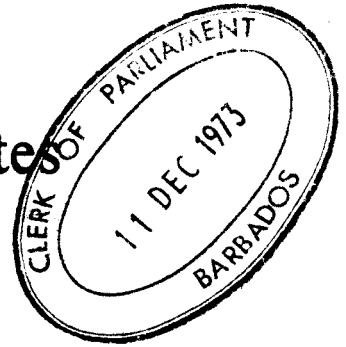


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd May, 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. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W.C.B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); 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) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of Land at Hindsbury Road, St. Michael, for the purpose of extending the Hindsbury Girls' School.

Also, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to repeal the Repatriation Act 1923 and to make new provision for the engagement in Barbados for service on foreign ships of citizens of Barbados and Citizens of or persons belonging to British or former British possessions in the West Indies.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914 be read a first time.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to repeal the Repatriation Act, 1923 be read a first time.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GRANT OF TWO MONTHS' LEAVE TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR ST. MICHAEL WEST

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before asking for the suspension of the Standing Orders, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. Michael West be granted two months' leave of absence from his duties in this House as from today.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: 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, subject to any matter of importance which the Opposition may wish to deal with at a later stage.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEAVE
PASSAGES (AMENDMENT)
ORDER, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this item which stands in the name of the Prime Minister. As the Addendum sets out, the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1972, has been laid in Parliament.

The Order seeks to make provision for officers posted to Overseas Missions to opt to remain under the provisions of the Leave Passages Order, 1966 or to qualify under the terms of the Barbados External Service Orders which came into effect from 1st April, 1972.

Under the provisions of the Leave Passages Order, 1966, Public Officers are eligible for the grant of return passages on behalf of their families and themselves every four years when they satisfy certain salary and service requirements, subject to the maximum of four passages to outside the Caribbean and two within the Caribbean, in their career. At present, these provisions apply equally to Officers stationed locally and those employed in the Overseas Missions. With the coming into effect of the Barbados External Service Orders on 1st April, 1972, Officers posted in the Overseas Missions are now eligible for the payment of return passages for themselves and their immediate families to Barbados from the country of posting every two years.

Order 10(13) of the External Service Orders stipulates that an officer shall not qualify for leave passages under the Leave Passages Order, 1966 as well as under the above provisions. Moreover, Order 10(16) of the External Service Orders provides that officers posted to Overseas Missions will be entitled on their option either to leave passages as provided by the Leave Passages Order, 1966 or to paid passages as provided in the Barbados External Service Orders. This option will be effective from 1st April, 1972. The necessary regulations have been done and the Legal Affairs Department prepared this amending Resolution in order to give legal effect to the provisions in Order 10(16) of the Barbados External Service orders, 1972. This is merely to protect those who work in the Overseas Missions, because they will be expected to come home more frequently, I presume. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to enquire of the Hon. Minister who has just sat down if he can give us any indication as to when these Barbados External Service Orders were laid so that hon. members on this side would be able to memorise the contents. Some sort of explanation is set out here, and one wonders if the reason for that as at sub-paragraph (2) here is not by way of making up for any sort of deficiency that might have crept in in the whole matter.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to be assisted by the Minister, in view of the fact that hon. members on this side have not had an opportunity to peruse this Order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have my copy on the file. It is entitled —

The Civil Establishment Act, 1949
(Act 1949-5)

THE LEAVE PASSAGES (AMENDMENT)
ORDER, 1972.

This is the Order which has been signed by the Prime Minister. It says:

“The Minister in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949 hereby makes the following Order —

1. This Order may be cited as the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1972.
2. The Leave Passages Order, 1966 is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph 15 the following as paragraph 15A —....”

I think the hon. member has a copy of this Order.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just reached the point on which we are seeking enlightenment, and it is to what paragraph 15A refers. We want to know what is the option in accordance with order 10(16) of the Barbados External Service Orders, 1972.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think I know what the hon. member wants. Under the Constitution, just as the Prime Minister has made Orders for the guidance of the Civil Service locally, he also has the same power to make Orders for the External Service. I think those of us who have any acquaintance with the other countries of the world will know that Orders are made for the guidance, privileges and rights of the External Service as distinct from the local Civil

Service. I think the hon. member wants to get a copy of the Orders governing promotion, rights, privileges, transfer, leave passages, etc., of the External Service. I do not think the Minister has a copy of that Order on his file. We have no objection to members on the other side having copies of the Orders, if they are available. I would suggest that we pass the Order now, and we will let you have copies later.

Mr. Speaker, the Order has been made by the Prime Minister, and all we are here to do is to give an affirmative Resolution to the Order. The Prime Minister has the power to make these general Orders, and there is no secret about the matter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member who has just tried to proffer an explanation, but one will agree that these Orders are of some importance to us. Today we are asked to give our assent to a particular matter, and it is a matter about which we know nothing. It is only fair to us that we should have been brought up to date with the matter. We should have seen the relevant Orders, and we should know what the option entails. If there is one option, then we should be told what is the alternative option.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, there is a copy of the Barbados External Service Orders available. The hon. member probably wants a copy in order to look through it himself. It states:

"Interpretation 11. For the purpose of these orders —

"Approved relative" means such relative as the Permanent Secretary may declare to be an "approved relative", "approved route", and so on."

Everything is set out here in the Order, Sir.

I will refer to 12, for example, Mr. Speaker. It says:

"The Barbados External Service is an integral part of the Barbados Public Service. It is an instrument of the Government of Barbados. In the conduct of the international relations of Barbados, officers of the External Service are subject to the administrative authority of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs.

13(1) These Orders may be referred to as the Barbados External Service Orders and, subject to paragraph 2, apply to officers of the Barbados External Service in respect of the matters specifically covered by them."

The hon. member, apparently, wants a copy of this.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I think hon. members on this side are entitled to a copy. For instance, I have heard the Leader of the House say that the Orders entitled a Permanent Secretary to approve who may be an "approved relative" to an External Service Officer. I am sure that the Minister himself is no happier in his mind about the whole situation than any other hon. member on this side of the House. We are not opposing the passing of this Order, but we feel that we should have a copy to peruse and understand it and be able to approve or disapprove of it as the case may be. We are urging upon the Minister to give us our rights in a matter of this sort. Let us have copies of the Order; give us a reasonable time to peruse it, and then we can discuss it. In other words, let us postpone consideration of the matter, at this stage, and later we can deal with it expeditiously.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, 10(16) says:

"An officer who at the date of the coming into force of these Orders was already a member of the Barbados External Service may opt to remain subject to the provisions of Chapter 6 of the General Orders. In that event the provisions of Order 10 (9) to 10(15) shall not apply to that officer. Such option shall be exercised in writing not later than three months after the date of the coming into force of these Orders."

2.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I thought I had succeeded in explaining the reason for this, but I do not know if the hon. member was in his seat. It is a question of opting. The hon. member has just come in apparently.

Under the provisions of the Leave Passages Order, 1966, Public Officers are eligible for the grant of return passages on behalf of their families and themselves every four years provided they satisfy certain salary and service requirements subject to a maximum of four passages, two outside the Caribbean and two within the Caribbean in their career. At present these provisions apply equally to officers stationed locally and those employed in the Overseas Missions. With the coming into effect of the Barbados External Service Orders from 1st April, 1972, officers posted in the Overseas Missions are now eligible for the payment of return passages for themselves and their immediate families to Barbados from the country of posting every two years. Order 10(13) of the External Service Orders stipulates that an officer shall not qualify for leave passage under the Leave Passages Order 1966 as well as under the above provision. Order 10(16) of the

External Service Orders provides that officers posted to Overseas Missions would be entitled at their option either to leave passages as provided under the Leave Passages Order 1966 or paid passages as provided under the Barbados External Service Orders, and this option will be effective from 1st April, 1972.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, do I understand, because admittedly I was not in my seat when this discussion started, that we are being asked to incorporate something by reference to the Laws of Barbados without knowing what it is we are incorporating? If the External Service orders have not been laid before the House, how can we be asked to make them a part of the Law of Barbados? Is a Court to be in a better position than the High Court of Parliament? Because once they are mentioned in Statutory Orders and Regulations and a Legal Notice, I respectfully submit that we are entitled to have them before the House. I have never yet heard of any Legislature being asked to pass something which is not before it. Once 10(16) is referred to at all in a Legal Notice, Subsidiary Legislation indeed as it is, constitutionally we must have what 10(16) is before us. We cannot be asked to pass anything based on a mystery document which exists in the Ministry of External Affairs for the private guidance of the Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER: You rose on a point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: That is a point of order, and I am asking your guidance on it. Can we be asked to approve an Order which refers to something which is not before the House? If the External Service Orders have never been laid here, how do we know what we are being asked to pass? I am calling on you to tell the Minister that he must lay the Orders before they can be incorporated by reference in the Subsidiary Legislation for which an affirmative Resolution is required.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, from the file I see that they were laid on 14th December, 1971; so we are not trying to do anything irregular. It is just that you have forgotten they were laid.

Mr. ADAMS: With all this talk that we will be given copies, and I do not see why we should not have copies, is it not easier in that case for the Leader of the House to ask the Clerk to get a copy and circulate to the members on this side? I would ask that you give the Clerk five minutes and let him get a copy to let hon. members look at, because upon listening to the Minister of Communications and Works.....(Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER: Members who are not on their feet, please observe the Standing Orders.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, it is indeed fascinating and strange to see the 1972 Orders laid in 1971 and dated in 1972, because if they were laid in 1971 they would be referred to as the Barbados External Service Orders 1971, but what is being referred to is the Barbados External Service orders 1972. This means, Mr. Speaker, that if we even read 15A(1) it is obviously an ambiguity in the same 15A(1).

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I think the hon. member who has just sat down is confused or he is trying to confuse us. What the hon. member for St. Peter requested was the Orders of the Barbados External Service and these were laid according to the file on 14th December, 1971.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, the hon. member is talking about somebody being confused, but I might be confused while other persons might be blind or cannot read.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am pointing out something.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. A point of order has to relate to the Standing Orders of this Honourable House.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the Barbados External Service Orders, 1972, and I would say that when the Hon. Minister talks about being confused, I would refer it back to him.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Order we are at present dealing with is the Order to be cited as the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1972, and the Resolution is dealing with this particular Order. The Order for the Barbados External Service were laid on 14th December, 1971. This is nothing to make a fuss about; you do not get any more votes in fussing about matters like this. I can ask for leave to postpone this in order to give the Clerk an opportunity to trace these Orders to see whether they have been laid.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to postpone further consideration of this matter, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE LAND AT THYME BOTTOM, CHRIST CHURCH

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to take charge of Item No. 2 standing in the name of the Minister of Lands, Housing, Labour and National Insurance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking leave to take charge of Order No. 2 standing in the name of the Minister of Lands, Housing, Labour and National Insurance, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Thyme Bottom, Christ Church, for the purpose of extending and developing Seawell Airport.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Resolution and the Addendum set out, this House is now being asked to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the several parcels of land described in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of extending and developing Seawell Airport, and as the Schedule sets out, it is all those certain pieces or parcels of land situate in the district known as Thyme Bottom in the parish of Christ Church in this Island together containing by estimation 69 Acres 2 Roods 37¾ Perches or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of the Government of Barbados being lands of Fairy Valley Plantation, on the Public Road leading from Pilgrim Road to the Regional Police School and on a road leading from the said Public Road to Fairy Valley Plantation Yard or however else the same may abut and bound together with the dwellinghouses thereon (if any) attached to the said land.

The area of land is set out in the Schedule, and the Addendum states that in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 the approval of Parliament is sought for the compulsory acquisition of the parcels of land described in the Schedule in order that the purpose set out in the Resolution may be effected and that the Crown may acquire an indefeasible title to the parcels of land.

3.00 p.m.

This matter is becoming very pressing, Seawell is being developed, and unless these parcels of land which abut the Seawell runway are acquired it will not be possible to accommodate the larger planes that are coming in, especially the 747 jumbo jets, so steps are being taken to acquire these parcels of land and the negotiations are under way. The question of price has to be worked out between

the Crown Solicitor and the various owners of the respective parcels of land, but this matter is very urgent, in that we need to get ahead with our airport development plans and provide the necessary facilities for the larger planes which will use our runway. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we on this side, while voting for the Resolution, would be much happier if we had seen the realisation of some of the many promises that this House has been treated to over the last few years as to the publication of a development plan for Seawell Airport. During the debate on the Estimates the Prime Minister very openly and candidly discussed many of the outstanding problems, indicated many of the policies which the Government was pursuing in respect of Seawell, but although he set an example at that time, which many of his Ministers might follow, of candour and straight dealing with the House, yet he too fell into the trap of offering this promise of a White Paper or similar document.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am a Minister of this Government and I object to the remark made by the Leader of the Opposition that the Ministers of this Government do not carry on straight dealings with this House. It is an insinuation that the Ministers of this Government mislead the House, and I take objection to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will accept the objection.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry that the Minister of "all affairs" should have taken objection in those circumstances of an example of how the House should be treated. We have not yet had the White Paper or other document that would enable us to see what the true development of Seawell Airport is going to be. During the debate on the Estimates the Prime Minister, for example, commented that there were certain housing developments at the end of the runway for which outline building permission had already been granted, and that the Government would find itself having a difficult time when the runway came to be extended, because many of these people might be entitled to compensation to the value of properties due to either inconvenience or actual physical acquisition of their lands. I am told that all this came about as a result of faulty planning. Enquiries that I have made have revealed that since 1966 the responsible authorities for Civil Aviation have been drawing attention to some of the problems which we are

facing in this Resolution and any other matters particularly connected to Town Planning, and while their comment is that the attention that they drew never reached the Prime Minister's desk, it merely was shunted around at lesser levels of Government. Whether or not that is true, if it were a battle of individual opinion on airport development, the circumstances in which building permission was given for housing estates to arise at the eastern and the western end of the airport would never have happened.

If there had been individual opinion on airport expansion, the Town Planner would never have been able to embarrass the Government unconsciously by creating the bottlenecks at each end of the proposed Seawell Airport Development. I have a little specialised knowledge about some of the plots of land involved in this Resolution. I would imagine that the Leader of the House would have a little personal and perhaps specialised knowledge as well, and again while we on this side are not going to obstruct the Resolution in any way upon the basis of the private complaints made by one or two of the persons named in the Schedule, yet I would like the Minister's assurance that he is satisfied that the Crown Solicitor is going through all the necessary steps to purchase land through ordinary means before he goes by way of land acquisition.

What I put forward to the House now is not now a serious bone of contention, but there is one name on this list for whom Counsel and Solicitor were instructed to seek certain compromises, and that owner assured me personally when I asked him why he was worrying because his land was going to be acquired, he said that that was the first he knew that his land was scheduled to be acquired by the Government. He was always expecting it, some of the land had been cut off earlier, and he is aware of the fact that the airport has an interest in his land, but I do not see that the ordinary channels could have been pursued if he is correct in saying that he first knew of the acquisition by my telling him I had seen it in an advertisement. A Land Acquisition Resolution is not the cheapest way of acquiring land, it takes up the time of the House and is a bigger burden on the Crown Solicitor than mere negotiation on a price which the Government is willing to pay and which the owner is willing to accept. I would like to think that all these people, many of whom are in fact known to me personally, have been approached before this step was found necessary. I can say that I have carried one of these people into the Crown Solicitor's Office to discuss this matter, and it may very well be that that particular parcel of land might have been sold without the necessity of coming to the House for a Resolution such as this. The work will still have to

be done, so much better if it could have been done before.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister introduced the Resolution by saying that it is becoming a matter of urgency that the Seawell Development Project should proceed. I am indeed glad to hear this, because I think some ten years ago some of the parties whose names appear in this Resolution approached the Government and offered the Government their lands at that time, the very lands which are now being compulsorily acquired, and I am happy to see that the normal and average citizen of Barbados sometimes has no more foresight than this Government has, because in this instance the offer was rejected.

3.10 p.m.

I trust that the acquisition is not now more costly to the Treasury, because of the lack of foresight shown at that time by the parties to whom the offer was made. What concerns me, however, particularly on this Resolution is that, I believe, a lot of these people are small-holders. I wonder whether the Minister can assure the House that they have been offered reasonable compensation or, even alternatively, some of them have been offered an opportunity of an exchange of land.

Government is today the biggest landowner in this country. I do not know whether Government knows what it owns; where it owns it; and how much it owns. From time to time we are being asked to go on acquiring land, some of which seems in excess of the needs of the Government for public purposes at the time. When it concerns the acquisition of big plantations, at least, one would not expect those persons to be cavilling too much about their land being taken away and having to look for alternative sites. Indeed, in some instances, plantation owners today are glad to see that land is being acquired, because some of the plantations are becoming uneconomical to maintain in their present condition. But when it comes to a small-holder, I am deeply concerned that he may not be offered the option by Government to opt for land in the vicinity in place of compulsory acquisition and merely take money that may not go the whole way.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in this area the land is being treated mostly as agricultural land, and the price would not be the sort of price that would help a person who owns, let us say, one acre to purchase a similar acre for housing purposes or as valuable to him as another spot. I throw this out to the Government's consideration, because I know the Government owns lands at Coverley. I believe the Government has been negotiating with other plantations in the area to acquire adjoining lands.

Wherever possible, I will counsel the Government that it should give the owners the opportunity of doing an exchange on an across-the-board basis.

I do not know if the Minister can enlighten me here on this matter, but there are too many small-holders involved in this matter for me to feel happy at the fact that they are being disenfranchised from land-ownership in this country when, I think, we want to see more and more people having a stake in this country. I do not believe that they necessarily have a stake in the country because the Government has acquired their lands. At present, unfortunately, the compulsory acquisition of lands has, in most instances, not been functioning in the best interest of the country. I think that there is a lot of land that could probably be better used, and in this respect I am asking for an assurance on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is, "That this Resolution do now pass."

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, Will the Minister give us some explanation?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Minister like to exercise his right of reply?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this matter has been pending for some time, as the hon. member for Christ Church West has said. From my understanding, these negotiations have been going on since June, 1971. The regular procedures were adopted; nothing irregular went on; and it is now almost June, 1972. The lands were duly advertised; notices were put in the newspapers, and so on. I would expect that the respective owners have been given ample notice, and I have no reason to think that the Crown Solicitor would deal with these acquisitions in any manner different from how he has dealt with other acquisitions in the past.

Mr. Speaker, the appropriate Minister of Lands has been dealing with this matter and he is unavoidably absent today; therefore, I cannot answer the specific question raised by the hon. member about acquiring these lands 10 years ago. It is quite possible that the market price of the lands would be higher now than before. I am hoping that the people concerned will be adequately compensated and will receive full compensation for their respective properties or parcels of land as the case may be.

This matter falls within my constituency, and hon. members can rest assured that all the assistance that I can give will be forthcoming to anyone who approaches me. I am not going to

anybody, but anyone who comes to me with a grievance or needs assistance, I am quite willing to see that equitable dealings take place. I am just as interested in this matter as anyone else, and probably moreso in that all these areas of lands or properties fall within my constituency.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WARLEIGH PLANTATION, ST. PETER

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution in the absence of the Minister of Lands. It is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Warleigh Plantation, St. Peter, for the purpose of providing a playing field.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the parcel of land described in the Schedule hereto for the following purpose, namely:- For the purpose of providing a playing field. The land in question, Sir is -

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land part of Warleigh Plantation situate in the parish of Saint Peter in this island containing by admeasurement 5.198 Acres or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of the Barbados Government being lands of All Saints Girls' School, on lands of Fitz Cumberbatch, on lands of Carmen Cadogan, on lands of O. Nicholls, on lands of Rosamund King, on lands of Nathaniel Bend, on lands of Whitehall Plantation and on the public road known as Highway No. 2A or however else the same may abut and bound.
3.20 p.m.

The owners of the land described in the schedule cannot furnish a good and marketable title, so in accordance with Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, the approval of Parliament is sought for the compulsory acquisition of the parcel of land described in the Schedule in order that the purpose set out in the Resolution may be effected and that the Crown may acquire an indefeasible title to the parcel of land.

The plan is here if any hon. member would like to see it. Negotiations have been going on since

4th February, 1972, and Warleigh Plantation have set the price at \$2,800 per acre, but would like to draw to Government's attention that the area is approximately 4½ acres and the owners would prefer to sell all instead of being left with just half an acre. It seems from the file that the price has been agreed on.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to find that at last this spot of land is to be acquired, and what I am glad about is that an opportunity, I hope, will be presented for particularly the children of the area to be able to enjoy some of the facilities that have been lacking in many years past. I know what dangers they are exposed to now, having to block traffic, and play their games on the main highways in the parish of St. Peter, and all we are asking Government to do is to set about as quickly as possible and complete the acquisition and not allow the land to remain unattended so that the children who have been crying out for some time for a playing field will be able to take the fullest advantage that it has to offer. Their physical and mental development very much depends on this type of provision not only for All Saints and the district of Mile-and-a-Quarter, but this even gives an opportunity to express the hope that the Government has started negotiations with the same person in connection with the plots adjoining Boscobelle Girl's School. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us if anything was done at the same time. I remember a former Minister saying that something was being done in connection therewith, and I would like to know what is the position since it is the same land owner involved. I am very glad indeed to see that this land is being acquired for the purpose as set out herein.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the file merely relates to the acquisition of Warleigh Plantation; so I cannot assist the hon. member in that respect, but I will enquire.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 4 standing in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to take charge of Item No. 4 and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the position in this matter is that as the Objects and Reasons set out, the Bill will amend the Income Tax Act, 1968, in order to provide that the rate of tax of 12½ per cent on interest from Government debentures should be applicable to companies as well as individuals and to correct a typographical error appearing in Section 13 of the Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 1971 (Act 1971-42).

The position is that in the Prime Minister's Budget Speech of 1971, as Minister of Finance he proposed *inter alia* that interest from Government debentures should not be aggregated with other income, but attached separately at a rate of 12½ per cent. A new section 46(d) was inserted in the Income Tax Act, 1968, by the Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 1971, to implement the budgetary proposals. It has now been observed that the provision made applied only to the taxable income of an individual, and the Minister of Finance has agreed that it was not his intention to make any distinction between individuals and other persons. It is felt that Government debentures would be made more attractive if the existing law is amended to allow the limit of 12½ per cent in respect of interest from Government debentures to apply to any person which would include companies. That is the explanation. It is a sort of error which has crept in and this is to regularise the position. The amendment applies not only to individuals but to corporations, companies and any person or persons.

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

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

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

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

The clauses of the Bill were 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 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, passed, its title read, and agreed to.

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT)
ACT, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to take charge of this Item which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Objects and Reasons set out -

This Bill would amend the Public Holidays Act, 1968 (Act 1968-49) in order -

- (a) to empower the Governor-General to amend the First Schedule to that Act; and
- (b) to provide that -
 - (i) the 24th October, United Nations Day, should be a public holiday, and
 - (ii) the first Monday in October should cease to be a public holiday.

The position is that on the 6th December, 1971 at the 26th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, they adopted the following Resolution:

"The General Assembly, conscious of the need to enhance the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, mindful that in Resolution 168(2) of 31st October, 1947, the General Assembly declared that 24th October, the anniversary of the coming into force of the Charter, as United Nations Day, and believing that the anniversary of the United Nations should be an occasion for Governments and peoples to reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter, declared that 24th October, United Nations Day, shall be an international holiday and recommended that it should be observed as a public holiday by all the State members of the United Nations."

It is as a result of that - and it is recommended by the appropriate Minister - that the declaration of the General Assembly should be adopted by this Government, and that 24th

October should be observed as an annual public holiday.

It was also recommended that the first Monday in October, Clerks' Holiday, should be removed from the Schedule of the Public Holidays' Act, 1968 so as not to increase the number of public holidays.

Those are the reasons, and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, good ideas get put up to Governments and they pass through the machinery, the pipeline of Governmental activity, and often a basic function of what the ideas are all about gets lost in the wash. It is a perfectly good idea to celebrate United Nations Day, it is a very bad idea - and we on this side will not be supporting it - to stop a Bank Holiday from falling on a Monday. Throughout the world there is a trend to extend the weekend. In the United States such hallowed days as Washington's birthday are not celebrated as Bank Holidays any more on the day on which they fall, they are celebrated on a Monday so that people could have a Saturday, Sunday and Monday for their own comfort. Somebody has held on to the idea of United Nations Day and has decided we should have it as a Bank Holiday and that it should replace the first Monday in October, but I am suggesting that is foolishness. A Tuesday, a Wednesday or a Thursday Bank Holiday is of no use to the people, we have had a Monday Bank Holiday in October to break the long time that you have to go from Whitsun - it used to be till Christmas, now it is till Independence Day - to give people an extended weekend at the beginning of the last quarter of the year. What you are now doing is taking away a traditional Monday Bank Holiday and giving a Bank Holiday which may fall on a Saturday, because what use will it be to people to hear that October 25th is a Saturday? I do not even know what day it will be this year, Sir, I understand it will be a Wednesday but what use is Wednesday Bank Holiday? The worst day you might very well say for a Bank Holiday is a Tuesday, because you have to go to work Monday, stay home on Tuesday and come back out on a Wednesday. In a world where the trend is to make all Bank Holidays fall on a Monday where possible, and where you have long weekends have them fall on a Friday as well, like Easter on a Friday running through to the Monday, I have never conceived of a more retrograde step then to stop a Monday holiday in favour of a holiday that five years out of seven will fall on a week day or a Saturday. Four years out of

seven it will fall on a week day and one year out of seven it will fall on a Saturday.

3.40 p.m.

I am suggesting that the Government reframe the legislation to make provision that the nearest Monday to October 25 be a bank holiday. I think it is too late in October, anyhow. August bank holiday will be the next, and after that we will have the October bank holiday. We will now have in Barbados to wait from August 7 until October 25, a Wednesday, this year for a bank holiday.

Why does not the Government recognise that throughout the world the day itself is now being ignored, and the holiday aspect of the celebration is being emphasised. In Britain, the United States and in all civilised countries bank holidays are being shifted on to a Monday. In the United States, I believe I am right in saying that the only Federal holidays that do not now fall on a Monday are Independence Day, July 4, and Christmas bank holiday because they cannot alter that.

The Christian Church recognised a very long time ago when the Pope was a Negro that Easter should be celebrated from Friday to Monday and that it should be a movable feast. It is a pity that Christmas is not also celebrated as a movable feast, in my opinion, but that would require more international agreement than anybody is likely to get. My view is that Christmas Day should always be celebrated on a Sunday and there should be a Monday holiday immediately following it. If the Church can do that for Easter, they can do it for Christmas, too. One thing that you can be sure of is that the shepherds did not watch their flocks by night in December in Palestine, because it was too cold. Christmas is merely an arbitrary date that has been selected, like Easter.

Let us, Sir, reconsider the precise phrasing of this Bill and make sure that, if the October bank holiday is in future to celebrate United Nations Day, it can still fall on a Monday. Let commonsense prevail, and do not take away a long week-end from Barbadians in 1972, 1973 and, indeed, 1974 when it will fall on a Friday and many people will have to go back to work the next day, Saturday. Tuesday is a bad day, and Friday may even be a worst one. Who has an appetite, after a Friday bank holiday, to come back to work the next day, Saturday? (*Asides.*) To come back on the Saturday to work for half-day! Again, looking at the list of bank holidays, if the point needs labouring, New Year's day is not a bank holiday in many countries, but we have it here. Easter Monday is a bank holiday. May Day is a Monday; Whit-Monday is a Monday; August holiday is a Monday; October holiday a Monday. The whole

emphasis is on Monday bank holidays all through the year to give people a comfortable week-end, and now we are going to run off on to this ill-thought-out foolishness.

I am asking the Minister to send this Bill either back to the draftsmen – I would prefer that because the point which I am making is very simple – or to a Select Committee to decide whether it should be the Monday preceding United Nations Day or the Monday following it. A formula can very easily be worked out and reduced to four lines as an amendment, and we can celebrate United Nations Day on a convenient Monday in October. This is what I am asking the Minister to do, and I am appealing to the Government not to regard this as a Party matter, because it could not conceivably be a Party matter. It must not be regarded as a Party matter on which they have to dig their heels in. Let the people keep the Monday holiday.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I never thought that one person could talk so much on a simple piece of legislation like this! I would not like it to be an important piece of legislation. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition must know that this Government is coming around to a 40-hour week. It is the avowed policy of the Government that we are going to have 40 hours per week as the working hours for anybody. He must also be aware that the trade union is negotiating on the basis that 40 hours a week is the maximum for which a workman is called upon to work. There is no magic in having a holiday on a Monday. What I want to see, is hard work done by the people in Barbados, because a young nation can only thrive on hard work. In my view we have too many holidays, and we do not work enough, if Barbados is going to continue to prosper. I am not for increasing holidays; I am for cutting out some of them. When you used to have the Queen's Birthday on any day at all – it would fall any day once it was the 24th May or when Her Majesty felt like setting the date for the celebration of her birthday, I did not hear the Hon. Leader of the Opposition quarrelling about it.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Was the Minister in the House, or was I in the House when Her Majesty used to set a date for the celebration of her birthday?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It was not a holiday in England when we were celebrating it here, and I never heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition say that it should not be a holiday. Perhaps he was colonially brain-washed then, but now he will get up and tell us.... (*Asides*) Monday has no magic.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will members who are not on their feet observe Standing Orders? Keep silent!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I think that we have too many holidays, and I will go on record as saying that. All Barbados is endeavouring to do by this legislation is to fall into line and to acknowledge a Resolution of the United Nations that the day on which the United Nations was founded should be a holiday, whether it falls on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

There is an argument, on the other hand that a hard-working man might need to have a break mid-week to relax rather than have three days of solid rest and forget the need and desire to work on a Tuesday morning. I have heard it said, and he knows it too, that, after a long week-end like the last one, it takes nearly a whole day to get some people to start the engine up again to give you a day's work on Tuesday. If you went through Barbados today you would wonder how many are suffering from hang-overs; how many remained late at dances last night, and how many are giving an honest day's work today for an honest day's pay.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Minister then suggesting that we should have a mid-week holiday so that the people cannot enjoy themselves properly?

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What point of order is that? Mr. Speaker, the whole point of this Bill is to honour the Resolution. I do not know if he wants us to fix United Nations Day and insist that whatever time of the week it falls it must be celebrated on a Monday. I say that we want hard work; we want pride and industry; we are working towards a 40-hour week; we want people to work; we do not want holidays, because the country cannot afford holidays. There are too many holidays now for everybody: civil servants, teachers and so on, if this country is going to make its mark in the years that lie ahead.

Mr. Speaker, we have not added to the holidays. What is the merit of Clerk's Day? What is its significance in the history of Barbados? Is it Emancipation Day? Is it a day when the free black people walked the streets? (*Asides.*) What is its relevance to the history of the society of Barbados? If the Hon. leader of the Opposition has explained that Clerk's Day was a historical incident in the history and development of Barbados.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of Order, Sir. The Minister has misrepresented me. I have not said that you must keep Clerk's Day. I have said that

United Nations Day should not be on the anniversary, but on the Monday closest to it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, he has to concede that we have not added to the holidays. Secondly, the abolition of Clerks' Day has no relevance to the culture, history or development of Barbados. The only quarrel we can have now is that he will prefer to have the holiday on a Monday. My answer to that is that there is no merit in it. I would cut it out altogether and get the people in this country to do some work. This country is suffering from people not working. This is my conviction, and I am satisfied with it. I have travelled; I have seen what hard work can do for a country, and this is my view. I would cut it out altogether, but, since the United Nations Resolution, which was passed by the hundred and odd nations, requests that it be added, the Government has decided to add it and not alter it from the day when it falls as the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

As far as I am concerned, I would try to get people to do more work. This is something that this country has to concentrate on, and we must stop talking politics about a man wants Monday to rest; he wants Tuesday to rest; he wants a long week-end and so on. We do not want long week-ends; we want hard work. Politically speaking, it sounds good, because the natural instinct of man is not to work, and 99 per cent of the people in the world have to do jobs that if they had any choice they would not do. When the hon. member gets up and talks about long week-ends and so on, he is not doing the country any good. I want to hear him telling the people that they have to work, bank holidays included, if it means the economic advancement of the country. That is what I want to hear him preaching, but I do not want to hear him preaching about long week-ends and we should make it a Monday. There is no merit about what day it falls. If a man is doing honest work, he can do honest work on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday. If Tuesday is a bank holiday, then he can come back on Wednesday and do honest work.

3.50 p.m.

If a man is a good honest worker, is in good health, his place of employment looks after him well, the conditions under which he is working and his salary are good, and he has proper social conditions in his home and where he is working, it does not matter to him whether a Bank Holiday falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. If he is an honest worker always prepared to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, basically he can say he would like a long week-end to go to the seaside. That is what I want

hon. members to talk about — hard work regardless of where the Bank Holiday falls; so do not let us play politics and make people believe that you argued for a long week-end for them. I am not asking for a long week-end; my Ministry especially is asking for hard work, honest work, a fair day's work for a fair day's pay and give them time to relax and rest. We have too many holidays already as it stands.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister began by saying that he was surprised to see that the Leader of the Opposition could talk so long on such a short Bill. I think the Hon. Minister who has just sat down could obviously say to himself that he has followed for once the example of the Leader of the Opposition regardless of whether it be good or bad.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that there is a time for telling the truth and a time for telling lies; there is a season for sowing and a season for reaping; there is obviously a season for talking politics and a season for coming in here and talking the truth to the country; but I should hate to think that a simple Act like an amendment to the Public Holidays Act should be the reason for trying to insinuate that the people of this country are not prone to hard work and have not been working hard in this country. I hear so often about the increase in the National Income and about the improvement that has gone on, and with respect, despite the number of Public Holidays it must have gone on because of the hard work given by the people of Barbados and not merely by the politicians who might fool the people of Barbados. With great respect to what the hon. member has said, wherever the people are entitled to a proper holiday, as in many cases they are, I think we should give it to them, and we should not now simply because we have 4½ years to go, begin by saying that too many people want a lot of free time, easy work and what not. This will be remembered in due course.

But let me get off the controversial points and make this very serious point that the celebration of United Nations Day is important for anybody who believes in the peace-loving principles under which small nations such as ours can progress; so to this extent I think it is important that this day should be celebrated and in some respects it should be observed as a Public Holiday, but I do not think it is good enough simply to introduce a Resolution on the point if we are going to take our Public Holidays like the United Nations Day in the future without attaching to them special significance. It is in this trend that I would like seriously to suggest that we do more than merely pay lip service to some of our Public Holidays. I think that although

Independence has been recent that a few people have begun not even to recognise the full significance of that day, and I should like to see now that the Governor-General is going to be given a discretion in order to appoint days as Public Holidays that we will take a serious look at making Public Holidays meaningful in the context of this country's history.

It seems to me a great tragedy, for instance, that nobody has yet adverted to the fact that an outstanding statesman and freedom fighter in this country's history like Sir Grantley Adams should have one of the Public Holidays celebrated after his name and at least let the people of this country in future recognise, particularly the working class of this country and some of my hon. friends on the other side whom he took from the cradle and brought to manhood, that because of people like him Barbados today can celebrate United Nations Day as a member of United Nations or celebrate many other Public Holidays. I would like to think that the Government would make a statement on these matters. There are other people, I think. Take Whit Monday only; we can call it Dr. O'Neale's Day if they do not want to believe that they are merely throwing something to someone who came from the side of the Opposition; but certainly outstanding people like these should have their names indelibly written in this country's history and frequently kept before the public's mind. I am not saying that each one of us who comes to this House will deserve this honour, but certainly I believe that Sir Grantley was one such man, and there are others coming after who will also deserve like honours, and it is in this trend that I would have hoped to see the House discussing and thinking on this Resolution at the second reading where the principle of the Bill is important.

I am glad to see that the Government is renewing its commitment to United Nations, and I should hope that in the years to come that it would take positive steps not by merely throwing cocktail parties to celebrate United Nations Day. I am dead against this idea of the big cocktail party for a particular day, because I think people do not really appreciate the significance of it. I would prefer to see some positive act of people trying to contribute on that day in a meaningful way to their country by the re-reading, if you like, of the country's history, the context of independence, our contribution to the world, and our contribution to removing the vestiges of colonialism from the West Indies, particularly in the independent, and in the Associated States of this hemisphere. It is in this light therefore that I ask that perhaps the Government should take the point made by the Leader of the Opposition too in mind. It is not a

political point; it is not, as he stated, a point on which people would divide on parties. Some people may think it is not an extremely important point, but the point he made is that it would be more convenient to have your holidays coming close to a week-end, and it is a matter that could be borne in mind.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I think I can associate myself with the remarks made by the Minister of Communications and Works when he said that he did not think that a small bit of legislation like this would have brought about a debate of this nature, but I would be failing in my duty if I did not join in this debate. I thought the point made by the Leader of the Opposition to be a very simple one, and I do not want to recite it now, but after hearing the Minister of Communications and Works, certainly I have to join in this. I am convinced at this stage that a Resolution must be brought into Parliament to prevent the use of the term "black people.., because I do not believe that the Minister of Information feels quite comfortable when remarks of this nature are made. I recall hearing the Minister of Communications and Works say "black people" of which there are about 95% or 98% but the Minister of Information is also a member of this august Assembly and is entitled like other people of his ethnic group to be considered. His face turned almost like a cherry when the Minister of Communications and Works made his statement about black people. However, Mr. Speaker, I hope that whatever was said by the Minister of Communications and Works about people working in this country would be removed from Hansard for fear that the Prime Minister of Barbados misses and reads it, because — and I do not think that you would have been in any thing of that nature knowing you so well and especially after reading your pamphlet — they repeatedly went on public platforms and gave the impression to the people of this country that the word "labour" was an insult to them.

4.00 p.m.

I recall the famous May Day Speech when the Prime Minister said he did not want to see a cane blade in the country, now the Minister of Communications and Works is telling us he would like to see less Bank Holidays and more productivity. I agree with him on that, especially in a place like the United States of America which is one of the most powerful countries in the world, where people take half hour in some cases for lunch, and I have heard the Prime Minister say on several occasions that Civil Servants take two and three hours for lunch, they report for work at a quarter to nine and then they have to pick up their kids at half past three, so how on one hand we can

hear the word "labour" is something good — the Minister of Communications and Works is saying you must work hard and receive an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, which we on this side will always agree with — but on the other hand for the Prime Minister the word "labour" is a bad word?

I remember the joker whom they had running in St. James against me said that when he hears the word "labour" it sounds as if a woman is bearing a child, in pain, and because of that you have a number of young people in this country today who are not prepared to work, and this has only come about since this Party has taken over the reins of Government, but then you hear of pride and industry. This is the political jargon you get when people are polluting the air at night, and that is why I referred to the Prime Minister as a double-breasted joker. There is no clear cut policy, the Union is bargaining for a 40-hour week, the Minister of Communications and Works is saying you should work every day of the week, so there is no policy, they are a bundle of ram goats.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, what I said you should work hard for is not cutting across, I am wedded to forty hours per week even if it means more shifts. I mean the people must work all week to make the country prosper, not that they must work ninety hours per week, they must work within the forty hour context, there is no magic about this.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not understand how you are going to work forty hours per week and work Sunday and Monday too, and I am sorry that the Trade Union boss is not here because he would have run you out of that chair this evening. You would not have got up and said what you said earlier if the member for St. Michael West was in his place, because this only shows you quite clearly that there is no policy and that you are only playing cheap politics. All the member for St. Thomas said was instead of having a Bank Holiday fall on a Tuesday or on a Friday where people must go to work for at least half day on Saturday it should fall on a Monday, and in the Ministry of Communications and Works it is humanly impossible for the people who work in the roads and some of the Civil Servants to put in two hours in one day. When they are not playing dominoes they are doing something else. I have seen men dressed to come to work on Saturday mornings in white flannels, white shirts and shoes — and they work in the roads — so you would know they are going to play cricket. They have the shovel and brooms at some distance from them, but they know the Supervisors' cars and work to suit, so what are you talking? In your own Ministry you

have this problem but you are shouting across the floor that you would like to see people work harder.

The Minister is asking for a full day's work for a full day's pay. I support him on this, especially when you are a young country, but as far as the United Nations is concerned, my personal view is that it serves no useful purpose in the entire world. When U Thant was giving up office he said it has failed the world, so what am I going to celebrate? Let us create our own society, as far as I am concerned the United Nations is only a place for overgrown jokers, they cannot solve one single crisis in the world, what they are doing is keeping black people hungry and with no clothes. Black people, not like the Minister of Information who stopped me from going in Chez Jean Pierre, but I am only waiting on him, I will stop him from coming in some place too in my country because this is mine, not yours.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must not be offensive.

Mr. CRAIG: I said I will stop the Minister of Information from coming in some place one of these days. He stopped Val McComie, the Ambassador in Washington, and me from going in the hotel as if he owned something in Barbados, and now today he is sitting down to guide this nation, the Prime Minister should hang his head in shame.

As far as these Bank Holidays are concerned, Mr. Speaker, even God had to get a little rest and he took it on the seventh day. As far as the Bank Holidays are concerned, whether there are too many or not I am not concerned with that at this particular stage, I support the Minister of Communications and Works who, unlike the Prime Minister, thinks that the day has come when people must get up and produce. I am a small employer and I pay my employees very well, but it is amazing to know that there is a chap by the name of "Bush Tea" from Pilgrim Road, and one day when I offered him a job he said he was not prepared to work, work was not his salvation or religion, and he is 23 years old. I am supporting the Leader of the Opposition and I have to agree with the Minister of Communications and Works that there is that need for people to understand that you can only succeed in life by doing hard work, and I think you too, Mr. Speaker, have realised this.

I sincerely hope that whether the Bank Holiday is going to be on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, that the people of this country will try hard to produce more, and in the meantime I hope that part of Hansard will be removed before the

Prime Minister reads it, otherwise the Minister might be at the tail end again of the Cabinet.
4.10 p.m.

I have been told that he was Acting Leader of the House a couple of Tuesdays ago, and that means that he is getting closer to the crown. I would suggest to him, in all honesty, not to say anything to disturb the feelings of the people of this country's chief.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am one of those people who believe that, if you are going to have holidays in a country, these holidays should be meaningful. I am not now concerned with the question of whether we have too many holidays or whether we have enough holidays. I think we should look at the question and see whether the holidays that we have at present are meaningful to the ordinary citizen in Barbados.

I believe that one of the purposes of this Bill is to do away with the holiday that was celebrated on the first Monday in October. I do not think that the average person in Barbados realises the significance of this holiday. I believe that the first Monday in August is celebrated in Trinidad as Discovery Day, and in Barbados, I believe, it is referred to as Emancipation Day. I do not know whether the average person in Barbados appreciates the significance of this holiday on the first Monday in August, or whether it is just accepted as something granted.

I feel that the holidays in this country must represent our heritage, our culture and our history. Like the hon. member for Christ Church West, I would certainly recommend to the House that one of the holidays celebrated in any year in Barbados should bring home to the public of this country the contribution which Sir Grantley has made to this country. Do not let us play politics about this. One will remember at the time of his death, both in this Chamber and outside of it, his political opponents who did not see eye to eye with him then, recognised that he made a contribution to the development of this country. Let us be honest with ourselves and let us make one of the holidays represent Sir Grantley Adams and the contribution which he has made to the development of this country.

I have no doubt that within the next twenty or twenty-five years when the Prime Minister of this country is no longer in politics that a similar speech will be made, because you must recognise that even if he is your political opponent, he has made some contribution to the development of this country. Likewise, I have no doubt that in the future an effort will be made to have some day

celebrated in Barbados as a distinguishing mark to show the contribution that our present Prime Minister has made towards the development of this country.

Over and beyond this, I think that this question of holidays raises a point that the Government should really consider. I refer to the question of our National heroes. I know that from time to time we have renamed a bridge as the Charles Duncan O'Neal Bridge. Attempts have been made to bring to life again the important figure of Prescod, but I do not believe that merely holding a State Service at a Church, when even the Government members of Parliament do not attend, is the way to celebrate the memory of a man who has made a contribution to Barbados. The Government should look at this matter in the context of having National heroes. I refer to people like Sir Grantley, Prescod, Charles Duncan O'Neal and others who have made contributions.

Another matter of importance to the economic development of this country will be to commemorate the day on which the riots took place in 1937. Whether we like it or not, the riots of 1937 made a significant impact on the life of Barbados as a whole. You can look at Barbados in terms of the pre-1937 development and the post 1937 development as well as the post-Independent development. It must be admitted, regardless of one's political complexion, that the riots of 1937 made a tremendous impact on the economic and political life of this country. I would seriously recommend to Government that, in addition to having a day to commemorate the riot of 1937, there should be some sort of monument to show that we as well as our children appreciate the contribution made by the men who took part in the riots in 1937. We can only be proud of our country if we appreciate the history of our country.

Mr. Speaker, if it is instilled in the children at school that a particular day is to commemorate the birthday of Sir Grantley Adams, or to remind us of the day on which the riots took place in 1937, the inquiring mind will ask: What contribution did he make? What was the effect of the riots in 1937? If we can do these things, I am quite sure that we will be doing something for the community as a whole.

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 Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, obviously we are dealing with people who, in the main, are deeply and profoundly conservative in anything that they do not understand. I have never yet in my life heard anybody talk more about something that he had never heard before in his life and he did not understand than the Minister for Communications and Works. I understand now why his colleagues call him the "Minister for All Affairs." That is the name given to him by his colleagues and not by me.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, somebody set him on me like a duppy. If I knew who it was, I would try and work obeah like "Dab Dab" and try and get him off. If he would tell me who it is confidentially,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately,.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If he had gone up to the Hilton to the lunch they are having up there for the Evangelists they may work the duppy obeah off of him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!
4.20 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Dab Dab was arrested, but I am sure the hon. member will be as successful in avoiding arrest,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want both hon. members to understand that there is no Dab Dab in here.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, the reason why, and I do not believe that even so well informed a person as the hon. member for Christ Church North Central could be aware of this, Monday is chosen as a Bank Holiday is because over a long period of years in the United States a study extending over seven or eight years throughout all the States found that Monday was in fact the most efficient day to have a Bank Holiday on, that far from people coming in drunk on Tuesday as the Minister has suggested, it was found that not only did it coincide with people's wishes to have a long week-end, but there is less interruption to work by having Bank Holidays on a Monday. If the Minister does not know, he should not talk. This is

something that lasted seven or eight years in the United States before they could bring themselves to celebrate Washington's birthday on a Monday irrespective of when it falls.

All the talk about work and that Barbadians must work and so on I am in favour of. I do not believe personally that Barbadians should work on Saturday, and I would agree with the Minister on a forty-hour week; but it is a remarkable man who in one speech can say that Barbadians do not work enough at the same time that he says that they are only to work a forty-hour week in future. It is a remarkable man who can embrace those two principles within the confines of one set of remarks in here. But I am not trying to attack the Minister of Communications and Works. I believe that far from anybody setting me on to the Minister, that the Minister only has to see me get up and he then gets up and delivers himself of the most remarkable nonsense in a career which has been liberally bespattered with outpourings of nonsense from time to time. All I have to do is to get up.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, has he ever followed my curriculum vitae? A man who has done what I have done could talk nonsense and reach where I have reached? I am going to get a copy for him, because obviously he does not know where I have come from and where I have reached. I have held posts which call for ability, responsibility and unselfishness.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I really do very much regret that anything I should say should have suggested that the Minister has not reached an ample position in life. He held a position in the legal service in Jamaica. I believe that certain disagreements prevented him from attaining the promotion that he might have wished. He held a position in the legal service in the Cameroons. I believe that certain circumstances prevented his reappointment to the post. He was once a Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is not true. I did one term in Africa and voluntarily, in spite of being asked by the President Ahmadou Adhijo and the Prime Minister Mr. John Ngu Foncha, returned for domestic and private reasons. So do not let the hon. member come with any nonsense. let him get his facts straight because I am going to correct him on every detail of my career if he does not know. If he has ever been to Jamaica, he would know what a very high reputation I had as an advocate and as a lawyer in Jamaica. Let him ask the hon. member for Christ Church who went to Jamaica with him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Mr. ADAMS: I do not think the hon. member should ask me to deal with his career in Jamaica. I will leave him to the Chief Justice, Sir William Douglas, to deal with him, and he knows what I mean.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He can deal with me!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to intervene. The hon. member will kindly sit. I am not going to allow this type of behaviour between two legal luminaries. One acted as a Judge and the other has not acted yet, therefore I must accept that they are both legal luminaries. I will ask the hon. member for St. Thomas to revert to Clause 3 relating to the Bank Holidays Act.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member interrupted me when I was going to say he was Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party and where is he now.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am in the Government in which you have never been, and I have been the first Attorney General which you have never been; so how do you mean where I am now? I am a Minister of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. ADAMS: He is not the Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party now, Sir. I don't even think he is the First Vice-Chairman; I doubt he is the Second Vice-Chairman.

Sir, I do not wish to use the debate on Clause 3 to annoy the hon. member. I made a solemn vow and promise not to interfere with the hon. member any more. Certain representations were made to me and I realise I have done wrong; I have been teasing him too much and I made a vow and promise. It is only that I feel deeply about this question here, and I do not think — and I say this with the greatest respect to his argument — that he understands what is being discussed, because what is being discussed is irrelevant to the main argument he has adduced. Any of the points that have been made may be answered one way or another. I heard it argued by one person that there are too many Bank Holidays in Barbados. The argument always is that this is a tropical country, we work on Saturdays and therefore we need more Bank Holidays than colder countries. People work very hard here in the hot sun cutting canes and work with sun baking down on them and it is undoubtedly more difficult to work hard under those conditions than it is to work in what is called a temperate climate. West Indians go to England and the United States, they complain of the cold, but in fact their output at any job is higher than their output at the same job in the West Indies because the cold permits them to work better, and I am not just going to join in and say that

Barbadians are shiftless and useless because they would not work. I am not joining in any argument to that effect. Until we have air-conditioning as widespread inside buildings in this country as heating is in Europe, and until we have a greater application of mechanical devices for outside work, and until we mechanise the building industry, the cane cutting industry and other industries which require you to go outside and stand up in the hot sun, productivity is going to be lower than it is in Europe. You cannot work as hard in the sun as you can in a cooler climate. I am not joining in any strictures that Barbadians are lazy people.

Mr. Chairman, it is within the knowledge of all of us that good work can be done by the people of this country, and a part of the reason that we are where we are and trying to scratch ourselves up a little more than other countries with greater natural advantages is because of the human resources that can be mobilised in this country, and the hard work within the tropical context that our people are prepared to give to get on in life.

Now if it is thought that there are too many Bank Holidays, a different argument should be used, not one attacking what I am putting forward here. The argument should be used that New Year's Day should not be a Bank Holiday. I think as a matter of fact that that is a very sound argument. Already if it falls on a Sunday it is not a Bank Holiday. I think that in many ways it is pointless to have Christmas Holidays and then the following week to have New Year's Holiday. We are not as extreme as many of the Islands of the Caribbean. Hon. members may have observed that I have been going in and out of the Chamber during the last half an hour. I am trying to make a call to Jamaica, and I am very surprised to hear when I am ringing an office in Jamaica that today is a Bank Holiday in Jamaica to allow them to get over the rigours of yesterday's celebration whatever they are. This is what I am informed by the Telephone Company. I do not support that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is not correct. Today is a Bank Holiday in Jamaica because it is Labour Day. They do not celebrate Whit-Monday.

Mr. ADAMS: The Telephone Company must have misled me, but today is in fact a Bank Holiday in Jamaica. I take back what I said about the Jamaicans when suggesting that they are like Grenada where they have Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday, New Year's Day and January 2, Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday and so on. they have all that in Grenada. This thing is a recent business that you must work five and six days a week.
4.30 p.m.

I think the hon. member should really give us the benefit of his educational background as a classical scholar, he should know that in Rome there were over 200 non-working days every year, that a working man in Rome only worked for between 150 and 170 days a year and Rome built a mighty empire upon people that used to stay home two days out of three. It is only a recent thing, and especially in countries in the West Indies where the slaves were driven to work every day that Bank Holidays are in such short supply, or in Europe where the industrial revolution drove little children and adults alike to seven full days of work per week, and they were saved Sundays only because of religion. In Barbados, if you have too many Bank Holidays do away with those you do not want. Do away with New Year's Day which seems to me to be the least useful, but the principle of having Monday Bank Holidays, having been investigated at the greatest possible length in the United States, the Presidential Commission sitting through several Presidents, and its being established that it is a more efficient system of working, one of the cases where efficiency also meets with the approbation of the general populace who prefer a Monday Bank Holiday. What I cannot see is how people are not aware of this, are simply not aware of the facts, are now to get up and say that the argument is useless. This is why I am suggesting to hold off for a little bit, let it be examined if necessary by a committee, send it back to the draughtsman, but the Minister of "all affairs" has spoken and evidently this is not going to be pursued by the Government, and therefore I am going to move an amendment to clause 3. To insert the words "Monday preceding" between the words "the" and "24th", and to delete the words "if a week day" and substitute therefor the words "if not a Monday".

In sub-paragraph (b) of clause 3 substitute the words "the Monday preceding 24th October if that day is not a Monday" for the words "the 24th October". This is put forward to enable a vote to be taken in principle. I am perfectly willing if the legal brain of the lawyer opposite and any member on this side can find a better form of words to accept an amendment to that effect. I am urging it to hon. members for the reasons which I have already set out. It has been discovered by examination that a Monday holiday contributes both to efficiency and to enjoyment; if this is doubted let the Bill be postponed for a short time and the facts which I have alleged be checked.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the proposal is not a bad one, it is a very practical one, so without much ado I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Clause 3 be referred to a Select Committee, to be considered and reported on to the House, and subject to the concurrence of the hon. member who intimated this, I beg to move that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Christ Church West, the Hon. Minister of Education, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, the Hon. Minister of Labour, together with Your Honour, as Chairman, form this Select Committee.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEAVE PASSAGES (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to find when the Orders for the Barbados External Service were laid. The Clerks have been making certain searches to see whether these Orders were in fact laid, because in this Resolution reference was made to that Order, so in the interest of providing the hon. members with copies of the Orders for the Barbados External Service, I would postpone further consideration of this Resolution for one week with the hope of having copies available for the benefit of hon. members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This now completes Government Business for today's sitting, subject to hon. members on the other side having any matter of public importance to deal with at this time. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 30th May, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

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

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