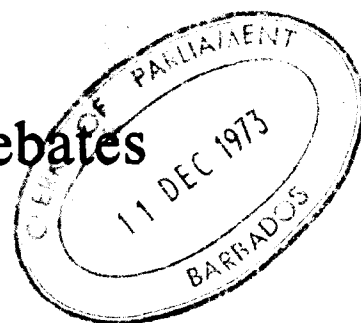


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th March, 1972.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Leader of the House); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. A. MORRISON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity, I am sure on behalf of all hon. members, to say what a pleasure it is to see so many school children present in the Gallery this afternoon. I hope that you find this an education in itself, and I hope that other schools will take such an interest in public affairs. Who knows, some of you ladies might be sitting in this Chamber representing your country at a later date.

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to lay the Papers at a later stage in this sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave is granted.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again, Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to lay the Government Notices at a later stage in this sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Such leave is granted.

Messrs. MOTTLEY and FORDE entered the Chamber and took their seats.
2.40 p.m.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

INACCURATE REPORTING BY ADVOCATE REPORTER RE LEASING OF LAND TO MOTOR SERVICES LIMITED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on a question of personal explanation and point of privilege, hon. members will recall that in a report of the sitting of the House which took place on Tuesday last there was a report appearing in the *Advocate* regarding the leasing of a parcel of land at the Deep Water Harbour to Motor Services Limited. In the report in the *Advocate* of Friday, March 3, 1972, on page 5, we see: "LEASING MOTION PASSED." The hon. member for St. Michael West was referred to as having voted against the passing of the Resolution, whereas in truth and in fact the Minutes will prove that the hon. member did vote for the passing of this Resolution for the lease of this parcel of land to Motor Services Limited. This newspaper will be made a document of the House, and, together with the Minutes of the meeting, will prove clearly and conclusively that the hon. member did actually vote in favour of the passing of this Resolution whereby the Government is leasing this small parcel of land to Motor Services Limited.

The article starts this way:

"When the House of Assembly last week discussed a Resolution to lease a portion of

land at Fish Alley, Fontabelle, to Motor Services Ltd., Opposition Members were critical of the terms of the lease which provided that 1,075 square feet of land should carry a rental value of 12 cents per square foot until 1994."

In the last paragraph the report states:

"There was a division on the motion, (Mr. Frank Walcott voting with the Opposition) which was passed by a 10 - 5 vote."

The Minutes of this meeting of the House prove conclusively that the hon. member for St. Michael West did actually vote for the passing of a Resolution and not against; so that this report is inaccurate in that respect as supported by the minutes of the meeting. We are taking objection to this report and to the breach of privilege of the House in that it is an inaccurate report of what took place in this Chamber.

I was hoping, Sir, that the hon. member might have been present in order for him to participate in this personal explanation. In his absence and in view of the fact that this is the first time the House is meeting since this breach of privilege has been committed, I think it is my duty to raise the matter and have Your Honour's guidance on it. I think that a Motion will have to be made at some stage. It may well be that the Hon. Prime Minister may want to explain this matter thoroughly or to take part in it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think what is now called for is a Motion to that effect. The explanation, to my mind, is quite clear.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am very interested in what the Hon. Leader had to say about the absence of the hon. member for St. Michael West. Regrettable as that may be that he is away on business in connection with his organisation, it is not a breach of any personal privilege that we are concerned with here today. It is a breach of privilege of the House, and deliberate misreporting of the proceedings of this Chamber must constitute a breach of the privilege of this Chamber; therefore, whatever the hon. member for St. Michael West may have to say in indignation or explanation is not relevant to the subject matter of the Motion which I want to make.

I want to get this abundantly clear. The offending article went out of its way to say that there was a division on the Motion - and Mr. Frank Walcott voted with the Opposition - which was passed by a 10 - 5 vote. I do not know whether the Opposition was passed by a 10-5 vote. They do not

have much chance of being passed by any kind of way in here, but this is the standard of reporting that we get in the only daily newspaper in the Island. In the first place, Mr. Speaker, it is a breach of privilege of the whole House to deliberately misrepresent the proceedings of the House. Not only does this misrepresent the proceedings of the House, but it deliberately misrepresents the proceedings of the House, because everyone knows that there are 6 members in the Opposition. The hon. member for Christ Church West did not elect, as far as I can understand, to get involved in the discussion which was going on at that stage of the House's session - he was absent.

Mr. FORDE rose - -

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: He was absent, in other words. I would not like to say like our Broadcasting Stations that rumour has it that he disagreed with the Leader of the Opposition, but he did not elect to be present as I myself was absent. On a division, the usual practice is that the name of each member is called and the division is recorded by the Clerks of the House. If there is a division the correct thing for a Reporter - an intelligent, unbiased and unmalicious Reporter - to do is to record the names of the people who voted for the Resolution and those who voted against, or simply to record that the Resolution was carried 10-5, but when they singled out one particular member of the House to say that he did not support the Government when that member is a member of the Governing Party or even a member of the Opposition *mutatis mutandis*, Mr. Speaker, I do not care whether this is a privilege against or a slander against one particular member, on whichever side of the House it is, it is a privilege of the House which is being abused.

Now, if this was all there was to it, Mr. Speaker, I would not really worry about that, but when a prominent member of the Opposition Party who himself was present and voting on the occasion - and that member is not present at the moment - walks up and down the Kensington Stand at cricket spreading the rumour, "How is it that the member for St. Michael West voted against the Government," this is causing despondency and alarm amongst Her Majesty's subjects in this Island. Furthermore, it is giving aid and comfort to the Government's enemies in the realm or elsewhere, and you know what that is an interpretation of. How could a member of the House be so irresponsible? You can only come to the conclusion that that member himself writes the presentation in the daily newspaper, because how else he, being present and voting, could fall into that error of further publicising what could only amount to a mischief on the House, is something that no decent-thinking person can comprehend.

Now, there is only one way in which matters like this can be dealt with, and you have a duty to the House as the custodian of its privileges. I am now stating categorically that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation also committed this error. I understand that - it would only be hearsay and I could not make a motion - another medium of public communication, the Barbados Rediffusion Limited, also did it. In both cases some kind of apology was made, but that is not good enough.

2.50 p.m.

Journalists in this country have got to realise that they have a responsibility to the community. In a subsequent issue the Barbados Advocate-News did not print that there was a division on the motion and Mr. Frank Walcott voted with the Opposition. What they said is that Mr. Walcott denied voting with the Opposition. That is not an apology, because you are leaving the germ of suspicion in the mind of the unwitting, the ignorant and malicious of whom there are quite a few in this country, particularly those adherents to political parties other than the Government Party, that the report was not an inaccurate report, but that Mr. Walcott is denying it, which is compounding the felony and compounding the mischief because they categorically stated that Mr. Walcott voted with the Opposition.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael-West got in touch with me shortly before he left this country on Sunday and was most indignant about it, and I daresay he considered it a criminal libel, and a criminal libel as such which would provoke, if I may precis the definition, a breach of the peace, and it appeared to me quite clearly that if the member for St. Michael-West could have laid his hands or his eyes upon the Editor of the Advocate-News that a breach of the peace was likely to occur, and I am very serious about that. I know the hon. member and the provocation was so great.

The motion which I want to make is as follows:-

That the passage complained of in the Advocate-News of Friday, 3rd March, 1972, and the publication over Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation on the 2nd and 3rd March, 1972, constitute 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 cause 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 same breach.

I should like to add the words "for such period as Your Honour may deem fit" after the words "Her Majesty's prison." I did not mean that they should be committed indefinitely, because not even the members on the other side would like them committed indefinitely.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have often heard in this House.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member cannot get up to speak unless he is seconding the motion.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the motion was seconded by the Leader of the House. Have I got the Prime Minister's permission to continue?

Mr. Speaker, I have often heard the Prime Minister say that this House does not have the powers of the House of Commons at Westminster and I am well aware that Westminster newspaper editors do from time to time find themselves being summoned before the Bar of the House for misreporting the events of Parliament. There have been times when I have looked at the television screen and seen what the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has done to the efforts of the Opposition when I have wished that that power existed in Barbados also; but my impression, Mr. Speaker, and I raise this as a matter of order, not as a matter of argument, is that such power as Your Honour has to determine matters of this sort is entirely to be found within the Parliamentary Privileges and Immunities Act, Sections 23 and 26 of that Act, since on numerous occasions it has been held that the general power does not rest with this body, that it only has such statutory powers as are granted to it today or were granted to it in colonial times, and the powers which exist within sections 23 and 26 to deal with strangers and section 35 in particular did not allow any citizen of Barbados to be summoned before the Bar of this House to be committed to Glendairy Prison at the will of the House or of Your Honour. I have every confidence that Your Honour is fully capable of exercising your responsibilities under such a power if it existed as Mr. Selwyn Lloyd at Westminster, Mr. Lamareux at Ottawa or whatever Speaker may have these powers; but I am submitting that the motion is perhaps, unfortunately, out of order. I have already cited the Prime Minister's own authority because he has often said that we have

no right to free speech in here under common law, but we only have such right of free speech, without prosecution, as is given to us by statute, and perhaps the authority upon which Your Honour can more immediately rely, namely section 35 of the Act which I have cited. This section says that any person who publishes any writing containing a gross, wilful or scandalous misrepresentation of the proceedings of either Chamber or of any Committee thereof or the speech of any member in the proceedings of either Chamber.....is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction thereof by a Magistrate's Court to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine or imprisonment. I respectfully submit to Your Honour that Your Honour's powers are limited to proffering the information and giving Your Honour's consent to the carrying on of a prosecution under that section of the Act that the motion moved by the Prime Minister is wholly out of order as being beyond the powers of this Chamber.

Having said that, let me join with the mover of the motion in deploring any misrepresentation of what goes on in here. I am not sanctioning the motion on C.B.C. or the Advocate in any way, but I would say this: I would urge upon all hon. members to search their memories upon the occasion in question which I take it is the misrepresenting of the voting of hon. members. I was not in here at the early stages.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You are on a point of order, but you are making a speech.

Mr. ADAMS: I am speaking on a motion moved and I am saying that the motion is out of order, I am submitting firstly that the motion is out of order and I am now speaking to the motion. In extenuation of what these editors may have done, I would urge this on hon. members: 3.00 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, has the hon. member got a brief for the Editor of the Advocate-News? If there is no case before the House, as he argues, I do not understand how the Hon. Leader of the Opposition can speak as Counsel for the Defence or in mitigation of punishment. I will make a suggestion to Your Honour which will be contrary to everything the hon. member has said, but it does appear to me that I now get confirmation, and I should like the hon. member for St. Thomas to give this House an undertaking that he at no time at Kensington Oval in the parish of St. Michael said to several people that this was an accurate report, or that he did not, as a matter of fact, repeat the inaccuracy of the

report, which would also confirm in my mind that there is a possibility that the report may have been fed to the particular newspaper and agencies.

Mr. ADAMS: I really cannot understand that point of order, Sir, but if the Minister wants what went on at Kensington to be discussed I will tell him.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I asked whether the hon. member would give an undertaking that he did not repeat what appeared in the newspaper at Kensington Oval. I also said that there is no case for him to plead mitigation because we are not aware that he has been engaged as Counsel for the Defence.

Mr. ADAMS: Why does the Prime Minister not behave himself? I came in here in a quiet mood and he is getting up talking in this way, all of us in this House do not want our votes misrepresented. I told the hon. member for St. Michael North West I thought I had heard the hon. member for St. Michael West say "no" and he said no, he said "oh".

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the words "why does the Prime Minister not behave himself."

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I withdraw them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Please say it out loud that everybody can hear because I was not misbehaving myself, I was pointing out the sins of omission and commission of the hon. member. If that is misbehaving, on a point of privilege, I would like to know, so I would like the hon. member to get up and withdraw that statement or he will have to be named.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I was trying to withdraw it when I was up, he made me sit down and get back up to withdraw it. The Prime Minister is behaving himself perfectly, entirely in accord with the best traditions of Parliament. I am merely submitting that he had made a motion which is out of order; that is all.

All that happened at Kensington Oval is that the matter was discussed between the member for St. Michael North West and myself, and he assured me - and I told him at the time that I accepted his assurance - that the hon. member for St. Michael West did not say "no" he said "oh." The Minister is right there. I said, if I recall correctly, that an "oh" sound or something that had an "oh" in it came from that side of the House, and he said it only had "oh" in it, and whoever was around me

laughed and continued the pleasant social intercourse that we were having upon such a pleasant occasion as seeing Barbados win the Shell Shield. I do not know why unpleasantries should creep into it now, Sir, but let me give the House another assurance. (I also spoke to the Clerk on a different occasion and asked him how the member for St. Michael West voted and he said he had recorded it as "aye;" that was before I spoke with the Minister). Let me give this assurance. I have had no conversation with any Reporter; I do not even know who the Advocate Reporter is or who the C.B.C. Reporter was upon that occasion. When I saw it on CBC I was indeed a little surprised, I will tell you that, and when I read it in the Advocate, having already spoken to the Clerk, I made a mental note that somebody perhaps made a little out there, and that is the occasion of my raising it with the hon. member for St. Michael North West.

Since this is a motion I may speak on - and I believe I would have finished by now had I not been interrupted - I am asking the House, if the House is minded to deal with the matter with such disciplinary powers as it possesses, which as at present advised I think extend no further than exclusion of the Advocate and CBC Reporters from reporting Debates - I believe the Standing Orders can make no greater penalty than that - if the House is so minded I will ask the House to deal with this matter leniently, whatever we are going to do. We cannot deal with it if an Information is preferred in a Magistrate's Court, and matters of mitigation will be for whoever the organisations engaged account to, but I am suggesting it be dealt with leniently here, because the hon. member did appear to speak in his obscurity against the Resolution at the start, and as the hon. member for St. Michael North West has said, an "oh" sound came from over there which has obviously deceived certain people.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I never at any time said that an "oh" sound might tend to deceive anybody.

Mr. ADAMS: The Hon. Minister said that it could not deceive anybody, it was an "oh" sound. I am quoting the Hon. Minister as saying that the hon. member for St. Michael West said "oh", and if he wants to deny that let him get up and deny that. He told me when I said that I heard an "oh" sound, that the member said "oh", and when I said I heard something with an "oh" in it he said it only had "oh" in it. Let him deny that, because I do not forget things that are said to me ever, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me remind hon. members that a very serious motion is before this House and not the private altercations of hon.

members outside of this House at a cricket match. The Prime Minister has made a motion and the Leader of the Opposition has made a submission that the motion is out of order. I want to hear arguments in furtherance of your suggestion and not what went on outside this House.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not going to address the House any further on whether the motion is out of order because I do not conceive it my duty to deal with matters of order which are thrown upon the Chair. No doubt Your Honour will take legal advice and your own counsel on these matters and decide whether the long propounded view of the Prime Minister that this House does not have the common law powers of the House of Commons is correct or whether his more recently put forward motion seeking to exercise those powers that he has for so long said we do not have. If I might respectfully say to Your Honour it is the two arguments which the Prime Minister has put forward from time to time from which you will have to choose and I am submitting that his earlier argument is the better one in law, that this House does not have the common law powers of the House of Commons at Westminster to commit anybody to prison. That is what I am submitting, and I am also arguing that whatever powers this House does have should be exercised leniently on this occasion, and I have instanced why; because the member for St. Michael West did appear to speak against the Resolution and because he said something at the stage of his vote which, however the argument might go as to whether it should have deceived anyone, very well may have deceived someone in connection with this matter. That is what I have to say about it.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know whether any other hon. member proposes to speak, but I must point out to the member who just sat down, since he is so prone to misquoting me, everything that he has said confirms a suspicion that I always had, that the report may not have been indirectly connected with the hon. member for St. Thomas.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir, I have directly said that the report is in no way connected with me, and for the Prime Minister to say that he is not sure about that is to impute dishonourable motives to another hon. member, and I would ask him to withdraw it. If there is any form of words of denial which he would wish me to put to say that I had nothing to do with that report indirectly or otherwise I will put it, but he must not continue to make this insolent suggestion in the face of a straightforward denial.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I merely said that the hon. member's speech, or words to that effect, confirmed in my mind that the report is not indirectly connected with him, so however he wants to construe that is another matter, but I at no stage called him a liar. He has called me a liar on frequent occasions, but what I do want to say is that he has deliberately misrepresented what I have said about the law and custom of Parliament.

3.10 p.m.

What I have said is that from time to time.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. No hon. member can say that another hon. member is deliberately misrepresenting something. He must withdraw that; that is obviously imputing improper motives.

Mr. SPEAKER: While I agree that the Standing Orders are very clear against imputing improper motives, in the cut and thrust of argument when one uses these terms, I think, from the general tenure of the debate and so on, one is not in any way imputing improper motives to the hon. member.

Mr. ADAMS: Misrepresentation, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: In the cut and thrust of the debate, I do not consider that he is imputing improper motives.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: May I continue, I should like to assure the hon. member that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you let me finish, please.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I should like to assure the hon. member that, knowing him as I do, he never has to have a motive for saying things or doing things; so I could not be imputing improper motives to him. I just want to get on with the discussion on a higher level. I have never, at any stage, said that the privileges of the House of Commons do not attach to this House. It is a different thing to say that members of the House do not necessarily enjoy the same privileges that members of what used to be called the Mother of Parliaments enjoy. It is a slightly different matter, and I have always been very strong on this.

What I have said 15 years before the hon. member came in here, and I have said consistently, is that the law and custom of Parliament in the United Kingdom is not necessarily the law and custom of Parliament in Barbados. But if from 1629 when the first Legislature was convened in this Place — as a

matter of fact, it was convened in the Town Hall, but I mean in the City of Bridgetown — we have developed customs of Parliament, then those customs, unless our Standing orders or Parliamentary Privileges Act state otherwise, should be followed in the absence of any direct statement in our Standing Orders or in the Parliamentary Privileges Act on these particular points.

What I am stating now categorically is that on two occasions since I have been a member of this House, and before the hon. member became a member of this House, his immediate antecedent not only as Leader of the Opposition, but genealogically had Editors of the newspapers summoned to the Bar of this House to show cause why they should not be committed. That is the law and custom of this Parliament, and I was satisfied with it at that level. If the hon. member is not only going to disagree with me, but he is going to disagree with his eminent forebear on the law and custom of this Parliament that is a matter for him. What I resent is any twist being made on any statements that I make in public, because my statements are there for all to see unless they are printed in the process of publication in a version other than that in which I have stated them. (*Asides.*) I do not have to go back to Erskine May.

The hon. member elected to withdraw at the time when I was making the point that on two occasions his immediate antecedent in office and his immediate forebear had Editors summoned here and that is the law and custom of our Parliament, but I do not agree that the law and custom of the Parliament in the United Kingdom is in anyway binding on this Parliament and on this country. I have said so on many occasions. In order to save a lot of argument, Sir,.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. I am objecting to the committal to Glendairy, and not to the summoning here. I have been present in this House to see an Editor made to come here to apologise. It is the committal to Glendairy which is out of order.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The committal, I respectfully submit, is not a matter for me but for the Chair. If the hon. member convinces Your Honour when they are brought to the Bar of this House that this would be incorrect procedure and he can produce his authorities, I would not really object to that if he is able to convince so eminent a jurist as Your Honour, because they seem to think that all the wisdom is embodied on that side of the House, but this is your exclusive function. If the hon. member finds an embarrassment about the committal to

Glendairy, I believe that you have power to commit them to any other place. It may be in the dungeons of this Chamber itself; in the vaults of the Town Hall, or in Roebuck Street at the B.L.P. Headquarters. They are all equally offensive kinds of punishment to inflict, but wherever you want to commit them is a matter for Your Honour and not for me. If the hon. member would like me to delete the words "committal to Glendairy" and leave it to Your Honour's discretion I would be very glad to do so, but I hope that on the next occasion, if we think that the offence is sufficiently grave, both the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and I will be in a position to produce authorities which will set out Your Honour's powers under this procedure, and then the matter will be left entirely to Your Honour. I am not prepared to produce the authorities now, but I am satisfied that what I have said is correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: Having heard the Hon. Mover of the Motion and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think that, in the interest of a clear Ruling on this matter, I shall defer my Ruling on this Motion until the next or most convenient sitting of the House.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. It should be the Motion, as amended, because I have withdrawn the words "committal to Glendairy," but they should be summoned to the Bar of this House and such action taken as Your Honour may deem fit.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall defer my Ruling on the Motion, as amended, until the next or most convenient sitting of this House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, at this stage, with your leave, we are in a position to lay the Papers to be laid and the Notices to be given. I am asking that we proceed with these at this stage. *(Asides)*

PAPERS LAID

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Draft Estimates 1972-73 both on Current Accounts and Capital Accounts, and I should like to warn hon. members on both sides that I intend to proceed with the Debate on the Estimates for 1972-73 at the next sitting of the House not earlier than Tuesday, 14th March. In other words, if the next sitting of the House is the day after tomorrow this is not the date to which I allude.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the need of the Government to get through with the Estimates. Today is the sixth or seventh of March

or whatever it is, and they are making, obviously, a big allowance. Does the Prime Minister think that members — back benchers on both sides — can do justice, that justice could possibly be done to the Estimates with a sitting the day after tomorrow especially in a new House where there are very many inexperienced members, not so much on this side, but among the members of his own Party?

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not think that the hon. member was listening. I said at the next sitting of the House, and then I reassured hon. members that by the next sitting I meant not earlier than the 14th March; so that even if the House adjourned to the day after tomorrow, I would not be dealing with the Estimates the day after tomorrow.
3.20 p.m.

As far as inexperience is concerned, we have had complaints from the backbenchers on this side, and I will counsel the hon. member not to disturb his mind too much about that.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$241,101 out of the Consolidated fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72, Part 1 - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72, No. 36, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to approve, under section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960, the Annual Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1972-73.

A Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the year ending on 31st March, 1973.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 8, asked by the hon. member for St. Peter, is now ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with the Resolution for \$241,101 in all its stages today. Copies have been circulated to hon. members.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to deal with the Resolution for \$241,101,

and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

QUESTIONS

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:-

To enquire of the Minister of Communications & Works:-

Is the Minister aware of the fact that there is no water main running along Adventist Gap off King Street, in the parish of St. Michael?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister take the appropriate steps to remedy the situation at the earliest possible opportunity?

Mr. SPEAKER: It would appear that an Oral Reply will satisfy the hon. member for the City.

Mr. MOTTLEY: An Oral Reply is required.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is that the Minister is aware that there is no water main. There are no water mains in several other places in this country, and the water main in that part will take its position in the priorities established by the Ministry.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will ask the hon. member to give way because the Bill of which notice was given should be read a first time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member wants to put a supplementary question.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Would the Minister be able to say what place this would take in the Government's priorities?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The priorities are established on the number of houses involved, the number of major connections and the requests which have been sent in prior to the request of the hon. member for Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not ask for the basis of the priorities; I asked the order of the priorities and in what position this would come.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It is impossible at this stage to give the order because there are numerous requests from all over the Island for water in various districts.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If it would assist the hon. member, I can state what the first priority is, and that is Venture in St. John.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Would the Minister agree that if he says there are numerous requests for water mains in Barbados that after ten years of Government by the Democratic labour Party that this does not speak well for the Ministry of Communications and Works?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper supplementary.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think I should just answer that by saying that this Government in the last ten years established over 44,000 water connections in contra-distinction to 20,000 over a period of 300 years, and the mere fact that no water main is there is no condemnation of this Government, but shows that this Government needs to stay in power for another 15 years in order to remedy the neglect of the past 300 years.

Mr. ADAMS: Would the Minister agree that twice as great a length of water mains was laid in the ten years before 1961 as has been laid after?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper supplementary.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill 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, be 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 nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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, and that it be an instruction to the Committee to deal with the Resolution for \$241,101 of which notice was given earlier in today's sitting.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, before the Chairman takes the Chair, the House is very hot today and those of us who have come from the Courts and were unable to take advantage of the relaxation of the standard of dress are finding it unbearable. A lot of windows are being opened in the Gallery and letting in the heat, and if the windows are allowed to be opened the House will get hotter and not cooler.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will instruct the Deputy Marshal to do his best to close the windows. The problem seems to be one of the absence of latches, but I will instruct him to do everything possible for the comfort of hon. members.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 35

Head 4 - Auditor General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 4 - Auditor General, Item 14 - National Insurance Contributions in the sum of \$892, the note is very explanatory but the additional information is that during the course of the current financial year the staff of the Auditor General's Department was increased by the addition of three permanent and three temporary officers as Auditors, and it is therefore necessary to supplement the vote of \$8,800 by \$892 under Item 14 - National Insurance Contribution.

The position, Sir, is that prior to the financial year 1971-72 the National Insurance Contribution vote was centralised in and administered by the Ministry of Finance. Under this arrangement there was no necessity to seek supplementary estimates for the provision of funds when additional staff was recruited by a Ministry or Department, as the central vote was flexible enough to facilitate such payments. Now that the vote has been decentralised, any additional staff recruited by Ministries or Departments must result in supplementary estimates being prepared as there is no other source from which payment can be made. I beg to move that Head 4 stand part.

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

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

Head 13 - Customs - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 13 - Customs, there are four items; Unestablished Staff, Overtime, Duty Allowance and Utilities. I will give some additional information for each of them if necessary.

Item 14. This additional sum of \$317 is required to supplement this because a similar sum was utilised from the current provision of \$16,470 for paying the wages of unestablished staff for the last week of the previous financial year, i.e. 1970-71.

As far as Overtime is concerned, Item 15, the sum of \$12,208 is required to supplement this Item as the current provision of \$27,000 is considered inadequate mainly because of -

- (a) an unforeseen increase of overtime rates with effect from 1st April, 1971 by approximately 50%;
- (b) an increase in the staff structure in the Customs Department by one Supervisor and four Customs Guards during the course of the current financial year.

The actual expenditure at the 19th January, 1972 was approximately \$21,101; if the revised overtime rate is to be adopted, then this sum should be increased by 50% to \$31,652 thus reflecting an average weekly expenditure rate of \$754 approximately. Therefore, the annual expenditure for this Item should be revised and increased to \$39,208, and that accounts for this requisition.

As far as Item 16 - Duty Allowance is concerned, the additional sum of \$2,850 is required to supplement the estimate of \$35,340

which is considered to be inadequate to meet commitments to the end of the financial year consequent on the recruitment of additional staff subsequent to the preparation and approval of the 1971-72 Estimates of Expenditure. This allowance is payable to officers who are assigned to duties at Seawell Airport, the Bridgetown Harbour and the Baggage Warehouse and are remunerated at the rate of \$50 each for four weeks. The current provision was calculated to pay a maximum of 60 officers; when this staff of the Customs Department was recently strengthened, an additional 9 officers were eligible to receive this allowance which is estimated at —

5 officers at \$50 per month with effect from 1st November, 1971	\$1,250
4 officers at \$50 per month with effect from 1st August, 1971	\$1,600
Making a total of	\$2,850

Item 26 — Utilities. The additional sum required is \$946 to supplement the original provision of \$2,450 which is inadequate to meet the commitments to the end of the financial year. The actual expenditure at 31st December, 1971 amounted to \$2,416 and there are commitments totalling \$140, which indicates an average monthly expenditure of \$283.
3.40 p.m.

The Revised Estimates for the year should be \$3,396, that is, \$946 more than the original Estimates. That is the full explanation, Sir.

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

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Customs is, undoubtedly, a revenue-earning Department, and for it to be short-staffed at any stage is, in our view, committing suicide. It is known that, with the increase in the manufacturing industry, there will be demands made upon the Customs Department from time to time where the importation of raw material and other duty-free items will be coming into the Island. This, I think, is one of the things that is testing the strength and the stamina of the limited staff in the Customs Department.

We are satisfied that, despite the fact that every effort is being made by the present staff to cope with conditions or situations as they present themselves, when we look at things we find that there has been an increase in staff, but at the same time there has been an increase in overtime. It shows us quite plainly that all is not well

somewhere and, undoubtedly, a case can be made out for a general revision or the restructuring of the staff of the Customs Department. We note that quite recently, as the Minister has said, officers had to do a sort of shift system and extra tours of duty from twelve noon until eleven midnight at Seawell Airport. Quite recently the demand on the staff at the Customs Department has been made greater by the operators of duty free shops. The most I want to say at this point is that all is not going well there, and that people are being blamed or that blame is being apportioned where it might not necessarily be placed. We would like to know that these things do not continue in this manner.

The duty free shops are demanding more space and crying out for expansion, and we would like to know that these things are taken care of. You will find under Customs Department - Item 26 — that \$946 is being asked for to supplement utilities. That in itself is a joke, because the situation that obtains there shows that there is no accommodation. There is no furniture to equip the lunch room for the staff at the Customs. You will go there and find that sometimes 15 members of the staff are being accommodated in a little room, but there is only seating accommodation for about three. I am sure this is something that no hon. member would like to see continuing in any Department of Government.

Now, we know that something can be done to reduce the overtime. Despite the fact that there has been an increase in the overtime rates, it is not every officer, because he is getting overtime, who really likes to be called upon to perform overtime duties every week-end. These are officers who have been working throughout the week, and they would certainly like to have some time to spend with their families. I refer to those officers who have families to look after, and we would certainly like to know that this matter is being looked into. The sooner that is done the better.

With regard to the manufacturers, we would like to know that no items are coming into this Island and being listed as duty free and escaping the attention of the proper authorities. This, we believe, requires increased staffing, and we would like to know that something is done in this respect. We would like Government to look at these matters as quickly as possible because, as I have said, the Customs Department means something in the life of this community.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to add something to what my colleague on my right has said just now. I am particularly concerned with the position at Seawell Airport and the Customs in particular. We are well aware of the fact that we

are having more traffic coming through the Customs at Seawell, and it is surely going to increase the pressure of work at the Customs. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if you keep your ears as close to the ground as I do, but there is a rumour — I hate to believe this, but I think this is the appropriate place to draw it to the attention of the Minister that quite recently some exclusive and expensive Night Club which was recently opened here — it is alleged, but how true it is I do not know — (*Asides*.) What are you getting worried about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you addressing the Chair?

Mr. CRAIG: No, Sir. I would never ask you what you are getting worried about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Therefore you will address me and have absolutely no concern with any other remark in this Chamber. I will deal with it.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am the Minister responsible for Customs.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman,.....

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order. I do not think that it is right for any hon. member to come in here and say that there is a rumour and he does not know if it is true. This is what we have been complaining about. I hear a lot of rumours about the Customs, too, coming from people who should know, but I do not bring them in the House. I usually investigate them. If the hon. member has any evidence of the abuse of the Customs facilities, I should be very glad if he would report it to my Ministry and I assure him that I would have it investigated and he can come and give evidence. I do not think it is right for any member of this Place to get up and say that there is a rumour, but he does not know if the rumour is true. If the hon. member has facts, he can bring the facts to me, or if he feels that I am unsympathetic or may be unsympathetic it is his duty to bring the matter before the House. We do not come in here and serve notice that it is a rumour, the veracity of which we have not checked, and then proceed to elaborate on it! That is quite improper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why the Prime Minister is jumping to the defence of any exclusive club. I am bringing the matter to the attention of the appropriate Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think this is completely out of order, and you will drop the matter there. 3.50 p.m.

That is completely out of order and the hon. member will drop the matter just there. There are ways and means under the Standing Orders to bring anything to the notice of the Appropriate Minister. Let the hon. member proceed with the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would never try to question your ruling, but I would like to crave your indulgence to say that there is no other place in which I can express my views in the interest of the public but in here, and therefore.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what I am about to do by giving you the opportunity to bring in the necessary questions, but not at this stage. That is my ruling. You can bring the questions at the appropriate time to the appropriate Minister, and you can say everything you know and be heard then and I will allow you to say it, but at this stage you must get on with Head 13 and the items you want to discuss.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with a matter which is now before the Committee and I am drawing to the attention of this Committee under Head 13....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must say which item he is dealing with under the Head.

Mr. CRAIG: I am dealing with Head 13.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Head 13 has four items.

Mr. CRAIG: I am speaking on Head 13.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are four items under Head 13 and I am prepared to hear the hon. member on either one of these four items.

Mr. CRAIG: Now, Sir, Head 13 has four notes, and I understood all along that I could debate Head 13, and I would ask that the Clerk assist you or me in this respect.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member sit. I have already stated that there are four items under Head 13 of which the hon. member can discuss either. I am prepared to hear the hon. member on either of these items. Any other item which the hon. member wants to discuss he will have to wait until the discussion of the Estimates where he will have from Item 1 to the end, but not at this stage.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If I may assist the hon. member, I think I ought to explain that this only shows the part of the Estimates under

which we want these items included. It is not subject to second reading speeches at this stage and roaming all over the Customs. The hon. member does not have to bring a question in here, he can get an investigation from me. But what I was objecting to, on a point of order, is that no one can come in here and serve notice that he heard a rumour, he does not know if the rumour is true, and then go on to expand on that. I think that is highly improper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already dealt with that matter and ruled that I will not be entertaining any discussion other than on the four items. The only way it will be entertained is by a substantive motion or question; so I do not want any clarification one way or the other.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, since I must obey your ruling, and since I have the power to bring a motion of "No Confidence" against you, and this is not beyond me, I will deal with a specific item which is Item 3; but I would also like you to ask the Clerks to assist you on some occasions, and I believe this Committee will be....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Item 3. You will sit. I am dealing with items, not notes.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it seems we are batting on a fairly bad wicket, but I would like to get on with you. It looks as if you are forcing me not to. I am dealing with Item 14, note 3, and I am asking you to ask the Clerks to assist you; that is what they are paid for. You are telling me that I cannot discuss this Head, I must deal with item after item. I have been in here for five years and I have never heard that yet. What nonsense are you telling me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will withdraw that.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to withdraw that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I say that the debate is closed. The hon. member will sit.

Is there any other hon. member who wants to contribute to this debate? If so, he can proceed.

The question that Head 13 - Customs - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 17 - Training Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 17, there are two items, Item 16 - Communications and Item 19 - National

Insurance Contributions. I think the notes are quite explanatory.

I beg to move that Head 17 - Training Division - stand part.

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

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

Head 26 - Lands and Surveys Department - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there are two items under this Head also of which I think the notes are pretty explanatory.

I beg to move that Head 26 - Lands and Surveys Department - stand part.

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

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

Head 45 - Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 45 - Ministry of Labour, National Insurance and Housing - stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$21,840 do now pass.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that Order No. 2 standing in the name of the Minister of Home Affairs be the next Order of the Day. As this deals with lands it should properly be dealt with by the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, but there seems to have been a typographical error in this respect. I am asking leave for the Minister of Housing to deal with it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, it has been explained to this Hon. Chamber that this may have been a typographical error, but in fact, although lands now fall under my responsibility, yet the appropriation still remains under the Ministry of Home Affairs and will so remain until the end of this financial year. That accounts for the fact that there is in fact not an error in who should introduce this Resolution.

The position is that \$2 million was appropriated at the beginning of the financial year for the purpose of land acquisition, but up to 25th February \$1,868,188 was spent.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw to your attention that when His Honour Mr. Speaker was in the Chair permission was given to deal with Item 1 only on the Order Paper. Having completed that, I think it is your duty now to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I thank the hon. member.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is also a supplementary, whereas the one I asked permission for did not form part of the Order Paper. It is an additional supplementary Resolution which does not appear on the Order Paper and of which I gave notice only today, so I asked for leave to deal with that as an additional supplementary along with the other supplementaries on the Order Paper. I do not think I have to ask for leave to deal with this because it is on the Order Paper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With all due respect to the Hon. Leader of the House, I can remember distinctly that before the Speaker left the Chair he precisely asked for permission to deal with one Resolution and I was calling it to his notice to deal with both money Resolutions but he did not. I feel that the hon. member in this instance is perfectly in order, so the necessary motion can be made that I report progress and ask for leave to sit again and ask that all the money Resolutions be dealt with in Committee of Supply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I asked for leave to deal with an additional Resolution apart from the one which appears and which was just concluded. In other words, I asked for leave to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$241,101 which is the additional one.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw something to your attention which is relevant to this matter. If you look at the Order Paper, Mr. Chairman, you will see at the top it states: "Hon. C. E. TALMA: To move the House

into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island:-" The sums to be granted for the service of the island come under Items 1 and 2. These are the two money Resolutions for supplementaries; it makes nonsense of the situation to move the House into Committee of Supply, then to report progress and then to come back and move into Committee of Supply again. It is only a question of bad arrangement of the Order Paper, we did not print it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to understand that I can only go by what I have heard and I am ruling now. All I am asking the Hon. Leader of the House to do is to report progress and ask for leave to sit again. The Clerks at the Table can bear me out.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I think that the original error occurred when His Honour the Speaker directed that a specific Resolution be dealt with, and I think Your Honour is right in this respect that you can only deal with what you have been directed to deal with.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$241,101 for which permission was given.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, no such permission was given.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I got leave to deal with this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Leader of the House asked for leave, but what I am saying is that His Honour the Speaker did not give instructions to the Committee to deal with it at this stage, Mr. Speaker only gave instructions to deal with Item 1.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

4.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I had asked for leave to deal with the Resolution for \$241,101 of which notice was given today. I understand that no leave was given, and I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House must now report the passing of the Resolution in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time.

Mr. HINDS: Make him sit, Sir. The duty of the Leader of the House is to report the passing of one Resolution in Committee. After that has been completed, he can then ask that we go back into Committee to deal with the other Resolution.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. This House is very lucky to have so many Speakers. Everybody is an Admiral, but that is not the point on which I rose. I think there was a certain amount of confusion, Sir, and I think the hon. member is right that the Leader of the House did ask that there be a directive that we deal in Committee of Supply with the Resolution for \$21,840. He then asked that there be a directive to deal with Order No. 2 which should have been under Order No. 1, and Your Honour did not put the question. It is a case of *casus omissus*, and I do not think that anyone intended doing this. I am respectfully suggesting that right now the hon. member should get up and move the passing of this Resolution, and then ask to be allowed to go back into Committee.

On the separate Motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolution was read a first time and second time and agreed to.

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 and that the instruction will be that the House while in Committee of Supply will deal with the Resolution in the sum of \$241,101 of which notice has been given together with the other Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs erroneously, but which in truth and in fact stands - it is a subject of lands and should be dealt with by the Hon. Minister of Lands, Housing, Labour and National Insurance. I would like to deal with those two Resolutions while the House is in Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I do not have a copy of that Resolution for \$241,101, Sir.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to doing this Resolution today, but, inasmuch as it was only handed to us today, we are wondering if we could only deal with the Resolution for \$250,000 at this stage, and later in today's proceedings deal with the other Resolution. The Resolution was only handed to us since the proceedings started, and members have not had an opportunity to read it. We are prepared to deal with it, but we are making that request of the Government at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the feeling of the House?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, we will deal with the Resolution which stands in the name of the Minister of Home Affairs but which is intended to be dealt with by the Minister of Lands, and it is to ask the House to pass a Resolution for the sum of \$250,000. We will deal with that first, and that will give hon. members time to read the other Resolution. As you have already directed, this Resolution along with the other one of which I have given notice will be dealt with. That Resolution is for \$241,101.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 34

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, the sum of \$2 million was appropriated for the purpose, as explained in the note, of the acquisition of land. Up to the 25th of February, \$1,886,188.75 was spent from this appropriation, and yet there are a number of properties which the Government has been negotiating to pay for. There are Abergeldie at Christ Church West, Dayrells Road, land aback Fairchild Street in the City of Bridgetown, land at Friendship Plantation for the purpose of sinking a well, and land at River Bay for the purpose of a beach facility. Now, the acquisition of properties will incur an expenditure of \$375,252.20. It is clear then, Sir, that the Item will have to be supplemented in order to meet these various expenditures. The sum required is \$250,000.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. FORDE: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member would give hon. members some idea of the purposes for which acquisitions are taking place, in particular since he has mentioned the constituency which I have the honour to represent. Perhaps he could give this House some indication of the purpose of the acquisition of Abergeldie.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I take it, Mr. Chairman, that no other members, at this stage, want to ask any further questions.

Mr. HINDS: We are still in Committee.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I know that we are, but at the same time I can reserve my right to speak until the end of the debate. (*Asides*) I can reserve my right not to speak at all. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of acquiring Abergeldie, a property at Dayrells Road, is to provide accommodation for Government officers. It is not office accommodation, but residential accommodation for Government officers. I think that answers the question posed by the hon. member.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, these Government officers have been given notice to move from premises around the Garrison, because we are taking over all Government buildings around the Garrison for offices. Local Government officers are encouraged to rent or purchase their own homes, but there are certain contract officers for whom we are under an obligation to provide reasonable accommodation and these are the ones that we have in mind.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Prime Minister to explain something while he is on his feet. He said they are taking over all the houses at the Garrison for offices. Some time ago I think one of the Ministers said there was going to be a school at the Garrison. Could the Prime Minister say if Government is still going through with that plan, or whether the idea has been abandoned?

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know, the buildings described as Married Women's Quarters have already been vacated, and that whole building is going to be torn down. I think tenders have been awarded for the demolition of the building. I did not want to go into that, but the reason why we have to do that, and there is some delay, is that we have discovered that in order to demolish a building it would take the Public Works a few months and probably \$60,000 or \$70,000, and then you would not see the materials so swift would be the going thereof. I am not saying that anybody in Public Works would be responsible, but we cannot get an old house removed from Martindales Road, but a whole Government building can disappear overnight. What we have hit upon is the device of awarding a contract for the demolition of the building for which the demolisher or whatever you call him would pay the Government for the privilege, and we are much better off that way. So it takes a little longer after the houses or buildings have been evacuated to get them torn down because we have to give it out on contract.

Lest anyone should say at a later stage that I did not give the House notice, some of the officers are being removed from the south-western part of the Garrison to make accommodation for the

Barbados Defence Force for which I will be coming with a Resolution, not as Commander-in-Chief, but as Minister of Finance and in charge of defence. The hon. member on the opposite side, I believe, was contending for that position.

Mr. CRAIG: I have not yet got my battle dress unlike the Prime Minister who is still sporting his.

The question that the Resolution do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 36

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$241,101.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Minister will agree that hon. members on this side have only received this Resolution after 3 o'clock and I think it would be asking too much of us to start doing it now. At least I think we should have an hour or two to look at it in order to make some contribution to the debate. It is unfair to ask us to do this now since we only received it since we came here; and I hope the Minister will accede to our request.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Can we explain the position, Mr. Chairman? The date is the 7th March, 1972. By the Constitution of Barbados the financial year closes on the 31st March. The matters which are here are not controversial. If hon. members would look at the very first item, you could not deem that to be controversial; we certainly don't; that is payment in connection with the former Leader of the Opposition on the occasion of the State Funeral and matters of that kind. Now the Speaker gave leave and if hon. members felt that they did not have sufficient time, the hon. member should have objected at that stage. Not only did he give leave but he made it a special directive, and furthermore the Hon. Leader of the House dealt with other Resolutions, so that even at the abysmally slow reading rate which hon. members on the other side now claim they possess, they could read the two pages in the time that has elapsed. We do not intend to sit here until 12 o'clock tonight.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, we are not objecting to doing the Resolution today, but all we were asking for was a little more time to be able to study these things, and I think the request is not an unreasonable one.

Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office (2) General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office, item 25 which is new deals with the State Funeral which was accorded the late Sir Grantley Adams, former Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation and a former Premier of Barbados which took place on Thursday, 2nd December, 1971. The amount required is \$4,410.

I beg to move that Head 16 - Prime Minister's Office (2) General stand part.

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

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

Head 21 - Establishments Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, under this Head there is one Item, Item 11 - Temporary Staff. For the benefit of hon. members I will read more details to the note in the hope of satisfying them.

An amount of \$420,000 was originally provided under Head 21, Item 11 to meet the payment of salaries of temporary staff. However, because of the continuing expansion of the Public Service and the need to contract and retain qualified staff for whom positions were not readily available on the permanent establishment, it became necessary to supplement this by an amount of \$175,000 in September, 1971, making a total provision of \$595,000. The supplementary was based on an average monthly expenditure of \$50,000 in respect of the period June to August 1971, and did not anticipate two factors which occurred in October 1971, re-allocation of certain subjects in many Ministries, and the creation of a new Ministry of Tourism, both of which we dealt with in the creation of temporary posts, and an increase in monthly expenditure from \$50,000 to approximately \$70,000, and it is through that that this supplementary is required to supplement that vote further.

I beg to move that Head 21 - Establishments Division, stand part.

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

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

Head 37 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, again the notes to Items 31 and 38 are fully explanatory, and in case there is any additional information needed, the appropriate Minister is quite ready to give it.

I beg to move that Head 37 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.
4.30 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the Head is passed I think that perhaps this provides an opportunity for the Hon. Minister of Education to make some statement in this House explaining part of the problems that have arisen recently in relation to the conduct of the 11+ examination. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, when one is dealing with a subject of this nature.....

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, I do not see how Your Honour can take judicial or any other kind of notice of something that has appeared in the Press unless it is specifically brought to the notice of the House, and I do not think that this Head makes any provision for the discussion of examinations. I think the Minister has published a statement, and if the hon. member asks for a ministerial explanation I am sure that the Minister will give him a rehash or maybe the same version of the same statement that he issued before, but not in Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point well taken.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the subject we are discussing is a supplementary vote to deal specifically with the subject of the entries for public examinations from primary and secondary schools, and I am trying to make the point here that there is some contention as to how well these examinations are being run, and in those circumstances I think it is necessary that this House should know, whether or not the House has been deficient in providing adequate staff or adequate funds for staff, and that the fears of people in relation to the conduct of these examinations should be allayed. I am not concerned with whether or not the Press may make certain statements, when we have had in this House some proper explanation from the Minister concerned, then we will know how well our money is being spent.

I am not being contentious on this matter, we want to hear the official facts about it, and as it is a vote for the purpose of public examinations from primary and secondary schools, could the Minister

assure this House that all persons who sat the recent 11+ examination are being fairly treated, and that none of the errors which occurred in the papers will be visited upon the children who sat the examination. Can the Minister assure us that he has taken adequate steps to prevent these errors from occurring again, and what steps have been taken in relation to members of his Department who may not have performed properly in relation to these papers? Is there any system by which checking in the future will be carried through adequately, so that we will know that there will be no recurrence of this sort of situation?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say briefly in respect of questions asked that the Common Entrance Examination is taken in two parts, Part 1 which is in the nature of a screening process and Part 11, that the matter to which the hon. member for Christ Church West referred concerns Part 1 of the examination, that in the English paper the pupils in our schools who are of the required age took this particular examination and this paper was corrected by the teachers in our primary and comprehensive school system, that on the guide which is issued to the teachers, the answer and marking scheme which is issued to the teachers as a guide in the correction of the paper there were certain errors on that particular paper, that these were largely of a typographical and drafting nature, that in one or two instances there were errors of substance, that when this was brought to my attention I instructed that a fresh answer and marking scheme should be sent to the teachers in order that the scripts could be corrected.

I would like to make it clear that the examination papers, both in English and in Arithmetic, were in order, the errors which were referred to were in respect of the answering scheme which was never given to the students but was directed to the teachers, that amended instructions were given that the papers be now recommitted for marking, and that this process has now been completed. I would like to assure the hon. member that to the best of my knowledge - and again I would like to make this clear, that I did not set the paper, I have not even seen it, I have not seen the amended instructions which have been sent out; this is a matter wholly in the province of the public servants.

As far as the recurrence of this is concerned, I called a meeting of my officials, the senior officials in the Ministry, and made it clear to them that I was dissatisfied that errors of this nature could have occurred in the instructions to teachers - and let me reiterate this point, that this was in terms of the answer guide sent to the teachers not in respect of the examination paper which the pupils were

called upon to write - I made it clear that errors of this type should not occur, and I have asked my Permanent Secretary to assure me that the necessary steps would be taken in order to ensure that such errors would not occur in the future.

I hope that this will answer the hon. member for Christ Church West on the matter he has raised.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have read about these errors, and I do not want to join in any cross talk or add fuel to fire, but it seems as if the Minister has repeated what I consider to be an error upon an error, because when one says that the answers were either typographical and some were drafting errors, when you say drafting errors - as the hon. member for St. John who is also Prime Minister would know, that if you make an error in the drafting it then makes the question in itself wrong, and I would have thought that the Ministry.....

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, Sir, since the hon. member referred to me, I do not agree with it.

Mr. BOLDEN: I expected that, there is nothing strange about that, but if the drafting of the answer is wrong then it means that there is something radically wrong with the person who drafted the answer and that person cannot be considered as minor in the same way as a typographical error, so therefore you cannot escape by saying that there were a few typographical errors, a few drafting errors and a few errors of substance. You have major errors, in that the person who drafted the answers did not understand what they were doing and therefore should be removed.

This is being passed off too lightly, and the situation in this country today is such that a child who does not get past that examination is completely doomed to ignorance in this country there-after.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I would like to speak on the question of what I call a drafting error.

4.40 p.m.

In the English examination paper there was a question which contained, as far as I can see, one sentence and in that sentence the pupils were asked to select certain words which indicated different parts of speech. Let us say that they were asked to select a noun, a verb, and so on. In the answer paper of the examination paper the words "little girl" appear, and it was clear that the answer would be for a noun. They were asked to select a noun,

and the answer would be "girl", but in the answer and marking scheme sent to the teacher the word "lady" appears. There was no lady at all in the question, so the children could not have been misguided, because they would not have been presented with the word "lady" at all. This is what I meant by a drafting error. Let me make it clear, again, that I had no part in setting this paper.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it means that the person who prepared the answer sheet, probably, did not get past the 11-plus and should be sent back to sit it. I am going to answer the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works who asked me why, when I said that if children did not get past this examination they would be condemned to ignorance. (*Asides.*) Mr. Chairman, ask him to take a census and you will see that all of the children who are going to the other Private Secondary Schools, at the time of the results you will read the *Advocate* and you will see that 98% of those who pass — 90% of them do not pass anything — but 98% of those who pass will pass in English Literature, Scripture or Religious Knowledge. You cannot carry that type of certificate in Bridgetown to get a job, because even the Government would not employ them with certificates for those two subjects. They want something else like English Language, Mathematics, and so on. It is important.... I am still on my feet.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has called my name.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what are you standing?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I just want to tell

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what are you standing? You will sit down. (*Asides.*) I am going to ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to observe Rule 29(6).

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not attacking the Minister of Education, because I have heard in this House from members on the other side that the civil servants are running the show. If the Minister has to come in here and save himself from the lashes, then he must accept the fact that the person either did not take time to go through a very important aspect of a child's life and, therefore, rushed through the matter and put down answers without thinking, or the person providing the answering scheme did not understand the whole basis of the 11-plus examination. That is why I say that I would not call a drafting error something minor, because it is on the basis of the mark sheet that the total number of marks will be calculated. If you have teachers who are only going

to look at the answer, look on the other side and mark, then the child would have got a question or questions wrong when in truth and in fact the 11-year-old child was correct and God knows the age of the person who set the paper and would be wrong.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, if the hon. member will give way. I made it clear that as soon as these errors were brought to my attention, I took action and I was not taking this matter lightly. I asked that amended instructions be sent out and the papers recommitted for marking in order to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that no errors which occur in the answer and marking scheme should result in any penalty imposed on the pupils taking the examination. In the circumstances, I could have done nothing else. If there were errors on the examination paper, I would have asked that another examination paper be set and that the whole examination be taken over, but inasmuch as the errors occurred only in the answer and marking scheme it was only in respect of the recommittal of the paper for marking that I, therefore, issued the instruction.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister, at this stage, would care to tell us what steps he proposes to take in respect of the persons who are responsible for setting the answer sheets?

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, since I am the Minister responsible for Establishment, I will only repeat what I said before that they are fireproof, but what I find rather reprehensible is that the newspapers should make it appear that.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Who are fireproof?

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The teachers and civil servants. They are not like Broad Street; you cannot set them alight in any way or fashion; you cannot inspire them; and you cannot do anything. All that I would like to say is that we have suffered more than the children, because from the Ministry of Education we get more grammatical errors and spelling mistakes week after week than from all the other Ministries put together and we have to correct them in Cabinet, and the Ministry is now a standing joke. I do not see that the newspapers were fair, or the gentleman who railed about this in the Secondary Teachers Association by saying that the Minister was responsible. If the Minister used to set or correct the papers, there would be a howl from the other side that there is favouritism, and that the Minister used to put in this person's son. This is exclusively

within the province of the Education Officers and other lower echelons in the Ministry.

I want to repeat again that when I took the Oath of Office I did not take any oath of silence. I took an Oath of Secrecy in so far as Cabinet matters are concerned, but in so far as expressing my opinion as a taxpayer, and the one in this House paying taxes more promptly than anybody else, I reserve my right to express my opinion on these matters. I have tried with them for 10 years, but I cannot do anything about it. We can only try to issue policy directives, and if they do not carry them out — we are not detectives and we cannot go looking behind doors to see whether civil servants are doing their jobs or not. I have only explained our position.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I began by asking several questions, and I am satisfied with the answers given by the Minister, except that I do not think he has answered fully my question concerning what steps are being taken in future to prevent this sort of error from recurring. Let me state, Mr. Chairman, that, in my view, once there is a Minister concerned, primarily he accepts the position of responsibility for errors that occur within his Department, and no one is asking him to remain silent. Having said that, and that is the constitutional position, I believe that, in all fairness to the civil servants concerned, there are disciplinary procedures for dealing with civil servants who omit to do their duty or who do their duty badly, and the impression must be given that civil servants are fireproof; meaning that they cannot be fired. They definitely can be fired, but there must be some sort of initiation of proceedings against them. In an instance of this nature, I do not expect the Minister to come in here and save the civil servants, because it is too important. Nor would I expect a Minister to take the blame completely for this sort of error occurring, but I should expect that the normal Civil Service procedures be followed in this instance, and that if someone has performed incorrectly to the embarrassment of the Minister and of the Government that the normal channels and steps be taken so that they could enquire as to whether there was a dereliction of duty.

4.50 p.m.

I refuse to accept these specious explanations all the time that civil servants cannot be fired. They can be but there is a set procedure for it and a dereliction of duty is something well known in the Public Service Regulations, and if in this instance the Minister considers it serious enough, I would suggest that he takes the normal steps in such an instance in order that the person either loses an increment, be suspended for a while, some note be made on his file or any one of the normal

procedures that one follows in these instances be employed.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am surprised, Mr. Chairman, at the hon. member talking about suspension and all that and procedures. A lot of people may not be aware that the hon. member for Christ Church-West was a member of the Public Service Commission, and I do not think — I am speaking categorically — he can give me a single case in which reports have been made to the Public Service Commission and anything has been done about those reports except maybe a reprimand or something like that.

Secondly, we have a case of a gentleman down in St. Andrew who committed a serious dereliction of duty. I cannot remember whether it was fraudulent or not, and when we talked about suspension, he was suspended for seven and a half years and he was drawing three quarters or two-thirds of his salary for seven and a half years, and he was doing two other jobs. Now if he was doing one I would not mind so much, but he was moonlighting, so he was drawing three salaries; and this is an experience with the Public Service Commission. Then we had to pay him \$9,000 and reinstate him after seven and a half years and the case was never heard. If that is not fire-proof, what do you call it? Asbestos?

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir, if by any chance the Prime Minister is referring to a gentleman from St. Andrew for whom I appeared in several cases at the Assizes, he was acquitted on all counts; but it may interest the House to know, and I just mention in passing, that although these cases do not perhaps get publicity, people do sometimes get dismissed. I have worked for a teacher who was dismissed. I appealed to Privy Council level for her indeed, and the matter still ended in a dismissal; so do not think that civil servants are entirely fire-proof. I think that was perhaps before my learned and honourable friend's tenure of office on the Privy Council.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member for St. Michael North-West said they may not be fire-proof, but they are very hard to catch.

Mr. FORDE: If the hon. member would give way, on a point of explanation, I was only on the Public Service Commission for a short while. I am not going to answer the Prime Minister by disclosing any discussions of the Public Service Commission because we are sworn to secrecy, but I would say it is a fact that at least the Public Service Commission I was on have dealt as expeditiously as possible with such cases and I believe that steps can be taken to improve the procedure. I believe the

Minister, being Minister responsible, knows what steps can be taken; but I will still emphasize, Sir, that regardless of how tardy these procedures may be, I think it is incumbent on us in instances of this nature to discipline the civil servant when he is wrong. I am the first to defend them when they are right, but if errors of this nature are going to occur at this stage, I think it is sufficiently serious that the Minister should ask the Establishments Division to deal with the matter through the normal channels.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, proceeding on the words of the Hon. Prime Minister that they in Cabinet do receive bad spelling particularly from the Education Department, I would like to move on to Item 19 under the same Head – Ministry of Education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not dealing with that Head yet. We are only dealing with Head 37(1) General Administration, Items 31 and 38.

The question that Head 37 – Ministry of Education (1) General Administration – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there are two items under this Head. Item 5 deals with acting teachers and Item 8 with apparatus and material. The appropriate Minister will explain if necessary but the notes are very explanatory.

I beg to move that Head 37 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – stand part.

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

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

Head 37 – Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, there are four items, Office Expenses, Apparatus and Material, Evening Classes and Maintenance of Buildings. These are all supplementaries which are needed to pay commitments or expenses which are necessary before the end of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 37 – Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic – stand part.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, dealing with Item 19, for some time I have been asking the Minister of Education to look into the possibility of setting up evening classes in the St. Joseph area, and I had asked that such classes be started at the West St. Joseph School. There are some evening classes carried on there now, but according to my information, these classes are held at a time when the average adult cannot make use of the facilities. They start some time around 3.30 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the evening and they finish by 5.30 p.m., because I understand it is a continuation of the classes which are held during the day for the children up to school-leaving age. There seems to be a need for these classes to be re-scheduled to start probably at 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening and run until 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. I would hate to think that any of the spelling errors which reached the Cabinet came from persons who reside in that area, but if so I would have the excuse that the Government is not providing the necessary facilities..... (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I got a letter from you with errors.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am again going to ask the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works to adhere to Standing Order No. 29(6).

Mr. BOLDEN: I would like to ask him when this letter was written. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Two weeks ago.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. BOLDEN: Some people have pangs of supremacy hanging over their heads so they feel very disturbed sitting at that end. They often try to occupy the seat in which the hon. member for St. John is sitting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with Head 37(6).

Mr. BOLDEN: I was dealing with the evening classes, and I was going to say that the hon. member for St. John sits in that seat, and I believe he was instrumental in starting the classes in St. John, but I never heard.....

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, did I understand the hon. member to say he is trying to sit in this seat, because I beat him by 1,800 votes or 2,000 votes; so he did not try very hard.

Mr. BOLDEN: It just bears out what I said. Those on that side have got pangs of disturbance

hanging around them. I said that the hon. member sitting in the seat at the end has been trying to sit in the seat at the top.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister of Education would at least implement the plan which would only mean shifting the hours of operation from 4 o'clock until 6 o'clock, and thus widen the facilities which are now being provided, because there are several persons who would like to use these facilities, but because of the hours are unable to do so.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member is talking about the facilities which are now being provided, I want to support him entirely. Now you see how people can make mistakes. He said the facilities which are now being provided, but in so far as St. John is concerned, we agree that the hours should be made more convenient to the general public, the people who want to take advantage of these classes.
5.00 p.m.

I am very glad for the intervention of the hon. member, even although he tried to get my seat once, not successfully, because I really could not point it out to the Minister on the floor of the House and I might forget another time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, he was not successful so the matter rests there.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to assure the hon. member for St. Joseph, and indeed the hon. member for St. John, that I am in fact currently re-examining the whole Adult Education programme. As far as St. Joseph is concerned, I am advised that there have been some problems in the past of getting good attendance at some of the classes under the Adult programme, and it is my intention to call for greater efforts in order to ensure that no errors of any type will be made by persons coming from St. Joseph as a result of lack of facilities being provided, but I am currently re-examining the whole Adult Education programme and if it is revealed that the times for these classes present inconvenience to persons attending them we will make the necessary adjustments.

Mr. BOLDEN: I do not want to prolong the discussion, but I understand that the reason why there might have been bad attendance previously was due to the overgrowth leading into the school which, fortunately, is now being cleared, I think with the overgrowth being cleared the pathway which leads into the school would not appear as desolate as it once used to be, but I know persons are now interested in the evening classes and I

would be glad if the Minister could look into this, even if it means putting a street lamp somewhere in the path.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I hope that the hon. member for St. Joseph, when he makes his plea, is fully aware of the fact that when the evening classes are established in St. Joseph he runs the danger of losing his seat.

The question that Head 37 - Ministry of Education, (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 37 - Ministry of Education (9) School Meals Department - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 (9) 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 the Resolution for the sum of \$241,101 do now pass.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Order stands in the name of the Prime Minister to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Bank of Barbados and for connected purposes. I beg to move that this be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

THE CENTRAL BANK OF BARBADOS BILL, 1972

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons clause of this Bill is a very short one. All it says is that the Bill is to establish a Central Bank of Barbados and to regulate its relation to banks and other financial institutions and with the Government. I have taken the precaution of circulating a memorandum on the establishment of the Central Bank of Barbados which was prepared by the Ministry of Finance. This is now a document of the House, and I think that the memorandum has been circulated for the benefit of members mainly because certain things were innovations in the life of this country. National Insurance is an innovation, Central Banking is an innovation, and we find by experience that a lot of people in this country tend to resist the idea of anything new far less anything which is designed to bring about a change in the direction in which the country is going, and for that reason the memorandum was prepared so that a lot of questions which normally would have been asked are being answered in anticipation, so I do not think there is any reason for me to go into detail on the different clauses and the different parts of the legislation which we are now discussing.

I do not intend to repeat what has been set out in the memorandum because hon. members have had an opportunity to read and digest it, and the Bill has been set out in fairly simple terms, and words which must be taken in their ordinary and grammatical meanings, but if any hon. members have any queries on any particular clause about the Central Bank Bill I will be pleased to answer them, as indeed I will be pleased to answer queries on the Bill as a whole. The necessity for the Bank has been established in the paper which was circulated when the Bill was read a first time, and I do not believe in wasting or trifling with the time of the House and I presume that members have done their homework.

We have been working on this Bill from 1969. We had advice from the Bank of England - as a matter of fact, the Bank of England adviser who came to Barbados on several occasions in relation to the drafting of the legislation is now advising the Associated States - at their request on the dis-engagement from the East Caribbean Currency Authority - and we are glad to have him sitting on the other side. The final drafting of course was done in consultation with the team from the International Monetary Fund.

5.10 p.m.

We have had assistance from our neighbours in the Caribbean in relation to their experiences and the defects in their own legislation, so that

what we have really produced here today could be considered in the way of model legislation for Independent countries and developing countries in the field of central banking. I do not claim - neither does anyone working in the Ministry of Finance, or the members of the International Monetary Fund who came out here, or Mr. Hall from the Bank of England - that the legislation here is perfect, but we have certainly canvassed over a very wide field and examined all the pros and cons in great detail; the Cabinet spent an exclusive session on the Central Bank Bill and asked a lot of questions; the Cabinet is satisfied, but that does not mean that the House has to be satisfied, because even among the disciples - there were only 12 of them - they had one who was a traitor and one who doubted everything that went on. We do not have any traitors in this House, I hope, but we certainly have a lot who have to be converted so that they will see the light.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, I do not intend to make an introductory speech but just to explain the background. We started this in 1969, and it has taken so long not because of any indolence on the part of the Ministry of Finance, but because we were going into the matter very thoroughly. The final Bill which we have before us today has substantial departures from the original draft which was submitted to me in my Ministry way back, I think, in November, 1969. Among the people who have been very useful to us and to whom I should like to pay tribute is the President of the Caribbean Development Bank, who claimed that he did not know anything about central banking in his usual modest way and went on to make very valuable suggestions. I should like to mention a former colleague of mine, now Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, Mr. R. G. Arthur Brown, Mr. Roy Jones, of course, Mr. Hall and all the members of the International Monetary Fund team, and our Advisor who is with us, Mr. Kroc, who was sent down by I.M.F. All of these people have contributed. I should also like to mention the University of the West Indies. The members of the staff of the University of the West Indies have contributed towards the final solution which we have here, but what is remarkable about the whole exercise is that no one has questioned the right or the need for Barbados to have its own Central Bank and to manage its own monetary affairs.

I have tried to explain to members on the other side, and particularly the Leader of the Opposition that establishing a Central Bank in Barbados is not an attempt to fragment currencies in the Caribbean. I have pointed out on a previous occasion that in Barbados when I was a boy of a more tender age - when I was going to school in fact - each Bank in Barbados used to issue its own currency, and the Savings Bank of Barbados - it is

not the Government's Savings Bank, but the People's Savings Bank; it is now called the Government Savings Bank and the Act is called the Savings Bank Act - issued its own currency, too; so we had as many currencies as there were banking institutions.

When we hear people from the Lesser Antilles getting scared and saying: "We are going to have another currency in the Caribbean, and this is going to debase the Caribbean currency" whatever that means - I do not know if they mean the East Caribbean dollar. Central banking goes deeper than this. It is not only a question of issuing notes and coins; it is a question of regulating the money supply which is not exclusively restricted to currency in the common, ordinary, sense of the term of bank notes, and coins, because currency today or money supply has taken so many different forms: promissory notes, cheques, and all the commercial transactions that go on without any money passing. Book entries could be considered as part of your money supply in a country. The Central Bank will be concerned with the overall monetary situation in the Island, and one must not confine this to a simple description of notes and coins.

We are currently holding discussions with the Lesser Antilles, better known as the Associated States, but not of them are associated. This will also include places like Montserrat, who have not been elevated to the questionable benefits of association with Great Britain, and all the other people in the East Caribbean Currency Authority which superseded the British Caribbean Currency Board in which we had Trinidad and Guyana participating.

What I find remarkable is that the time when Trinidad and Guyana disengaged from us and we had to establish a new Currency Authority, nobody accused the Government of Trinidad and Tobago of trying to fragment the West Indies currencies or debase the coinage of the West Indies. Our currencies have remained at par ever since. I have no guarantee that unless some big economic policies are likely to be pursued by the Associated States our currency will necessarily remain at par with theirs. I would hope that as we prosper they will prosper, too, but I am not going to give any guarantee whatsoever that this situation will prevail indefinitely.

One of the difficulties which I found way back, I think, in November, 1969, is that I was not completely convinced, and I believe the Leader of the Opposition on the other side himself is not convinced, that there was any necessity at that time for us to follow Sterling, but unfortunately

we were tied hand and foot by the terms of the East Caribbean Currency Agreement to which the United Kingdom Government, as far as I can remember, was a signatory. They certainly were a signatory to the previous Agreement under which our notes and coins were issued, but one of the defects which we have found with the Currency Authority is that although the Currency Authority are well staffed and they have competent people who are now working well within their capacity - I am sure they would like to do more diverse things and more interesting things - because of the composition of the Currency Authority and the fact that we represent several Governments, the Currency Authority have not been able to take the initiative on monetary matters that, perhaps, they would like to take. This is, perhaps, another reason that what may be imperative for the survival of one signatory to the Agreement may be certainly detrimental to others.

I am not pretending; I have never pretended that there is any homogeneity between the economy of Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Montserrat any more than I have ever suggested that the demands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, say, in Great Britain to combat inflation would require us to automatically follow suit with any fiscal or monetary measures which the Chancellor of the Exchequer may impose in the United Kingdom. Unless you are going to look at Independence purely from a constitutional achievement, a country has to take control if it is to get anywhere with its monetary policy. I feel that there are enough safe guards written into the Bill itself to ensure that no matter what Government is in power - I do not want to make any comment on that; we just came through an election and I do not want to be unkind - if by some catastrophe a new Government even from outside this Island came to Barbados next month, the Central Bank of Barbados would be able, subject to Ministerial directives of course, to pursue sound policies which would be beneficial to the Island as a whole, and this is the main consideration.

I think that when we started on the exercise there was some kind of rearguard action on the part of the Head Offices of the local Commercial Banks. I would not like to say that it was the local Bank Managers themselves.

5.20 p.m.

The banking system is one of the last vestigial reserves of imperialism - banking and insurance - in which we have not really been making any kind of significant inroad. No matter what we may talk on public platforms about the necessity for having our own institutions, we have not made any kind of

significant inroad upon the foreign insurance domination and banking domination in this country. Banks may come and banks may go, but the only "banks" that seem to go on forever which is local and ordinary is the brewery. But in so far as the monetary institutions are concerned due to no fault of the depositors but certainly due to the management and lack of knowledge on the part of people who have tried to establish these institutions, most of the time from the point of view of personal gain, our experiences have been disastrous and we might as well admit that.

We have had insurance companies coming up like mushrooms and disappearing overnight. There is a passage in the Bible which deals with that, the grass withereth and the flowers thereof fade away and this has been our experience with insurance companies. We got our insurance legislation on the Statute Book and the office has been established and we hope very soon to see the benefits of having a supervisor of insurance and his staff. I have no doubt that along with other independent areas in the Caribbean we will never have to subsidise this bank because the very nature of a bank is that it makes money and a Central Bank makes money more than anybody else within certain restrictions because it has power to print its own money, but we will be printing our own money within the limitations which will be set by some fiscal, financial and monetary policy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to say any more on the subject and should be glad to answer any questions.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, such criticism as we have from this side of the House upon the establishment of a Central Bank in Barbados will not be directed at the inefficiency of those devoted civil servants and advisers from outside, it will not be directed at the inefficiency of the Minister of Finance; it would be unfair to accuse upon this occasion either the Minister or the army of occupation of inefficiency in this particular regard, and in this respect I would like to join with the Prime Minister in thanking all those overseas agencies who have made their expertise available to the Government and people of Barbados in respect of the establishment of a Central Bank.

Our criticism, if I may borrow a phrase so beloved of the Prime Minister on numerous topics in this House will be directed at the acts of commission and omission underlying the principle

in respect of this legislation. We on this side, Mr. Speaker, are as fully aware as anyone else that a Central Bank is one of the attributes of independence. The Independence factory at Westminster aided and abetted by the experts and various international financial institutions that specialise in dealing with former colonial territories have systems well adapted to turning out central bank legislation and giving bank advice just as the officials at Westminster can turn out a constitution to order in a matter of two weeks. I do not think that you can claim any particular virtue for Barbados in joining the long list of countries which have a centralised banking system. It is one of the parts of having an independent country. However, I would be failing in my duty if I did not repeat that the idea of having a Central Bank was conceived at a time of fragmentation. It was conceived at the time I suggest to hon. members Mr. Speaker, when persons were more concerned to disengage from our association with other West Indians in what had been a West Indies Federation and the bodies connected therewith, and its birth owed in my view as much to the spirits and passions which were aroused in 1965 as to the devaluation crisis of 1967 that was one of the ostensible birth dates of the Legislation now before the House.

I would agree, Mr. Speaker, that the impossibility of easily separating the East Caribbean dollar from sterling was a serious drawback in the East Caribbean Currency Agreement, which after all was a colonial agreement in which it was not envisaged that such benefits of the sterling area as the West Indies might enjoy could be endangered by the amount of financial independence as would follow the easy right to have a dollar which could vary in par value independently of the par value of sterling. What the Minister of Finance has said about being unconvinced in 1967 of the necessity for devaluation on both sides of the House is perfectly true. It might have served our interest better then to have maintained our then par value in relation to the American dollar, and I think it has served our interest admirably now that the United States Government has taken the step of devaluing. But there were other means available. In my view some effort should have been made (and I was disappointed that the Minister of Finance did not discuss a little further along a theme that had developed during an earlier speech on devaluation, I think last year or it may even have been this year) some more considered steps should have been taken to give the East Caribbean Currency Board itself the sort of independence which is sought for the Central Bank of Barbados today. The same considerations in my view, Mr. Speaker, relating to some sort of financial independence and the

necessity for being able to take an independent decision on currency values applies to the Lesser Antilles as applied to Barbados.

It is a matter of regret to me and in the absence of some further explanation I have to say that it is a matter upon which we must condemn the Government that an opportunity was not sought to make the East Caribbean Currency Board a more viable financial institution and more up-to-date in its capacity for expressing the financial necessities of the territories in this part of the Caribbean. They are the sins of commission. We cannot complain that a Central Bank as such is being set up in Barbados. We can, however, attack one or two of the reasons being advanced. I have mentioned devaluation already. I believe that the Prime Minister could have, by pressing on the point I have already mentioned about the East Caribbean Currency Board, obtained the possibility of independent currency management without necessarily cutting the Eastern Caribbean Islands altogether loose from the only independent country other than Great Britain with which they are associated in their economic dealings.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with the sins of omission. I want to say something generally that applies to all central banks.

5.30 p.m.

In the English speaking system if there is one area of rigid conservatism in economic affairs it is that there must be no competition between Government banking institutions and private banking institutions. In the United Kingdom, the Bank of England does not compete with the commercial banks; it controls the commercial banks, no doubt in the ways set out in the memorandum, and in this Bill, it has the same powers as or perhaps greater powers than are given to the Minister of Finance under our own Banking Act of 1963 and the Exchange Control Act of 1967, but it is a matter of the utmost governmental orthodoxy in the United Kingdom that the private banks must be left to make money without any commercial interference. This is also true in the United States. The Federal Reserve System is under the ostensible control of the President of the United States, who, I believe, appoints the Governors of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks, but it is noteworthy that the Federal Reserve System acts outside the wishes sometimes of the President who appointed its different Governors, and that once appointed the Governors of those Federal Reserve System act as if they were as independent as Justices of the Federal Supreme Court, and Governments in Great Britain and the United States accept this; they do not believe, so firmly and so rigidly confined

within the capitalist system in this particular respect, that there should be Government interference in the commercial activities of ordinary banks.

We on this side of the House cannot accept this, we are reared in this tradition, and with this belief, and the use of experts from overseas greatly advantageous though it is to us in methodistic terms, does carry this disadvantage. They all operate precisely within the framework that a Central Bank is there to stand up above the commercial banks - and I am sure you will find all kinds of phrases about holding the ring and controlling the banks and so on - but what is good enough for the United Kingdom with native banking institutions, and the United States with native banking institutions, may not be good enough for Barbados whose boast, I believe, is that in this area it has more of the largest foreign banks in the world than any other territory. Many Barbadians feel, Sir, that the Government Savings Bank could become a commercial institution and could do something to fight the banking practices of overseas banks in this country when they are not operating in the best interest of Barbados by commercial competition. I have heard these views expressed by the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, the hon. member for St. Michael West, and it is nice to see that even within the straitjacket of his Party a grain of commonsense breaks through from time to time. You cannot keep a good man down for ever, might be the argument, although you can hide his goodness 90% of occasions.

In Barbados - I have said in this House before, and I am going to repeat it again, Sir, not at so great a length, I hope, as to bore hon. members, but at least to remind hon. members of the consistency which members of the Opposition have always shown on this point - over the last few years the activities of the commercial banks in this island have not been in the best economic interest of Barbados. That is our considered view over a period of time. I welcomed the Prime Minister's words, I wrote them down and I quote them: "that no significant inroad into the foreign domination of insurance and banking in this country has been made as yet". We welcome those words, it is a recognition of what was said on our political platforms and what we will continue to repeat both in and out of the House of Assembly, that the domination of the Barbadian economy by foreign banking interests is not in the best interest of that economy.

I have to draw the examples again, Sir. Over the last few years there has been very great competition among the commercial banks. The old

hierarchy of the two or three Canadian banks and the one English bank has been challenged by a number of American banks and by the increase in competition within the banks themselves. The banks open branches whose Managers fight for the greatest amount of deposits and who struggle and fight with each other as well as with the other banks for deposits. What happens when banks fight for deposits? The immediate effect is that they pay more on deposit accounts, they compete with each other in pushing up the rate of interest which they pay to people who lent them money. If you push the rate of interest up to 7% on your deposit account, you cannot then lend out money at 8%. The Prime Minister some years ago very properly indicated in his guidelines — because I cannot recall that it was ever gazetted — that mortgage finance should not be lent out by banks at more than 8%. The immediate effect was to close off the supply of mortgage finance, because supply and demand is quite an inexorable law, you are taught it in the first week of economics or the first month, but that does not mean it is too simple to be considered at later stages. When you expand demand and close down supply like that, you get the situation that we had in Barbados. No mortgage finance was available. This immediately showed itself in the construction business in Barbados, the construction business in Barbados shrank; and it is within the experience of all of us in this Hon. House that there have been bankruptcies and failures of building contractors. The reason for this is directly related to the competition in the Banks in Broad Street.

The banks will tell you that they need to bring money in from outside, and you can only borrow it at higher rates from outside. Bankers will pour into the receptive ears of persons, perhaps untrained in these things and uneducated in the smooth front that bankers the world over can put on, pour into their heads that they must take off the withholding tax which will bring more money in, and so on. None of these solutions are necessary, the banks are aware that the high rates of interest prevailing in Barbados are due to competition between the banks. This is a case where competition does not produce any cheapening of the ultimate goods to the public, it is a case where competition puts up the price of the service because the bankers were allowed to put up the price.

I am going to mention again to hon. members — because I think it bears repetition in a debate such as this — I ask members to look at the example of other British or other former British territories in this part of the world. In Jamaica, Mr. Seaga as Minister of Finance was able to hold out very much longer against raising the maximum rate

of interest payable in Jamaica than we were in Barbados. Very much longer. In Bermuda, as I am informed, the maximum rate of interest remained at 7% and the banks were still able to get deposit funds at 3½% and 4%, and only occasionally having to go up to 5%. As I have said in this House before, the Prime Minister of Bermuda, himself the controller of the largest bank, never thought it necessary or indeed appropriate to raise the rate of interest so that he could lend out money at a higher rate. Why is it that this can happen in these territories but in Barbados it could not happen? We have the same Exchange Control legislation, the same control of the banks, we also have the same type of Rate of Interest Act prescribing a maximum rate of interest.

You will find advisers from overseas always ready to tell you that market forces must be given every possible day, that if the rate of interest in London is such and such, that you cannot have a lower rate here in Barbados. What I know is this, that I see advertisements in Time magazine every week for banks in Bahamas saying that if you send them \$1,000 they will pay 8¼% with absolute secrecy in this safe British colony and so on. I also know that the Bahamian economy is in the doldrums notwithstanding the 8% that is being paid to depositors there. It is an argument that never should have held water in this country, and one of the weapons that could have been used against it, Mr. Speaker, is for the Government instead of feeding the bankers with the National Insurance funds that have been distributed around in such liberality as to keep the spirit of competition alive in the banks when other sources of finance would have dried up, instead of distributing it around like that, if the National Insurance funds had been deposited in the Government Savings Bank, and even under existing legislation, even under the existing powers of the Minister of Finance some of that money had been made available for public officers housing loans, we would not have had the collapse of the construction industry which we saw three or four years ago.

5.40 p.m.

Now, this is a doctrine that the Government should be prepared to engage in commercial banking enterprise that I know is very anathematic to members on the other side. It is not what is done in London, New York and Washington and, therefore, it is not to be done in Barbados either. That is, summed up, how all the arguments will go. The International Banking Institutions, I am sure, will give such advice, and yet there are countries in the European Continent, both Communist and non-Communist countries, where Government enterprise in banking is enormous. In Italy, I think

I am told that three out of the four largest banks are Government controlled; that the Ministry of Finance trains bankers; puts them into Government Banking Institutions which are operating commercially; I think that there is an Italian Central Government Investment Bank run entirely by persons who are in effect civil servants, but I am not sure of the structure of the Statutory Corporations and their status *vis-a-vis* Public Servants in that country. You can rise through the Italian Ministry of Finance, so I am informed, from the lowest level. You enter the Public Service and eventually you become a Manager of a Commercial Bank.

Anyone who can recall a little flurry, I think, ten or twelve years ago in London, will remember when the Moscow Narodny Bank which, unless I am mistaken is not even one of the central institutions of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics — I believe it is a bank which belongs to one of the constituent republics of Russia — began to expand its commercial operations in London lending out money to assist various public institutions: the City of Manchester and that type of municipal institution, it was lending out money for public works at highly competitive rates and on generous terms. I do not see why, in Barbados where there is no native commercial banking structure, the Government should not engage in competition with the Commercial Banks.

The Government at present under the National Insurance Scheme has an enormous amount of money to invest by way of fixed deposits in Banks and we should be using that money for the public purposes of this Island. To my mind it is not the something to go and put the money into Barclays Bank and then Barclays Bank, say, buys the Treasury Bonds and so on. That is taking out of one pocket and putting into another, but what slips by the wayside is going into the pockets of Barclays Bank and not into the Government Savings Bank where it could go. Let there be no mistake, nobody will be able to go into this Central Bank and call for a cheque book and say he has so many thousand dollars to deposit. Let it be clearly understood that this bank is not that sort of bank.

In some ways I wonder if the Minister of Finance is wise to take away from his own control so many of the present functions which he can exercise in relation to exchange control and banking. I would suggest to him to remember the disloyalty with which the Governor of the Bank of England carefully timed a political speech to destroy Mr. Harold Wilson during the last election. That is an example which, as long as I am a politician, I will always remember. Perhaps Public

Servants in this Island would not be so outspoken as Lord Cobbold, but it is not a chance that I myself would wish to take. This is not the first time that the Bank of England has shown outstanding disloyalty, or shown itself to be prepared to exercise outstanding disloyalty to the British Government upon occasions when views on different aspects of policy have not coincided.

Sir, it is no part of the function of the Opposition, certainly at this stage of a new Parliament, to tell the Government what it should do. We are not even saying in connection with the commercialisation of the banks, although elements of it were in our Manifesto, that if you had us now this is what we would be doing. We are criticising the Government for not having the foresight — after all the Government is there to govern for 5 years — to take the sort of step that would rehabilitate the Government Savings Bank whose deposits have been nearly stagnant now for perhaps the whole regime of the present Minister of Finance, or if not the whole regime certainly of the last 5 years. What is the point of carrying it on, Government Savings Bank or People's Savings Bank, unless you are going to do something with it? We are not being doctrinaire when we offer this criticism of an act of omission, Sir. It would be doctrinaire merely to say that you should do this because it is a good thing in itself. We are seriously attacking the policy of the Commercial Banks in this Island.

I spoke of the effect it has had upon the construction industry. I am going to suggest something else to the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. He should be on our side in attacking the banks, because one of the problems he is facing is the great expansion of motor-driven traffic on the roads of this Island. The reason for the expansion of motor vehicles on the roads of this Island is the fact that the banks were permitted to charge rates of interest — a minimum of 13% and a maximum of goodness knows what on the cheaper vehicles and so on for which they provide finance. The banks were permitted to do this to make the money which they could not make on mortgage finance, and immediately they began to launch motor car plans which have increased, I am told, the number of motor vehicles in this country by something like 50% in four years. These vehicles were financed in Broad Street out of the people's deposits. What the people carry in by way of deposits and get 7% on, their next door neighbours have to pay 13% or 14% on when they borrow it to go and buy a motorcar. The number of cars has increased; every day you see the road filled more and more with fumes; and it is impossible for the Government with its resources — I freely tell the Minister this — to double the size of Highway 7 and Highway 1. If

you say once-and-a-half times as many vehicles you must build the roads 50% wider, we know that the Government cannot do that. That is one of the things which the banks' unrestricted emphasis on consumer goods has occasioned Barbados in these last few years, and none of these goods are ever things that are made in Barbados. That is another thing I would ask hon. members to look at.

Sir, when you buy a motorcar the workers in Coventry or in Japan are making the money. When you buy a refrigerator, it is the workers in New York and Pennsylvania who are making the money. How can you expect the banks to do otherwise?
5.50 p.m.

They must be interested in promoting the goods of the countries where they are based. Barclays Bank is my bank and I always have great respect for its operations here, but you have to open your eyes to the fact that it regards itself as one of the overseas arms of the British Government. There have been previous political parties which could tell you just how much it regards itself as one of the overseas arms of the British Government and it is only to be expected in my view that Barclays Bank would be glad to feel that it can do something for promoting British exports by lending out money to buy motor cars and other substantial consumer durables, I think they used to call them, which come from Britain. The same must be true of the American and Canadian Banks. We even saw it more insidious with them. They would be often prepared to lend out money and in fact when you really get down to it in the last analysis, on a mortgage basis secured by the deposit of title deeds. This is the way of escaping the Minister of Finance's directive that mortgage money can only be lent out at 8%. They call it an overdraft and you carry in your title deeds and deposit. I call that a mortgage and I know that if the law says that you could not lend out money at more than 8% on mortgage, that there would be a lot of penalties payable under the Rate of Interest Act. That is by the way.

The American and Canadian Banks were always ready to finance their own compatriots in running the tourist establishments which got our south and west coasts. This is a matter I would not even have to canvass at any length in here, because I have heard as much about that from hon. members on the other side, as I have heard from hon. members on this side, the ease with which overseas persons mainly from North America were able to obtain loans from the bank compared with the difficulty which Barbadians found in similar circumstances. Not all Barbadians are as fortunate as the hon. member for St. Andrew who had the

good fortune to be able to owe these banks a large amount of money which he declared to the House on an earlier occasion. But that is only by the way. I would mention it to indicate the exploitation by these banks of Barbados, for it is my view that the hon. member for St. Andrew may be congratulating himself in these respects, but he was as cruelly exploited by the same banks as any Barbadian could possibly be, because I do not believe that the enterprises in which he was engaged were enterprises that called for the payments of the rates of interest which were exacted during the period of high interest rates of these banks.

Now you cannot blame the banks, Sir. They are there to make money and they are there to promote their own countries, but you have to see about your own. Barbadians have to look for Barbadians first. Would that the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, instead of worrying so much about the 76 foreigners in the hotel industry and the three or four poor husbands of Barbadian women being harassed from pillow to post, worried about the foreign banks to the same degree and their domination of the economy. Would that he could see that it is not at an individual level that you fight foreign domination of our economy. It is at the national level and you fight the national institutions, the significant sectors of the economy. The phrase "The commanding heights of the economy", Mr. Gaitskell's original phrase, is another one much beloved of the Prime Minister and for that reason I have tended not to use it, but it is one that has to be used here. It is the commanding heights of the economy which are occupied by the foreign banks and which this Bill will do nothing to bring them down from. The powers of control over those banks are very little greater under this Bill than the powers which the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance already has, and I think I have told hon. members that I actually prefer to see those powers in the hands of a Minister than in the hands of some proud pro-consul of the banking business thinking that if Lord Cobbold and Montague Norman could do it, then I can do it too. I think that in the same way as Ministers who after all are in many cases men of commanding personality can so completely swallow what is dished up to them by the flatterers at the Graeme Hall Gun Club and the other social and semi-social occasions so beloved of the foreign bankers as individuals, so much more will the governors of the Central Bank, themselves perhaps many of them persons trained to think that these overseas bankers will necessarily know more about banking and what is best for banking than they do.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side are not going to vote against this legislation. Once the decision is

taken by the Government to have a Central Bank by the Government, we can express regrets in respect of the final separation from the East Caribbean Currency Authority; we can express hopes that the Government will take not only these legal steps to control the operations of the foreign banks fiscally, but would also take commercial steps at some future stage to compete with the foreign banks to bring them down to a sense of responsibility to Barbados.

I have not, Mr. Speaker, dealt with the question of local ownership of these foreign banks. It is something that my attention has been drawn to and perhaps I should just mention this. I see no change in policy whatsoever in these countries where a few local capitalists get together with the foreign capitalists to support banking acts that make it necessary for the overseas banks to have a local share-holding. I see not the slightest sign, Mr. Speaker, that the policy of the bank is any different afterwards from what it was before. The foreign capitalists who say we want 50% of Barclays Bank or the Royal Bank or whatever and you incorporate locally and these people suddenly hold on and you say look who Barclays Bank is, it is Mr.....do you know who it would be? Senator Ashby. I am sure that if ever the banks go local you will see Senator Ashby as a prominent member of one or more of them. I say not a word against him. Who has confidence that Senator Ashby can change the direction, just to take an example, - he is representative of a new economic class - of commercial banking in this country or any of the people who are taking over in Trinidad? They are more reactionary than the very foreign bankers because they have less confidence and they have to hold a more rigidly conservative line, and this is true throughout the West Indies where you see local capitalists taking control or appearing to take ostensible control of the foreign banks.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, there are one or two questions which I would like to put to the Prime Minister for his consideration as I have no doubt he will reply arising out of what I have said. I started out with the East Caribbean Currency Authority. We are separating and this must be regarded as final, and I express the same hopes that the East Caribbean dollar will not depart from our dollar in the way that the Guyanese dollar has. CARIFTA may or may not be able to stand the devaluation of the currency of one of its members. No doubt again in the fullness of time this issue will be ripe enough for proper discussion. I do not consider now is the time unless the Prime Minister is in possession of more information than the public has, but I don't think CARIFTA can stand every dollar currency having a different value and perhaps being liable to be varied day to day, and in

small islands you may even find the variation in the dollar coinciding with some commercial advantage or disadvantage which some local capitalist thinks he can gain by pressuring the Minister of Finance. 6.00 p.m.

In this regard the question I would like to put to the Prime Minister is what steps does he envisage and what steps have positively been taken on a regional basis to ensure some continued integration of monetary and fiscal policies, because I cannot believe that the Prime Minister intends just to forget that we were ever part of an East Caribbean Currency Authority full stop. I think that the smaller islands, the Lesser Antilles, still look very much to Barbados, I see no signs - despite the events since 1965 - that this has ceased to be so, and I believe that they will still welcome some assurance from the Government of Barbados that we feel as one in terms of our economic development. There is no reason that I can see in economic terms for any harmful competition between the islands of the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados, and I am sure that all hon. members on this House and all Barbadians still feel that sense of cultural and social kinship with the islanders of the British and indeed the French and Dutch islands that surround us.

There is another question, Mr. Speaker, that I would ask the Prime Minister to consider. A number of his directory functions are being transferred to the new bank, and I have discussed these in the context of the independence shown by the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve Banks in dealing with persons who are, on the face of it, their political masters. I think we would all be glad, Mr. Speaker, of some indication of how the Prime Minister envisages and sees the relationship between the Board of the Central Bank and Minister of Finance in future. The Prime Minister can at present give directions over a wide sphere of activity, but is it intended that the Board will be subject to the same sort of control as, for example, the Housing Authority was subject to during the regime of the hon. member for St. Andrew, or is some more independent role envisaged for the Board? These are questions which I think hon. members on both sides will be glad to hear.

Mr. Speaker, there are one or two very simple points; I do not intend to speak at length in Committee on this Bill. We will be glad to know when the currency is going to be issued, how soon, we will be glad to know if the Prime Minister will give consideration to the issue of a ten dollar bill, because I am sure I am not alone in Barbados in thinking that the note issue is a little bit too limited at the present time. These are Committee points, but, as I say, I do not intend to speak again,

but we want to know about the ten dollar bill and the coinage. These are matters we will be glad to have some elucidation on at this point, if the Prime Minister is sufficiently aware of what is going on to understand what questions we are asking him at this moment. I do not believe he is sleeping, Sir, I once had to wake him up in Court, but that is beside the point.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side are not voting against this Bill, despite our regrets. I am sure that some hon. members will have something to say in Committee, but I close my contribution to the Central Bank debate at this stage.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak quite briefly on this Bill for the establishment of the Central Bank, and if it is one thing that the member for St. Thomas, who is the Leader of the Opposition, has done, it is that he has spoken at great length, and indeed there have been many references. We have been taken all over the world from Italy to the United States to the Eastern Caribbean territories, and we have heard reference to the exploitation of the hon. member for St. Andrew and quite a number of other references, but when in fact you examine in detail what the hon. member has actually said in terms of this specific Bill before us, you will find in fact that he has said very little at all, and I think this may be that the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. Thomas, was probably faced with a problem, because there was no mention, as far as I can glean from the document produced by them, that the establishment of a Central Bank was any part of their policy for financial and fiscal management of the economy of this country.

I can well imagine why it is that there were so many references to the East Caribbean Currency Authority and the operations of that Board, but I am certain that the hon. member's knowledge of these matters must be great enough for him to realise that the operations of a Currency Board, because of the very nature of a Currency Board, could not in fact do such, an authority by the very nature of the manner of its operations, could not in fact do the job of managing the finances, managing the currency of this country, as is required in this independent country. The point is that the time has come in this independent country, the point is that the time has come for the Central Bank to be established in this country in order that the whole process of economic development, the maintenance of the value of the currency in terms of the external banking relations of this country, in terms of publication of important economic information and data, in terms of the regulation of the currency, and in

terms of the management of the economy in respect of credit in this country; that for all of these reasons it was important and necessary for a Bank with the type of authority which this Central Bank will have to be established, and the matters which were referred to by the hon. member for St. Thomas - let us take the matter of the question of credit.

No Central Bank relies only on the statute or the law by which it is established. Very important will be that method of operation of the Governor and the Board of Directors. It is not only the law that will be important, it will also be the way in which the persons appointed to that Board operate, and one of the matters of crucial importance in terms of credit in this country will be to ensure that such credit is directed in channels conducive for economic growth and development, and the creation of more job opportunities.
6.10 p.m.

This will call for the very greatest co-operation and persuasion on the part of the Central Bank in dealing with the Commercial Banks and, indeed, if such persuasion and co-operation are not forthcoming, then I envisage that other measures would have to be used in order to ensure that the activities of Commercial Banks in this country are directed to the ends of economic development and growth and fuller employment in this country.

I merely want to say, Mr. Speaker, that in his performance the Leader of the Opposition has regaled us with many anecdotes and so on, but in actual terms of the contents of this particular piece of legislation before us, in actual terms of the way in which this Central Bank should operate in the management and control of the economy, he has said absolutely nothing except that the Opposition will not vote against it, but when the decision has been taken they have certain questions to ask. I was very hopeful that, in fact, we would have got a meaningful contribution from the Leader of the Opposition with his vast knowledge of economic matters. I am terribly disappointed, Mr. Speaker, that this has not been forthcoming.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the Leader of the Opposition has said, I unfortunately had to listen to the whole of the diatribe with which we were treated this afternoon after I had spoken - that is until the Leader of the Opposition sat down. There are just one or two minor corrections which I should like to make. Let me deal with the last one first. There is no Government Savings Bank in Barbados; there is not even a Barbados Savings Bank. I said in my speech that there is a Savings Bank Act of Barbados. The operations of the Savings Bank have

been restricted by the legislation under which the Savings Bank was established. It is not a Commercial Bank; it is more in the nature of a Post Office Bank in the same way that the Jamaica Savings Bank is a Post Office Bank as is the Post Office Bank in the United Kingdom. The Bank has no authority other than to invest money in the kind of securities which would be considered sort of gilt-edged securities such as Government Bonds and so on.

I can go a little beyond that, because if you read Timothy 9, as I frequently enjoin people to do, they say that you have brought nothing into the world and it is for certain that you take nothing away. The Lord has given and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation, Sir. I am not going to rise on a point of order and abuse the Rules of the House. The Prime Minister must have been sleeping, because I distinctly said the Government Savings Bank — that is point one, and he obviously did not hear that. Point two is that we criticise him for a sin of omission in not commercialising the Government Savings Bank — something which he and I both know will have to be done by legislation.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is the precise point I am making; it is not the Government Savings Bank. It was the point I was making when I quoted Timothy 9 which you frequently hear at burial services. The last one was on the 9th September, 1971, I believe. The last big one we had was on the night of the election. I was pointing out that it is true that we have been restricted by legislation, but in the same way as the Legislature established the Bank, the Legislature can amend or remove the powers which the Bank has.

I am saying now, and I have said it before that, in view of the fact that there are other opportunities for people to get loans for hire purchase and matters of that kind, I do not consider that we should change the nature of the Savings Bank of Barbados. There are several other reasons why I have no intention of doing this. The first one I have already stated. There are sufficient institutions now available and open to the general public which is a slightly different thing, because they were there before but they did not make the facilities available to the general public. They have concerned themselves primarily with commercial operations — commercial in the sense that they financed importation and exportation of goods; they financed the sugar industry, but the small businessman, or the small agricultural worker, had no opportunity to get loans or advances from these

institutions. Today one cannot say that. Any person can go in and, if he is foolish enough to pay the kind of rate which these banks are charging for hire purchase facilities, get any kind of money with the mere signature of anyone who has a little more money than he has as a guarantor; if he has any small properties himself he can hypothecate the property which he may have and get loans and advances from the bank.

The other reason why I am not prepared to turn the Savings Bank into a Commercial Bank, or introduce legislation to turn it into a commercial operation, is that there are no bankers in the Savings Bank. I will go further, by the legislation itself there are no bankers on the Board of Directors of the Savings Bank. How can you take some people who have been in the Public Service — some of them for three months as we are suffering in the Ministries from the samething — and put them to run complicated commercial arrangements? We will end up like the traditional Housing Authority with everybody owing interest and nobody paying interest, because it has now been turned into a Government commercial operation.

We have no intention of financing the importation of goods. We have financed the operation of industrial estates and small businesses in Barbados, but I do not think it is the Government's concern, except the Government was going to be the exclusive importer and exporter of all commodities such as foodstuffs coming into this country, that the Government should finance the importation of goods. That is for the Commercial Banks. It is only during the regime of this Government that the Commercial Banks have gone into any operation of any mortgage at all, and no one can deny that.

I do not see why the Savings Bank should be anything other than the kind of Post Office operation that it is, where people can get a reasonable level of interest on their small savings and encourage mobilisation of the savings of the small people in this community to the benefit of the economy as a whole. Now, the level of the deposits at the Savings Bank has remained at somewhere around \$17 million for a considerable number of years — longer than I would like. I make mention of this in almost every Budget Speech that I make. The amount of asset which the Savings Bank has to discharge its liabilities is greatly in excess of the deposits which have been made in the Bank.

Now, what the hon. member is saying, and there are some people on this side of the House who have not gone into the implications of this

matter as fully as I have, is that this Bank downstairs be turned into a Commercial Bank. I see no reason why it should be done. What do we prove by turning it into a Commercial Bank? That we can lose money faster than any other Government Statutory Board in Barbados in a Bank! They have the distinction on the other side of having had the only unsuccessful undertaker in Barbados as Chairman of the Housing Authority, and that is when the Housing Authority started going down hill. If in Barbados where the biggest nitwit – I am not suggesting he was a member of the other side in Parliament – can make money out of funerals.... (*Asides.*) He went into liquidation as an undertaker and they made him Chairman of the Housing Authority.

6.20 p.m.

Now are we going to look for some unsuccessful undertakers to make them governors of the Savings Bank to prove that we could lose money? I am saying without any compunction that the minute you turn any Government institution such as the Savings Bank – and when I say Government institution I mean in the looser sense of the term, established by the Legislature – into a commercial operation, everybody will feel that he has the right to go there and get money and if you refuse him money he will be going to the Minister or his representative and complain that the Government Savings Bank would not lend him money, and then it becomes a political issue. Nobody has suggested that the post office institutions that they have, using a wide generic term, should turn themselves into full commercial operations. There is a need for a commercial operation where no such facilities exist within the community. I am not saying that we have too many banks in the community already, but one of the things that the Central Bank will be able to do is to investigate and carry out a thorough investigation of the whole hire purchase system in Barbados, a system with which I am personally dissatisfied, and which I am sure a lot of other members are not very happy about – the way in which the Usury Act of 1774 is circumvented by these commercial banking operations and others such as the Traders Credit which we saw operating in Barbados.

Coming back to one of the earlier points which the hon. member made in his speech, he is not like Julius Caesar that should make the Romans mark him and write his speeches in our books. I do not have to write down what he says. I pick out in my mind the salient points which I consider worthwhile mentioning, and I am not going to deal with them in the manner in which the Minister of Education has done. He is a teacher and he is teaching him a lesson. I am Minister of Finance replying to important points about our

not taking any action or taking action in order to invest the East Caribbean Currency Authority with some of the attributes of a central banking institution. Now I will say that the hon. member must have been sleeping when I was speaking because I particularly pointed out that one of the difficulties of the East Caribbean Currency Authority is that it represents several Governments. I do not have a copy of the letter in front of me, but I mentioned it in the House before that exactly four years ago almost to the day just before the Estimates of 1968, I wrote to all the Governments in the Eastern Caribbean pointing out to them the undesirability of having this automatic link with sterling, and I actually drafted an amendment to the Clause of the Agreement which has been embodied in the legislation in all the territories in order to make it possible for the directors of the authority who are appointed by the Islands – the Windwards appoint one, the Leewards appoint one, Barbados appoints one – to have more flexibility. Our representative is in a difficult position when he represents the Windward or Leeward Islands because some islands even among the splinter groups cannot agree to what the policy should be. I wrote to each and every one of them asking them to have a meeting to discuss an amendment so that we could give the Currency Authority more flexibility in pursuing policies which were in the better interest of the countries as a whole who were represented on its Board. Not only did most of them not reply, but they published statements in the newspapers without notifying me attacking the idea of giving the East Caribbean Currency Authority more authority in this respect. That is why I say that the hon. member really has not been following what was going on, and despite all that, I followed the Biblical injunction and I turned the other cheek and wrote to them again in more detail about the dangers of continuing in the same hide-bound manner which the Currency Agreement had imposed upon us, and got no reply. It was only after the monetary crisis last year that they began to produce arguments why we should do it, as if they had never heard of my letters and published in the newspapers that it was necessary now for us to make the East Caribbean Currency Authority a little more powerful organisation.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that apart from that automatic link with sterling, the East Caribbean Currency Authority had and has all of the powers and the authority to exercise these powers that we would normally expect a Central Bank to have invested in it. So the fault, Dear Brutus, is in ourselves and not in our stars. I hope that answers the hon. member. There was no other point that the hon. member raised which I consider that I need to reply to, but if he would like to remind me of any that I omitted, I would reply. I have

corrected him on the CARIFTA aspect of the matter. We already have several currencies inside CARIFTA, and we have set up machinery by the last meeting of which I was Chairman for consultation on international monetary matters so that as far as possible no individual member territory or signatory to the Caribbean Free Trade Area Agreement would be able to vitiate and invalidate the spirit and purpose of the Agreement by creating new currency authorities which would be beneficial only to that individual country and possibly detrimental to the others.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that this is a very lengthy Bill, I am moving the suspension of Standing Order No. 45 — Procedure in Committees on Bills, to enable us to deal with the various parts and not with individual clauses as they occur. Of course any member would be at liberty to speak on any Clause which he thinks fit in any part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.
6.30 p.m.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I understand that that Standing Order has already been suspended. Could I have your permission to proceed then, Sir?

Parts 1 to 1V inclusive were called and passed.

Part V was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part V stand part.

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

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think I should point out that we are currently engaged in talks with the other signatories of the East Caribbean Currency Agreement and it will probably take a minimum of two years before we can put our own currency into circulation. It did take some time like that with the British Caribbean Currency Board, and we have proposed to the other islands that we would use the coinage because there is a large supply of that of the East

Caribbean Currency Authority, but some of them seem to think there is some trick in it and that we should go and mint our own coins, but we intend to try to maintain the existing parities as far as possible and it will not be impossible for us to get our own coinage, but it is in my opinion unnecessary.

We also have another problem of course in the distribution of the reserves, because some of them seem to feel that they can confiscate all the reserves when Barbados has contributed more than 47% towards the reserves, but that is under Part V and I thought I would inform the House of this.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under Part V, clause 19(2) it says: "Notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary an order under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Official Gazette* and in one newspaper circulating in Barbados." I would very much like to see the word "daily" inserted before the word "newspaper". I think the Prime Minister or some other member from the other side in the last Session said that advertisements are given out according to some rota or something, because there was one discussion as to the publication of Government Notices in the newspapers. I would prefer it to state that it be published in at least one daily newspaper even if it is published in any other newspaper.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Particular attention was paid to this, because I think I ought to inform the House that I consider that the Government is spending far too much money in advertising in any newspaper, daily or weekly. We are examining this position now and it will probably come up in the Estimates, but an enormous amount of money is being spent by the Statutory requirement to publish in most cases in the *Gazette*, a daily and a weekly newspaper. I do not have any particular brief for any newspaper in this island, but I think that we ought to watch this very carefully because I do not see why we should subsidise any Press from Government funds by giving them pages and pages of advertisements, and I think that the *Official Gazette* is the official organ of the Government and we have to spend about \$280,000 a year keeping the Government Printery open, and people should get into the habit of buying the *Official Gazette* for official notices.

The only reason why we put in the newspaper part of it at all is that we would want to consult with the Board of Directors and the Governor of the Bank whether they consider this a matter of sufficient public importance that it must go in some kind of newspaper, but there are no notices which go in a weekly paper that do not go in a

daily paper, and most of the legislation now states a daily or weekly. As far as the weekly is concerned, most of it used to be distributed amongst the known weekly newspapers, but there was only one daily paper and when there were two it used to go in both and this is a lot of money being spent. I am not making a plea for Government Notices to be given fairly to newspapers, I am saying they should not be in any newspapers at all, and you will be surprised at the amount of money that we are likely to save.

I remember before the Government Printery was established that we were paying for the printing of Hansard alone and official documents something like \$550,000 per annum, and now say fifteen years later we are only paying \$280,000 to print much more voluminous legislation and do all the printing for Government Departments, so the whole question of expenditure on notices, whether they be foreclosure actions, statutory notices or anything like that, I think we have to make it kind of discretionary on the different Departments or even lay down some kind of guidelines as to the occasions on which publication in some newspapers should be undertaken. I must warn the House that I am looking at the whole question of publication in the newspapers in this island, because I think a lot of money is being spent unnecessarily in this fashion, but if we do decide to retain the system we will have to continue to use a daily newspaper and we will have to continue to distribute advertisements to the weekly newspapers in strict rotation. I give that assurance.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not against the question of Government Notices appearing only in the *Official Gazette* from the point of view of cutting down on the cost which Government has to pay, but what worries me at the moment - and I think that the Prime Minister will accept this - is that in many cases the *Official Gazette* does not appear at the relevant time when it is necessary to find these notices. This is why I would prefer to have the word "daily" inserted so that one would be up to date with the publication of the notices. I know quite recently with the Insurance Act that a particular company enquired of me as to the publication, we were told that all the facts about the date of operation had been published in the *Official Gazette*, but that Gazette came to me in my office a week and a half the notice should have been in operation.

This is the reason why I would say one daily newspaper. It is quite clear that the Government Printery should be even more up to date than the commercial printeries in respect of matters of this nature, but at the moment I cannot with any justification say that the *Official Gazette* is

published on the day that it should come out. Therefore, it is for this reason that I say that in matters relating to the Central Bank where currency rates might change from day to day things as official as this should be brought to the notice of the public at such a time when somebody can see it well in advance of the date when it should come into operation, and not wait on the *Official Gazette* which may come probably a week, or two or three days later than the day of operation.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to say before the Minister replies, that the *Official Gazette* is published normally, as far as I can remember, on Mondays and Thursdays and it comes out every Monday and every Thursday and you can buy copies. If in the ordinary course of the post the hon. member does not get his till three or four days later it is not the fault of the Government Printery, because they are very rigid in bringing out the Gazette on the days on which it should appear. If there are any notices which should come out at intervals between the normal dates, then extraordinary issues of the Gazette are published and all people who subscribe to the Gazette get extraordinary issues of the Gazette as well.

6.40 p.m.

This Section is not very important, because this is a once-and-for-all operation, and that is why we put in that it should be published in a newspaper at all. I have no objection to putting it in a daily paper and a weekly paper or daily paper alone. I do not know what members on the other side want, but you are then restricting it to one newspaper in the Island.

Mr. BOLDEN: If you say in at least one daily paper, it would mean that if it comes out, let us say, in a Monday paper the Government or those in authority will still have the discretion whether they want to repeat it in a Sunday newspaper, or whether they want to repeat it in a paper which comes out bi-weekly, or a weekly newspaper. It will be to the discretion of those in authority as to how much money they spend in respect of advertisements. One will notice that throughout the whole Act there are certain Sections which refer to publications of notices, and it is said only in the *Official Gazette*.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the point I want to make is: What would happen if there is no daily newspaper? Suppose the only daily newspaper we have in the country decides to close its doors. Are we going to be stupid enough to put in this bit of legislation "one daily paper?" What is wrong with having one newspaper? As long

as provision is there for printing it in a newspaper, why specify a daily paper when the daily newspaper is an independent organisation? The only daily newspaper can decide to close its doors any day. If we put in the legislation "one daily newspaper," What sense does that make? One newspaper is enough.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to enter into any debate about the *Official Gazette* or advertising in newspapers. I should like to ask something about Section 22. I mentioned the question of a \$10 bill. Would the Prime Minister, since they will now be able to issue coins up to the value of \$10, also indicate whether he envisages these more fancy procedures that some territories enter upon such as the issue of a gold coinage?

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Did the hon. member say something about coins up to \$10? I do not follow him.

Mr. ADAMS: I asked whether you would consider the issue of a \$10 bill. That is the first point, but I do not want to go into that at any length. There is nothing between \$5 and \$20.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It was found very inconvenient and confusing to have \$10 bills. We went into this with the Currency Authority.

Mr. ADAMS: Let them reintroduce the \$10 bill.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is no restriction on issuing \$10 bills.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, what I am asking is, will the Prime Minister consider issuing \$10 bills? There are very few countries that have so small a range of note issue. (*Asides*) Hon. members over there may be amused. They only know Barbados, and they cannot remember where else they lived. Because in Britain there are only two notes or three notes, they think that this is the world. In England it is done so, so it must be done so everywhere else in the world. Very few countries with decimal currency have as small as five notes, because it is considered that the smaller denomination notes wear out more quickly if you do not have a sufficient number of intermediate demoninations. There are good, sound commercial reasons for countries to have \$10 and \$50 bills. (*Asides*) There are not political reasons, but sound, commercial reasons. If you do not have a \$10 bill your \$5 bill will wear out quickly. It will cost you the samething to print a \$10 bill as it will cost you to print a \$5 bill, but when you do not have a \$10 bill the wear on your \$5 bill is greater. Some

members are sitting down and smiling without the slightest knowledge; they have never read or heard anything about the commerciality of a note issue. If members think for a moment, you will have more coins. Coins are well known to be cheaper than paper money. I think in Barbados the opposite is widely believed to be true. Some people tend to believe that there is some magic in a dollar bill; that you must hold a dollar bill and you must not break it for small money. Paper has no value, but the coins have an intrinsic value in themselves and also wear out very slowly. The Prime Minister, I am sure, has been told all of these things at some time. It is a well-known fact that having a \$10 bill reduces the wear and extends the life of the denominations below it, apart from the convenience of the public. All of these are matters which I believe the Minister of Finance will know about.

The Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we did go through this exercise very thoroughly with the Minister of Finance at the time of the establishment of the East Caribbean Board, and it was not considered feasible or desirable to issue a \$10 bill as we had under the old Currency Board, because there used to be a lot of confusion about \$10 bills, and the colour range was rather limited. Perhaps we could do like the French people and make differences in size. Nowadays people tend to restrict themselves to one size of note, and then rely upon colours and the denominatory marks to distinguish between one note and another. In the United States all notes are of one colour, and that in itself has created a lot of confusion.

At Seawell Airport I have seen some Red Caps with \$100 bills given to them by departing passengers to their advantage, of course. Although I am supposed to be the Exchange Authority, I can recommend to hon. members, if they are ever departing or are in a hurry for currency, that the Red Caps are probably the quickest available source for any amount up to \$500 or \$600 on any one morning. They go to the "Flash In" and have it converted at a very low rate of exchange. I understand that the "Flash In" has established its own rate of exchange from day to day. It has its own buying and selling rates. Anyhow, I suggest that you go to the head of the stream and go to the Red Caps, and you can stop on your way back by the "Flash In." (*Asides*)

I am not saying anything about the Red Caps. I say that although I am the Minister responsible for Exchange Control I am aware of this, and we cannot stop people from giving them these notes. I would like to assure the hon. member that we looked into the question of the issue of \$10 bills very closely. I cannot, at this stage, say what the

Central Bank will do, but I am sure that the Central Bank will look at it again. I will probably be consulted as Minister of Finance, but I will not be the deciding factor in any such policy.

The hon. member raised a question relating to the issue of a special coinage. I do not think that we intend to restrict the Central Bank, because money can be made out of special coinage issues as long as you do not do it too frequently like the issues of special stamps. The East Caribbean Currency Authority itself issued, I think, a \$4 silver coin within the past 12 months and it is supposed to have made money on it. We do not think that we need to restrict the Central Bank from making special issues of gold or other coins in celebration of the establishment of the Bank, or its anniversary, or some other National or International event.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want to labour this too much, but I would ask the Prime Minister to bring his own judgement to bear upon the question of the notes. In the United States they have \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 notes and they are all green. I believe that there is some provision for a red note. (*Asides*) If there are no more \$2 notes, then there must be a lot in circulation. They may not be printing them any more, but there are a large number in circulation. They also have dollar coins mostly in circulation in the West, and I believe that \$20 gold pieces are still legal tender. They always had \$10, \$20 and \$50 gold pieces. In fact, the hon. member for St. James is wearing a \$20 gold piece, I observe, Sir. If the Hon. Minister will really consider this, coins really are cheaper in the long run to issue as currency than notes, so far as the wear and tear is concerned.

6.50 p.m.

Let the Minister ask his advisers. Notes wear out very quickly, and the printing of notes is a

more expensive process than the minting of coins, although the coins have an intrinsic value in themselves. It costs money to buy the raw materials, but these are matters which I am sure the Minister will consider. I am sure Barbadians would be glad to see a \$10 gold piece.

The question that Part V stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part VI to XI inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 14th March, 1972, at 10 o'clock a.m.

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

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

6.55 p.m.