worse. Let me read what this Government had to say about slum clearance in their 1965-68 Development Plan:

"Slum clearance and redevelopment is an important aspect of Government's social policy, but it cannot be divorced from the housing situation, and the Government has been forced to hold slum clearance to a minimum in the present situation of the housing shortage."

Here is the Government in 1965 recognising that there is a housing shortage. What has the Government done since that to alleviate the housing shortage? However it goes on:

"Some slum clearance operations are essential and this is especially true of the Emmerton Area where the lack of waterborne disposal of waste poses a health hazard."

Has the situation really changed today at Emmerton Lane? That same phrase is repeated in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in 1966, and yet today nothing has been done for the residents of that area. I go on to read:

"It is therefore proposed to clear this area and a Committee has been appointed by the Housing Authority to report and make recommendations on slum clearance with respect to other areas. An amount of $500,000 is allocated for slum clearance."

The Barbados Labour Party in 1960 allocated $600,000, but five years later when the cost of everything has gone up, when the cost of labour has increased, you find this Government is providing $100,000 less.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member should remember that the $600,000 was to be spent over a five year Development Plan, whereas the $500,000 was to be spent over a three year Development Plan; so there was no decrease at all. In fact there would have been an increase by us in allocation for slum clearance.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When one takes into account an increase in the cost of materials and labour, I wonder if the Minister would really say it is an increased provision. *(Asides)* You have provided an increase but have you done anything yet for the poor residents of this area? Have you carried out any slum clearance in the Bridgetown area? The essential point is whether, having provided money, you have done any slum clearance in the Bridgetown area. In every Development Plan brought by the Democratic Labour Party they have specified the area of Emmerton Lane. They did it in the 1962 Development Plan, they did it again in the 1965 Development Plan, they did it in the Manifesto of 1966, and they came back in 1969 and referred to it again in the Development Plan; so every year since 1962 they have been saying.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, the sum of money referred to was general allocation for slum clearance, but if the funds were diverted, if the same funds were used not in respect of Emmerton, what is the quarrel? Maybe I can understand what the quarrel is about because they were not spent in the hon. member's constituency.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not quarreling about any money being spent in my constituency. Even if Emmerton Lane fell within the Prime Minister's constituency and the people were called upon to suffer under the Democratic Labour Party, I would still be quarreling because I do not think it is fair to make people suffer as they do as a result of this. The Minister talks about money spending. Well either the Government in its Development Programme writes nonsense or it writes something sensible, because the Government in 1965 said it has been forced to hold slum clearance to a minimum in the present situation of a housing shortage, and went on to state that some slum clearance operations are essential and this is especially true of the Emmerton Area where the lack of waterborne disposal of waste poses a health hazard. If you specified Emmerton Lane as being a health hazard, that should be your first area of consideration in spending the $500,000 that had been allocated, because you recognised in the 1962-65 Development Plan, not in the interest of any political party, not in the interest of me or any representative of the City, but in the interest of the residents of the area that the lack of waterborne disposal of waste poses a health hazard, not to the people of Christ Church, St.James or any other part of the country, but the residents of Emmerton Lane, and you have done nothing about it. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said that if they had done that I would have lost my seat. I can only come to the conclusion that they did not do it because they did not want me to lose.

Anyhow, Sir, I have dealt with the 1962–65 Development Plan, I have dealt with the 1965–68 Development Plan and what was repeated in the manifesto of 1966 of the Democratic Labour Party, and I will now come to the Development Plan of 1969-72.
5.10 p.m.

I notice that Emmerton Lane was simply referred to in this Development Plan, it may be that somebody has got a conscience, and as the member for Christ Church South Central said, you cannot fool the people all the time. Let us look at the provision in the Development Plan 1969-72. Under the heading of slum clearance – and I quote – "It is recognised that the principle conditions which determine a slum area are lack of adequate sanitation and overcrowding whether of people or of housing. It is also recognised that chattel house areas are not necessarily slum areas except in so far as physical conditions render the area unhealthy for human habitation." Listen to the guidelines of the Democratic Labour Party in determining whether an area is a slum area or not. "....lack of adequate sanitation and overcrowding whether of people or of housing." They state that purely because you live in a chattel house it is not necessarily a slum area, but the physical conditions that render the area unhealthy for human habitation, so that as far as the Democratic Labour Party is concerned, if the physical conditions render an area unhealthy for human habitation, then it is a slum area. That was set out in the Development Plan 1969-72.

I go on. "A number of settlements in the metropolitan area are unsatisfactory in the above context...", not just unsatisfactory but unsatisfactory in the above context, the context being lack of adequate sanitation, overcrowding and if the physical conditions render the area unfit

for human habitation. "....and a gradual process of rehabilitation will be starated under this Plan beginning with Emmerton, a district comprising of 9½ acres and approximately 280 chattel houses. The method would be to acquire lands and properties if improvements are not made by owners, temporarily housing displaced persons elsewhere while adequate accommodation is constructed. This will be an integral part of the Housing Authority's programme." This was issued for 1969-72, we have got nine more months in 1972. I am being generous to the Government, I am not going by the financial year, I am going by a straight calendar year, because I am going to be as favourable as possible with them, but if the Minister wants me to use the financial year, it will be another week, and I again accuse the Government of gross neglect of the residents of the Emmerton Lane area, because for ten years in three consecutive Development Plans you have signified Emmerton Lane as an area that is ripe for slum clearance and nothing has been done since 1962. Do you mean that things are getting better? I do not know if it is the intention of the Leader of the Government that if you designate an area for ten years and do nothing about it, it will get betterm is is grossly unfair to the residents of the area that for ten years absolutely nothing has been done for the residents of this area.

You talk about health hazards because of no water borne systems, but for ten consecutive years and three consecutive Development Plans you have signified Emmerton Lane specially and absolutely nothing has been done for the people. I accuse the Government of gross neglect, wilful neglect one may say, of the the residents in this area, and I want to know if it is based on politics, because I should hate to think that any Government could be so small–minded to deny citizens of this country a development purely because they do not support them in any elections. I should hate to think that the Government of this country is so small–minded and so petty to indulge in such childish behaviour, and I cannot hope to see anything done in the Development Plan 1969–72 because it has one more week to go and nothing has been done. I say this, if the residents in that area are called upon to spend another five years in the present conditions something serious is going to happen in this country, because people are not going to feel satisfied that you have big developments all around, you have your Christ Church developments, St. James with private developments, and you are asking people to live under conditions that ten years ago were considered as slum conditions, five years ago you said it was a health hazard to them. It is like when the member for St. Michael West talked about low wages, because the bad housing conditions of the people in the City of Bridgetown are going to become an acute problem to the Government of this country, and some day soon the people will no longer accept this idea of being cast off, the idea of being neglected, and some day they will realise, as the member for Christ Church South Central has said, you cannot fool the people all the time.

I sincerely hope that in the interest of the residents of Chapman and Emmerton Lanes something is done for them as soon as possible. I make this plea to the Government not to keep putting it off, and I will issue a warning to them that if it is not done soon something will happen. That is not a threat, that is a promise to the Minister, because if Government cannot operate in the interest of the people the people must operate in the interest of themselves.

5.20 p.m.

The Minister of Housing must realise that if they cannot make the Government operate in the interest of the people, then the people must operate in their own interest, Public Order Act or no Public Order Act. With that, Mr. Chairman, I conclude my speech.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am not making a speech now. The hon. member seems to have completed his, but I am not replying now. The hon. member seems to be making a seditious speech here. He is promising me that, Public Order Act or no Public Order Act, something is going to happen in Emmerton Lane. This seems to be a seditious speech. I will say nothing more at this moment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I heard the hon. member for St. Michael West and the hon. member for St. Joseph say the other night that they were prepared to go to jail in the interest of the workers. The Minister must realise that he cannot keep fooling the people all the time, and expect that they are going to remain quiet and docile like lambs. An individual can take so much and no more. Let the Minister be aware of that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am well aware of that, because it was proved in 1961, and it might be proved again in 1976. In my opinion it is not seditious language; it is no threat; it is the people's business we are doing, and it is the people who do certain things.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I see that the Minister does not want to be sandwiched. He feels that being sandwiched between the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown and myself might well mean that he is mauled, but we can tell him that in the first year of his

administration we are not that hungry as yet. I should like to talk on this subject in two ways. I will talk in a very limited way on general policy and, secondly, I will restrict myself as I must of necessity do in my first year in this House to talking about my poor constituents. I see the member for St. Michael South East is here, so I can put in a little plea on his behalf. I know he does not say too much in this House, he reserves his comments for the hustings.

With regard to policy, I believe that successive Governments have always said that they are going to do something about housing, but successive Governments seem to be hamstrung by the failure to bring any original ideas to deal with this problem except to promise action, to use as much funds as possible from the fund created by the sugar workers in particular that they can have available. There is not much left in that fund, and they will now look to the Consolidated Fund to try to generate the funds that are necessary for massive action.

I believe that there must be a new approach to money-raising in this sphere, and I do not think that it takes too much of genius to see where the Government can make an approach. It can make an approach in relation to the acquisition of land by examining to some extent how consistent with the principles laid down in the Constitution it could go on land acquisition by paying people as the Constitution lays down a duty to pay compensation, but at the same time encouraging them to wait before having their immediate returns and, instead of lump-sum payment by the means of bonds, if you like, or over a period of time. I think one has to look at this realistically, because one cannot find in a community as small as ours at each score that you are going to be able to produce enough money for total land acquisition.

For instance, in these Capital Estimates, there is $1 million provided. This is a $1 million to acquire much needed property. Let us look simply near to the hon. member for St. Michael North West. In his area along the New Orleans area alone, or along the President Kennedy Drive, the money will probably be eaten up in buying land down there for multi-storied flats. The $1 million will be expended over-night on that. The Government has two areas: one, it has already acquired quite a lot of land in the plantations and, with respect, it is not using it sufficiently; secondly, it must make an approach to acquiring, or at least inviting private people who own plantation tenantries and other tenantries to come into some overall scheme to re-develop this in which they put in their land as part of the equity in development, if necessary. I think that Government is capable, if it wants to, of working out such a scheme. This will take care of part of the immediate capital cost which is needed, and which is probably the largest part of the overall sum that is needed.

There is a third sphere, in my view, in which it must look at this matter. Housing, because of the great necessity for housing, should have been made a pioneer industry ever since, for the reason that the member for St. Michael West will tell you that it is one of the greatest forces for generating employment in the community and providing a means of relieving your employment situation, keeping some of the very capital in Barbados, and at the same time answering a social need. I am not recommending that it be a pioneer industry willy nilly so that people can cut off, say, customs duties once they have been given pioneer status without giving any compensating factor.

In most of these companies that will be formed in this instance, Government could go in and take a substantial amount of the shareholding and see that no one person dominates the shareholding of that combine. If you cannot even get, as we have never been able to encourage since 1887, proper Building Societies, at least we could have this method of financing so that we would generate our own funds and at the same time be able to push forward with the experiences which we have. That is why when I see one or two people on their own trying to answer this problem, I myself am very suspicious of levelling criticisms at them. It is really a difficult thing, and those of us who have fought the last elections, regardless of whether we have lost or won the elections, must, in a lot of respects, have had a very rude awakening when for the first time politicians really had to do their house-to-house canvassing and saw some of the conditions under which our citizens, unfortunately, live.

That is why I think it is very urgent that we should have some new thinking on this. Encourage some of the very people themselves to put up some of their sou-sou money in this respect, so that they in turn are part and parcel of the overall position. You can give a tax-free period to people in respect of dividends, particularly your local people in this respect, including the small man who will put up his own $500 and so on, so that we can generate funds for this purpose. Likewise there is already available to Government a source of funds in the National Insurance Funds. It is growing and will continue to grow rapidly. It is not sufficient to have this re-invested on fixed deposits with the

Banks at 7% or 7½% interest and then lent out in other areas, which sometimes Government cannot restrict and in areas which are not making any direct impact on the problems which are arising. I will advise the Government seriously to see if it cannot use this as a source of equity capital and try and generate the funds which are necessary for answering these problems.

There is, of course, the Commonwealth Development Mortgage Finance Company. I think it is call CDFC and East Caribbean Housing financed to some extent by the funds from the Commonwealth Development Corporation, but it is quite possible, instead of allowing them to dominate and set the pace for them to be incorporated in an overall scheme merely as providing short-or-long-term loans to any such Corporation which is run by Barbadians. I will tell the Minister that there are at present in the United States of America some of our citizens who are very interested in such a development. I will invite him – if he wants to I will give him privately the names of some of them; they can be checked out; their records should be checked out, and the Ambassador in the United States as well as the Ambassador in the United Kingdom can be invited to tell our citizens both in the U.S. and in the U.K. that their savings will be as well off in this type of organisation in Barbados as it will be in a Building Society in England or a Housing Fund in some of the Companies in New York or other parts of the world.
5.30 p.m.

I believe we have to do these things and do them urgently. I will move off from this suggestion which the Minister can canvass as much as he likes, or reject them if he wants to, but it seems to me necessary to invite private enterprise to play its proper role in this field, and to let them come in with Government where necessary, subject to certain safeguards of course so that the small man is not being exploited by exorbitant interest charges and such a rapid repayment rate that he would be able to feed himself. Government must act in this respect as the umpire in the ring. I will move off from there to a specific need. I believe that every politician has to plea for the needs of his area. You as Chairman will recall those beautiful roads which have now been placed in St. George South in the last two years when it was coming up to the bell, and I am sure that you put in a special plea in this respect. I am not waiting for the last two years; I am going to state a case for the member for St. Michael South-East, the member for St. Michael-South, the member for St. Michael South-Central, the member for Christ Church South Central and last but not least the member for Christ Church West, Brittons Hill, Brittons New Road, Sargeants Village, Forde's Road, Gun Site, Clapham. We have some very bad problems up there. It is a crowded area and any of the hon. members will tell you that it costs each one of us quite a lot of money sometimes out of our own pockets to help people in a lot of respects. I am making a statement which is true. You would be inhuman if you do not respond to some of these calls. I will invite the Housing Authority to come with me for a few minutes across Crane's Pasture to show them the house of an old lady which is propped up on sticks, and it is near shambles. In my canvassing I passed this house and insisting on going into the house and my helper told me that nobody lived there. The following Sunday, I went again in the area only to be told that the lady felt she was slighted because she was living in those dreadful conditions. When I went to her and asked her, she did not want charity; all she wanted was a loan because she had saved up $600 from working as a domestic and she wanted a sufficient loan so that she could reconstitute herself. Next to her was a pond across Crane's Pasture, and at the least down pour that poor woman has nowhere to shelter.

During the election campaign, if I wanted to play cheap politics I would have taken a photograph like that and slipped it into the campaign of the hon. member for Christ Church North Central when he was showing slides in Forde's Road just to let him show what was the problem, but I did not want to do it that way. I went and looked at his film show and I took my residents and showed them the lady's house. I did not want to do it that way because I do not think we should maximise the sufferings of people at these times. But I really am appealing to the Minister for this area. Even if you look on the other side where the hon. member for St. Michael South-East borders on my constituency, and even in parts of London Road he will tell you of the problems he has out there. The only real large area of land available in this area is a place called Crane's Pasture and a bit on the other side of South-East which is rapidly being developed by private enterprise at the bottom of Clapham Hill, and I would ask the Minister not to wait too long to acquire it now so as to do some relief.

Also looking at my friend from South-Central, further up in Forde's Road near the Wildey site there is again quite a lot of open land, the only other open land in that area. Please deal with it now for proper development to relieve Brittons Hill. You are not only giving me some new constituents whom I am sure I will

welcome. I can deal with the housing areas despite all the stickers you put up at election time. I still happen to get to know the ladies well and they invite me in when everybody else has gone home and I spend a quiet time with them telling them how I will try to help them when I get here. Seriously, not only on the political level, but this is a real problem. I am not going to hammer the Minister and criticise him, but I ask him to treat Brittons Hill, that area which is so near to town, as one of his special areas.

I want to go a little further and deal with people in the rural areas. I would like every Barbadian to recognise that our country folk are among some of the most patient, law abiding citizens that we have because sometimes – and I am going to speak for Mr. Speaker because he cannot speak for himself at the moment in the Chamber – when I go through St. Philip, and I must say I did not know St. Philip before, I am proud to see for instance the number of gardens that are well kept and the small chattel houses which, when you go into some of them, are extremely clean, but where the overcrowding is fantastic. They have suffered long. Although we have used the Sugar Welfare Funds, I do not think that either party has done enough for the sugar workers in their particular areas in this respect, and I must appeal, although we are going to constantly hit the high areas of population, for some of the country areas. In particular I should like to mention St. Philip and I should like also in this respect to mention St. Lucy, and my colleague the member for St. Peter says to give him a little piece in Boscobelle. Boscobelle has quite a lot of open space and salubrious air. You look across to the valleys of the Scotland District and the hills, and it is the sort of pleasure that we should give our people.

Mr. Chairman, I know it is a tremendous programme,but I still believe that we can generate a lot of the savings overselves, and I am appealing to the Minister in his first year in office to bring a bit of new thinking. The increase in this vote is welcome; I still believe and will still say it is merely scratching the surface. If the Barbados Workers' Union can make a start, give them various concessions. Treat the Workers' Union scheme for housing as a pioneer industry. Do not let them have to pay exorbitant Customs duty rates in bringing in wood and the other things that they need. Also you should look at it from a tax point of view; ease them up on the Income Tax for the period of construction, because in doing this you will make other citizens like myself if you like, who have much better housing and can afford it, pay for some of the burden rather than passing it on to the small man who has to pay. I see the Minister of Home Affairs is here. I make a plea for Carringtons Village which started as a private development. Sometimes when one goes out there you are bothered about this particular area....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of elucidation, I did not quite follow when the hon. member suggested that the Government should ease up the Union on Income Tax. I do not know to what he is referring.

Mr. FORDE: I am referring to the development which they are going to do in St. Philip. If they make money out of the development as they probably will do, they will be liable to some taxation I think, and even on indirect taxation you must ease them. If a hotelier comes in here and builds a hotel, for instance, all of the material which he brings in is free of duty; the same must happen with housing for workers. Income Tax-wise also they will eventually be subject to it if they go into economic activity of this sort. I know they have not started on it yet, but I am only looking forward to what may happen eventually. Give them some sort of approved status on this point.

Coming back to Carringtons Village, I am not forgetting that area; I know it is easy to forget it, and I myself have spent many a day in Carringtons Village. I would not like the Minister of Home Affairs to believe that I was undermining his authority or his influence in this respect, but it is because I have always found a warm reception in this area when I go there.
5.40 p.m.

I myself have spent many a time in Carringtons Village. I would not like the Minister of Home Affairs to believe that I was undermining his authority or his influence in this respect, it is because I have always found a warm reception in this area when I go there, but again I must appeal to the Government to treat that too, not merely Emmerton as the member for the City has asked, but the whole of that area is an overcrowded area regardless of whether we like it or not and I therefore say in the next Development Plan one of the things we must aim at is not merely constructing 200 or 500 houses per year, we must look at it with new ideas to generate the impetus to build a massive housing programme. I am not merely talking about the Cave Hill Development Project, the Cave Hill Project was an idea generated by the Barbados Labour Party and which the present Minister of Housing is having the pleasure of executing, and I hope that one of these days he will see fit to name one of the streets "Ronald Mapp Drive" in

tribute to him and not merely "Walton Avenue". I say this seriously because Mr. Mapp had the vision and he had the common sense early to see that this area was marked out as a land acquisition area for this particular purpose, and I am happy to see that the Government has started to carry through the project, but in my view you need more than that. The member for St. Michael South East could look at the Development Plan 1960-65 to see where this point was made, we have been out of power long enough and we have not got to make political capital out of that fact.

What I am saying is this, just as you can conceive of Cave Hill, there are many other areas in the Government's scheme that can be conceived of. I would like to ask about Graeme Hall. Some of the best lands for middle income, lower income if you like, housing is at present at Graeme Hall Plantation, a lot of it is being wasted. My information is that this land is now being sold out in lots at $1.25 and $1.00 per square foot. With respect, Sir, if we are seriously going to have to be always providing capital for this purpose, it seems to me to be a short-sighted policy at the moment to take that area which I suppose some people will believe that only people from the middle and upper income bracket could live in, and take it at this stage and alienate it, Government must have the concept to stop selling in fee simple if the Urban Development Corporation or the ADC is going to be allowed to do this, and deal in leaseholds even if it must give in the first case a 50 year term with an option to renew for another fifty years. Very few of us have the luck of the grace of God to live all that time, and I must invite the Government to look at the Australian position on this. The Barbadian is a very funny person, if you do not bring him precedent from somewhere else that he believes is respectable he sometimes does not want to deal with it, and I am saying now that there is a precedent for this in Australia, so they cannot quarrel about it, but please do not alienate these choice areas at the moment otherwise we will be back to square one. When Graeme Hall was acquired it was acquired at a low amount per square foot and the Government could never acquire that choice land again for that sort of price, and it would be a mistake at this stage to start alienating it for the purpose for which it is being alienated. I believe that the one-unit in an area like that would be a waste of time when we are bursting at the seams in some respects, and we could really take this as a proper for total planned development as you are planning the development of the Cave Hill complex.

I understand that the Minister stated at some stage that the Government was going to acquire Lodge Hill. That is another reasonable area for development, and I hope that we will stop as has been said in here very often alienating the lower income group from the other people in this society. I have remarked on the fact that the Pine Housing Area and Pine Hill – I am sorry the member for St. Michael South Central is not here – seem to be two people living poles apart in the country, and what we are succeeding in doing is almost discriminating in a way because we are polarizing the society, very few of the children seem ever to mix, and this is keeping up the class structure in Barbados for too long, and I really mean this seriously, I have remarked outside of this house that the member for St. Michael South Central and myself under a programme which some of us were financing started to go to the Housing Area in order to conduct drama classes for the children up there, and it was interesting to see the reaction of the children. They seemed at first to be living in different worlds under this initial mixing, and I am wondering why in developments in Barbados we must have a Housing Area to relegate somebody to a third class citizenship and another area to put someone miles ahead. We must integrate the developments, there must be social mobility in this society, much more than we have had in the past, so that we can get away from the concept of those who are above all sorts of reproach and those who will ever be at the bottom. I am terribly dissatisfied with the delay in removing these class barriers. I have said consistently that I consider the class barrier in the future a greater threat to this society than I consider the colour barrier. I really think that it will be if we are not careful in this society, and Government's policy in housing as it must be in education must be to bridge this breach as much as it can.

Initially, I believe when these Housing Schemes were conceived of people did not have the far-sighted vision to try to integrate these areas. I know it is necessary to bring the industrial estates near to high areas of population, but a lot of people are getting the impression that the industrial estates are only placed there as a sweat shop for slave labour or sweat labour and nothing else. I will ask the Minister to get the best possible advice on these matters so that there will be true community centres so that all of our citizens, regardless of whether they are university trained or primary school trained, feel that they can mix with one another and turn out to be true Barbadians and loyal citizens who can boast of a National Anthem that we really genuinely believe in and respect.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to offer a few words on housing for the

lower income group. I agree with the hon. member for Christ Church West when he referred to the disparity between the middle income group and the poor people in the Housing Areas. I think that the Government will have to take a very good look at housing development in this country, and one of the things that has worried me in the past five years is that we have private developments and in each of them you have land being sold at $1.25 and $1.50 per square foot. I think that Government in allowing people to develop land should make them put aside some of that same estate to be cut up in 60x60 or 80x60 plots so that a poor man who would be able to purchase a house spot for about $5,000 may be able to do so. Most of the house spots nowadays range between $12,000 and $14,000, and these are fantastic prices; if we go on cutting up the island like this the time will come when the poor man will be pushed off the land and will go further and further back and then that poor old house will have to go into the sea, because most of the people who own land nowadays are giving the poor people notice to move off the same land.

5.50 p.m.

What we should do is to make these people who want to develop their lands retain some of these estates to be cut in small lots and sold to poor people. When you move a wooden house once it is completely racked, and when you have to move it a second time it is no use. If you have to move it a third time you have to put it on the ground. What we have been seeing in Barbados for the last two or three years is that poor people are being moved further and further all the time, because some owner wants to get in the land trade and make a lot of money out of cutting up land in lots to be sold to middle- income people. I am very, very concerned about the plight of poor people as far as the ownership of land is concerned. When we think of all the poor people in our society who have put in over 40 years on various plantations and went home without one cent for retirement benefit, it must be remembered that they have been able to contribute to the same plantation owners buying more and more estates. When those poor people reach the age of 65, you will find that they have never owned one square foot of land in this country. It is ridiculous to find that people have worked a whole lifetime and they do not have one square foot of land.

Mr. Chairman, it is not to say that they did not work. They have worked hard from seven o'clock in the morning for 45 years, and they go home on reaching the age of 65 with almost nothing. It is only a Superintendent of a plantation who will retire on $5 a week, but the people who use the hoe and fork will not get any pension. These people who have contributed to everybody's prosperity does not own one square foot of land up to this day. That is why the class system has accentuated in this country. It is all right to say that the poor man is not properly housed. Everybody wants to have a good house and, in order to have your distinction in society, obviously, you will go and live in a big development area. It is all right to say that the houses of some people are in a very bad condition, but you have to live among them to experience about what I am talking. We cannot theorise on these things. You must have the experience of how they are living.

I like the course adopted by the hon. member for St. Michael West, but I am trying to carry on from where he left off. I think it is my bounden duty as a man who lives in this country, a man who does not own one square foot of land in Barbados, a man who lives in a wooden house and who knows the conditions of poor peole who live in small houses on rented land, to mention these things. It is a ridiculous exercise going on in Barbados for the last three or four years where people are giving people notices to quit the land which they want to develop, and nobody is concerned about where the poor man is going to put his house eventually. There will come a time when the last man has been given a notice to move his house off of somebody's land. You are building all bunglows costing $35,000. Where is a poor man going to get $15,000 to buy a piece of land and then put up a house for $45,000?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this stage, I must interrupt the hon. member. Let us get back to the Capital Estimates. You must realise that we are dealing with Housing and Land Acquisition. You must deal either with buying land or deal with the housing areas, but do not stray from the Estimates.

Mr. MORRISON: I am dealing with Land Acquisition and Housing, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Christ Church West has dealt with the poor housing conditions in Barbados. I am only trying to further.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member, in dealing with Head 109, asked the Minister to consider buying land in these particular areas. This is all I want you to concern yourself with.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I am giving the Hon. Minister a review and a complete picture of the housing and land problems in

Barbados, and I intend to highlight certain things. I live close to poor people; I live with poor people, and they must be someone to bring specific information to bear on these matters for members of the Committee to consider. I am not concerned with asking the Minister to do this or that. I think it is my right to bring these conditions before the Committee, because after I have brought them here, it is left to hon. members to take the necessary actions. If a member, whether he is a member of the Opposition or of my Party, can stir the Committee to action, then there is no begging about the matter. If an hon. member can pursue a path, bring things before the Committee, and stir the members of this Committee to take action in certain matters, then that is all with which I am concerned. I am trying to awaken this sleeping Assembly and stir it to action. This is my job, so please let me relate what I think about this Housing and land problem in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, a stitch in time saves nine.

The rate at which the land in Barbados is being taken up can be carried on for another four or five years, and we will not know where we will be. I have seen two Plantations in Christ Church getting rid of their tenants – people who have rented land for nearly forty years on those Plantations. They have now been given permission to develop the land – *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, the owners of the Estates have fooled the tenants into moving off the land by giving them $1,000 to move their houses. They have moved, and they have given away all their rights. They should be somebody to protect these people. What has happened right in my constituency at Newton Plantation and Jones Golf Course is that these areas are being developed, and they have been able to get those people to move off the land by giving them $1,000. Newton Plantation gave them $1,000 and they moved off. Jones came with a bigger trick and he offered them $1,000 and a free spot on which to put their houses.
6 p.m.

These people have not yet got papers for these spots. I begged them not to move, but now they have been fleeced. These people have moved from the land, there is a big golf course going up there now, and the people have to pay rent again. I believe it is K. R. Hunte who owns the land there now. What I am saying, Sir, is that we must be able to acquire land and give the poor man a big enough piece so that if he wants to build wall eventually he can do so. Give them a spot worth $5,000 because poor people cannot buy a spot for $15,000; I can't buy one myself at that price. People have been working all the years of their life and have contributed to the economy of our country, and when these estates are up for sale the Government should acquire them and cut them up, or the private investors should be made to retain a part of that estate for the low income person. If there are eighty acres, they should reserve thirty for the poor man and sell the other fifty at their price. They are making the people move off the land, they are pushing them further back, and the time will come when we will have pretty bungalows in some areas and in the back old broken down house because they have been moved several times, and then people complain about slums. You must remember that when you move a wooden house twice, it is no more a house. These, Sir, are facts which we have got to take into consideration in this year of grace.

Sir, I intend later in the year to give a full picture of what the poor people suffer in this country; so I will not tire you any longer, but I thought I would bring these problems to the attention of the Committee. It is for hon. members to think about these things and try to see if we can persuade the ones who are well off in this society to help the ones who are less fortunate to relieve them of their sufferings.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Minister of Housing will have a bit to say after hearing the speeches of the hon. member for Bridgetown and the hon. member for Christ Church West, but the speech for the evening to my mind was that of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central. He knocked the wind out of my sails because I was about to highlight as I did during the last election how people come into our country, buy up our lands and develop them and resell them at fabulous prices per square foot to our nationals. I am in real estate to make money, but I am not going to allow money to come between myself and the sufferings of the community. I am not going to tire you as the hon. member said just now because all I wanted to say he highlighted; but I think it is doubly unfair for a plantation to be sold and for the owner to get the people to agree to receive $1,000 to remove the houses off the land for them to go and rent again, there are no facilities provided, but next door at Durants Plantation where they are establishing an international gold course land is now sold at something like $25,000 for a spot of 18,000 square feet, and you cannot put a house there after having certain covenants on it for less than $60,000. This is why I say that the Democratic Labour Party has always been a half-baked socialist party. I will die and say that they pretend to be socialist. The hon. member who spoke last is a socialist; he has

lived between the people, he realised their sufferings and is prepared to put a case for them in here, and I am happy to see that every time he speaks he puts a case for these people because he said he lived between them in a wooden house. There is absolutely nothing wrong in living in a wooden house because many of us who live in a wall structure are in here with him, but our parents were born in wooden houses except the hon. member for Christ Church North Central.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us have no personalities.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, what personalities? I am making a general reference. Your parents and the parents of nearly all of us might have been born in a wooden house except the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. What personal reference is there in that? You are defending that member too much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am defending every member in here. I will see to it that no one guttersnipes in here according to a member. I want the debates in this Chamber in this session to be at their highest level. Let us discard personalities, class or creed. All of us were elected here by the people of Barbados; so let the people decide the issue in all instances.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if you were not in that Chair and had made the remark about guttersnipe, I would cut you to ribbons, but you happen to be in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I said was a remark used in this Chamber, and I said I do not want to hear it.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not even know what is guttersniping. The word was never in my vocabulary. If it is a term used by white people, I do not know, but I know it is not normally used by me, and I am black; but it seems to be a new word in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member carry on with the debate.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I would still say that most hon. members' parents were born and raised in wooden houses unlike the hon. member for Christ Church North Central who might have been born and raised in a wall house because he lived in a country where there would hardly be any wooden houses because of climatic conditions. I do not see anything wrong in saying that. I do not want to go into the debate at length to recite what the hon. member said, but I have to make some general remarks.

The 1961 Government had in their manifesto that they would give the workers of this country resort houses, and I would like to know if the Minister is in a position to tell us what policy there is on this, and what plans they have if any, for the housing area which was to be built at Baywoods or Orange Hill as proposed by the Minister of Housing at that time. I would like to know what has become of the plans and whether the Government would accelerate their housing programme to assist the low income men and women in this country.

6.10 p.m.

I have to make this cirticism at this stage on the administration of the Housing Authority. It would appear as if there are chosen people to go into these Housing Areas, and I would not like to say much more on this. I was made to understand there is some means test and a man should not be earning more that $35 or $40 a week – I am subject to correction – before he goes into these houses, but I know that in some of these houses you have people who are working in banks and earning $200 and $300 per month. I do not mean a daughter or a son who has just left school and is working, I mean adult persons who have been working for quite some time, and this should not be allowed. As I understand it, this was not the policy of Government, and I would like Government to give a fair distribution of these houses to the people who are in great need.

I think the Minister of Agriculture is well aware of the importance of low income houses in this country. The people need the houses. I know of a lady who has been telephoning me since last year asking if I could speak to a lady in St. Andrew who is also in this house building business to assist her with a house. I went and looked at the lady's house and I asked her if she would take one in Thorpes Housing Area. I took her to the Department where she made her application and that was two years ago, but up to now she has heard absolutely nothing about it. I know that Government would have a clear cut policy as to what income the people should be earning. I have no more criticisms to make under this Head, quite a bit has been said by my colleagues and I believe that quite a number of suggestions have been put forward.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be very long on this matter. I just want to say this on housing, particularly for the St. Joseph area. In the last Parliament the senior member for St. Joseph praised the Democratic Labour Party Government for having acquired the land at Lammings to be turned into a Housing Area. Subsequently to this he asked a question in this

House asking Government to buy certain lands which surrounded housing estates because he feared that fires in these fields would jeopardise the lives of persons living in the houses. Some people are given to statements which easily contradict themselves and show their true intent. He thought so much about Lammings, and I have often said that if the hon. member – as he was then – or the Government had any true feelings in respect of the people in St. Joseph and in respect of housing, they would never have acquired Lammings, because we hear on one side very clearly that you want to remove these housing estates from the back and put them in the front, you want to give suitable housing to the nationals of this country, and when you look at Lammings, Mr. Chairman, I am saying here and now that one day you will hear of a little child falling into the gully at Lammings, because Lammings is placed on a gully hill which slopes in such a way that houses which have been placed there and if you want to get through the front door you cannot get out through the back, because however you look at the housing estate it ranges from five feet- to nine feet above ground level.

Unfortunately, St. Joseph has suffered in the hands of the Democratic Labour Party Government. Several people who have moved to Lammings are people who have been moved there against their will, they have been moved because of the condition of the land in St. Joseph where the land slips and they have had to rehouse them. Several of them are old people, and as the hon. member for Christ Church South Central has said, when you move a wooden house once it is shaken, when you move it a second time it is not much good, but when you move it a third time you have to lean it up, because you cannot put it back up. All the houses at Lammings are wooden houses, and using the same theory of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Government has built the foundations but they have not built any steps, it is a dangerous situation which exists. I have spoken to several Ministers privately, I have spoken to the Housing Authority about it, and I have got various answers. People who have been put there have had to use any capital which they had to repair the houses after moving from where they were. As I said before, when you move a house there are always repairs to be done. So far nothing has been done to relieve these poor people, every day they complain, they cannot use one of the doors in the houses – the entrance or the exit – and I asked a question in the last Parliament if Government would acquire the fields which are in front and to the north of the same Lammings estate, because the fields are now being planted in sugar cane, and when a fire takes place people may be forced to jump through a door and they will end up nine feet down with broken limbs.

This is the same Lammings that the ex senior member for St. Joseph praised the Government so highly for. It is all well and good for political capital to come out and say he was responsible for the Government acquiring Lammings, but he does not think of the safety of the people when he does this. I would like the Hon. Minister to tell us something about Government's policy in respect of Lammings. In my opinion Lammings is unsuitable; if the Government is now committed to Lammings, at least they can relieve the anxiety of people who occupy the area by assisting them and putting steps to the houses. I do not know what to suggest instead of the gully site, my honest view is that Government should have stretched a six-foot chain link fence right across the back of Lammings, because you cannot control the children, and as I have said before, if there is a fire in the area and people have to run from their homes somebody will end up in the gully at the back of Lammings, and I personally do not see if you come with one cry to help the nationals of the country, bring them from the back lands. –– I hear the hon. member for St. Michael West saying that it is only black people in this country who live behind the canes.

6.20 p.m.

In 1970 you acquired a spot behind the canes and in front of the gully. You have one side on the road, one side behind the canes, and two sides in front of the gully. I should like the Hon. Minister to tell us what are his proposals for Lammings, and how best he can salvage a bad situation.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to the speeches made by hon. members, and I can say that if you examine them for content, or analyse them, I think you will have to come to the conclusion that hon. members have definitely made, to my mind, what might be a very useful contribution to debate on housing in this country. There can be no gainsaying the fact that housing is a very serious problem in Barbados. This is, indeed, recognised by my Party, the Democratic Labour Party; it is recognised by the Government, and that is why the Government in the Throne Speech sets out its programme over a period of time stated in clear and very distinct words that housing development at all levels will be given very high priority. These were the words delivered to this country by the Governor-General at the time of the opening of this new Parliament.

I can assure you, Sir, that this is what housing will be so long as I am responsible for it. I invite hon. members to look through the Capital Estimates carefully and see the various allocations to the various items, and they will have no difficulty whatsoever in discovering that the allocation made or required for housing development in Barbados is, indeed, twice as much as required by any other single item. Today you can see that we require an amount in excess of $½ million for housing development in Barbados. I am referring to housing development by the Housing Authority for low-income housing. This is devoted, Mr. Chairman, exclusively to low-income housing. This has nothing to do with middle-income housing which in its way is self-generating. I am referring now to the Urban Development Corporation. This is a self-generating project that we are running at Cave Hill. It pays for itself, and it runs itself. When it comes to low-income housing, we are asking this Honourable Chamber to provide $6,599,000 for housing development over this coming financial year.

We do this because we realise the problem. In fact, we deal with it everyday. We know the rate of demand for housing in this country, and we will have to make an all-out effort to satisfy this demand. Housing is one of the basic needs of mankind and, so long as this remains so, we will have to make an assault or a vicious attack on any problems that stand between the people and getting houses.

Mr. Chairman, a number of points were raised by hon. members which I shall now attempt to answer. First of all, I want to take the issue of slum clearance. Probably I am not dealing with it in its place, because, maybe, if I dealt with it in another place we would see how it falls into the context of the whole housing policy and programmes that we are trying to develop over the next 5-year period. However, the matter was raised by the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown. I know that it is very dear to his heart, because I know the type of area the hon. member represents.

For instance, the hon. member confined his remarks to slum clearance in relation to its taking a period of 10 years in the Emmerton and Chapman Lane area. I think the hon. member should know that the problems at Emmerton and Chapman Lane did not commence with the advent of the Democratic Labour Party Government, but the problems of Emmerton and Chapman Lane were pre-dated by several years the good Government that we have had under the Democratic Labour Party Government. The problems of Emmerton and Chapman Lane were with us not in 1965, not in 1961, not in 1956, but far beyond that period.

I regret very much what appears to be an insinuation that this Government of the Democratic Labour Party has not tackled the problems of slum clearance with specific reference to Chapman Lane and Emmerton, because those are the areas that do not give us political support. If the hon. member is thinking that way, I wonder why nothing has been done for Emmerton and Chapman Lane during the regime of the Barbados Labour Party Government? Is it because the former Mayor and father of the hon. member for the City was not in those days a fail-fellow-well-met with the Barbados Labour Party Government? Is that the reason why the problems at Emmerton were not tackled? Is that the reason why those problems were not tackled before 1956 or 1961? *(Asides)* I now hear that it could be so. The reason why the problems of Emmerton were not tackled before 1956 or 1961 was that the Barbados Labour Party was in power and the father of the hon. member for the City, indeed, controlled the electorate in the Emmerton and Chapman Lane area. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I think I am hearing certain things in undertones.

Mr. Chairman, we are not a vindictive people, and, if we say that we are going to tackle the problems in Emmerton Lane, we are going to do so. Emmerton and Chapman Lane will have to fall into their own priorities that we have attached to them. Now, the problems of slum clearance in Emmerton and Chapman Lane are grave. Emmerton and Chapman Lane, apart from being run down, worn out areas, Mr. Chairman, would require a tremendous undertaking, but we are quite willing and prepared to do this.

6.30 p.m.

I know some of the social and sociological problems that are involved. For instance, I know that there was time when the present Minister of Agriculture when he was responsible for housing paid a visit to Emmerton Lane area in the company of Mr. Ernest D. Mottley, the then senior member for Bridgetown, and the Minister was told by the people there that they did not want to be removed from Emmerton Lane. One of the plans we had for the inhabitants of that area was to resite them elsewhere because of drainage problems. We therefore have to replan the whole problem in relation to Emmerton Lane and Chapman Lane.

If we intend to rebuild a site that is worn down, one of the problems accompanying the act of reconstruction is finding an area for decamping. We will have to have an area where

we can temporarily resite such people until we are able to bring the area in which they were born and lived up to the standard that we want it to come. Big as the problem is and as much studies as it would require, that to us is not insuperable, and I want to state clearly that we intend during this five year period to tackle in a meaningful way the problems of slums and the problems of the urban plight in our community, not only for the city, but certainly in the city.

We have the problem which I related only a minute ago about people not wanting to move from the area where they were born which is a sociological problem. We had a similar problem when we wanted to put up high rise buildings on the President Kennedy Drive. It is a human problem, and we cannot ignore it and say we are going to push you off if you do not want to move from there. We cannot deal with it that way because we are dealing with people, and it is our view that people should not be pushed; we have to persuade them and we have to educate them, and we have sometimes to try to see their point of view because they may very well have a point of view, which thought not at the time may not be in accord with ours, may be a sensible one.

I for one believe that perhaps – and I know there are certain officials who may not agree with this – Emmerton could be brought up to the standard of housing that we require for ourselves, and to the standard that is evident at The Farm. Some people feel that Emmerton is very valuable land and could be otherwise used, but these are some of the considerations that we have to give to our total concept of housing in this country. That is the problem of slum clearance in the city and its environs. I do not want to promise the hon. member for the City or any other member anything, but we want to tackle the problem of slum clearance in the coming financial year. The truth is that we have not budgeted for slum clearance in the coming financial year, but it is not far off. It is not that I have not given it consideration, because from the rate of applications reaching us, we feel that major consideration must be given to the housing of people. I feel, and probably the Public Health experts can tell us this, that it might be better to have sub-standard housing than to have no housing at all.

We are faced from time to time as all the lawyers on the other side would know with the problem of people being evicted from their holdings through the Courts and have nowhere to go. Some of those people would be glad to have an Emmerton Lane or Chapman Lane to go to, but we in the Housing Authority have the problem of trying to rehouse and resite such people. That is why I say it is my belief that we may have to give some slightly higher priority to finding houses for people who have no houses than to break down houses and start from scratch. That is why also I am saying that during my term of office slum clearance will fall into place, and I promise that in the not too distant future – and again I want to stress not in this coming financial year – we are going to tackle the problems of slum clearance here in the city. Allied service to slum clearance of course is the resiting of houses. I mentioned the problem of eviction. People who have houses on rented land are given notice to quit. They come to us and as their protector we have to find sites for them, but I want to say that it is no easy matter. Barbados is a very small place; it has the greatest population density in the whole western hemisphere apart from being small, and we have not got land available as we would like for resiting of houses or indeed for housing development generally. However, we are in the process of acquiring, not as the hon.member for Christ Church West said, the whole of Lodge Estate, but 44 acres of land at the Lodge Estate, some of which will be used for resiting of people and some will be used for housing development by the Housing Authority. This is one of the things we have given ourselves to do.

I have heard talk about the rate of completion of houses by the Democratic Labour Party, and there was a challenge that we did not build more than 100 houses in any financial year; but that is not the way we look at houses, Mr. Chairman. We look at houses by the amount that are finished in any financial year because there is bound to be overlapping. We do not build to the end of the financial year and stop there; but the rate of completed houses is what we look at, and I will give you an idea of what the rate of completion is at the end of this financial year.
6.40 p.m.

At the Lodge Hill Estate 110 houses built by private contract and 50 by direct labour of the Housing Authority; at Thorpes 50, again by private contract; at Silver Hill 80 by private contract; at Gall Hill 25 houses. I am talking about finished houses or those likely to be finished by the end of this financial year, 31st March, 1972. In this amount will be included houses that came over from the last financial year, I am not including houses that will go over into the next financial year, because there are houses now under construction at Lodge Hill that I am not including in the houses, to which I am referring during this financial year. I am talking

about the rate of completion. I am sure you will discover that we will have completed houses in excess of 300, which is in fact what the Housing Authority has set itself to do in the Physical Development Plan of 1969–72, to build houses and bring them all into habitable use at the rate of 300 per annum.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, did I understand the Minister to say that the Government completed 300 houses in one year?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: What I am saying is that the number of houses that we brought into habitable use during this financial year, at the end of this financial year, will be a little over 300. I repeat that some will have been begun during the last financial year, and I repeat again that I am not including some we have already begun but not likely to be completed before this financial year comes to an end. There are some at Lodge Hill at varying degrees of construction that I am not including in this figure. I hope that this answers the hon. member's question, because as I said, the Development Plan referred to a figure of 300 houses per year, but I am saying now that in fact we have to set our goals higher than this in order to really and truly make a full frontal assualt on the housing problems in this country, and over the next three or four years – I am talking about a planned period – my goal would be building about 600 houses per annum, I repeat 600 houses per annum, in other words, I am setting out to double the rate of production and I believe that it can be achieved. I am not saying that once we have reached that target that that will be the solution to the housing problem in Barbados, because I feel we have to go a little further than this, but I am dealing with targets over a period of time, and that period of time is over three years, and I believe that when that period is over we will have been in a position to increase further our rate of house production in this country. How are we going to do this? We know that we cannot do it by direct labour from the Housing Authority, but we believe that by a variety of means we can bring the 600 house target to fruition. We will have to go out to private contract, we will have to build higher, at the moment we are building two stories we will have to build higher buildings, and we feel if we build higher buildings and if we expand our contract work – at the moment we have been using all private contractors – if we bring more private contractors in to do the work, that the target of 600 houses will be achieved.

We have 47 acres of land at Wildey and I want to state that the Government had never been in any doubt why Wildey had been acquired, I stated in the Senate that the acquisition was a multi–purpose aim, not just to provide housing for middle income or high income groups, because I heard it said today that the Government said in this Chamber that it was not meant for low income housing, but I have been assured by the Leader of the House that he himself said in this Chamber that it will be acquired for low income housing in this country, and in fact he is stating now that he handled that acquisition and he stated this on the floor of this Chamber. However, Sir, we are dealing with housing. We are devoting 47 acres of land to housing development at Wildey. The hon. member for the City spoke about a mixed development, and I have been saying here all evening since I have been on my feet that we have problems with housing. We make houses available to persons whose incomes must not exceed $60 per week; I understand the hon. member to say that there are persons working in the banks for over $300 per month who are being put into Housing Authority houses. If this is so, I would want the hon. member to let me know, in fact, I will pause to let him tell me whether this is so.

Mr. CRAIG: In the Farm Housing Area, in Gall Hill Housing Area, in Clinketts Housing Area, and the names are Maynard, Greaves, Edwards, Smith and Chandler.

6.50 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I think you can judge for yourself, Mr. Chairman, how much foundation there is in this allegation. That housing area is a self-help housing area, and we do not allocate people for self-help houses. Those houses are owned by people. However, I want the hon. member to know that I will, indeed, investigate the allegations about the Farm, and I will report back to this Honourable Chamber on this allegation. In that case the House and the people can know what the facts are. That is what I propose to do in the matter.

Mr. Chairman, I will now go to the point raised about Building Societies. In fact, I have here in my possession a copy of the Throne Speech, and it reads as follows:-

> "The development of Housing Co–operative and Building Societies will be encouraged."

The member for Christ Church West made a very able speech in which he recommended that we should encourage Building Societies in Barbados.

Now, some attempt had been made at this before. The hon. member suggested certain concessions, and these have been given. Under our Mortgage Insurance Act, 1962, an approved lender, and a number of these lenders were Companies or Building Societies, was encouraged to put money on the market for housing purposes. The rate of income tax for those people who loaned out money was only 12½ cents in the dollar and Company tax was 40 cents in the dollar. All of this was done in order to encourage Building Societies. This has not had the desired effect, but this does not deter us. This does not mean that this is the end of us so far as encouraging Building Societies are concerned. We intend to press on.

Now, Building Societies are probably more suited for middle-income housing than for low-income housing. My concept of low-income housing is that we are going to need money, but it must attract low rates of interest at around 2%. In other words, there should be soft loans for low-income housing, but I think that middle-income housing would require this kind of facility: mortgage insurance, mortgage funds and so on. As the hon. member quite rightly said it is a good primer in our community for labour, because building construction is labour intensive; it has a multiplier effect and it spreads. We have a problem between the low-income and the middle-income groups. I am referring to the 47 acres of land that we have acquired at the Wildey Estate. I am referring, too, to the mixed development for which the hon. member for the City is advocating.

Mr. Chairman, the incomes of persons who are accommodated by the Housing Authority are set at a maximum rate of $60 per week. If you were to convert that in terms of months, it would work out to about $260 a month. That is the income of the applicant. Let us look at the middle-income housing. We have built at Cave Hill, as we envisaged in the Cave Hill Master Plan, an 1100-sq. ft. house. The house costs the buyer with land somewhere around $25,000. We are also building a smaller house which is proivded for in the Master Plan. This is an 800-sq. ft. house, and the cost of this house will be around $20,000. That is the minimum at which the Urban Development Corporation is now building a house, and therefore, the minimum income group to which the Corporation is catering. To purchase a house for $20,000, if you required full loan facilities, you would pay down 10% and you would require 90% in loans. If you required $18,000 in loans, it means that at the rate of amortisation, or monthly payments, that the purchaser would have to repay the Urban Development Corporation or whoever lends him the money, whether or nor it is the Barbados Mortgage Company, the sum of about $150 a month. That is the minimum at this moment, Mr. Chairman. There is now a gap between the people in the 800-sq. ft. house and those in the 1100-sq. ft. house. The man in the 800-sq. ft. house pays $150 a month, and the maximum of the low-income group is $260 a month.

When we have worked out according to our Rules and Regulations, the income of the family that could qualify for the lowest priced Urban Development house, it will be somewhere in the region of $500 a month, What does that tell us? It tells us that somewhere between the $260 a month family and, say, the $480 a month family there is a gap. We intend to tackle this gap during the coming financial year right at the Wildey Estate. We intend to build the same 800-sq. ft. house and rent it at an economic rent to persons who are debarred from low-income housing because their income exceeds the permissible limit. We have done our calculations, and it would appear to us that if we were to estimate the life of one of these houses at somewhere between twenty-five and thirty years – one of these houses should last longer than this, but that is normally the period which one would take care of.

7.00 p.m.

We feel that given a thirty year period of life at an economic rent – and here economic in this sense means no profit but just covering your expenses over a thirty year period – and taking into consideration some element of maintenance, we can rent it to some people at a rate of about $80 a month, and there are several Barbadians who would want houses of this kind. This is the same 800 square feet house built by Urban Development Corporation, and if we could rent it at $80 a month without making any profit whatsoever but merely recovering our cost of capital construction and land, we feel that we would be helping a sizable portion of this community who at this moment is not receiving to my mind the help it should receive.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, before the Minister moves off this point, is this the same 800 square foot house as the U.D.C. house and Ideal Homes? (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Yes.) How much a square foot does this house cost to build?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there are two types of houses built by Urban Development Corporation. The houses at Wanstead Terrace are 1,150 square feet houses which sell for $25,000, but there is a 800 square

foot house in the area which does not look different from the others, but it is a smaller house. That house would be sold for around $20,000. I think, Mr. Chairman, that that answers to a considerable extent most of the questions except two.

There is a question I want to refer to and I think the hon. member for St. James would be interested in this, and it is the question of poor people being pushed to the back as referred to by the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, and he referred to a couple of estates. To the best of my knowledge any plantation that has a tenantry has to get specific permission to resite houses. This is slightly off the beam, but I hope you do not mind the explanation. This was done in the case of St. Catherine's in St. Philip where several persons were removed from the sites they occupied and given an area of land not far away, not in the back but also on the front road, while before they were renting. This is Wiltshire Plantation. They were given an area of land and in addition they were given money to remove their houses from where they were on to the lands that were given to them, and what is more, they were also given a playing field. Now this was one of the conditions laid down for our approval of the planning application. Similarly the same thing happened with Newton. It might be that the persons who were resited have not yet got the legal documents of title to the property, but this was one of the things that the developers themselves said they would do. Here is a case of people owning land which they did not own before; they were renting before and here was an apportunity to own their own land, and from the plans that I can remember they were certainly not pushed in the back, but were pretty close to the Lodge Road area. They were given as a condition of planning approval an area of land and in addition they were given money to move the houses on to the land. I can only imagine that it is a question of time before they get in their hands legal documents giving them title to the lands they now occupy. So I think that disposes of that question.

As regards the question of Lammings, Sir, I am authoritatively advised that assistance was given to all persons who were moved on to the lands at Lammings. I know it is the policy...

Mr. HINDS: Did the Minister say "to" or "for" all persons?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Assistance is given to all persons. I know it is not the policy of the Housing Authority to provide steps. What the Housing Authority does in giving plots for resiting of houses is to privide the barest minimum as far as groundsel is concerned, but they do not provide steps. This question of providing steps remains the responsibility of the house owner himself, and it may be possible for the house owner in addition to the assistance he receives to seek a loan from the Housing Authority which is repayable on very soft terms. Proper roads have already been installed in the Lammings area; but the hon. member for St. Joseph tells us that there is a gully running somewhere at the back of the housing area. There are no houses placed near to that gully. Barbadians know gullies; we were born and found gullies here. Gullies were probably here before they were Barbadians as part of the geological formation of our country, and barbadians have been living with gullies all the time. I myself have no great fear of any person falling into gullies and suffering any injuries more perhaps than they can fall on level roads and do themselves injury.

There is one point I want to touch on before I take my seat. We are in the process of reorganising housing generally in Barbados. We are in the process of bringing Urban Development Corporation and the Housing Authority under one organisation. We are reorganising housing physically as well as policy-wise, and we have to look at our criteria for placing people in houses. In due course this Hon. Chamber will be told in clear terms what form national housing development will take in this country. Indeed it is going to necessitate completely new legislation from what we have at the moment. Mr. Chairman, I have dealt at length with housing.
7.10 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister has missed some points I made. There was a plan afoot for Orange Hill where land was to be acquired to put a Housing Area there, I asked if the Minister could tell us what plans he has for this and for the resort houses, whether they come under the entire national scheme of housing. In their Manifesto of 1961 they proposed to build resort houses for the workers of the country and a whole national housing scheme, can you tell this Committee what plans you have for these?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am guided by the mandate that the people of this country gave the Democratic Labour Party on 9th September, 1971. As regards the Orange Hill Housing Estate, there is an area of land, I think it is 14 acres, which will be developed. In fact, it forms part of our plans for this financial year.

Mr. CRAIG: What about the resort houses? I am asking the Minister if these will be embodied

in the national housing scheme over the next five years. That is all I want to know.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I want to repeat that my policy is guided by what we approached the people on and received the mandate for on 9th September, 1971.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I can appreciate what the hon. member is saying, but they had a mandate in 1961 and there was another in 1966. Let us forget the mandate, would the Minister consider providing resort houses for the workers of this country? Would the Minister in his policy provide for the low income workers in this country? Would the Minister give them favourable consideration? If the Minister is not going to answer, will the Minister consider providing resort houses for the low income bracket in this country in his general policy on housing?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I have already stated what I am guided by, and that is it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the Hon. Minister and one thing that struck me is this, the Minister said that housing is one of the basic needs of mankind. I wonder if the Minister would tell us if the people of St. Peter are to be numbered amongst mankind in the same housing context. My reason for wanting to know this is plain and simple. Wherever one goes throughout this country of ours, when one listens to the Minister, plans are put before us of all types of development in respect of housing to be carried out here or there, and very good reasons are put forward in some cases for Government's decision to carry out developments in those particular areas. I well remember a time when the present Minister of Agriculture and a former member for St. Peter – a former colleague of mine – visited a site at Rockless. I must say that they did not go without the cameras accompanying them, but the net result has been until this day that the parish of St. Peter and its people are still without the low income housing that other parishes are enjoying. I am sure it is not a case that there are not people in the parish of St. Peter who need such benefits, it is not a case that land is not available in the parish of St. Peter where this type of development could be shared, if not equally, partially, what then is the reason? I have heard the Minister make mention of slum clearance, and I am saying here and now that in and around Speightstown, our island's second town, there is a sizeable amount of slum clearance to be undertaken there, and it is all right for somebody to tell us about the Speightstown Development which we may never see, the thing is this, that our Housing Authority throughout all these years of its existence has seen fit to extend benefits to other parishes and can say that it has done little or nothing for the parish of St. Peter. All we have in St. Peter is the Maynard's Housing Estate where people rent plots and the Church Street Gardens development, and it is not for me to say how silly or short-sighted the Government might have been with the Church Street Gardens Development, because this brings us back to that sore question about Forde's Pasture.

7.20 p.m.

There is a history behind this, because in my view when the decision was taken to carry out the development at Church Street Garden, the ideal thing to have been done was to have taken up Forde's Pasture and to have made full use of it by providing a playing field. Everything necessary could have been incorporated there, the people in that parish would have had something to look at, the Housing Authority would feel that they had done something, and could not have been accused of serving this parish in some measure and leaving the parish of St. Peter completely out of its Development Programmes year after year. Nobody could suggest that it is reasonable. What I say here is that there are people who are crying out for the type of assistance low-income housing provides.

I have time and again tried in every way to put the needs of the people before this Honourable Committee. The Rockless attempt is something at which the people must laugh, because I do not think that a Minister of Housing is going to set out from his office to go to the site at Rockless without the Health Authorities and everybody who would be of some assistance in helping him to arrive at a decision on the matter. Where housing is concerned, I am sure the Minister would not have set out without their knowledge. For anybody to tell me that a Minister would have to leave his office in Bridgetown to go to Rockless then to learn that the area is in Zone 1 or Zone 2, and to develop this is likely to affect the Island's water resources, is a huge joke anybody could hear.

Mr. Chairman, that is exactly why the Minister of Housing has to be supplied with his map and his information in his office to guide him, so that he would not go out on a wild goose chase. When we found that Rockless was not a suitable site for development as a housing estate, surely then the best that could have been done was to have looked around the parish and see where land could be obtained. If it were in truth and in fact the intention of the Government to give the people of the parish of St. Peter an opportunity to benefit from the low-income housing

that was made available to people in other parishes, the government would have done something about it.

Mr. Chairman, I find that the Leader of the House has acquired a very peculiar liking for the development in and around Heywoods, and I am suggesting to the Hon. Minister that it is not too late for the Government to acquire some of the Heywoods land and to set up a housing development project there where people in the slums areas can find a proper place to live. If you turn off Sand Street you will see the conditions under which those people at the back of Sand Street live. It is shocking to see the conditions in Bovelle's Lane and Archer's Lane where people are living almost one upon the other. I really cannot describe the conditions as they ought to be described, because I have found myself entering what appeared to be somebody's front door and stepping somewhere to find that I was going through fronts and backs. How they get in and out of these houses, I just cannot understand. If fire were to break out in some of these lanes, I do not know what would happen with those poor people. Some of them are so situated that they have nothing called privacy, and they have no basic facilities.

Mr. Chairman, it is Government's duty to help these people. We are not suggesting that the Government must go to St. Peter and build 300 houses in a year, but if the Government went there and set up a dozen houses in one year, or made provision for accommodating 25 families in one year, it would bring some sort of relief to the people. Those who did not get relief in the first year would have a hope of being relieved in years to come. In other words, there would be a feeling that something would be done for them at some time or other. After all, it is not a question of the choice of the people and the way they have cast their votes. The parish of St. Peter had a Minister of Government, but his Ministry happened to be the Ministry of Youth Affairs and not Housing. I am asking the Minister to put the parish of St. Peter on his books, leave beside it the space, and, on the first occasion that he finds it possible to get his advisers and experts together, they can go to Heywoods and see if some small plot could not be acquired and adjoined to Forde's Pasture.
7.30 p.m.

It is no point, Mr. Chairman, that because of what happened with Forde's in the past and with our drainage experts coming down.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I just want to tell the hon. member that the parish of St. Peter is already on my books as indeed all the parishes.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is now going to tell us what are his plans for carrying out housing development in St. Peter, and I am willing to sit and hear what are his plans for some sort of housing development so that the working class people in that parish can benefit from the type of low income housing that other parishes are now enjoying.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, we have a problem in St. Peter. As the hon. member quite rightly said, some time ago we went to Rockless and in the Estimates we had provision for thirty houses in St. Peter. We also thought of the housing situation in Orange Hill. We acquired the land at Orange Hill, but we did not get the land at St. Peter because the Town and Country Planning Officer did not give permission to the Ministry to put the houses in that area. The hon. member cited yesterday the question of Ashton Hall area with their water problem. It was pointed out that at Rockless we had this problem. We also looked around at the Coleridge–Parry area, but we have not been able to acquire the land. However I think the Minister gave you the assurance that St. Peter is not forgotten. What I would suggest to the hon. member is to select an area which he thinks is good, because we are all representatives of the people, and then if we do not cooperate, then he can brand us, and I would be the first to join him. We feel that the people in St. Peter are deserving of these facilities like anybody else, and I am not going to sit in Cabinet or in the House and encourage discrimination. If you can assist us to solve the problem, I am sure all of us will cooperate, and if you have a suggestion, I think the Minister is the type of person you can talk to and will be willing to cooperate.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I heard what the Minister had to say. Real estate is not my line, but I have canvassed the opinions and feelings of the people of St. Peter who need this type of service we are seeking to provide, and we are satisfied that there can be an extension further north of the Church Street Gardens Development to bring in Forde's and a small portion of the same Heywoods which would give the people of St. Peter satisfaction, and this Government could go and rest itself for I do not know how long. There would be no further worry from St. Peter for a very considerable time. The land is there, and remember, there is no water problem in the area we are now discussing, and with the survey team coming down here about drainage, it just does not arise.

Mr. Chairman, Government found a problem to house people at Forde's and the land was given back; but people have gone there on their own and are living quite comfortably. Do not let us go into Forde's anymore Mr. Chairman. We are just asking Government to look at the Church Street Gardens Development and a little further north as I have said, take in Forde's Pasture or part thereof and part of Heywoods which is called Golden Shores Development, and I am sure we will get as many acres as we want there for a fairly good settlement. We are satisfied that the portion of Heywoods land that we would require is not going to be the expensive type of land, because it would fall under the same Coleridge and Parry hill.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I was particularly happy to hear certain remarks made by the Minister, because it shows that one of the things he has done since the Government has won the election was to read the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, and particularly the part which states:– "The Party therefore undertakes to reorganise the entire Housing administration in Barbados to provide the citizens...etc." If he could have seen the original document from which the portion on housing was written, he would have noticed that it was headed: "Housing, Urban and Rural Development. Housing and Urban development should be brought together in one department of Government. The Party therefore recommends a Department of Housing and Urban and Rural Development with one Statutory Board to deal with these subjects." Perhaps he must have peeped at this before saying that.

Anyhow we on this side are particularly glad of this because we have been saying even before the question of elections came up that the idea of having two separate authorities, one for low income and one for urban development, was not operating as efficiently as it could have done had there been one Department of Government. I think the whole thing about it was that the Manager of the Urban Development Corporation whose substantive post is actually the Manager of the Housing Authority is perhaps the only person who has any idea of low income housing, and it was a shame that although he was actually trained in this sort of thing that his services to the Housing Authority were lost when he went to the Urban Development Corporation. We are particularly happy to see that the Government intends to bring housing and urban development under one Ministry.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of explanation, did I understand the hon. member to say that the Manager of the U.D.C. is the only person who knows about low income housing? That is certainly not the case.

Mr. MOTTLEY: He is originally a surveyor and has his Master's degree in Environmental Sanitation, low income housing and so on.

On the question of man power survey, we on this side of the House would again say that it seems as though the Minister has adopted, because he said he read the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, a great number of the ideas set out therein, because in the manifesto it was stated that if the future man power requirements in Barbados are to be adequately diagnosed and Barbadians trained to meet these requirements, the Party will therefore implement immediately a re-organisation of the Ministry of Labour, establish a reorganised Labour Department and decentralisation of labour exchange to ensure that the public is aware of employment opportunities available.
7.40 p.m.

In the Manifesto it is stated that if the future manpower requirements in Barbados are to be adquately diagnosed and Barbadians trained to meet these requirements, the Party will therefore implement immediately a reorganisation of the Ministry of Labour, establishing a reorganised Labour Department and a decentralisation of Labour exchanges to ensure that the public is aware of employment opportunities available. Every effort will be made to see that these opportunities are made known to people who seek opportunities for work. A Manpower Research Unit will be established, working in close conjunction with the Education authorities to provide:–

(a) greater vocational guidance and training, and

(b) higher productivity.

As I said, we on this side are particularly glad to see that the Government has adopted, as they have done in the past, some of the recommendations of the Barbados Labour Party.

I do not want to keep back the Committee for any length of time, but I would urge the Minister to have another look at the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, because the note to this Item reads: "To meet infrastructure, utility services and consultancy fees for studies on a town centre development at Cave Hill, consultancy fees for redevelopment of Oistins and

Speightstown and expenses of compilation of a building code for Barbados." On the question of the building code, this is something that I know the former Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Bernard St. John has been calling for quite some time, we on this side of the House welcome that the Government has at last got around to compiling a building code. On the other aspects of it, Sir, we would recommend that in addition to the redevelopment of Oistins and Speightstown, as we set out in our Manifesto, three other sites, Belleplaine, Welchman Hall and an area in St. Philip, should also be done. We feel that there should be some sort of decentralisation of most of the facilities provided by the Government, and we seriously recommend to the Government at this stage to consider this in the urban redevelopment plan. I know they have borrowed the idea of the development policy from our Manifesto in 1966, and in that year we also mentioned Central St. George and we seriously urge on the Government to investigate the possibility of the redevelopment of these areas in addition to the areas of Oistins and Speightstown.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be congratulated on the manpower survey, it was not my idea, I came into the Ministry and found that my predecessor had already done some work on it, so the question of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto could not arise.

On the question of the building code, the hon. member probably does not know that we had a building code in operation at Cave Hill for quite some time now, and the intention merely is to extend it, look at it again, and in fact, wherever people want to take advantage of mortgage insurance facilities that building code applies, and we want to have a good look at it and see if we can extend it to the whole island.

The question that the sum of $8,260,000 under Head 109 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 110 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 110 – Ministry of External Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there are certain amendments to be made as follows:–

Item 1 – High Commission in the United Kingdom.

Delete exisitng note and insert new note to read as follows:–

(a) "To renovate the official residence of the High Commissioner, purchase of kitchen equipment, and to provide accommodation for household staff.

(b) to renovate the chancery at 6 Upper Belgrave Street, London so as to provide additional office space."

Item 2 – High Commission in Canada.

Delete existing note and insert new note to read as follows:–

(a) "To carry out alterations in the layout of office space.

(b) alterations to the official residence of the High Commissioner so as to provide quarters for an additional maid.

(c) to purchase on mortgage a house for the Counsellor, to provide furniture and to meet legal fees and other expenses connected with the purchase."

Item 3 – Embassy at Washington.

Delete existing note and insert new note to read as follows:–

(a) "To complete renovations on the porch of the official residence of the Ambassador, and to effect renovations to the basement and top floor of the chancery.

(b) to purchase on mortgage a house for the Counsellor, to provide furniture and to meet legal fees and other expenses connected with the purchase."

I beg to move that the sum of $282,865 under Head 110 – Ministry of External Affairs – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would be so kind as to give us a breakdown on item 1.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way I will give him all the information. Item 1 – High Commission in the United Kingdom, $142,500. This sum is required for the following purposes: $100,000 to renovate, redecorate and partially furnish Iverta, the Official residence of the High Commissioner, to purchase new Kitchen equipment and provide accommodation for household staff as follows: The provision of accommodation for domestic staff $31,200, painting, redecorating and refurnishing $52,800; Contingencies to cover increase in cost of materials and labour $16,800, making a total of $100,800. $41,700 to effect certain renovations and alterations to the Chancery at 6, Upper Belgrave Street, London, with a view to providing additional office space as well as securing more efficient utilisation of the available space. Basement £2,730.
7.50 p.m.

Cafetaria £2,730
Cafetaria area:
Lunch Room and
furniture ... ... £462 *(Asides)*

I am glad to hear that you are satisfied.

The question that the sum of $282,865 under Head 110 – External Affairs – as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 111 – OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE

Head 111 – Office of the Minister of State – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $237,481 under Head 111 – Office of the Minister of State – stand part of the Schedule. It is just a revote.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule, as amended, stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 be amended by substituting the figure "one hundred million, four hundred and twenty-eight thousand, three hundred and ninety-three dollars" for the figure "one hundred million, two hundred thousand, eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars."

I beg to move that Clause 2, as amended, stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Clause 3 was called and passed.

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 be deleted, and that Clause 5 be renumbered as Clause 4.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4, as amended, stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill, as amended, do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATES OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1972-73

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next item under Government Business, is a Resolution to approve the Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1972-73. As the Addendum sets out:

> "This Resolution is usually called the Estimates of Revenue and of Expenditure of the Port Department in respect of the year 1972-73, and as detailed in the Estimates 1972-73 under Annexed Estimates Port Department, it shows Current, Total Revenue and Total Expenditure $3,137,019, and the Capital shows under revenue at $569,723, and the expenditure a similar amount."

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for four weeks as from last Tuesday, that is, to the 18th April, 1972, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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