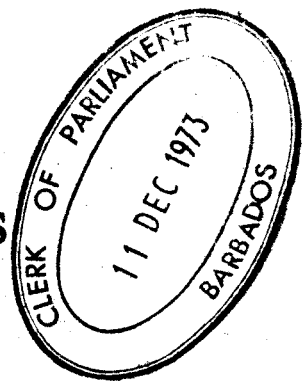


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st November, 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, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and 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); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON (Temporary Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology).

Prayers were read.

Messrs. W. C. B. HINDS and E. D. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of this Honourable Chamber for 24th October and 7th November, 1972 are before you for confirmation. Is it the wish of this Honourable House that these Minutes be confirmed? These Minutes are hereby duly confirmed.

Mr. C. L. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister I am commanded to lay the Economic Survey of Barbados for the year 1971.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance I am commanded to lay the following documents:-

1. The Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for seven months ended 31st October, 1972.

2. The Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1972.

3. The Annual Abstract Account of the Receipts and payments of the Consolidated Fund, and other receipts and payments for the year ended 31st March, 1970.

4. The Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March, 1970.

5. The Statement of the Public Debt and Sinking Funds as at 31st March, 1970.

6. The Statement of Loans and Credits guaranteed by the Government as at 31st March, 1970.

7. The Statement of Advances and Loans outstanding at 31st March, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Husbands and Oxnards Plantations, St. James, to secure the proper development of land in accordance with the Government's Development Plan in the Cave Hill Area.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Natural Gas Corporation of the amount of \$800,000.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Sugar

Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1972, and at the same time I am seeking leave to deal with this Resolution in all its stages today.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

1. A Resolution to grant the sum of \$2,512,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73, No. 20, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

2. A Resolution to grant the sum of \$333,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part II-Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73, No. 21, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

and on behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

1. A Resolution to grant the sum of \$11,471 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73, No. 22, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

2. A Resolution to approve the sum of \$25,000,000 as the maximum sum of loans in respect of which insurance policies may be issued under the Mortgage Insurance Act 1962.

3. A Resolution to authorise the advance of a sum not exceeding \$660,000 from the Public Treasury and place it at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of making advances of salaries and wages to persons in the employ of the Government on certain terms and conditions.

I beg to give notice also of a Bill to amend the Barbados Union Oil Company Refinery (Levy on Petroleum Products) Act, 1965.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. C. E. Talma, seconded by Mrs. G. L. Eastmond, a Bill to amend the Barbados Union Oil Company Refinery (Levy on Petroleum Products) Act, 1965 was read a first time.

ORAL REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary

Question No. 22 asked by the honourable member for St. Joseph is now ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 21 asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the honourable member for St. Thomas, is ready.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, who is now acting as Minister of Home Affairs, I beg to give notice that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 37 asked by the honourable and learned member for the City is ready. Also on behalf of the Prime Minister in his own capacity, I beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 53 asked by the hon. and learned member for the City is ready.

2.40 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 52 asked by the honourable member for St. Peter is ready.

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 58 asked by the same honourable member for St. Peter is also ready.

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 57 asked by the same honourable member for St. Peter is also ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 25 asked by the honourable and learned member for St. Joseph is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

RESOLUTION *re* THE CELEBRATION OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
(SILVER JUBILEE) OF OUR MOST
GRACIOUS SOVERIGN QUEEN
ELIZABETH THE SECOND
AND HIS ROYAL HIGH-
NESS PRINCE PHILIP,
THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the business of this House is commenced with today, I consider it my duty and privilege to crave the indulgence of the House to permit me to move the passing of a Resolution in respect of the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second and her husband His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

As honourable members are aware, it was on the 20th November, 1947, 25 years ago, that our Most Gracious Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, then Princess Elizabeth, was married to her husband, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster's Abbey in London. Since then we have been able to witness many notable achievements and incidents in Her Majesty's reign, including the birth of His Royal Highness Prince Charles and other Royal children and the granting of Independence to numerous African and Caribbean countries including Barbados in November, 1966.

Today we are happy to join with other Caribbean and Commonwealth countries in expressing on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados our deep sense of loyalty, our heart felt joy and affection, and our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of our Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Elizabeth the Second and her husband His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

I beg to move the passing of the following Resolution which, I presume, will be seconded by the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and which will be presented in due course, at Your Honour's discretion, to the Governor-General for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen. The Resolution reads as follows:

"BARBADOS

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

Whereas our Most Gracious Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, are celebrating their twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary (Silver Jubilee);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Parliament of Barbados in its capacity as the Representative of the people of Barbados, with loyalty and due submission express its heart felt joy and sincere congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of our Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Elizabeth the Second and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.
21st November, 1972."

Of course, the occasion was yesterday, but this is the earliest opportunity we have had to move this Resolution.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition, I beg to be associated with the Resolution moved by the Hon. Leader of the House.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to assure hon. members that this Resolution would be forwarded promptly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in these matters, it is customary for the Mover and an honourable member who spoke in favour of a Resolution like this, to present it to the Governor-General at the proper time in accordance with your direction for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen in due course.

Mr. SPEAKER: This will be done.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I should like, before we deal with Question Time, to ask for leave which I forgot to ask for earlier - I want to make it clear that I have already obtained Your Honour's permission to deal with four matters including the one which the Hon. Acting Minister of Agriculture gave notice of. We have already obtained permission to deal with four matters, some of which were given notice of today.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was not specifically put, and the House has not formally given permission to deal with those Resolutions.
2.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is why I want it made clear on that point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you requesting that permission now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, I just want to make it clear so that before you rise you can give the instruction to deal with these matters when we go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Permission is being sought from hon. members to deal with the four Resolutions, which have been circulated this afternoon, in all their stages. One was read by the Acting Minister of Agriculture and three by the Leader of the House. If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted to deal with these four Resolutions in all their stages today.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time, and Oral Replies to certain Questions are ready.

Parliamentary Question No. 21 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Thomas.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, there are certain Replies which were prepared for tabling on which Your Honour will not entertain any supplementaries, but the ones for Oral Answer are those on which Your Honour will probably entertain supplementary Questions. I refer to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 22, 25, 52 and 58.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Leader of the House indicated that one of the Questions asked by me, No. 37, is to have the Reply tabled. One thing we have to get clear is whether at the time when the question was asked an Oral Answer was requested because the Order Paper does not say so. For all questions I ask, I require an Oral Answer, and the Order Paper does not indicate that Parliamentary Question No. 37 required an Oral Answer. If this is so, I would like to have this checked because I do not understand this aspect of it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I would also think that if there were Replies to be laid, this would have been done at an earlier hour with the laying of Papers. If this is Question Time, and these Oral Replies were ready and were not laid, one would have to assume that they would be taken in the manner in which Oral Questions are dealt with.

Mr. SPEAKER: As it stands, the questions for Oral Replies which I am told are ready are Questions Nos. 22, 25, 52 and 58. There could have been some misunderstanding or omission on the part of the printers which the Clerk would have to clarify as to whether the asterisk was left off in respect of Question No. 37 asked by the hon. member for Bridgetown. I think this can be satisfactorily worked out while the answer to Questions Nos. 22, 25, 52 and 58 are being given. It seems that these are questions for Oral Replies because written answers are not ready.

QUESTION *re* BATH AND CHANGING ROOM AT TENT BAY, ST. JOSEPH

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 22 stands in the name of the honourable member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

In view of the fishing industry at Tent Bay in Saint Joseph and in view of the Hotel industry in the said area, would the Minister take all the necessary steps to have a bath and changing room erected at Tent Bay, St. Joseph?

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 22 is as follows:-

"Consideration is being given to the providing of facilities for the benefit of persons engaged in the fishing industry subject to the availability of a suitable area of land in that parish."

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Acting Minister could tell us what efforts have been made to obtain a proper area to site the facilities?

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Speaker, this I cannot say, but what I know is that the Ministry of Housing, Lands and National Insurance will look around to see what they can find in that area. If the hon. member for St. Joseph would help in that respect, we would be very grateful for his assistance, but I am in total agreement with him that some facilities should be provided in that area for the fishermen to change their clothes and so on.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the longer no such facilities are placed in that area, the more damage will be done not only to the fishing industry but to the Hotel industry and the general health of persons living in that area?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

QUESTION *re* FAMILY LAW BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 25 stands in the name of the same honourable member.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Would the Minister state how soon the Government hopes to introduce in this Honourable House a new Family Law Bill to update the present laws which are now outdated? 3.00 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Reply is as follows: Bills relating to the Succession and Inheritance Act are in the process of being drafted.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, is it not a fact that a Bill relating to succession and inheritance was drafted over 4 years ago, was completed in draft form and accepted by the Bar Association and the Law Society?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, there is no such thing as a Family Law Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, what is the hon. member answering? I have specifically asked a question as to whether it is not a fact that a Succession and Inheritance Bill was drafted over 4 years ago by Dr. Patchett and was circulated to the relevant bodies. I hope that Your Honour will give proper direction on a speech which might contain sensible matter as to the meaning of family law.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought the Hon. Minister was rising to answer and that he was coming to a point.

QUESTION *re* RECENT FARE STRUCTURE FOR OMNIBUS TRAVEL

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is Government aware that the recent fare structure laid down by the Public Utilities Board for motor omnibus travel on Routes 1, 1A, 1B, 1C & 1F tends to reduce cash-customer-trading at shops, stores, supermarkets etc., at Speightstown, St. Peter?

2. Will Government give very active consideration to this matter bearing in mind the urgent necessity to develop Speightstown and, that any reduction in trade in Speightstown must scare away present and future capital investment, and must have very serious unemployment consequences for a number of workers who now earn a livelihood there?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 52 is as follows:

(1) No, Sir.

(2) Does not arise.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us if Government has made any effort to find out whether or not this is so? If so, what efforts did they make?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, from the type of question Government is not in a position to discover the cash-customer-trading at shops, stores, supermarkets, etc. of the travelling public in Speightstown.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, in the light of the reply which the Hon. Minister gave, does the Minister now feel or see that the reply he gave originally is still in order?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Minister's feelings in this Chamber are not important.

Mr. HINDS: Does the Minister understand, see or appreciate that his first reply could not be in order?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Minister's reply is perfectly adequate.

QUESTION *re* "LITTLE BATTALEYS" ROAD

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

1. Is Government aware that a number of residents at "Little Battaleys" (North) off Road View, St. Peter, experience serious difficulties in getting to and from their homes daily.

2. Would Government make an effort to bring some measure of relief, even on a temporary basis, so that these poor people would not suffer to the extent they do especially after heavy rainfall in the area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the answer is that "Little Battaleys" is a private road.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell us if Government has changed its policy with regard to taking over private tenantry roads and assisting people who live in such areas as the one referred to at "Little Battaleys"?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The answer to that question is no, the Government has not changed its policy.

Mr. HINDS: Are we to understand, Mr. Speaker, that the Government has a different policy for the other ten parishes from the policy for St. Peter?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Government's policy on private tenantry roads is universal for the entire island based on a system of priority needs, houses involved, conditions of roads etc.

Mr. HINDS: Is the Minister now saying that the case of the people at "Little Battaleys" is not one for immediate priority?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Minister is saying that a thorough investigation will be done at "Little Battaleys" and it will take its place according to the investigation in the system of priorities established by the Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, in the light of the reply which the Minister has just given, could he still support his original reply to the question that it is a private road? Does that reply still hold? I am trying to elicit from the Minister if the last reply which he gave to my supplementary is the reply which he expects this House to act upon, or if he is still holding on to the original reply which he gave to the question.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The two replies given by the Hon. Minister are not inconsistent. "Little Battaleys" is a private road and I have already answered what Government's policy is on private roads.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us if the matter is still under investigation?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The matter is still under investigation.

Mr. HINDS: In the light of this reply, would it not have been better if the Minister had come to this House and stated at the outset that he was not yet ready to reply and could not reply until all his investigations had been carried out?

Mr. SPEAKER: Hardly a proper supplementary.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Could the Minister say how long the matter was under investigation?
3.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister's reply in respect of "Little Battaleys" (North) off Road View, or is it in respect of "Little Battaleys" which adjoins Burma Road? I am trying to unravel things for his Ministry.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is in respect of the road referred to by the hon. member for St. Peter, "Little Battaleys" (North) off Road view.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell this Honourable House how long his Ministry became aware of the road to which this question

refers? How many hours ago, Sir? This is very important.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any more supplementaries?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state when the Government started to review the matter?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, a question was asked in this Honourable Chamber on the 17th October, and, as soon as the Ministry received the Order Paper, on the 22nd and 25th investigations commenced.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us whether the suffering of these people was taken into consideration during the course of these investigations?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry is not a Medical Ministry and so was unable to discover what suffering the people were undergoing. But the Ministry certainly has, as its policy, to consider the convenience and comforts of all citizens of Barbados within the limited context of the economy and the funds at the Ministry's disposal.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Minister saying that there are no funds available to deal with this particular road?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, "Little Battaleys" will receive consideration in the 1973-74 Road Programme. Funds for the financial year 1972-73 have already been allocated and earmarked for roads of greater priority.

Mr. ADAMS: May I congratulate the Minister, after so many minutes, on finally giving a proper reply to the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that there are no more Questions for Oral Replies.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. If the Clerk will pass my copy of the questions to you, you will see the position.

Mr. SPEAKER: What are the questions?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I think one was No. 37.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the replies tabled here this afternoon are Nos. 21, 37, 53 and 57.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If Your Honour will look at the originals of Questions 37 and 53 you will see that an Oral Reply is indicated.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I understand it there is no problem, because Oral Replies to these Questions are now ready. Am I right?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the position is that certain replies are tabled in accordance with the Rules and Oral answers are given to others. In his case, the replies have been laid.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, will the Hon. Leader of the House tell us when these replies were laid? When did he take such action?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not understand it, Mr. Speaker. Questions 37 and 53 both indicated that oral answers were required. It is only today that the Leader of the House talks about these questions. Because they were not marked on the Order Paper oral replies were not given. The fault lies with the Printers, and I should like to know if the Minister has oral replies for these questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, may I see the originals, please. It appears that the hon. member is quite in order in so far as he has put an asterisk against these questions indicating that oral replies are called for. As the replies were laid today, it should not be difficult to repeat the replies.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I should like to point out that where questions have an asterisk - I think I have been in here nearly as long as the hon. member on my right, he may have preceded me by some nine or ten years, but by five years I have still attained my majority of twenty-one years in this House - they are usually for Oral Reply. If an hon. member is not in his place when the question is ready, even although it is for an Oral Reply, the question does not go back to some office, but it is laid on the Table here. This is the procedure, and I believe that provision is made in the Standing Orders for that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the member who has just taken his seat, that is not the argument before the House. The original questions were marked with an asterisk, and it was said by the Leader of the House that the replies were ready. Subsequently, he said that they had been laid, but nothing has been laid in the House in respect of questions.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way - I did not speak first, as far as Oral Replies are concerned, and the honourable member knows that. He knows that the Temporary Minister of Agriculture spoke first as far as the question of giving replies is concerned.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House said that certain questions were ready. You

cannot put the blame on the Temporary Minister of Agriculture; he should be man enough to take his errors.

Hon. C. E. TALMA rose --

Mr. SPEAKER: Two honourable members cannot be on their feet at the same time; it is highly improper.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am addressing the Chair. The hon. member must learn to be honest.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I did not start off by giving replies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am addressing the Chair. The Hon. Leader of the House must understand that he must take the blame when he is wrong; he cannot now jump up, because the Prime Minister has entered the Chamber, and try to put the blame on somebody else.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. speaker, I did not start off giving replies, and the hon. member knows that. The Temporary Minister of Agriculture started off giving the replies.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the Hon. Leader of the House got up after there was some difficulty about the question of the asterisk and said that the Replies had been laid, and I asked and am still querying when they were laid, and he has not answered my question up to now.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is on a point of information. He is not on a point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: The honourable member has been in his place from the time the House started. If the Leader of the House will get up and clarify what he is trying to say, he must tell this House when the Replies were laid, unless he has something to hide.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member must withdraw this inference that the Minister has something to hide. It seems to me to be unparliamentary.

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect to the Speaker, I withdraw that statement, but I will still say I would like the Leader of the House to inform the House when the answers were laid according to his previous statement this afternoon.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in the first place I did not start giving Oral Replies. The Temporary Minister of Agriculture gave the first Reply and at a subsequent stage I made it clear the Questions for which answers would be laid and the ones for which Oral Replies are ready. It is not a question of hiding anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is my recollection that the Temporary Minister of Agriculture did indicate that the Oral Answers to Questions are ready.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, you will recall no doubt that when the Leader of the House said that Replies were ready and that some answers would be laid on the Table, I rose at that point and queried the Order Paper and stated that when I asked Questions Nos. 37 and 53 Oral Replies were indicated; so I cannot see how the Replies can be laid. The Order Paper was printed incorrectly because the original Questions showed that Oral Replies were asked for. If an Oral Answer is requested, I cannot see how the question can be laid.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems that the hon. member for Bridgetown is in order. The question asked for an Oral Answer, and if the answer is ready, let it be given.

As a matter of fact, Question Time expired at 3.15 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I have not said anything, but this matter started when Your Honour called on me and I read Question No. 21 and the Leader of the House said that was not for Oral Answer. The Leader of the House was the first member to take any part in Question Time contrary to what he may just have said. I am not suggesting that he is trying to mislead the House, but he has forgotten because Your Honour called on him to reply to Question No. 21, and then there was a check and then the hon. member for Bridgetown got up and so on. What I am respectfully suggesting is that these questions be held over because we have been here in our seats ready to ask them. The mistake is clearly the mistake of the Government Printery because the Minister of Communications and Works unconsciously revealed something when he said that as soon as the Order Paper reached the Ministry, because that indicates that the Ministry only goes by the Order Paper, and therefore if they do not see an asterisk they are going to prepare a written reply and not send down the file, I presume, with the material to permit the Ministers to answer supplementaries. We on this side, and not only we but private members generally, would not wish Ministers to be unable to answer

questions properly because of the unavailability of files due to the Ministry having thought that they were dealing with questions to be laid and not questions to be answered, and I suggest that they be held over.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not know who informs the Leader of the Opposition as to what goes on in the Ministry; he knows a lot more than I know, but we can only deal with the Order Paper as the Order Paper appears. There are certain questions on the Order Paper which have asterisks next to them on the left-hand side, and these questions are for Oral Answer. If the member who asked the question is not in his place, you lay it on the Table.

Now a question like No. 37 which was asked by the hon. member for Bridgetown, I can give him an Oral Answer although he has not asked for an Oral Answer.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will both hon. members take their seats? I am not going to hear anything more on this matter of Private Members' Questions and whether an oral reply is required or not. Standing Order No. 14(3) says:

"Questions to Ministers shall be taken at 2.30 p.m. and shall not continue after 3.15 p.m., and the Standing Orders have been suspended.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was not here when the proceedings started. I am under no obligation to be here except when I have business to do and I apologise for not having been here nevertheless, but as I understand it, there is a certain agenda which is gone through.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the Hon. Prime Minister risen?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, obviously if you come to the point of the Order Paper under Questions you give notice that Replies to Questions are ready, and that is what I am on.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already made a ruling that the time for Private Members' Questions and matters connected therewith is ended.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I merely rose to say that a Minister can make a statement at any time, that Question 37 is the only question as far as I remember to which I had to reply, and this is a case which is completely fatuous and everybody's time has been wasted because the hon. member asked when a certain public document would be laid in the House.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am indebted to the hon. member.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It was laid three months before he asked the question. It shows he has not done his homework.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am indebted to the hon. member. We are leaving Question Time and moving on to other business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Private Members' Business time.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the first Order under Private Members' Business be Order No. 7.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

3.30 p.m.

RESOLUTION *re* PLIGHT OF PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS USING HIGHWAY NO. 1 AT ITS JUNCTION WITH ARCHER'S LANE AT QUEEN STREET, ST. PETER

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, Highway 1 is very well known, I think, to all hon. members in this Chamber, but the point at which Archer's Lane abuts and adjoins Highway No. 1 may not be so well known to all members, except that they may have at some time or other in the course of their travels up north and returning through Speightstown on their southward journey and passing through Speightstown, immediately they must, if the smallest downpour of rain had taken place, would have had a reasonable cause for enquiry, they would have been forced at some point, because it would have been brought most forcibly to their notice whether they were travelling vehicularly or pedestrian wise. I am sure that what takes place at the junction of Archer's Lane with Highway 1 could hardly have escaped the notice of any honourable member of this House, but what is more, Mr. Speaker, is this, on a previous occasion I tabled questions in this House with a view to getting Government to take some notice of the plight of the people who live immediately adjoining this Archer's Lane/Highway No. 1 junction, and with a view to getting Government to take some remedial measures to relieve the people of their suffering, and suffering it really is.

Now we have the situation where I well remember a former Minister of Communications

and Works admitting in this House that there was cause for suffering immediately upon a downpour of rain. I remember the then Minister telling the House of efforts to secure a plot of land whereby a culvert or drain could be cut to lead off the water that settles at this Archer's Lane/Highway No. 1 junction. This in itself is an admission on the part of Government that water settles at this particular point on the main highway. It amounts to flooding on the main highway. It is an admission that Government was aware of the fact that it was necessary to seek to have something done to bring some measure of relief to somebody, whether it be to the passers-by or to the residents of the area, but nevertheless we must look at it as a whole to the population of Barbados because one never knows when one would have to traverse the area under reference. This being the case then, Mr. Speaker, I do not see that it would require of me any lengthy discussion this afternoon to convince honourable members any further as to the seriousness of the plight of people who pass there, and if the settling of the water at Highway No. 1 can be such a source of annoyance and inconvenience to the people who pass the main Highway, I think then the picture has been so carefully and efficiently presented as to let even the blind see and imagine the extent of the suffering of the people who have got to wade through this water, sometimes knee deep, to get into their homes at Archer's Lane after rainfall.

I am sure that vehicular traffic City bound and from North must come to grips with this situation time and time again. The splashing of mud and water, needless to say the unhealthy conditions that must obtain there from time to time, the damage that it causes to adjoining properties is left for one to imagine. I would not like for people to have to witness it, but I am sure that the case is one which calls for something more than immediate attention, and I am convinced, and I am sure that this House will be convinced, that the remedy is not beyond the capacity of Government to give. It is not a case of merely doing something for the people of St. Peter in this case, it is a case of doing something for every individual who has to use Highway No. 1 to journey north, south or to any part of this island. If we were to say as some people might feel that the people of Archer's Lane must suffer as they have in the past, you and I, Mr. Speaker, cannot be held responsible for those members of Parliament who were content to see these people suffer to such an extent, and might never have taken the step that you or I would have taken, and I am sure that you would have taken the step I am taking now to bring relief to these people. I sincerely hope that all honourable members of this Chamber would urge upon Government the

seriousness of the situation and not wait until some day or night when a driver finds himself afloat with his vehicle at this Archers's Lane junction, losing control with the result of death to perhaps, one, two or three persons. One never knows what can happen under these circumstances, and I am inviting Government to look into the matter.

I was shocked at the time when I was told that certain parties were unwilling to give of their land to permit a drain to be cut to lead the water into the sea and afford the necessary drainage at this point, and to see that Government was content to accept this excuse. I am saying here and now that the people who then refused are sufferers as well, but Government can compulsorily acquire land for such purposes, wherever that land might be.

3.40 p.m.

It is not a case of acquiring land compulsory to bring relief to an individual; it is a case of acquiring a small area of land to accommodate the drainage of Archer's Lane, at Highway No. 1, and to relieve the flooding that takes place there from time to time. I am sure it can be done, and I say it must be done. I pray that the Government will not wait to have my plea borne out by the death of two or three persons in the near future. I will leave it to hon. members to bring their consciences to bear on the situation, and I ask every hon. member to support the Resolution because it deserves support.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion by the hon. member. I will second it very briefly, because what I would really like to draw to the attention of the hon. members is not only the situation caused by heavy rainfall at Archer's Lane, Queen Street, but the general situation of the drainage of the roads in Barbados. I heard the hon. member speak of some motorists being afloat. I have had the experience, while driving a Volkswagen Car which I once owned, of being afloat in the constituency of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. As I drifted down Belmont Road, with the waters lapping on the side of the car like a boat, I was barely able to come to dry land opposite the residence of the Minister of Agriculture.

It is time that the road-building situation be reviewed with a view to so constructing gutters and drains to prevent situations such as that referred to by the hon. Mover of this Resolution arising or continuing to arise. It is a common place that since the resurfacing of Highway 7, Maxwell Road, great difficulties have been experienced by motorist in driving on it after even slight showers. There are numerous roads in Barbados where it would appear

that drainage would be a simple problem, but where the roads find themselves in a flooded condition after quite small amounts of rain.

I doubt myself that the Town Planning Department sufficiently takes drainage into consideration when it grants development permission, otherwise it would not have given the permission which it has given at the Northern end of Graeme Hall swamp, which is a natural drainage overflow area of Graeme Hall. The permissions which are allowing large developments at the foot of Rendezvous Hill is an area which is subject to drainage.

I hope the Minister of Communications and Works will bring to bear on the problems in Speightstown and all over Barbados the several conditions which have been urged by the Mover of this Resolution and in my speech. One knows that a previous Minister of Communications and Works, the hon. member for St. Michael South West, presided over the Ministry at the time when a Committee was appointed to study the effect which the Deep Water Harbour and other matters had on the water table and the water level generally. I do not think we will have to do something so elaborate; I believe it is merely a question of the roads being built without proper drainage. I think it is as simple as that. The Deep Water Harbour cannot have any effect on Queen Street, Speightstown, nor should it have any effect on Maxwell Road. I hope that the Minister of Communications and Works will be treating this whole matter of street drainage in Barbados as one of the greatest possible urgency.

When houses are built over fields which in themselves have previously absorbed water and those houses have roofs that throw the water on to the road, we are moving into an age where, far from building the deep gutters on the sides of the roads, they are filling up the deep gutters and putting little concrete "slippers" or whatever the expression is. I see the Minister of Communications and Works looking anxiously at the Standing Orders, but I could wish that he looks anxiously at the file on drainage and give us an adequate and comprehensive reply in due course as to what has been urged so far in this Resolution.

I beg to second this motion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, since the Leader of the Opposition has been told that he is part of Her Majesty's Government the constitutional propriety for that I have not yet discovered - he seems to be adopting peculiar attitudes. I am not supporting this Resolution, because I do not think it is a fit subject for this

Honourable Chamber. I think it is more appropriately a matter for a Parliamentary Question.

Mr. Speaker, if every member who wanted lights in a Parish, or a standpipe, or a watermain, or drainage, were to ask about individual places and bring the matter in the form of a Resolution to this House, then I think you would appreciate that the Order Paper would stretch from here to Speightstown. I am not supporting it, because I think it is more appropriately a matter for a Parliamentary Question. When you read the Resolution with which we have to engage ourselves this afternoon, the hon. Mover of the Resolution is asking not about drainage at St. Peter, but about a specific junction of Highway No. 1 with Archer's Lane at Queen's Street, St. Peter.

I certainly would not be a party to supporting a Resolution which I think is more appropriately a matter for a Parliamentary Question and for appropriate Supplementary Questions. If one started precedents here, one would get somebody coming here to move a Resolution asking Government to take action to set up a watermain in New Orleans, to set up a watermain in Collymore Rock, and to set up a watermain in Hindsbury. I am not voting for it, because I want to stop this precedent of matters which should be Parliamentary Questions forming Resolutions.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. I think the Hon. Minister is attacking the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see it in this light, and, if that is the purpose of your point of order, the hon. member is entitled to express an opinion and I am entitled to agree or disagree with it.

Mr. HINDS: All right, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I want it to be clearly understood that this has nothing to do with the Chair. Once it is couched in the proper words "BE IT RESOLVED that....." you cannot do anything about it. There is nothing in the Standing Orders which tells you that you must alter the substance of a Resolution. I am saying that hon. members should appropriately use the purpose of a Resolution which gives rise to a debate for matters of more weighty importance rather than for individual and specific cases of difficulties for parishioners. That is all I am saying, and it has nothing to do with Mr. Speaker. It is perfectly in order, as drafted, but I am appealing to hon. members on the other side to bring Resolutions of weight and substance.

If the hon. member had dealt with drainage for the entire country, I could say that it would be

a fit subject for a Resolution because it affects the entire community, but when we go to specific areas in constituencies, then I say that the purpose of the Resolution, as I understand it, is not met. The whole question of drainage in this country is one of serious concern to this Government. As I have said before the junction of Highway No. 1 with Archer's Lane, Queen's Street, is only one of the millions of other areas in this community in which flooding takes place whenever there is a heavy rainfall.

3.50 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Thomas can tell you that there are areas in his constituency which are flooded when heavy rainfalls take place, and that is why I am saying again that it should be a matter of a general complaint rather than a specific incident in Speightstown.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, since the Hon. Minister has mentioned St. Thomas, I would like the Minister to take note that I said nothing about flooding in St. Thomas. In St. Thomas, we flood the rest of Barbados; St. Thomas does not flood.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I said, this question is causing concern but I am not perturbed. Suddenly in Barbados we get the feeling that there should not be flooding. The great United States with all its technology and great wide roads become flooded because I have been there during periods of flooding, and this happens in Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom; so flooding is not something peculiar to Barbados. Developed countries themselves have flooding and a lot of people get drowned too, and it is not flooding because rivers burst their banks. Heavy or extraordinary rainfall in any country if it falls concentrated and fast enough would cause flooding no matter what kind of drainage you have; so do not let us think that flooding in Barbados is a new phenomenon or is something that started with this Government. If you get twelve inches of rain in three hours, you will get flooding. It is impossible to build any system in any part of the known Universe which can remedy extraordinary rainfall and other precipitations. Do not let us come to this conclusion that this is a phenomenon which a wicked Government is not concerned about, because we are so concerned about the drainage problem that we have got a team down here under British technical assistance which started a few months ago, and they are looking at all the areas in Barbados from Speightstown up to Oistin dealing with this question of flooding. So concerned is the Government about the drainage problem, the loss

of surface water into the sea and the loss of soil elsewhere that we have persuaded the British Government to give us technical assistance with a reputable engineering team expert in drainage to report to this Government on what action we should take to stop flooding that goes on in this country.

Now the only thing that might stop a remedy being given to the areas which we know are flooded areas is the question that we are waiting on the report. It is no sense taking taxpayers' money and putting up a nice outfall drain by 1st Archer's Lane leading into the City and then when the report comes in, because of the damming they are doing in the country and doing nothing to stop water coming into Town except what it cannot retain, we find we might be throwing money down the drain. The people in Archer's Lane and the people wherever you have drainage and flooding problems will have to wait. People drive in rivers all over the world, and no water comes down in Barbados to the point where I have ever heard in my life time except in extraordinary flooding of any motorists being drowned. It is nothing to be worried about in the sense that if it is not done tomorrow somebody will be drowned tomorrow. Barbados has no rivers to burst their banks; I wish we had because our water problems would be less.

Mr. Chairman, until this English team reports and their recommendations are accepted, my Ministry is not going to take the taxpayers' money and go in for fancy schemes without that report, because in accepting the recommendations we might have thrown money down the drain because a question was asked or a Resolution was tabled. We are going to study the report. Our main concern is to stop flooding in the areas where it occurs and to retain as much water as we can. The team is also looking at all the gullies which the Leader of the Opposition mentioned in St. Thomas and St. Joseph that send water to Town, and the Government has under consideration a scheme which will take care of No. 1 Highway at its junction with Queen Street and Archer's Lane. I am not promising anybody that we will get bulldozers running to Archer's Lane because the hon. member has brought this Resolution.

The Ministry of Communications and Works as at present constituted has no drainage expert. We have engineers, architects, surveyors and quantity surveyors, but just as we get specialists in medicine and law, you also get specialists in engineering too, and unfortunately the Ministry of Communications has nobody at the present moment who can be called an expert in drainage matters and therefore as I said we have got to rely on people whose expertise is in this field in order

to get a report which will enable us to save taxpayers' money and at the same time solve the problem.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, there is the continuous building of houses, and this is another thing that worries me, and people have put up housing areas without any reference whatsoever to providing drainage in the development. They just build houses. They have no regard for drainage and what is going to happen to this excessive volume of water that is coming off asbestos and concrete roofs. Naturally this water goes into the system and puts more pressure on the already existing drainage facilities and naturally creates greater flooding. All these are matters that the team is investigating from right down in St. Peter at Archer's Lane and Salt Pond. They have come to the outfall drain in the vicinity of the honourable member for St. Peter who lives at St. James and they are looking at that. (Mr. HINDS: You ought to be ashamed to talk about that.) I agree it has not been functioning, but I think instead of being ashamed, it reinforces the Government's point that we have got to get a team who can tell us where to put the outfall drains where they are necessary to the point where they will function well. I am sure the hon. member for St. Peter will agree that the outfall drain in the vicinity of his house is not functioning properly. It also reinforces my point that to go and spend money in Archer's Lane or on any of these outfall drains without the advice of this team is a waste of money.

As I say, I am not supporting this Resolution because I think it is a matter for Parliamentary Question, and had the member dealt with the general flooding in the country or the lack of Government's tackling of the problem, I would have conceded that that would have been a proper Resolution, but I must vote against this to stop honourable members using this method of prolonging debate and wasting the time of this House when a simple Parliamentary Question can get the answers they want.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I too must join in this debate and support the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Communications and Works, who has just sat down. Not only are the terms of this Resolution entirely unsatisfactory as far as we are concerned, but we do not accept the phraseology which is used that "whereas the plight of pedestrians and motorists using Highway No. 1 at its junction with Archer's Lane at Queen Street, St. Peter and the frightening and sickening experience of the residents....."

We could not be party to such expressions because we have no proof of these frightening and

sickening things which are expressed here. In other words, the Resolution as worded is unsatisfactory. Probably another Resolution properly worded could have been properly considered.

The second point is that this is not the subject matter of a Resolution as such because the Minister of Communications and Works has given in truth and in fact the reply to questions raised here just off the cuff. So the Resolution is only purporting to be a Resolution but this matter could be in the form of a question properly framed for the Minister's reply on the floor of the House just off hand. Probably the hon. member may be anxious to see something done for his constituents in that area. We appreciate his zeal and interest, but he could probably reword this Resolution or bring it by way of questions.

4.00 p.m.

Probably the hon. member in his eagerness to see something done for his constituents in that area could reword this Resolution or bring it by way of a question, although he has more or less got the replies already. He could probably bring this in a more appropriate way. It is not that the Government is unsympathetic, because as the Minister explained, we are at present investigating this question of flooding and very soon appropriate steps will be taken to get the necessary engineers who are experts in flooding, laying bridges, excavation and things of that sort in order to see that relief is given to the people who are suffering. When we vote against this it is not a question of voting against the people in Archer's Lane, we are merely asking him to bring the appropriate question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I do not want any advice whatsoever from the Leader of the House with respect to the wording or the phrasing of this or any other Resolution which I might bring before this House. The same thing applies to the Hon. Minister for Communications and Works. Remember this, a question or questions with respect to the conditions complained of in this Resolution were already tabled in this House, and in the course of my address I told hon. members who were not deaf about the type of replies that we got, that an Hon. Minister said that Government was aware of the conditions complained of but that Government found it difficult to get an area of land to build this outfall drain. Am I now to begin to learn my politics by listening to the honourable members on the other side who have spoken, to come back and table the same questions to be told the same thing again? We do not do it this way.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, were these questions tabled during this session and when I was not an Hon. member of this House? I do not remember this question since I have been in here.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the questions were tabled when the Leader of the House was in here and when this Government was in office.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not in this session.

Mr. HINDS: Not in this session. But, Mr. Speaker, if we on this side were to be so silly as to fall for what the Government side is now trying to lure us into, we had today the pathetic theme of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works with "Little Battaleys". I do not want to go into detail about this; that in itself was sickening. The Leader of the House tells us that he has read the Resolution. He tells us that Government is not aware of this frightening and sickening experience of motorists and other residents of the area, but do you know that the same Leader of the House is so intent on proving his capabilities of leadership that he has not yet said to this House that the Government carried out investigations in the area and have found that conditions are not quite as bad as complained of or something of the sort. He could not because the files are there for the Hon. Leader of the House to see, the files are there for the Minister of Communications and Works to see that this same Government had already carried out investigations on a complaint such as this and it found that everything complained of existed and merited Government's consideration, and that a remedy could be found for the situation.

The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has said he is not going to support the Resolution, and his reason for not supporting the Resolution is not based on the fact that the Resolution contains something that is not true, he does not say this at all. He is not going to vote for the Resolution because he is not going to encourage honourable members on this side to waste time in bringing Resolutions which could be the subject of questions. That is his reason for not supporting the Resolution. He is not supporting the Resolution because he does not see and know that the people in the immediate Archer's Lane/Highway No 1 junction are suffering, that immediately after rainfall the people at the Seventh Day Adventist Church cannot get into their meeting room, that people cannot get in and out of their homes, he is not withdrawing his support because of these things, he says let these things continue.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I will not be misrepresented. I have never

said let these things continue either directly or by inference. I have clearly stated Government's intention of what we are doing to remedy these things, so do not let them get up here and misrepresent me.

Mr. HINDS: He tells us that there is flooding in big United States of America so what is it if you have a little flooding at Archer's Lane? He tells us that he has not heard of anybody floating in a motor car. In other words, he is telling us the only way you will see bulldozers going down there to remedy the situation is as soon as Government hears about somebody floating in a motor car down there, and I pray God that he will not be hearing it but that other hon. members of the Government will hear that the hon. Minister of Communications and Works is the first one to die under conditions that exist at Archer's Lane. Mr. Speaker, we have got to be serious on matters of this sort. It is not a case where, as the hon. member has lagging at the back of his mind, you would not see or hear that because an hon. member brought this Resolution before the House that they go down to Archer's Lane to do something. I ask the hon. member to forget that I as the member for St. Peter am alive and in this Hon. House at this particular moment. Do what is just and right to the people of St. Peter and to the island as a whole. Whether there are people of St. Lucy, St. Andrew or St. Joseph, you should do justice to the people. Forget that I am here; I am not looking for praise for myself; I did not bring this Resolution with any ulterior motive; if a piece of land is to be bought to cut an outfall drain they are not going to buy it from my father or from me. I believe that might be one of the reasons why we are not going to get this outfall drain so speedily.

4.10 p.m.

We on this side have to learn the proper approach to these things. Our mistake, perhaps, is coming to the front door to have these things done, and the Hon. Minister, perhaps, does not appreciate this. Here is a genuine effort to have something done to relieve a situation. Mr. Speaker, it is no hidden situation; it is a situation that is there for all who travel or who visit the area to see at any time. The Minister spoke of having 12 inches of rain in 24 hours or 48 hours. I am telling the Minister that, if there is less than an inch of rain, or if there is one inch of rain in 24 hours, he can go and see the condition of Archer's Lane. If he is a Minister with any sort of conscience, is he going to tell me that he is not going to seek to bring some measure of relief to the people? He is now talking of wasting

taxpayer's money along the St. James coast and so on. Even the Minister rises on an occasion such as this to defend those engineers. He says it was a genuine attempt.

Mr. Speaker, I am praying, begging and beseeching the Minister to let somebody make another genuine attempt to bring some relief to this situation as it obtains at Highway No. 1, Archer's Lane junction. It is a case which deserves support and it calls for urgent and immediate support. I am sure that apart from party feeling, apart from the fact that a Minister fears it will be said that if the hon. member for St. Peter had never said anything in the House of Assembly the matter would never have been attended to, apart from these things, I ask the Minister to dismiss all of these things from his mind, and let us get the job done once and for all. The people deserve it and the situation warrants it. I am asking all hon. members who know the site and the situation complained of to support me. I am sure that no hon. member on the other side will say that there has been any exaggeration on my part about the situation. Mr. Speaker, I leave it to the consciences of hon. members to vote in the way they see fit. They will vote not for me or against me; they will vote for or against the people of St. Peter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I claim the right to reply under Standing Order 27(2) which states:

"A Minister may conclude a debate on any motion which is critical of the Government, or reflects adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer."

I claim my right to reply under this Standing Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: What Standing Order is that?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Standing Order 27(2), Sir.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Is the motion in any way critical of the Government? Nobody is blaming the Government for this. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Please let me look at this Standing Order. I do not think that, on this occasion, this Resolution comes within the framework of Standing Order 27(2).

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Even though the hon. member went as far as to say that the Minister of Communications and Works wants people to drown?

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time. The position is that the Mover of the Resolution has replied and, in the circumstances, Standing Order 27(2) does not apply to this situation. I am going to put the question.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, are you saying that this does not reflect adversely on the Government, when the member is saying...

Mr. SPEAKER: That is my ruling!

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN; Hon. A. MORRISON, and Mr. R. StC. WEEKES — 10

NOES: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, and Mr. W. C. B. HINDS — 4.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, there is no other matter under Private Members' Business which is ripe for pursuit this evening.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are still 11 more minutes to go, before Private Members' Business will be declared ended.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I submitted two Bills for first reading, and I want to know if I may be permitted to give notice of at least the one which is uncontroversial.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any objections? There being no objections, the hon. member may give notice of that one Bill.

Mr. ADAMS: If the Clerk will be kind enough to hand me the Bill, I will deal with it. Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of it, and I will ask that it be read a first time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any objections? There being no objections, leave is granted.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Immigration Act, 1952, and I beg to move that the said Bill be now read a first time.

Mr. HINDS: I beg to second that.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put the question so that I can ascertain the collective voices of both sides clearly.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, while formally divisions are put on first readings, parliamentary experience in no country of the world affords an example of a refusal of a first reading.

Mr. SPEAKER: This point is also being checked.

Mr. ADAMS: There is no way of getting a Bill before a Parliamentary Assembly operating under Rules such as we operate other than by giving it a formal first reading to permit it to be printed. Hon. members have not seen it; so who in their senses other than an outright, miserable, malicious lunatic can vote against something he has not seen?

Mr. SPEAKER: The strength of language is very uncalled for.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry to use the language. This is not yet before the House and he is going to vote against it. That is the whole point of a first reading; it is purely a formal stage to enable the document to get before the House. I believe we are safe in the reliable hands of the Leader of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is within his right to give notice of the Bill, and automatically he gets it read a first time. It is only on the second reading that a vote will be taken as to whether we agree with the principle or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That was also the Clerk's discovery. I just want to put it formally.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Private Members' Business is now completed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: 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 House while in Committee of Supply to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice was given today along with the other Resolutions in all their stages.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, it seems as if we have new rules being created in this Assembly day after day as we go on. The Hon. Leader of the House used a remark which surprised me. He has asked that Your Honour leave the Chair and give instructions for something to be done. I have never heard of it and as far as I know, when Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair it is the Chairman who conducts the business of the Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker also gives instructions to the Committee.

Mr. BOLDEN: The House gives instructions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Speaker gives instructions to the Committee.

Mr. BOLDEN: The Speaker cannot instruct the Chairman what to do.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, what are the Resolutions that are proposed to be dealt with in Committee? I was not in here when we started the proceedings, but I would be glad if before we enter into anything we hear from the Leader of the House which Resolutions he proposes to deal with in Committee. I would ignore that part of the motion about any other Resolutions.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Resolutions of which I gave specific notice and asked for permission to be dealt with, are the Resolution for \$660,000, the Resolution for \$2,512,000, the Resolution for \$333,000. The

other Resolution which is to be dealt with in the House is one to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1972.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1972-73 No. 18

Head 3 - Parliament - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in this Resolution for the sum of \$279,813, apart from the first two items, the majority of this amount are sums that lapsed and are really revotes.

In the case of Head 3 - Parliament, the position briefly is that the office of the Leader of the Opposition is being upgraded. Thirteen additional facilities are needed mainly by way of the installation of additional electrical outlet points, the provision of an air-conditioning system and the provision of six additional chairs to enable them to function effectively, and the regular entertainment allowance which is enjoyed by Ministers, the Speaker of the House, ect.
4.30 p.m.

That is one of the main Items, and the others are made or less revotes because money lapsed and it needs to be revoted. I beg to move that Head 3 - Parliament stand part.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that:

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand from the Leader of the House that one of the reasons for this provision is that it is intended that the office of the Leader of the Opposition needs being upgraded. If my notes reflect exactly what the Minister has said, I would certainly like to ask for an explanation of this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to give the information. I give it to the best of my ability, but I thought what I said was plain enough. The Leader of the Opposition has an office in the west wing of the Public Buildings and he needs certain additional facilities (a) the provision of additional electrical outlet points; (b) the provision of an air conditioning system so that noise from the adjoining street, High Street, may be shut out and that greater privacy may be afforded for deliberations held in that office; (c) the provision of six additional chairs for use in the outer room and for conference purposes in the main room. He is being given an entertainment allowance which is granted to the Speaker of the House, Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. The

additional facilities requested for the office at (a) and (b) are considered to be necessary, and the cost for providing these has been quoted by the Government Electrical Engineer as \$1,378.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, nothing the Leader of the House has said could convince any sensible person that any step which he has announced is likely to be taken or could be construed as merely upgrading the office of the Leader of the Opposition. I am dealing with sensible people now. I do not mind what position some people might have held or anything else, sensible people applying a meaning to what the Leader of the House has said must come to the conclusion that I have reached, hence my reason for asking for an explanation as to what the Leader of the House really meant.

The question of the entertainment allowance. I think I am right in saying that during the last Estimates the Leader of the House promised that he would give consideration to restoring it, if that is the way to put it, because I think when the late Sir Grantley Adams was Leader of the Opposition some form of an entertainment allowance was payable to him, but this gives rise to another point. If we accept that when the late Sir Grantley was Leader of the Opposition he was entitled to it, now that the present Leader of the Opposition is in office he is entitled to it, I am submitting that between the period of the late Sir Grantley and the present Leader we also had another Leader. Did he get the entertainment allowance? I say no. We must admit that he had certain obligations to meet, certain conditions to fulfil, and some of those conditions are very similar to those which I think the late Sir Grantley would have had to meet and some of which the present Leader of the Opposition will have to meet. Is it not a case where we have definitely shown ourselves as making fish out of two and fowl out of one? I do not want to appear personal, all I am concerned with is that between the late Sir Grantley and the present Leader we had another Leader of the Opposition. He would have had to be out of pocket to carry out his obligations without an allowance. It must be seen that he was an officer who performed the duties of Leader of the Opposition between the former Leader and the present Leader. I would like to hear the Leader of the House promising to give some sort of consideration to this fact.

Some of us who are in office are still bearing the burdens of the elections, and we are the winners, but the office of Leader of the Opposition has a certain measure of dignity and everything else attached to it. The holder of the office has to

live up to certain conditions, and I would like to know that the matter is looked into as it ought to be looked into. I am not saying anything against this.

4.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: It would be unreasonable to expect me, as Leader of the House in this session, to deal with a matter which actually died in the last session. I do not know that I can revive matters like that. I am trying to do what I consider to be right to the present Leader of the Opposition and to all future Leaders of the Opposition as long as I am here and occupying this office.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, if we look at Part 1 — Head 3 — Parliament — Item 27B — we will see in brackets (New). Let the Leader of the House understand that word means something to me, and it must mean something to every hon. member in here. He cannot be expected to resurrect this or that, but if we were to try to put the record straight we must come to the conclusion that this same allowance was also dead and is now being brought back to life. That is what we are saying.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir, if the hon. member will give way. Two wrongs do not make a right. It was dead; the Speaker's allowance was also dead; the Leader of the Opposition's allowance was also dead. Now that the Speaker's allowance has been restored, we are trying to regularise things and put both on an equal footing *pari passu*.

Mr. HINDS: I am afraid when I hear him with his Latin, because it seems to me that all Government Ministers are now speaking in tongues. Some are addressing audiences in Spanish and some are speaking Latin, but the occasion is going to come when we will speak to them with brass and cymbals. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the Leader of the House has said, but it does not rule out my point. My point is one worthy of consideration. The unwillingness of the Leader of the House to consider my point makes me feel that the position is only being regularised — I pray and hope not to bring about the ineffectiveness of the leadership of the Opposition. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: "What is that?")

The question that Head 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 25 — Ministry of Home Affairs — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25 – Ministry of Home Affairs – stand part.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, Head 25, as you will see contains quite a number of items and the notes to this Head cover from 3 to 10.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You can speak on the items.

Mr. HINDS: It is quite an easy matter to say "Head 25 stand part." I do not want to make any special comments on this Head, but I believe that other hon. members on this side would like some information. Now, Item 29 – Communications – is a matter which I think the Leader of the House ought to be in a position to offer some sort of an explanation as to the reason for the retroactive agreement to 1968. All members over here are not familiar with what was taking place, and I am sure the Minister would have some explanation to give us.

With regard to Item 36 – Maps of Barbados – I should like the Minister to tell me something about this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, with regard to Item 29 – Communications – the first item raised by the hon. member, the sum of \$12,000, which is an increase of \$2,000 over last year's estimate, has been provided to meet the cost of official Overseas telephone calls and telegrams. The present expenditure is at the level of \$2,310 a month, indicating the need for \$27,720 for 1972–73. Because of the retroactive agreement made in 1971 with Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited, this Government pays the full rate for telegrams from 1968 instead of half rate. The Ministry of Communications and Works has submitted a claim for \$7,781.61 in respect of the cost of telegrams for 1968. The total requirement for 1972–73 on the available figures is \$35,502. Comparative experience in the case of \$35,502 shows that the amount will not be spent during the current year, and we are therefore seeking supplementary provision in the sum of \$14,000 instead of \$35,502 which should normally be sought.

As far as Item 36 – Maps of Barbados – is concerned, the total provision of \$550 lapsed in 1971–72. Maps costing \$1,744.12 had been ordered and received from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys during 1971–72. Because of an oversight the sum of \$550 was not used to offset

some of the \$1,744.12. Only \$1,546 is provided during the current year, but this figure did not take into account other charges which have come to light since the 1972–73 Estimates were prepared. That is the explanation, Sir, and supplementary provision in the sum of \$200 is required to outstanding claims under this item.

4.50 p.m.

That is the explanation I have here.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have heard what the Minister had to say on the question of communications and about these overseas telephone calls. I want to incur the wrath of each and every hon. member on that side of the House now. I am willing to admit that when a Minister goes abroad the necessity must arise for him to communicate probably with his family on certain urgent matters. That is a justifiable case, but by God it is not right to take taxpayers' money when any hon. member goes abroad to keep up constant communication by telephone with a concubine in Barbados and the taxpayers have to pay for it. It is beastly unfair to the taxpayers of this country.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I do not know to what the hon. member refers, but it seems as though he is using unparliamentary language.

Mr. HINDS: Is the word "concubine" unparliamentary? Mr. Chairman, it is a serious matter because these are the things that lead Civil Servants to do a lot of things they normally would not have done when they know what people, who are higher up, are doing. They are Civil Servants who have been making overseas calls not on Government Business at all. I do not want to attach any blame to any Civil Servant who does it, because the example has been given and if the taxpayers are being taken for a ride by those higher up and better off, then it is regrettable. We want this to stop. Ministers are getting enough and making enough to feather their nests apart from saddling the taxpayers with all this, and it must stop without delay.

The note to Item 47B – Emergency Relief Fund, says that there is no provision in the current Estimates from which contributions may be made to assist individual countries affected by natural disasters. Sir, Barbados is affected by many disasters, and it would appear to me as if only the death of two or three or more persons will bring the Government to life or to its senses and have it deal with certain matters. I can pinpoint numerous disasters with which this country is presently affected. I see you are laughing and I am not going to continue.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two points I want to raise, but before I do so, I would like some information on Item 37 — Film Censorship. I wonder if the Minister would be so kind as to tell the House the names of the members of the Board at the moment if these are available. While he is looking for that, I will deal with another point.

Dealing with Cable and Wireless, under Item 29 — Communications, I do not know of the calls to which the hon. member refers, but I know that when he speaks, he speaks the truth. What concerns me at this stage is the situation with communications both internally and externally. I think the time has come when we must give serious consideration to the fact that our internal communications are owned by expatriate non-national companies and also that in the case of our external communications they are also owned by external companies that are non-national. This is a matter to which the Government should give serious thought because the time has come when either internally as regards internal communications the Government should take some part and have some say in the communications and not just allow a telephone company from overseas to come in and own the telephone company here and be in a position to direct communications here as it is at present.

One hears ever so often from the Government side about its being a socialist and nationalist party, but the only thing you have ever heard this Government threaten to nationalise is something they own already, the Deep Water Harbour. The communications network of a country is something that is fundamental, and just as your economic institutions should be locally owned, so also should your communications network be locally owned and controlled. I am not saying that the Government should go in for wholesale nationalisation of the telephone company, but at least the Government should take some sort of investment interest in it to see what is happening. Two years ago you had a rates increase and the Government had to go in. The Hon. Minister of Communications, then the Attorney General, with the assistance of other people was involved. I do not think he did very much in it, because the work was done by other hon. members. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Why are you such a liar? You know it is not true.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will warn the hon. member to observe Standing Order No. 29(6).
5.00 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I would not worry about that, the hon. member knows that the legal work, the economic work and even the cross examination at that stage was done by the then Leader of the Opposition who was complimented for the wonderful job he did at that enquiry. I believe the Minister himself had occasion to compliment him on the wonderful job he did, so I do not know what he is complaining about now. What I am saying is that two years later I do not think it is right in this day and age that our communications should be owned and operated by a company that is foreign-owned, and the Minister who took part in that discussion knows the roundabout dealings and the manner in which the telephone company operates so as to keep the majority of its capital out of this country. Instead of buying their own motor vehicles they have a subsidiary company which owns the vehicles and the telephone company leases these vehicles so that that money also goes out of the country. The building is mortgaged and the money again goes out of the country. We have no real say or control over the company, and I think the time has come when the Government should adopt a positive stand against this and stop being afraid of the few business people in this country. You need not nationalise it to take part in it, but if it comes to a stage where you have to nationalise it, you should do so. You were not afraid to nationalise the transport system.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Transport in Barbados is not nationalised. Why do you not get your facts straight or use socialist terms?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not say it was entirely nationalised, I said it was nationalised, and you had better understand your terms correctly. I am not saying that the Government should nationalise it, but at least the Government should invest in it so that Government appointed members would be able to sit on these Boards and see what is in fact happening and to see that the wool is not being pulled over the eyes of Barbadians.

With all the printing companies in this Island — it is true that one has gone out of operation, but there are others — things like the Directory, etc. are printed overseas and this should not be because by doing this you are using money that could be spent properly here in Barbados to give employment to Barbadians. The time has come when the Government must have a complete look at communications, both internally and externally. We operate at the moment at the whims and fancies of Cable and Wireless Limited.

Even in this day and age the only Government in the West Indies that is lagging behind, that does not have a spirit of nationalism is the Government of Barbados. Even Grenada and all the other Associated States are taking more pride in ensuring that businesses, financial institutions and communication networks are being owned or to some extent controlled by the Government of the particular territory, but not here in Barbados. We do not care, we allow these things to operate because in spite of all the shoutings from the platforms about big business it is a fact that under the rule and regime of this present Government that big business has done better than it has ever done in Barbados. It has done better under this Government than it did under the Conservative Government.

There are certain members of the big six in the Telephone Company, and therefore they would not interfere with it. That is the attitude of this Government, and the time has come when the question of participation in the communications network, whether by means of Government investing in it to see that the people of Barbados get a fair return for their money they are spending either in the case of external communications or in the case of internal communications.

I turn now to Item 37 – Film Censorship, and I wonder if the Minister would be so kind as to give me the names of the members of the Board.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House was asking that the question be put just now, but I want to question him now and I want some answers. My colleague has talked about communications and Cable and Wireless, we have talked about fair returns for the people of this country, but if you read Note 4 carefully, this is what it says: "The Government concluded an agreement with Messrs. Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. in 1971 under which the company pays an annual licence fee and government now pays the full rate for sending telegrams instead of the half rate paid formerly. The agreement was made retroactive to 1968 and in consequence of this there is an outstanding claim of \$7,781.61 in respect of the period 6th January 1968 to 30th June, 1971. With this outstanding commitment and the increase in expenditure the provision in the estimates is inadequate and a supplement of \$14,000 is required".

5.10 p.m.

Sir, I would like to know, and I think every taxpayer in Barbados would like to know, how

much revenue was derived from an agreement like this back-dated to 1968 where the Government comes out the loser! If you are going back from 1968 to 1972 to deal with this matter, why should you be the loser? Those are the questions that I should like the Hon. Leader of the House to answer now. I want to know how much Cable and Wireless paid to the Government of Barbados as a result of this retroactive agreement. That is what should have been in the notes. There is a lot of shilly-shallying going on, as far as I am concerned. You exchanged property up by Maresol Flats next to the Captain for property somewhere else, and I have not yet heard the figures involved. It looks as though Cable and Wireless are coming out on top all the time. You are now asking the people of Barbados to contribute a further \$7,000. If you are entering a new agreement, why did you not enter a new agreement and begin with a clean slate? Why must the taxpayers be asked to go back and pay this amount of money? I should like to have this question answered. I do not mind how the others vote, I am going to vote against it. Any time somebody is going back to open old accounts there must be something wrong some where.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Sir I have communications under my Ministry. The hon. member for the City spoke about means of communications owned by Barbadians. I wonder whether he knows that the Telephone Company went on the market inviting the public of Barbados to subscribe to shares in the Telephone Company? Before he makes certain allegations he should enquire and find out the response of the public to the shares.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Let me get this one point straight. I never said anything about the public; I spoke about the Government. I said that the Government should have invested in it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The public would not invest money in it, but you want the Government to invest money in it. If it were a good investment you would want the Government to invest money in it. The man with the money in his pocket is not prepared to invest, but you want the Government to take up the taxpayers' money and invest it. If you believe that it was a good investment, why do you not put your money in it? Why ask the Government to put money into something that you, as an individual, do not consider to be a very good investment? They endeavoured, according to the evidence, to raise \$2 million or \$3 million, and all that was subscribed by the public – you talk about the public having

shares — if the Government goes into it, the Government is only having shares as trustees for the public. The public had an opportunity to take shares and they subscribed two hundred and fifty—something thousand dollars out of \$3 million — You should get your facts straight when you are talking. This is not something that the Government must run into hot and sweaty and invest money in. You can tell whether it is a good investment when members of the public are running helter-skelter to invest in shares. Your investigations will show you that when the Company advertised the prospectus and tried to raise money from Tom, Dick and Harry in this country they did not get it subscribed at all. Ask yourself why? I want to hear why. (*Asides.*)

Do you want the Government to invest in it? You say it is simple. If there is all of this big money in it, why did not the man who had a \$50 and a \$100 buy shares? The members of the Opposition would like to come in here and say that the Government took over the Telephone Company and are losing \$2 million a year in the same way as they are always talking about C.B.C., and the B.M.C. Do you want it to happen with the Telephone Company, too? Do you want another string to your bow so that you can come into this House to say that the Government are losing \$2 million a year on this and that? This Government is not going to be pushed into anything unless we are satisfied that it is in the interest of the people.

As far as internal communications are concerned, every John Citizen in Barbados with money to invest had an opportunity recently to invest money and did nothing about it. Why should the Government take up the taxpayers' money and invest it in that manner? We only invest in things as trustees for John Citizen. We do not invest merely for a joke. Government are the trustees for the people. If the people had an opportunity to invest, then it was their duty to do so. If as the hon. member for the City says it was a cast-iron investment — the people would not do it, but the Government must run helter-skelter and do it! He knows it is true that the people did not invest; it was not subscribed properly and the hon. member knows that as a fact. He can get on the Floor and say that the Government must do it, because he thinks the Government has no sense. We represent the public and we are the idiots running the Government, is the way he looks at it.

With regard to external communications, the hon. member is about a year and a half behind

us. This Government has entered into meaningful negotiations with Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited. Up to today we were discussing, without giving the figures and facts, the question of establishing a joint company in which Barbados has 51% of the shares. When the hon. member gets up here and says certain things, he is about a year behind hand. Up to today I was discussing the matter with the Chairman of Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited. When he gets up here and says that he wants the Government to own it, he is behind hand one and a half years.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Anyway, let him finish his speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All I am telling you is that the Government, that you castigate as not being socialist, has started negotiations with Messrs. Cable and Wireless. Tomorrow we will open the Air Satellite which is another matter that will have to be taken into account. There is a meeting in Ottawa now on the Caribbean Telecommunications Union devising a new scheme of accountancy for the Commonwealth. Of course, the hon. member will not understand certain things, because he has never been in a Government. He does not understand what is involved, and he thinks it is a joke. Do you think you can just run hot and sweaty and say give me 51%? You will have to sit down and negotiate. Just as Jamaica has Jamentel; just as Trinidad has Texel; they are now in the process of negotiating with Guyana and with Barbados. The hon. member's request for this is nothing new. At the latest by April 1974, whether it be Bartel, or BarbadosTel, or Bagatelle, or whatever it is, you will have a local company.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Did he say that we will have Bagatelle, too?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Mr. BOLDEN: A point of explanation then, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Neither a point of explanation; it is a point of direct interruption.

Mr. BOLDEN: I did not hear him clearly.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Bartel. I will send for the figures for you. In 1972 the Company tried to raise \$1.4 million equity, but it only raised \$51,000 from local people. This is not a venture that you just run and take over because you can do so. We could take over the banks, but do you know what that means? A Government has to

approach economic problems sensibly. Because one country runs and takes over or nationalises a project, any Government that foolishly follows without going into the economic implications — (*Asides.*) Some Barbadians feel that Barbados is the world, but it only has 250,000 people. It is a nice place, it has good people, it has a good climate and a good Government, but it is not the world. If you nationalised the 7 banks in Bridgetown, how many deposits do you think you would get in them? You do not run off and do things because somebody says it is good. I would not be a part of a Government that just apes and apes. You do not ape Governments. You have to run a Government to suit the economic and social pressures of the community in which you operate.

I can assure the hon. member for the City that the question of taking over the Telephone Company is a matter which, at the moment, I would not advise. We are meaningfully negotiating seriously with Messrs. Cable & Wireless Limited about their holdings and so on in the hope of setting up a Company as was done in Jamaica, Trinidad, and will be done in Guyana some time next year. We are yards and miles ahead of members on the other side of the House.

5.20 p.m.

Your request is nothing new. We are always yards and miles ahead and when you get preaching what you think is socialism, the hon. member would never be a socialist. You were not born to socialism; you never experienced the hardships of socialism; you started out high up the ladder, so it is not a conviction with you. You never experienced it in your life, so when you shoot these socialist phrases, you are not with it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it is far worse to have been born into socialism and to have risen and forgotten socialism, and that is what the hon. member has done. Do not mind his saying he is a socialist; all that does not work and is not socialism, that is a myth. You try to capture the people with that on a platform. The hon. member gets up and says I am far behind time. Let him tell this Chamber now when before today he has ever informed this country that they were entering negotiations with Cable and Wireless to set up a company where they would own 51% of the shares.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If I entered negotiations with a company, I would blow my own trumpet, but when it comes to certain secret and important Government negotiations, you do not

go on the housetop. The Government does not work so.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What secret negotiations? They could not be that secret if he mentioned them today, so obviously he cannot tell me I am so far behind time because I have said that as far as I am concerned, the external communications should not be owned by non-nationals. Obviously the Government agrees with me. My point is that this is not the first time that we of the Labour Party have said so. We have been saying so since 1970 and have been campaigning on it. The fact remains that all the Minister can say is that negotiations are going on at present, and if I did not raise this matter, we would not have known that there were negotiations, and it shows how you keep people in the dark.

Getting back to the question of the Telephone Company, I have not said that you should nationalise it. What I said is that the Government should take an interest in it and invest in it, and the Minister cannot say now that the Government will have to study whether it is a good investment or not because I would have thought that one year ago when there was an enquiry the Government had an opportunity to see the entire economic structure and feasibility studies of the Telephone Company, so you cannot now say you are not in a position to know whether or not you can invest in it. This does not add up. It does not matter that you said the small man would not invest in it; that is not the point. There are a lot of reasons why small people in this country do not take shares in the market. One of the basic reasons is that there is no stock exchange for the ready sale of shares, and you cannot sell them adequately. If a man has \$1,000 he would prefer to keep it in the bank where if he wants it quickly he can get it, but if he invests the \$1,000 in shares, how can he get the money? If he wants it, he can probably get rid of the shares by selling them for \$100.

What I am saying is that the fact that the Government has again got to go into this enquiry and object to the rates increase is indicative of the fact that the Government should take an interest in the Telephone Company, because if you do you will be in a position to know exactly what is going on. You would not have every two or three years when they apply for increased rates to get research done and go in and object to the rates. The Minister said we want them to nationalise it for us to come in here and criticise them as in the case of the Marketing Corporation and C.B.C. That is the surest admission that the Government regards these two institutions as a failure. What you are saying is that you cannot

invest in the Telephone Company now because it may turn out like C.B.C. or the Marketing Corporation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What I am saying quite clearly is that as a socialist Government we cannot invest in the Telephone Company when there are such bad housing, roads, water and light in the country.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If that is what the Minister is saying now, how can this so-called socialist Government invest \$1.8 million in the Marine Hotel when at the same time and on the same day a Minister of Government could answer questions and say they cannot build a recreation centre for the people in New Orleans because they do not have money? The people in this country do not know what is going on. Tell them about the latest house that the Government bought.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member seems to be able to get away with a lot of things. On the question of the Marine Hotel, the Government rents offices all over the place, and in purchasing the Marine Hotel, that money is being invested in a very wise way and will not only provide offices for the Ministry of Tourism, and the Tourist Board, but also for many other Ministries including the Ministry of Housing, and also the Hotel School. So the two things are not relevant. In other words, the Government needs a proper building of the type such as the Marine Hotel for emergency purposes, for routine purposes and for Government offices; so you cannot relate the two things. It is a question of providing offices for the Ministries of External Affairs, Legal Affairs and other Ministries, and when the matter was being considered, both the Leader of the Opposition and one of his deputies showered lavish praise on the Government for purchasing the Marine Hotel.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Let us get something straight. The Leader of the House must understand that I belong to a political party, but I do not follow anybody blindly, and because somebody says something, I do not get up and say it is good.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is out of order. He is reflecting on a recent vote of the House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not reflecting on a vote of the House. It was the Minister of Communications who said that a socialist Government has to

build roads and do this and that, and that is the context in which it was mentioned.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When the Minister talks about socialism and beats his breast, and said I was not born into socialism, I must say that I had no control over my birth. But what I would say is that it is far worse when you are born into socialism and move away and forget the people, and then you fool the people and continue to fool them that you are a socialist. That is worse because that is something over which you have control. As I said, when he talks about socialism he should tell them about the house they bought recently for the Consul-General in Long Island in the United States. I represent a constituency that is perhaps one of the poorest constituencies as regards drainage; so when the Minister of Communications and Works talks about socialism, it is a simple question.

5.30 p.m.

All I said was that two years ago they had to object to the increased rates of the Telephone Company and you come back now and have to do it again. You have to go through the whole process of analysing and trying to find out whether the people are fooling you or not. One thing was quite clear that anybody who attended the last rate objection two years ago would realise that the Telephone Company was pulling a fast one on the people of this country. The way they were operating with their subsidiary companies, buying and leasing back and sending money out of this country is something certainly that the Government should investigate. When Government had an opportunity to invest in the Company, when shares were on the market, the Government could have invested in it so that you would have a director on the Board of Management to know what is in fact going on. This is nothing unique, but this Government has not yet seen fit to do this.

I asked the Minister for the names of the members of the Film Censorship Board and he has not answered.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member cannot expect that whenever we come here with a Supplementary we must give the whole history when it is done at Estimates time. You do not walk around with all that information in your head.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, the Hon. Leader of the House is probably mistaken, I was the one who asked for the members of the

Film Censorship Board, not the honourable member for St. Joseph. He should quarrel with him, not with me.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am not quarrelling with anyone, I am speaking on a matter of principle, and I am giving advice to all honourable members. Whenever we are dealing with Supplementaries we are not expected to bring in the whole number of files because we do that at Estimates time. You ought to know better. Look in the Official Gazette, look in the Civil List. I did not intend to answer this but you are fortunate that a civil servant is present and he has given me the information. The names are as follows:

Miss Norah Burton — Secretary (former Headmistress of St. Michael's Girls' School)

Mr. Ulric Rice

Mr. Rudolph Hinds

Mrs. K. J. Tomlin

Mrs. G. Osbourne

Mrs. F. L. Walcott

Miss Ifill

Lady Isabelle Archer

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect to the Leader of the House, there is another question I asked of the Minister. What monies has Government derived as a result of the retroactive agreement made between Cable and Wireless and the Government?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I could not give you that now, the hon. member would have to put it in a substantive question. It is a good question but I could not answer that now.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I object to that. If the Leader of the House is not doing his home-work, let him resign.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, if the hon. member wants me to tell him what the claim is, I can tell him.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not asking for the claim, I want to know what the Government received as fees.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This is really communications.

Mr. BOLDEN: This is not communications, he is the Leader of the House and he brings the Money Resolutions.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I gave the answer already. The amount is \$12,000. An increase of \$2,000 over last year's has been provided to meet

the cost of official overseas calls and telegrams. The present expenditure is at the level of \$2,310 per month. Because of the retroactive agreement made in 1971 with Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited this Government pays the full rate for telegrams from 1968 instead of half rate. The Ministry of Communications and Works has submitted a claim for \$7,781.61 in respect of the cost of telegrams since 1968. The total requirement for 1972-73 on the available figures is \$35,502. The Minister has advised that past experience had indicated that \$35,502 will not be spent during the current year and is therefore seeking supplementary provision for only \$14,000 instead of \$23,000 indicated by the figures. The Ministry does not anticipate any increased rates.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with a Money Resolution. We are dealing with figures arising out of a payment by the Government for cables from 1968 up to a specific time, June, 1971. The note says that it came as a result of adjusting figures. All I am asking for is this figure they must have somewhere which represents license fees payable to the Government of Barbados and the amount due to Cable and Wireless in order to get a debit balance. I want to know why the people of Barbados have now got to find another \$47,000.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is no magic about this. We get \$15,000 as licence fees from Cable and Wireless.

Mr. BOLDEN: Before the Hon. Minister goes any further, I do not want to know what they get in a year, I want to know the sum Cable and Wireless pays the Government as a result of the agreement which dates back to 1968.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It goes much further back than that. If you look at the Cable and Wireless Act you will see that prior to a few years ago Cable and Wireless did not pay any fees to the Government of Barbados. There was an Act which exempted Cable and Wireless from tax and they could have acquired land for their own purposes. The Prime Minister went into this whole matter and he settled it by making them pay for their vehicles, taxes, etc. and removed all the concessions the British Government gave them in the past and decided to put them on a better footing.
5. 40 p.m.

We get \$12,000 for the licence. — (Mr. BOLDEN: "From when?") From 1963 or thereabout. I said that an agreement was entered into. Let me get on with that; there is no magic about it. Formerly, until Barbados became Independent, we were never a member of the

Commonwealth Telecommunications Union or of the International Telecommunications Union. It is a simple matter. We were formerly represented by Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited at these International Conferences, which were established reputable International Conferences, because the Barbados Government at the time had no expert on whom we could rely to represent us.

This agreement is as a result of an International Conference, and the change is not what Barbados suddenly decided on. This was decided at a Conference of the Telecommunications Union in 1966. This agreement with Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited is in fulfilment of an agreement reached by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Union in which it was agreed that the Barbados Government would pay the full rate for sending telegrams instead of the half rate paid formerly. This is done by all of the countries in the Commonwealth, and it is not something that Barbados suddenly finds itself giving Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited.

My Permanent Secretary has been in Canada at a Commonwealth Telecommunications Union Conference since early November. He went on about the 2nd November, and as a result of these International Conferences - (*Asides*) The increase in the rates for the Post Office is not done by the Minister of Finance, it springs out of the Tokyo Conference of the Postal Union. This agreement is part of an agreement reached by the Commonwealth Communications Union that this change should be made. Instead of paying half rate we will pay full rate; we charge them a licence; we make them pay taxes for what they do apart from the fact that they employ over 435 Barbadians in this country. There is no magic; this is how the figures work out. We have to give them seven thousand and something dollars.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister can shout, rant and rave: he can fool some of us, but he cannot fool me. He must have had figures to deal with in order to get a balance, whether it is a positive or negative balance. Up to now not one of them over there can tell this Honourable Committee how much Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited paid to the Government of Barbados and from what date! You must have had figures to subtract something in order to get a balance. I have been told of Commonwealth Telecommunications Union Conferences and the Conference at Tokyo, etc., but I have not been given any figures. It means that the taxpayers will have to pay another \$7,000, and nobody can tell us what are the figures involved! It raises more than a suspicion. It does not matter

where the Permanent Secretary is. He could be at the back-door of hell learning how to stoke a fire, but that will not answer my question. I am dealing with money, and all he is talking about Conferences will not make any difference to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 25 stand part.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, are we entitled to know what is going on? The Minister can get up and say quite clearly that he is not telling me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like the hon. member to understand that, when I am in the Chair and no hon. member gets on his feet, I will put the question.

Mr. BOLDEN: I agree with you, but under certain conditions, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No conditions. I am telling you what are my conditions. When you take your seat and the Minister or no other member gets up to speak, then I will put the question. You will either vote for it or against it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, are we then to conclude that the Government has come today to ask this Honourable Committee to vote a sum of money without being able to tell the Committee how the figures are arrived at? Is this the consensus of opinion? The moment you challenge the figures, nobody on the other side who is supposed to be piloting the Resolution can give you the figures. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works got up just now; he ranted and raved about looking into the economics, etc., of communications. He said that the Government does not take up money and invest it without knowing what is going on. Why is it that nobody can tell us what is going on in relation to the figures?

Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with money. Whether you are keeping a 2 x 4 shop or you are dealing in millions of dollars, you must have figures in order to get a balance. ~~We the taxpayers are now~~ asked to pay another \$7,000 and nobody can explain to the Committee how this figure is arrived at! I have said that a lot of exchanges have been going on with Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited. I did not get involved in the internal communications matter, because, in my humble opinion, the Minister talked a lot of "bull-wash".

Now, Government invested in the Hilton. From the time I came in here I heard that the Hilton was supposed to show certain receipts. We are dealing with Government investments now, Mr.

Chairman. We are dealing with investments and money. I invest in ducks and pigs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Under Item 29 — Communications — I do not see any investments relative to the Hilton or otherwise.

Mr. BOLDEN: Have you seen investments, Mr. Chairman, about the B.M.C.? The Hon. Minister talked about the B.M.C. He also talked about investments in C.B.C., and that is not in the Resolution. We are dealing with money and investments. Whether you invest in sugar, pigs, or rice, it is money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get along with communications.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am getting along with communications.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given the hon. members of this Chamber a lot of latitude on both sides. If hon. members feel that they can get out of hand with the Chair, I will use the necessary authority to show hon. members on both sides of the House that I know what I am doing. The hon. member may proceed with his address.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to challenge your ruling. Mr. Chairman is entitled to use the Rules, but Mr. Chairman cannot stop me from comparing investments in communications with investments in hotels, investments in an almshouse or investments in a grave yard. When I am dealing with money, I can discuss whether I will invest my money in pigs, ducks, or whatever it is, but when I come back to the end product it is dollars and cents. I said that the Hon. Minister spoke about investing in the B.M.C. and C.B.C. I used the same comparison that they invested in the Hilton; they invested in the Milk Plant, but I am not talking about the Hilton in this Resolution. I am dealing with the question of investments.

When the Minister talks about Government having to go into figures before rushing into things, then he cannot say that you must go into figures when dealing with one matter, and when you are dealing with another you need not have figures.
5.50 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, all I was trying to say — and I am not trying to throw oil on troubled waters, — is that the difficulty why I cannot answer specifically is because even although I am responsible for Communications and Works, the Ministry of Home Affairs pays for telegrams to Cable and Wireless. Just as my Ministry pays for

telephones for officers who are entitled to telephones, the Ministry of Home Affairs pays for overseas calls. Similarly the Ministry of Home Affairs pays for all telegrams from all Ministries; so that the file dealing with the actual agreement is not here, but if the hon. member for St. Joseph wants an answer, background history and how we arrive at the figures, I will put it up in writing and give him, but this file would not contain that because this file is purely a supplementary for telegrams. Under the Ministry of Communications and Works I can give you the background and promise you that before the week is ended you will have the nature of the agreement, if you want a copy of the agreement, and how we arrive at the figure of \$7,000. The file is not here. What I said is from my knowledge of the Ministry of Communications and Works, but if you want detailed figures I can get them from the file of the Ministry of Communications and Works which is not here, since technically this is a matter which is paid for by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and this is a supplementary for that purpose; so it is no sense asking any more questions. I promise to let the Opposition have the background. I have nothing to hide. Are they more careful about Government money than this side?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, when I said earlier that none of them knew what they came down here to ask for and the Leader of the House got up ranting and raving and thinking he could frighten somebody, I must say that I have told him already that he can frighten his wife but he cannot frighten me. I can deal with him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no frightening in here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I am not ranting and raving. The hon. member is the only one that rants and raves every time he gets up to speak. (Mr. BOLDEN: You do not know what you are doing.) This is a matter which the Ministry of Home Affairs pays for, and in order to get a suitable reply you should ask a substantive question. If you ask a question you would get a proper reply. I said just now that we cannot bring all the files here to deal with Government Business; so that file is not here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, is the Leader of the House telling the Opposition now not to come in here and debate anything when a Resolution comes down, but to look at it and write out questions for him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Nothing like that has been said.

Mr. BOLDEN: That is what he said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What he really said is that since this is only a supplementary, the particular file was not brought here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let us be very factual on this. I will finish now because they cannot answer. I know something that none of them on the front bench, not even the Leader of the House, knows. I could ask them now and neither one of them could go and put his hands on the file between now and the end of the week, and that is why I challenge the Leader of the House to tell me how they arrived at these figures.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is a very serious allegation that we cannot put our hands on a file. Has the hon. member for St. Joseph got it? I just want to know. This is a very serious matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It is a serious allegation that a member of the Opposition can say to this House that no member can put his hands on a file in the Ministry between now and the end of the week.

Mr. BOLDEN: I said if he goes and looks he does not know what is going on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member for St. Joseph at least should be fair and straight. I am the Leader of the House, but the appropriate Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs is not in his seat. The hon. member is trying to give the impression that I am in control of the Ministry and I do not know what is going on.

Mr. BOLDEN: I said that the hon. member is dealing with the Resolution and does not know what he is asking for and would not know even at the end of the week.

The question that Head 25 – Ministry of Home Affairs – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 26 – Police – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 26 – Police – stand part.

Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let us deal with Item 37 – Clothing and Uniforms. I want to join

with other hon. members on this side in advocating a change in the uniform of policemen. It is long overdue. The point I want to make at this stage is that there is no reason why the officers in the force, that is, the Superintendents, Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Inspectors are allowed to wear shoes and the other ranks have got to be going about with big cloggy boots that they wear. It costs the taxpayers no more to have them all wear shoes than it would having some wear shoes and some wear boots as at present. There is no reason whatsoever for the present distinction to continue any longer.

I believe that another hon. member is going to speak on this matter of the uniforms generally and the change of dress and the like, but I would like to stress here and now that we see there has been a shortage of material with which to make certain of the uniforms over a period of time. It means then that you will see a guard being posted with half wearing a white tunic and half wearing shirt sleeves. Is there any uniformity in this? What is taking place there now is something shocking. Although this is no reflection on the present Commissioner, I am sure we had former Commissioners of Police who when they looked across the yard and saw half in shirt sleeves and others in white tunics, would order them back to barracks and every man would turn out in shirt sleeves which would be more convenient than it is at present.
6.00 p.m.

If it has been proven that the shirt sleeves are more acceptable it does not to my mind reduce the authority of the officer, it does not cause him to look sloppy on the job or anything like this if he has had sufficient training at the Police Training School, because this brings me to the point where it has been mentioned here by other hon. members in the past,

Members of this Chamber are still suffering the indignity of still being ordered out of the Public Buildings courtyard by Policemen in uniform. Members of the House go to park their cars and the Policemen tell them they cannot park there and threaten to report them saying that the space is reserved for members of the House of Assembly. Then some senior officer, seeing that something is wrong, will hasten and hold him by the hand so as to allow members to park their cars. I am saying that members of Parliament should not suffer such indignity within the precincts of the House of Assembly. In 1938 every member in training at the Police Training School had to know the car numbers and know the names of all the members of the House of Assembly and the then Legislative Council. That was part of his training.

He had to know everybody in Barbados who was worthwhile and know everything about them. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: So that he should not report them.) Whether it was so he should not report them or else. If it was a case that he should not report them, it served its purpose, and I still feel that no Minister of Government would like to suffer the harassment of turning in the courtyard here and being made to drive all around the place looking foolish. I think our Speaker, too, has suffered in this respect when a policeman told him he could not park in here. I do not want to say more on this score. I think enough has been said that all concerned should take some sort of action on the matter.

Let me turn to Item 74 – Beds, Pillows, etc., and the \$24,000 we are now being asked to revote.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if people would believe it when it is made known that policemen are going to work today carrying their own pillows, pillow cases and bed sheets. (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: That is their preference). Mr. Chairman, I have learnt from the former Minister of Home Affairs who was in charge of the Police that perhaps the Police preferred to do it. They preferred to do it because no policeman has ever been issued with a bed sheet, a pillow or a pillow case, they have been issued with bedsteads and plain mattresses. The Minister who has been in charge of the Police has the shameless boldness, the effrontery.....

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to object to that type of remark, because nowhere have I said that the Police prefer that type of thing.

Mr. HINDS: If he takes objection to your sitting in the Chair, Mr. Chairman, what would you do about it? It is not offensive.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But he has not said anything.

Mr. HINDS: Who?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The former Minister of Home Affairs. He has not addressed this Chair.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I would like him to withdraw that statement, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Since he has not made a statement to the Chair and you have accused him of making a statement which he has not made.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have not accused the Minister of making any statement to the Chair. What I am saying is that what I have witnessed here today as coming from the ministerial benches is enough to call upon the Police to wake up and take an interest in their own welfare. Let us ask ourselves now, Mr. Chairman, how long has it been recommended that we dispense with the use of these cots by the Police and that they be given bedsteads and mattresses? It has taken six full years to equip an average of 800 men, and throughout the six years you did not have 800 men. You have equipped them now to the point that you give them, as Bajans would say, the raw mattress to lie down on.

6.10 p.m.

When a policeman has to go to work with his own sheet he will be depriving his family at home of the use of the sheet, because he will have to take the sheet to spread on the bed given to him. He will have to take along a pillow and a pillow-case, and we may be told that he would prefer to do this. In the days when he had a blanket, a cot and a bolster, why did he not prefer to do it? Why did he not want to carry home the blanket and the bolster? What nonsense am I hearing? The police are human beings like other people. This sort of thing is taking place because the police are just silly in a matter of this sort. They are not looking after their own welfare. The Police Association is certainly not taking an active part in a matter of this sort, otherwise the police would have been equipped with their bedsteads, their mattresses and all that is necessary, and in addition to a sheet they should have a warm blanket for use when necessary. I believe that, as time goes on, they will come into their own and will not continue to be turned around, fooled, and twisted about. People are laughing at them and saying that a policeman believes in rolling up his own pillow, mattress and sheet and taking them home whenever he is off duty and bringing them back with him and that sort of nonsense, rather than to be issued things to which he is entitled.

I should like to see this matter examined and the policemen treated as they ought to be treated and the sooner the better. Nobody can say that there was no firm in Bridgetown at any time during the last two financial years where material could not be found to provide an average of 800 sheets. This is the biggest joke you can think of. Why could you not get an average of 800 pillow-cases or pillows? That is nonsense, Sir, and it is about time that this Honourable Committee should stop receiving all of this Civil Service jargon that we are getting here by way of notes which are totally misleading; they do not convey anything that is

sensible, and what makes it more annoying to us is the fact that you have Ministers allowing themselves to be used by civil servants in this respect. That is exactly what it amounts to. I should like to hear what the Minister has to say regarding the reason why the policemen were not being equipped. We know that in the case of bedsteads they did not go one day and supply 800 bedsteads to 800 policemen and dispose of 800 cots. That was done in stages, so what was wrong in introducing the same system when it came to providing them with their sheets, pillows and pillow-cases? It is much more to this, Mr. Chairman, than the notes seem to reveal. I should like to hear what any Hon. Minister on that side has to say on this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member wants more information. We are dealing with Head 26 – Item 73 (New) Beds, Pillows, etc., and the amount involved is non-recurrent. The amount of \$24,000 was provided in 1971–72 to purchase the last set of beds, pillows, chairs, sheets and pillow-cases over the 3-year phasing period. Because of the late arrival of material, the articles were not available by 31st March and the provision lapsed. The 1,400 sheets and pillow-cases and 119 beds, pillow, chair units are being supplied by the successful tenderer, Messrs. National Bedding Company at \$4.95 per sheet; \$1.13 per pillow-case; and \$129 per bed, pillow, chair unit.

The total cost is \$21,863, and the Police Department has advised that, although the contract price was given several months ago, the contractor has been told that he cannot vary the price. However, the cost had to be varied due to the fact that the costs of things have risen and the contractor has no control over that. The Minister has advised that we seek a revote of \$24,000. This matter has been pending for some time; the material could not be supplied at the time; the money lapsed, and we have now come back here to try and carry through with this contract which was not complied with at the time.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister ought to know that the National Bedding Company to which he refers is idle most of the time. The National Bedding Company was given a tender for the supply of these items, and it agreed to supply them within a given time and at a given price. Time and again it was drawn to Government's attention that the conditions at the National Bedding Company were pointing unmistakably to the fact that the Company, perhaps, in another year or two, even when the price is increased, will not be able to meet the supply of these items. The Government knows all about this. You do not just

give out a tender and allow the tenderer to do what he likes. Is all the Government concerned with is money? It does not work like this.

6.20 p.m.

What you will find, Mr. Chairman, is that National Bedding Company belongs to people who have been supporting the Government in more ways than one. (Mr. MOTTLEY: To whom does it belong?) And the Lord said unto Moses. The Government must not operate in a manner such as this. The people are suffering now. All we are told from time to time is that they are awaiting a supply of goods from the National Bedding Company, but the Company has got to plead delay of arrival of materials, and as time goes on it has got to plead for increase in costs, and the Government for reasons which will never be told to this House will have to put up with whatever the National Bedding Company is doing no matter how much the police suffer, and the situation will go on and on like this. But what the Government is prepared to do is to turn to the milch cow – the taxpayers – and extract money to support National Bedding Company not for supplying these items on time and of the standard and quality demanded by the purchaser. That is the reason why we are now hearing about a revote and delay in the arrival of material and what not.

Mr. Chairman, could you be encouraged into believing that no firm in Bridgetown given an order to supply 800 pillows, 1,600 bed sheets and 1,600 pillow-cases as the case may be would not within six months' time be able to land every one at the Central Police Station or wherever they are supposed to deliver them? Why is the Government allowing the National Bedding Company to take the contract and toy with it? Does the suffering of the police and the inconvenience they suffer not concern the Government?

Sir, if hon. members do not know it, we are to tell them that the owner of the National Bedding Company is involved with the Government in the Graeme Hall scandal. Let the Minister of Communications and Works get up and defend the Government now. (Hon F. G. SMITH: I am coming for you.) I hope you will. He may have just reasons for defending the scandal. All this is responsible for the situation which has come before us here today, the varying of price and running behind Ministers asking for increase in price. They accepted the contract, and remember, Sir, not one worker employed by National Bedding Company has been given a quarter of a farthing increase in wages since getting this contract to supply the items for the police, but the Minister admits a request for varying of price. I wonder to whom that request was made in the first instance.

That is why these people will never fulfil their contracts in time. They know to whom they can run in the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Chairman, we will have to vote for the sum of money asked for. We want to see the police rest comfortably after their labours. I am not saying that all of them labour as they should, because there are some slack policemen, but we are not discussing that now, and there will always be some slack policemen; but nevertheless the principle has been accepted that they must be equipped with bedsteads, mattresses, pillow-cases, pillows and bedsheets. They must get these things and I do not see why the Government should allow any more time to elapse. It is as simple as this: if one contractor cannot supply the items that have been tendered for and which are not scarce commodities that cannot be obtained elsewhere, then they should be obtained elsewhere.

It is true we do not expect to go and find that the police pillows are covered with the same material that you can buy on Swan Street or along Lucas Street or any of the other streets, but rather that you have a special material for the whole Force. We agree with this whether it is one design for the sergeants and another for other ranks, but we are still maintaining that pillows and pillow-cases and bedsheets are things that can be obtained in large quantities from any supplier. You can get them by a telephone call and by the first boat that is sailing if they cannot be supplied locally in less than three months, and I cannot understand why the Government is allowing this nonsense to continue. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say on this point.

6.30 p.m.

There is one other point I would like to make about the police at this stage. There is still this old custom, following the English, of carrying this long heavy truncheon at the side of the policemen. I think I am right in saying it is not found to be necessary any longer, and if a truncheon has to be in use it should be a much smaller piece of equipment other than it is at present. At least we should try to streamline the police and lighten their burdens wherever possible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief. There are certain allegations which were made against the Government that really need no reply, but when the party to which the hon. member belongs, which is supposed to carry the name "The Barbados Labour Party", was in power policemen had to sleep on cots and they had to depend on the chinks to wake them up to go on duty at night. This Government, realising the need to update the sleeping accommodation of the policemen, decided to phase it out over three years.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation, the Hon. Minister who is now attempting to reply ought to know that this recommendation for dispensing with cots was made during the term of office of the Barbados Labour Party.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I remember when I first joined the Democratic Labour Party he used to be knocking around the D.L.P.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I never knocked around the D.L.P., but I helped to found the D.L.P. He could never do for the D.L.P. what I did for them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order. I would like the Hon. Minister to confine himself to this Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Let me make something clear. We decided to phase this out over three years. Last year should have been the last, but I want to clear up for the benefit of the public how tenders are awarded in this country because the idea gets around as is uttered by the hon. member for St. Peter that the Government gives the tenders to its friends. There is a Tenders Committee and not one Minister has anything to do with this committee, and all this is based on the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Anything over \$5,000 must be tendered for and anybody in the island, if they think they can supply the material, is entitled to tender. The Government invariably tries to save the taxpayers money, and the lowest tender may get through although the Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender. If a Minister accepts the Committee's recommendation, all well and good, but if the Minister does not accept the Committee's recommendation he takes it to Cabinet which decides. Do not get any idea that the Minister of Home Affairs can give his friends, whoever they are any contract for Police uniforms.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation, Sir, I do not think any suggestion was made that the Minister of Home Affairs ever gave any of his friends any contracts, so I do not know what the Minister is trying to infer.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He indicated that the National Bedding Company belongs to people who support the DLP, and he said that they got the contract because of this. Contracts are awarded on the recommendation of a Tenders Committee which consists primarily of Civil Servants, and tenders are often awarded to the lowest tender or to the man who can do the job. Only a few weeks ago in this House we adjusted the rates for uniforms for the Post Office and uniforms for the

Customs but the work was not completed within the financial year. The Opposition did not oppose it, they agreed with it, so that you can get a genuine case of material not arriving in time, work not being done, and the last time Government insisted on giving the contract to a local company so that local people can get the jobs, and he is now telling us that we should give it to Americans.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many locals are employed by the National Bedding Company.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not interested in that, you are suggesting that it should be given to Americans when, if it is given to a local firm, the money will remain in Barbados to help the people of Barbados. People have got to understand that some people have got to make sacrifices and undergo inconvenience that other people might live. I say that if people have to wait three months while local people are getting jobs in this country I prefer that to an American firm getting money out of this Government. The Policemen themselves will prefer this if they know that their fellow citizens are getting the jobs to do something for them. The only person who does not seem to understand it is the member for St. Peter.

Let us make something quite clear. This is not extracting money from taxpayers, that is another fallacy. This money was voted in the 1971-72 Estimates. He has been told that, but he wants the public and the Police to believe that we are taking up fresh money to give to somebody to supply something again. I am going to say this quite frankly now that all this nonsense about Graeme Hall has nothing at all to do with this issue, but you have in this House of Assembly to straighten up a few things and I am not going to stand here and allow any member on the Opposition to make insinuations that we gave a contract to a company in order to avoid a scandal. My hands are clean, I have nothing to hide that his hands are clean at the same time he might tell us whose hands are not.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, if the Minister is telling us that his hands are clean, at the same time he might tell us whose hands are not.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You make a lot of insinuations about the Government when you know that the contracts are awarded by Civil Servants. No Minister spends any of the taxpayers' money, yet you make a lot of insinuations because the public of Barbados likes to hear a lot of scandal. Thank God the public is getting sense now and that is why you only have six over there. Next time you will only get two.

6.40 p.m.

If we had used the big roller on you at the last elections, you would have gone through the eddoes. Let us get things straight. We are going to

equip the policemen as we feel they should be equipped.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to help the Minister to get the record straight. Let him deal with the Graeme Hall scandal; let him reply to what I have said.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am nothing to do with the Graeme Hall scandal. Do you want me to be irrelevant?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Graeme Hall scandal in this Resolution! I am not going to allow that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am only replying to insinuations and some people trying to give the police the impression that this Government is in league with somebody to stop them from having comforts. Nobody has done more for the police than this present Government. Ask the policemen themselves? Members of the Opposition accused them of being pro-D.L.P.'s. They ought to be pro-D.L.P.'s, because we have done more for them during the time we have been in power than you have done for them for all the years your Government was running this country. Today the policemen can acknowledge it. When you jump on the Government's band-wagon now and talk about providing proper sleeping accommodation for them and pretending that you are the arch supporter and protagonist of the policemen you are not fooling anybody.

Under your Government the policemen were sleeping in cots where the chinks used to lift them up and heft them at night. You want to fool the policemen now that you are their champions. How could you be a champion? We have done more for them than any other Government in this country, and will continue to do more for them. Around election time you got up and said that the police are pro-D.L.P.'s; they would not arrest anybody who broke up your meetings, and they were on the side of the D.L.P. Why should not they be? We have done more for them, and this money here is to continue the good work the Government is doing in the interest of law, order, and for the comfort of that able body of men who, at night when you are in your beds sleeping, are walking the beat and are being shot at at night in areas under all conditions. This Government is conscious of the difficulties they undergo; this Government knows that the work of a policeman is not easy; at all hours of the night, when we are sleeping with our wives hugging up, you will find them on the beat in dark shadows with no proper lighting endeavouring to protect this country. We have an excellent Police Force, and this Government is

dedicated and will do everything in its power to help them, in spite of the Opposition, and see that they are comfortable day and night.

Mr. HINDS: There is one thing I know, and it is that the police are responsible for keeping their equipment clean. Inspection is carried out from time to time, and when it is suggested that the police have allowed themselves to become the chief chink—breeding agents in this country, and that the chinks are so large as to lift the police up, it is to suggest or to tell us exactly how nasty the Hon. Minister says the police are.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have not said that. Cots naturally breed chinks. In the Almshouse they breed chinks and that is known by everybody. I am not saying that the police are dirty. Have you ever slept in a cot in your life? I have slept in a cot, and I have had chinks, too. I am not afraid to admit it. Cots naturally breed chinks, and it does not depend on whether you are clean or not. Every time you have to unhook the canvass to air you may find a chink regardless of the home from which you come.

Mr. HINDS: I now understand the matter a little better, Sir. I now understand the Minister to say that he has chinks, too.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I did not say that. I said that I slept in a cot with chinks, and I am not afraid to admit it. I am not scared of my past, and I can admit it. Thank God I have risen far enough that I do not have to listen to nonsense from you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are now going to confine ourselves to the Resolution. We are dealing strictly with the Resolution — no chinks. I have given both sides their latitude.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, those members on the front row of the Government benches started to pound the Table when you were talking about sticking to the Resolution. I am suggesting that they were laughing at you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is only your suggestion.

Mr. HINDS: You need not support me with it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just stick to the Resolution.

Mr. HINDS: All we have been doing here this evening is sticking to the Resolution, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely not true.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, are you suggesting that I have been speaking untruth?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I at no time suggested anything of the kind. I was speaking relative to the Resolution.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have been discussing the discomforts suffered by members of the Police Force sleeping in cots and the decision to move them into beds, and my contention has been that they have been unfairly dealt with in that up to the present, despite the remarks of the Minister of Communications and Works who told us of the decision to phase this matter over a 3-year period, not one policeman has been equipped with his sheet, pillow and pillow-case. If the Government Ministers would have us believe that a decision was taken to phase the matter over a 3-year period and this financial year was to have been the last, then what has happened during the two previous financial years? That is what we are asking. We have now seen that there has been no phasing whatsoever, and the Leader of the House tells us that the contractor or the person who had been awarded the tender had been making efforts to get an increase in the price and he wanted the price varied since the award of the tender. We are submitting that that is the reason for the delay. That is the reason why the policemen were not equipped with their mattresses and so on. It is not true to say that the policemen have not been equipped because of the delay in the arrival of material.

Some of the civil servants who write this kind of nonsense will one day write something about some of these Ministers, and when the Ministers discover what has taken place it will be too late. It is the question of the increase in the price, and if there was no increase in the price, then there would be no pillows or pillow-cases for the policemen. That is unfair to these people.
6.50 p.m.

The police themselves cannot be concerned with dollars and cents in a matter of this sort. It is unfair to them and all the interest we are hearing from this socialist Minister of Communications and Works — there is no more socialist on the face of the earth, — is that he came up with chinks biting him and all sorts of things. He too was bitten by chinks now; but if you had told him so a little before he left here to go to Timbuctu he would have sued you.

Mr. Chairman, all we are asking the Government to do is not to mind the Hon. Minister and to see that the police, at least some of them, are fitted out as quickly as possible, and if some of

them see that an attempt is made to equip some of them, they will continue to wait as they have been waiting in the past; but if the police see and know that you promised them over the past three years to phase this thing out and do this and that for them, and nothing is done, they will become dissatisfied. I heard the Minister of Communications and Works say that this Government has done more for the police than the police have ever done for them and to them during past years. That is perfectly true; but nobody else can attempt to take away from the police their hard earned money in the way the present Government was able to do, and it still expects to keep faith with the police and for the police to turn around and give them the type of support they gave them even up to the last election.

Mr. Chairman, let the Government move now. We must ask that the Minister tell us about the late arrival. Was it that the material was ordered late despite the award of the contract being given on time? The Minister of Communications tells us about how many Barbadians are employed in this project. The Minister must know that we do not manufacture the cloth that is required for the making of these bedsheets and pillow cases. We have got to import the raw material, and what the Minister does not know is that when you import the quantity the owner of the National Bedding Company would have to import, that brings him a very special commission; so he has made his profits there and then, and I do not know what the Minister is talking. He just tries to jump into everything. He would not even drop into the pool of water that has settled at Archer's Lane and Highway 1.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think it was a fortnight or a month ago the question of the clothing and uniform of the police was raised in this Chamber, and on that occasion I stated that representation had been made to the Ministry on behalf of the Police Association for a change of uniform. At that time the present Minister, now Minister of Health, and the former Minister of Home Affairs, now Minister of Housing, both denied that no such representation had in fact been made.

Sir, I recall quite carefully that I had heard from my various conversations with police officers that representation had in fact been made, and I decided to do a little investigating and I discovered that the report of the Commission of Enquiry into the operation of the police force had something to say about it. I think this report was published in 1966 and I do not want to take up the Minister of Communication's off-the-track nonsense about

the police sleeping in cots with chinks etc. because it was in 1961 and 1966 that the police were still sleeping on these same cots under the regime of the present Government, and nothing was done until then and it was done not because the Government wanted it, but because of the representation made in the general dissatisfaction with the conditions in the police force at the time.

The Commission of Enquiry was appointed; I think Mr. Justice Taitt headed that enquiry and looking at the enquiry under paragraph 687 under the heading "Uniforms" the enquiry stated that the Police Association, not me or anybody, had asked for a replacement of the present uniform for one more suited to the tropical climate. These were the exact words as stated in the report by Mr. Justice Taitt, and that is the same uniform they are wearing today. The Police Association in 1966 said it was not suited to the tropical climate and the commission was also informed that the Police Association had made representation about devising a more suitable uniform. This had been done in 1963 under that present Government and again in 1965 under that Government so that it was utterly wrong for both Ministers to get in here and deny that representation had ever been made by the Police Association.

I will go on to deal with what in fact did happen. In that same report the Commission recommended that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs appoint a Committee to investigate and make recommendations for a more suitable uniform. I believe at the time and this was one of the requests of the Police Association, they asked for a standing body to be set up with representation from the Police Association who could make representation from time to time as regards the dress and uniform of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force. Now I know that I am not going to hide the facts.

7.00 p.m.

I have my facts. I know that in 1971 a meeting was held and at that meeting between the Minister and the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs, the Commissioner of Police and the then Chairman of the Police Association, for some unknown reason the then Chairman of the Police Association stated that the uniform was adequate and that they wanted a change only in the night uniform, but this was not a true representation as regards the stand taken by the Police Association because today the Police Association is still in need of a change in the uniform. I believe that it was agreed that the old tunic system would be used for ceremonial occasions, but this was not acceptable to the Police Association and I would invite the present Minister of Home Affairs.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee that Standing Orders were not suspended. That being the case, the time now being 7 p.m., it may be that the Reporters and other members may be tired and might want a break. If the Members are tired and we suspend at 7 o'clock we have to come back tomorrow at 12 o'clock according to the Standing Orders.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe that under the Standing Orders inasmuch as we are not signifying that we are going to vote against this it can go on till 7.15 and it may be that we can pass this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: According to the Standing Orders, if you are going to complete I am going to allow you to go on till 7.10 when I will have to report progress.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I was saying, Sir, the feeling of the Police Force today — no official representation was made to me by the Police Association, but this is from my talking to members of the Force — is that there is need for a change in the present uniform, and on behalf of the Police I would invite the Government again to have discussions immediately with the Police Association to arrive at a more suitable uniform, or to adopt the words the Police used in 1966 to the Commissioner, a uniform more suitable to a tropical climate, and I would seriously ask the Minister of Home Affairs to start such negotiations immediately.

There is one more topic I want to deal with briefly. To a certain extent under the Constitution — I know the Minister will say that the Minister is not responsible for this — but I believe the Minister should pass on the feeling of the House to the Police Service Commission that there is growing dissatisfaction in the Force because of the failure to make appointments. As soon as the post of Commissioner of Police became vacant it was filled. The same thing happened as far as the post of Deputy Commissioner is concerned. Now you have vacancies for I believe at least two senior Superintendents, about six or seven Inspectors, and once you fail to appoint people to the top posts you are preventing the other Officers down the line from gaining the necessary promotion. They have been made to sit examinations since April, the results have been published after three months and yet nothing has been done. I ask the Minister to pass this on because he cannot direct the Police Service Commission to make the appointments but he should let them know the feeling of the House that it is wrong to have these vacant posts, and that if they continue to be vacant it is going to cause widespread dissatisfaction in the Police Force.

The question that Head 26 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 27 — Fire Service — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 — Fire Service — stand part. The notes are very complete.

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

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

Head 32 — Ministry of Communications and Works — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 32 stand part. It is a usual Item for the writing off of a cash shortage.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This would be contentious. We have to know more about this.

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

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Hon. Members will recall that the hon. member for the City was speaking after seven o'clock and asked me whether he could continue. Now hon. members on the same side are trying to confuse things. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for three-quarters of an hour.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. You cannot have that motion because Standing Order 5 has not been suspended, and all that you can do, at this stage, is to adjourn the House automatically to 7.45 p.m. You cannot entertain that motion, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Is it unreasonable to suggest three-quarters of an hour in view of the time we have lost?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am trying to point out to the Leader of the House that, technically speaking, under the Rules of the House, the House must automatically adjourn. Rule 5(3) will show you the position.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fact is that we will continue speaking until 7.15 p.m. We can suspend the sitting until eight o'clock. That is reasonable. The hon. member himself was speaking up to 7.10 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to Rule 5(3), this sitting is now suspended until 7.45 p.m. 7.20 p.m.

On resumption:

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 5

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before resuming Committee of Supply, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 5 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it automatically reverts.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the Standing Order has been suspended, I would like at this juncture to make a statement.

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

There being no objection, leave is granted.

STATEMENT BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE E. W. BARROW, PRIME MINISTER on

"The Pay of Civil Servants"

When I delivered my financial statement and budget proposals on 6th June, 1972, I informed this House that the organisations representing

various categories of workers were demanding salaries for public servants which were in some cases higher than those currently paid to Ministers of Government. The suggested increases ranged from 60% to 30% and, if accepted would have called for additional expenditure of about \$25 million per annum with effect from 1st April, 1972.

2. On that occasion I announced that I would implement a policy on incomes of persons who draw salaries and wages from the Treasury and that persons in the higher brackets including Ministers and Members of Parliament could not expect the gulf to be widened between us and the wage earners who were finding it difficult to make ends meet. I concluded that negotiations could continue provided that a sensible approach was adopted and that increases could come when the country could afford them.

3. During the past five months the Government has been discussing proposals for a revision of salaries and wages with the Unions and after hard and protracted bargaining succeeded at least in arriving at an understanding between all parties on the approach or manner in which revision should be implemented.

4. It has now been agreed that an interim payment should be made with effect from 1st April, 1972, in lieu of a full salaries revision from that date. This payment will be pensionable and will be followed by a general revision of salaries/wages with effect from 1st April, 1973. Negotiations are continuing on the proposals and details will be brought to this Chamber as soon as possible.

5. The interim payment reflects an overall increase over existing salaries and wages of 18% being approximately 25% at the bottom and 10% at the top. Key Scale employees will receive increases ranging from \$9.00 per week or 22½¢ an hour to \$12.00 per week or 30¢ an hour while monthly paid officers will receive a minimum of \$40 but not more than \$120.00. The overall cost of the interim payment will be approximately \$8.7 million for the year 1972/73. Further details are set out in Resolutions which were introduced in this House today.

6. The Government's future policy on the salaries and wages of its employees will take greater account of two basic considerations — the economic and financial implications of having to make substantial sums of money available at one swoop to meet expenditure on salaries and wages and the diminishing marginal effect of a rising cost of living on the real incomes and wages of

public servants. For the first time therefore it is proposed to give annual increases in salaries/wages of about 5% on average, apart from any scale increment that might be payable, in order to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living. The triennial exercise of salaries review will continue with the main objective of effecting any adjustment that might not be taken care of in the annual increases.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This House will now resume Committee of Supply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73 No. 20

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am asking permission to deal with the Resolution of which notice was given today to be dealt with in all its stages for the sum of \$2,512,000 to be granted from the Consolidated Fund and placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73 No. 20 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

I understand that this was circulated. You will see from the Addendum that in accordance with the statement on the Pay of Civil Servants which I have just read, payments will commence in the month of December 1972, but the effective date of the interim payment is 1st April, 1972, which means that when we have money, back pay will be paid out from that date; but we are going to begin paying this money out from December, that is, your regular interim payment will be paid in the month of December. In fact, they will be due to the public officers from 1st April, 1972. When the salaries are finally adjusted, any adjustment will take effect from 1st April, 1973. Let us say that a key scale worker got \$50 a week instead of \$31, his interim payment may be \$9 which would bring him up to \$40, he would be entitled to backpay on that \$9 per week as from 1st April. Let us assume that the agreement that we come to on 1st April, 1973 is that it should be \$50 a week, that would be \$10 more. I want to make it clear that that \$10 would not go back to 1st April, 1972, but would be effective as from 1st April, 1973, but the \$9 will be pensionable as from 1st April, 1972, and of course if he is still in the service in April or May, 1973, the whole \$19 will be pensionable.

I want to make it clear that I am not promising that people who now work for \$31 are going to get \$50 in April, 1973. What I am saying is that people who are working for an average of \$31 now per week should be from December working for \$40 a week. As a matter of fact, \$40 a week is now going to be about the lowest paid category of Government worker; but they will be entitled after we have done all the calculations and had all the arguments and discussions to a further increase, and that increase will take effect as from 1st April, 1973. I cannot repeat that too often because people tend to get these things and by the time they are bandied around the market place they say the Government owes them money from 1872 far less 1972. I want to make it clear that the interim payment you get in December you will not be getting any back pay on it in December, but when you do get back pay, it will be from 1st April, 1972.

The reason for that is this: we started off with a deficit of over \$12 million in the current financial year on current account alone, and the total approximate sum which will have to be paid out in respect of decisions we have already made will be \$8.7 million which on paper at least a deficit of \$20.7 million. I think that today the Statement of the Customs Receipts have been laid and we are approximately about \$1.2 million up at this time of the year on those for the first six months; so there is a possibility that the deficit will be reduced from \$12 million to something a bit less than \$12 million, quite apart from the budgetary proposals. When I say quite apart, I mean as a result of the budgetary proposals which I made earlier this year. So there will be a reduction in that estimated deficit of \$12 million. But this does not mean we are out of the woods. It only means that we are not in the red as much as we expected to be in the red, and I hope that when these workers get their money which I hope the House is going to vote for them tonight - I cannot tell them how to spend their money; it is their business how they spend it - they do not go and take up a lot consumer goods with no down payments and get themselves further in debt. As a matter of fact our Central Bank is looking very closely at this special consumer credit where you do not have to save anything to go and buy articles that you can very well postpone or do without. I would hate to see all the money we are voting now instead of going to pay off the debts that people owe or alternatively to improve their housing conditions or buy shoes for their children, being spent on shoddy furniture they don't really need and can do without, and putting more money into the hands of the mercantile community, and getting rid of the money which they should be investing in

some proper form. I am not only speaking now as Minister of Finance but as a Barbadian.

7.55 p.m.

If they want to go and throw away their money I suppose it is theirs to throw away, but the country cannot really afford the luxury of people who are complaining about the cost of living going and making the people in Bridgetown richer than they are already, because that is not high cost of living, that is the cost of high living which we could very well do without in Barbados. All the protests they make about not being able to make ends meet, as soon as they get the money there is an unfortunate tendency for them to go and fritter the money away on things they do not need. This is why I feel that there is some justification on a cost of living basis for giving increase and interim payments, but I regret that it had to be done at this time of the year because people exercise less discretion at this time of the year than perhaps at any other time of the year.

The Resolution is for the sum of \$2,512,000, and the bulk of that money is going to the established, non-established, casual, temporary and part-time staff. I have already explained in my statement the basis on which we are proceeding to deal with the question of revision, not necessarily increases, but revision of salaries and wages to those people working in the public service in this island, so it is not necessary for me to speak at any length of this Resolution. I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, in seconding this Resolution I should like to go on record as expressing my own appreciation of the endeavour of the Prime Minister in the present state of our economic position in meeting the needs of the working classes and persons who have made a contribution. I should not like this opportunity to pass without saying, as the Minister of Communications and Works, that now that the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance has found it possible to make these increases to the broad number of civil servants, established and non-established staff, I would like to make an urgent plea to them that this country is a young country which is trying to make its place in the sun and that they are expected, since the Government has shown its good faith in granting them these increases in the amounts which the Minister of Finance has adumbrated, that they must be prepared to see that the Government's programmes are carried out by honest, hard, dedicated work. In my own Ministry I have reached the point where I am not satisfied that the workers are giving a full day's work for a full

day's wage, they are costing the taxpayers money, they are causing projects to cost more, and the time has come when if we are honouring our pledges to them they must honour their pledges to the Government of this country. I want to let them understand that the country does not belong to the Government, it belongs to every citizen in this country and it is our duty to hand down to our offspring a prosperous, better place, and we can only do it if we are prepared to work hard, honestly and dedicatedly.

This Resolution by the Minister of Finance is another indication of this Government's commitment to the working classes of this country, it is another opportunity of honouring the pledges which we made last year when they so kindly gave us 18 seats, and I implore them, I urge them, I ask them that since we have shown our good faith they must show their good faith to us by working honestly, by working hard and by working in a manner which can show that Barbados is their own country and that we get proper rewards for the sacrifices which we are making in giving them these increases. My Ministry is the largest employing and the largest spending Ministry, and consequently if I am not getting production, if wastage is greater the loss is greater, and I would like to appeal to every worker not only in my Ministry but in the entire service that this Resolution today is another sign of this Government's commitment to the socialist principles on which they gave us 18 seats. It is another indication of our commitment to them, and they in turn must dedicate themselves not only to the party, we do not want that, we want them to dedicate themselves to Barbados which gave them birth and which long after we are gone will be theirs, and they must see to it that they work hard, honestly and fair.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr Chairman, I do not think that I could allow this Resolution to pass without just making a couple of comments, particularly in view of the comments made by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. I think that we should at least set the record straight on a number of issues. There is no doubt that the Government has in its effort to bring about an increase for the employees done a tremendous job in the circumstances in granting the kind of increases which have been granted. Speaking for myself, I was on a number of occasions at some of these negotiations and there was extremely hard and difficult bargaining on both sides.

The kind of increases which we have been able to come up with today, particularly for

those people at the lower round of the employment level, are increases which are greater than the kind of increases which used to be granted in the past, particularly in the days when one found that these people who were in these various categories were only given two cents and four cents per hour increases, but here we have the situation now where the increases range from 22½ cents per hour to 30 cents per hour. This, we feel, is an indication of the government's commitment to improving the lives of the people who are less fortunate than those people who work for a greater amount of money and the salaried people.

The Minister of Communications and Works has issued a plea, and it seems as if his plea is directed primarily to the people who work in his Ministry in the various works programmes, and also in the road programmes and this kind of thing. One of the things which bothers me when people make appeals for greater activity and greater effort on the part of workers, it seems to me to be directly levelled at a particular group of workers. I think one must realise that very often the wastage which is talked about results from the fact that the people who are put in charge to direct the work, the people who are responsible for organising the work are not taking their work seriously, and often it is not so much as a result of the non-effort on the part of the workers in the lower echelon, but more from the point of view of the lack of interest and the lack of organisation, and indeed as a result of the wastage which is taking place higher up the ladder.

8.05 p.m.

I think that this is something which must be borne in mind. I know that the Minister, in a general way, made an appeal also to the civil servants. I think, however, that the gravamen of his charge is on the people who are at the bottom of the ladder. I want to say that there is need for everybody, not only the workers at the lower end of the ladder, but everybody who is employed in Barbados, to be concerned about the kind of productivity which is taking place. I believe that if the people at the top are not displaying this kind of concern and are not particularly worried about the example which they set, then the people at the bottom can see what is taking place. They will realise that the people at the top are wasting time and are being rewarded in a better manner than they are rewarded for their services. In the circumstances, you will understand what kind of attitude will develop.

One has to be fair in the kind of appeal which is being issued and should not try to pass off the entire responsibility on the workers in certain areas who have to be given orders before they can carry them out. I think, in a general way, it should be pointed out that the Government has been extremely co-operative in its efforts to see that the standard of living of the people, who are getting low wages, is increased. I am sure that this Resolution will get the support of everybody.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on this side of the House we will vote for this Resolution although we must confess that, even with the statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister as Minister of Finance, the information given to the House is very scant to say the least. This may have been influenced by the fact that this is only an interim payment and that negotiations between the parties are still continuing, and that the full cost to the Nation for the next three years will not be known until these negotiations are completed.

Certainly, in so far as the increase to the people at the lower end of the scale is concerned, obviously we would welcome this, because they buy the same sort of goods that the people at the higher end of the scale have to buy. I am talking about the necessities of life and not luxuries, and they have, by and large, to face the same increase in the cost of living that the people at the higher end of the scale have to face.

I think that the Minister should, before he completes his negotiations, look at an overall policy for the country so far as the wages and incomes policy is concerned. I believe that, as Minister of Finance, he has it not only within his power to regulate the rate of increase so far as Government servants are concerned, but also to give not only a guide line, but, if necessary, to give by Legislative measures and other corrective measures, a definite lead to the balance of the economy in the way in which we are going.

Certainly, we would like to see a much more aggressive prices and incomes policy. We think it is not enough simply to regulate the increase of wages in the country and at the same time there is not a sufficiently rigid regulation on price increases in the country. We can cite, for instance, the spiralling cost of land in some respects which must be restricted. Certain areas of consumer lending must also be restricted. We must really ask the Minister during the next year — probably he would have these in his next Budgetary Proposals — to take some measures to restrict consumer spending on luxury goods in

unnecessary areas of the economy where we are really at a disadvantage and at a loss in spending on overseas goods where we are frittering away what little savings we have.

I do not know if the Survey of which the Minister spoke earlier this year has been completed. I refer to the Organisation and Methods Survey that he was carrying out in his Ministry, and I do not know if he anticipates that any savings will result to the economy and to this country from this type of Survey. In addition to the increase of the efficiency in Government, will there be any pruning so that the overall wage bill will be restricted? We want to know what he is going to do about restricting the level of lending interest rates that are obtaining particularly in the consumer area. We feel that, with the Central Bank coming into operation, he should be better able now to direct the Monetary Policy and to restrict those areas of the economy where we are spending on goods that have no long-term effect on the saving potential of the country. We urge him not to look at this exercise as an annual exercise in negotiations with the various unions representing the various categories of public workers, but an opportunity to work jointly with them — we are not suggesting that this should be done as a Government's policy on its own without consultation with the unions concerned and without the consultation of certain areas and employers concerned, but we think that he can work out a joint policy.

I believe that the member for St. Michael West has already suggested tripartite negotiations or some form of Tripartite Council. Although they could not take the role of the Minister or of the Government in directing the economic affairs of the country, there is certainly a case now, I believe, for working out a joint policy that is acceptable to the Government and to the country and will give an opportunity to the lower income earners to progress so that the wide gap which still exists between the haves and the have-nots in the community will become narrower.

I said that we will vote for the Resolution; we are not going to simply say that we would have liked in the lower Key Scale workers to see the increase much higher; we believe that, eventually, the final negotiations might work out along these lines. We will vote for the Resolution, and we can only hope that later in the year a much bolder policy and a much more overall and comprehensive policy on prices and incomes will be presented to this House.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$2,512,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION *Re* ADVANCES OF SALARY OR WAGES TO PERSONS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of six hundred and sixty thousand dollars to be advanced from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of making advances of salary or wages to persons in the employ of the Government on the terms and conditions set out in the Schedule hereto. You will see from the Schedule, Mr. Chairman, that the purpose of this Resolution is to give advances, which will be repaid, to members of the Public Service which we have been doing since 1961.

8.15 p.m.

The advances are to be repaid in three monthly instalments ending on 31st March, 1973. The reason why they have to be repaid within that period of course is a very simple one, because the financial year closes and according to the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Rules made thereunder of 1964, we are not allowed to carry forward such advances into another financial year unless a special fund was set up. We do not think it is desirable that public officers who borrow money to spend at Christmas time should carry the burden of debt all the way through the year, because that would not make a lot of sense to say the least. I do not want to go any further into that; but we have had complaints from the time we were on the other side of the House that no consideration was given to the small man who worked in the Government, the big people were all right and that the stores, shops and industries in Barbados paid bonuses to their employees, and that the Government servants were not given any bonuses; so the man might be living next door to a person in the private section who is able to go and be much more lavish in the treatment of his family than the man who is working with the Government.

I think that ever since we have introduced this scheme we have lost very little. As a matter of fact I do not think the total amount of money which has not been paid back during the eleven years could amount to more than \$20,000 or \$25,000. I can make a check on this, but I doubt very much it has ever amounted to as much as that. I will have to make a slight correction. Normally these would be casual workers who were

working up to Christmas time and then they got a chance to emigrate or went on some farm labour scheme or something like that and therefore did not continue to work with Government, but as long as they continued to work with the Government the money was deducted at source.

I said it did not amount to \$25,000. Actually the total amount leaving out this year would be \$32,173. That is over a period of nine years and the average default would be in the vicinity of \$3,500. This year so far it is \$11,000 up to now, but the year is not completed and deductions can still be made if people get taken back on. What happens is that people who have only been working for a few weeks and may be casual in the true sense of the term come on to work for the Government during November and December, get their pay, and then they go and work for the private sector, the private building firms or during the crop season with the sugar estates harvesting the sugar crop. These are the only people who sort of escape the net, but when one looks at the average benefit to the people who continue to work with Government and who pay back their money, I think that if you had to take out an insurance policy on the people who ceased to work with Government that the premium would be remarkably low. With an average default of \$3,500 out of \$660,000 I think that the scheme is well worth continuing.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, when the Hon. Minister of Finance said that the total is \$32,000, is the sum of \$11,000 included in that?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member will appreciate that I do not think that this year it would be as high as that, but the accounts of many departments have not been audited. We cannot really tell this year, that is the year 1971-72 ending on 31st March, 1972, precisely what the out-turn would be even at this stage.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, inasmuch as the defaulters are usually people who either emigrate or go and work elsewhere, if the figure at the end of this year remains in the region of \$10,000, whether the Government will take, if necessary, legal steps to ensure that this money is recovered from those who leave since it cannot be deducted at source.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think the Government has a duty to try and recover the money, but how successful we would be with the machinery of the law courts in Barbados is another thing altogether, or the way in which the Writ servers go about their jobs. I do not want to say too much about that. All of us around here have had experience of how laborious it is as anybody who worked in Local Government would know.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to say anything on this, but I think I am right in saying that Government has it within its hands, the knowledge and the necessary information that many of the bad payments arise out of the fact that many of the loans that are supposed to have been made were never made to workers at all. In other words, Government has it that many of the signatories to these various amounts having been received from various departments were false, and this has been known for some time. I am not saying that this would account for the total amount that has not been repaid, but what we are surprised at is that no example has been made of anybody who has been indulging in this type of behaviour and Government...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would give way, I am very surprised to hear the hon. member has information to this effect and did not supply it to the Accountant General. He has been saying that Government has it before it. Whom does he mean by Government? Government is used in several different senses. Sometimes somebody selling stamps in the Post Office is called the Government; sometimes I am called the Government, and sometimes the Leader of the Opposition proves that they are the Government. So Government has several connotations. I only want to ask the hon. member to do his country the favour that if he knows of cases where people have paid out money to non-existent persons and he knows the identity of the persons who have done this, I would certainly be grateful, but he does not have to bring it to me because he thinks I am a politician and may persecute the poor person, but take it to the Accountant General or the Chief Accountant in the Ministry of Communications and Works, or to the Director of Public Prosecutions. We would be pleased to recover the money, but up to now I have not received any such information, and I would be very grateful to the hon. member to assist us in this way.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on matters much more serious than this I have heard the Minister of Finance use exactly the same argument; but what

the Minister of Finance is not saying is that it is not within the competence of Government to know. There are Government Departments that made advances this year and they have been recovered Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister wants me to call people's names. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Yes, tell us.)

Mr. Chairman, we are not opposing these advances, but we are satisfied that the lending scheme is not administered as safely and properly as it ought to be administered in all instances. We would like the Government to apply a greater measure of security and checking on this.

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

8.25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73 No. 21

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask leave to deal with this Resolution for the sum of \$333,000 to be granted from the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73 Part II – Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73 No. 21 which form the Schedule to this Resolution for the purpose of making a pensionable interim payment to public officers and employees engaged on Capital Works. This Resolution is akin to the Resolution that we had for \$2,512,000. In other words this is in relation to the interim payment, but this is under Capital because the people who are engaged in Capital Works are paid out of Part II – Capital and not out of Current Revenue, and therefore on the same basis the sum of \$333,000 is required but the rates of payment will be the same as those granted to the established and unestablished staff and casual workers who are engaged on Current Works and not on Capital Works. As I said before, the rates are the same so there is no need for me to repeat what I said earlier, and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I rise at some risk of going over what has already been gone over in debate on the Resolution for \$2½m which I am informed has already been passed. Nevertheless, there are one or two things which ought to be said and if I say them again at greater or lesser length than other hon. members who have spoken before I have no doubt that the hon. members for Bridgetown and Christ Church West would pull at my

gown, so to speak, to make me abridge my arguments upon those particular points. I have only in the last two or three minutes been able to read the statement made by the Prime Minister and submitted with these Resolutions. The first point that I would like to make relates to the haste with which these matters have been introduced in the House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to correct the hon. member on two points. The first is that I did not deliver that statement in Committee at all, it was delivered in the House and not with these Resolutions.

Secondly, the hon. member is saying now that all the members present here in the House, having got permission today to deal with these Resolutions in all their stages, that we should postpone it. Very well then, we will postpone it, send it to a Select Committee, and he will take the sole responsibility of all 24 members of the House for postponing the payment of this money to these people before Christmas. If that is the way he wants it, let him come straight out and say it. You are talking about haste on a Resolution for money which has been the subject of bargaining between the three bodies representing workers and the Government. We could not come in here for an interim payment before the parties had agreed because they would laugh at us and ask who gave us authority to come in here and say that this was what they agreed to. But if he says the negotiations have just been concluded but we should give him, of all the members of the House, even the shadow shadow Minister of Finance did not need any more time, but he is the shadow Minister of Finance and he is saying that it is with undue haste but the member for Christ Church West who is only a shadow shadow Minister of Finance who made an able speech did not ask for more time.

Mr. ADAMS: I am glad the Prime Minister has given me a chance to familiarise myself a little more with the proceedings so far. He would not have to tell me that the hon. member for Christ Church West has made an able speech, he always makes an able speech.

Mr. Chairman, I was not aware that this document was delivered in the House rather than in Committee. Is there any other hon. member in here who thinks it makes a difference? Is there any other member in here who thinks that any arguments which the document might contain are different whether they were made when Mr. Speaker was in the Chair or when Mr. Chairman was in the Chair? Is there any other hon. member beside the Prime Minister who would think the point

well worth making? (*Asides*) I do beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central does not think a point is worth making unless it is irrelevant and ignorant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the Chairman of Committees is going to ask the hon. member to deal with the Resolution for \$333,000.

Mr. ADAMS: Thank you, Sir. If I have a fault in debate, it is when I see or hear ignorance, I sometimes stray a little bit from the point in nailing it. I still say that there is haste in this matter. We have not opposed it, because although the Prime Minister might not want the people to get the money we in fact want them to get it. We have not objected to dealing with it in all its stages in one day.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Of course only the hon. member could have this great feat of contortion. He accused the person who brought in the Resolution and whom he accused of bringing it in indecent haste saying that I do not want the money passed.

Mr. ADAMS: The only person who has spoken of postponing the Resolution is the Prime Minister, not me. The Prime Minister said "if the member thinks it is undue haste let the Resolution be postponed." I do not want to postpone it, I want the people to get their money. Since the 6th June, 1972, the Prime Minister informed the House that these increases were under consideration. This is now the end of November, 1972 and these increases have at long last been brought to the House. There can be delay in negotiations and undue haste in presentation at one and the same time, because I think it would be a matter of common courtesy to all 24 members of this House to have allowed them a little longer than one day in which to consider this matter. Looking at the Resolution casually like this, I find a fault in it, that the Prime Minister is putting off until next year the giving to the Key Scale workers, the lower paid employees of Government, the arrears which have accumulated between April and November. I find that a fault.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I rise on a point of order, How can arrears accumulate before the House passes a Resolution saying what the rates will be? It is not like interest in a Bank. There were no arrears until tonight.
8.35 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister will not deflect me by being sweet and reasonable. Let him reserve his sweetness and reasonableness for the hon. member for St.

Michael South Central. The fact is that no matter how you put it, the rate of pay is going to be back-dated to the 1st April, 1972, but the workers are not going to get the money from the 1st April, 1972, until next year. They have been promised the money. Let the other side deny that. They have been promised the money from April to November 1971 in May 1973.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the difficulties that you have to face in this Chamber all the time. People will not come in here and do the work that they get paid for; they go to the theatre, dances, cocktail parties, they go and eat special dinners and that sort of thing. If the hon. member had been in his place — I am not saying that he has done either of those things; perhaps, he may just have been idling — he would have understood that I said this is what the Organisations had agreed to, because they appreciate the difficulty of a Government, in December, finding \$8.7 million with a current deficit of \$12 million on Current Account alone. The Organisations agreed to postpone it provided we agreed that whenever it is paid it will be paid from the 1st April, 1972. Now he is going to out-herod Herod; he is going to represent the workers more than the workers' representatives. Well, let him continue, Sir, but he must please do us the favour of coming in here to do the people's work and he will save a lot of time. Everybody else understands, and how is it that he does not understand?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, it is not hard to represent the workers better than certain of the workers' organisations represent them, because it is an open secret in this matter that the Barbados Workers' Union did not press as it should.....

Mr. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I cannot sit here and allow the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to cast the kind of aspersions he is casting on the Barbados Workers' Union. I do not believe he knows that were it not for the pressure which the Barbados Workers' Union was able to exert on the Government in these negotiations, I am sure the Prime Minister will tell you that, probably, we would not have been able to get the increases which we have got, because the National Union of Public Workers and the other Unions who claimed to represent certain categories of workers in this country were quite prepared to accept much less than what the Barbados Workers' Union was prepared to accept. It was as a result of the pressure which the Barbados Workers' Union exerted on the Government that it was able to get these increases.

Now, when the Barbados Labour Party Government was in power it used to grant 2 cents and 4 cents

per hour as an increase. We have now been able to have a situation where the Government is quite prepared to look in a rational manner at the kind of increases which should be granted to people in the lower categories and give them increases of 22 cents and 30 cents per hour. That is a far cry from the kind of situation which existed in the past.

I cannot understand how the Leader of the Opposition could expect to come in here and negotiate now on behalf of the workers. I am not aware that this is how negotiations take place. Of course, he wants to give the workers the impression that he is the chief negotiator, but he has absolutely no understanding or status as far as negotiating these matters are concerned.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the hon. member for St. Lucy realises that the negotiations are still in order. He knows very little about when the Barbados Labour Party Government was last in power. I imagine he was then still imbibing his mother's milk, but now he is imbibing the milk of the hon. member for St. Michael West. I would suggest to him that the loyalty to your mother, and so on, which you give as a family man is very misplaced when you give it to the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I should ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark about imbibing the milk of the hon. member for St. Michael West. I am not aware that he has any milk for me to imbibe.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw it; the hon. member for St. Michael West is too old and dried up now for that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. There is one underlying Rule in this House, and I do not think that anybody should come in here referring to anybody's mother or grandmother or anything like that. I have been in here for over 21 years. You can check the records of the House and you will find that the names of mothers are not mentioned in here, Sir. I ask the hon. member not to do it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, just let me make this point. I am not particularly concerned when anybody refers to my mother. As far as I am concerned, she was a woman above question unlike, probably, some of the mothers of hon. members on the other side. It is as simple as that. *(Asides.)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, unless all of you allow me to carry out my function — *(Asides.)*

None of you are going to tell me what to do. I ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am going to withdraw the remark, but I would just like to make a point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Withdraw the remark!

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the remark which he has made about my mother.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before I could ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark there was a lot of cross-talk. *(Asides.)* The Hon. Leader of the Opposition also spoke again bringing out the point that the hon. member for St. Michael West was too old to have milk now; therefore, I had no opportunity to say anything. Now, I am going to ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark relative to the hon. member's mother.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister has succeeded in his object. His object was to get up and say that an hon. member was talking about people's mothers. There is only one hon. member at present in here whom I have ever heard refer personally to anybody's mother, and that is the Prime Minister. He knows what I am talking about. Now, Mr. Chairman, when you make a remark about something taking place at a time when you are still imbibing your mother's milk — it may be that my use of the English language is strange to the hon. member for St. Lucy — you are not referring to anybody's mother. You are referring to the age of the person with whom you are talking. I believe all of us in here have mothers. When you speak about someone imbibing his mother's milk, you are not speaking of his mother. You are speaking about how old he is at a particular time, and the Prime Minister knows that, even if the hon. member for St. Lucy does not. I have not the slightest intention of referring to the mother of any hon. member in here, neither in the terms the Prime Minister is suggesting nor in the terms in which the hon. member for St. Lucy actually referred to the mothers of members of the Opposition.

8.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you as Chairman to withdraw the remark.

Mr. ADAMS: Which particular remark? If I referred to the mother of any hon. member, I will withdraw the remark. What particular remark have I made about the mother of any hon. member? All of us in here had mothers and all drank milk I believe. What remark have I made? If he wants me

to withdraw the remark of imbibing the milk, which was only a metaphorical one, of the hon. member for St. Michael West, if he feels that is an offensive remark, I will withdraw any suggestion of sucking the milk or anything else of any hon. member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what I asked you to do.

Mr. ADAMS: I will withdraw that. It is obvious that the hon. member in genuine terms has never imbibed anything of that nature from the hon. member for St. Michael West. (*Asides.*) I will find another analogy. I must agree with the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. What have I come back in here for? To hear the hon. member for St. Lucy being led astray by those who should know better.

Let us get back to the Resolution if I may without heckling. On the question of arrears, the Prime Minister said there could be no arrears because no money was due. Is that what the Prime Minister said? No money was due until the House passed the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member made a statement to the effect that we did not pay the arrears that were due to the people. I said no arrears could be due until we pass this Resolution. Why does the hon. member have to change, to use a very mutual kind of term, statements that are made in here? Every single debate in the House he effects some kind of metamorphosis of speeches made by hon. members.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know what metamorphosis means in this context, neither does the Prime Minister. I will just read from the Addendum. The necessary provision will be made in the Estimates 1973-74 for any arrears due in respect of the period April to November, 1972. If I err in speaking of arrears, I err with the Prime Minister who introduced the Resolution based upon this Addendum. If "arrears" is the incorrect word to use, let the Prime Minister withdraw it. It is his Resolution that uses it, not me. I have not invented it. I have not metamorphosed it from anywhere. It is here, and I am saying that the arrears could be paid now, and should be paid now. The Prime Minister says they can borrow \$15 million from the Bundas Republic.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to correct the hon. member. He made two statements. He said the arrears could be paid now. If he were here when I introduced the Resolution, he would understand that the total amount of payments in

respect of the period April 1, 1972 to the 30th November including the \$2.5 million would be \$8.7 million, and I explained that we started off with a deficit, and I alluded to the Statement of Revenue from the Customs Department showing it had gone up by \$1 million, I also said something that hon. members do not know, that income tax receipts despite refunds of over \$4 million have gone up by \$2 million, but in spite of that we are still faced with a substantial deficit, and therefore the workers' organisations, whether it be the Union of Public Workers, the Secondary School Teachers' Association or the Barbados Workers' Union, recognising this, agreed that the money can be paid next year, because the workers under these Resolutions which we have before us here tonight alone are getting well over \$3 million of additional money in the month of December alone, because it is \$2,520,000; \$330,000; and \$660,000 which amount to almost exactly \$3.5 million being paid between 19th December and 22nd December, in addition to what they normally get.

When the hon. member said it could be paid, I say it cannot be paid because it is not there to be paid, because we did not budget for it and we were not supposed to budget for it, and we could have kept the negotiations until next year and said we have not completed the negotiations. But he is coming in here and pontificating that it could or should be paid, the only point he can make. I wonder how many workers outside would thank him for making a ridiculous remark like that.

Mr. ADAMS: As the Prime Minister hears my speech he might perhaps think it is not the only point I can make. I do not think he has been looking at my notes and perhaps he should not pontificate, to use his words, on what I am going to say. I corrected myself and said it should be paid. The Government can find money to do a lot of things. The Government can find money to waste on a lot of projects. If Government has known all along that money is to be paid from 1st April, the Government could make it possible. How is the Government going to pay \$20 million which these raises are expected to cost next year? I say it should be paid. I am not Minister of Finance, so I cannot say it could be paid. He is right in that; he must be right upon something. I say it should be paid. How is the Government going to say they can raise \$20 million relatively unexpected because they will be paying next year for part of this year? How is it going to raise that if it is in such a bad financial position now? Are we going to be buried under taxation? Is the Government going to borrow money to pay it out of the blue and pay back the Deep Water Harbour loan at the same time, another \$12 million? Is this \$32 million of unexpected expenditure just

going to be raised like that out of nothing next year? It might have been better for Barbados if an attempt was made to spread it and certainly better for the workers if they did not have to wait the period of time to get this money.

As far as the Barbados Workers' Union is concerned, I just want to say that I do not disagree with the hon. member for St. Lucy that there was a stage when the Barbados Workers' Union got very tough, but I suggest to him that that stage was reached only after the speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael North West in here upon the conclusion of the general strike, that the negotiations were not pressed with the same force and vigour by the Barbados Workers' Union for the first few months until after the Barbados Workers' Union became offended with the Prime Minister too, Mr. Chairman. They do not speak loudly. It is only the hon. member for St. Michael North Central who comes out openly and stands against the Prime Minister for Chairman of the Party, but there are other people who speak against him behind his back too. (*Asides.*) They speak to me, so I must know. The Prime Minister need not think his back is secure.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The day the hon. member came in this House I never thought my back was secure; so do not let him think I have any illusions about that.

Mr. ADAMS: Even after all those years of sitting down next to the High Commissioner in London, I would not expect the Prime Minister would expect he had security in that particular direction.

Now, Sir, this Resolution is going to be represented to the general public as a concession made by the Government. This Resolution is going to be represented as a wise Government in the light of the expansion of the economy doing the best it can for its lower paid workers. This particular propaganda operation has been going on since the budget speech, but what indeed are the facts? The Chief Statistical Officer provided the statistics which were used by the three Unions concerned, namely, that the cost of living has gone up 36 per cent, not points, — it is more in terms of points — since the last salaries revision. (*Asides*)

Please, I ask you, Mr. Chairman, if hon. members want to challenge something, let them get up and say something and let it get into the records that something I am saying is untrue so that they can be contradicted upon the basis of a previous statement. I cannot understand people sitting down and saying it is not true. I can make mistakes.

Anybody can make mistakes, but if you want to correct them, correct them in print and let me deal with them if the correction is wrong.

The cost of living up to the end of September of this year has risen 36 per cent since the last salaries increase. The Prime Minister speaks of increases in paragraph 5 of 25 percent at the bottom and 10 per cent at the top.

8.55 p.m.

I am suggesting that based upon the published statistics — because the statistics for the end of September must surely now be in print — but based upon the statistics which anybody can obtain from the Statistical Department, the workers will still not be getting the same standard of living as they were getting in March, 1969 at the time of the last salaries revision. The highest paid workers are getting only 10% at the top when they would need an increase in salary of over a third to keep them at the same standard of living they were at in 1969. They are asking for bread and you are giving them stones. (*Asides*) The hon. member for St. Michael South Central cares about the English, the Germans, the French and the Americans but I care about the Barbadians. I do not want to go rushing about as he does behind every west coast party and every foreigner in Barbados to give him a little reputation from those whose social company he aspires.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: My social life is my own business; I am 48 years old and I regulate my own social life. If that worries you that is your business, all I am trying to point out to you is that the same problem Barbados faces, Germany faces, Mr. Ted Heath faces, Mr. Nixon faces, and Mr. Brandt faces, so it is not a peculiar problem. In any case you are telling an untruth when you say that the cost of living has risen 36%.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I really wanted to find out what the hon. member was speaking on, and I am going to rule because I do not want to hear anything that is not connected with this Resolution. Let us get along with the people's business.

Mr. ADAMS: I am trying so hard, but why do you not suggest to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that there is dinner outside or something like that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, the hon. member is the only person who knows that there is dinner outside which probably explains his absence, because when we had dinner time, we had no dinner and we are very anxious to go to our homes. We have spent about five times as

long on this debate since he has come in as on all the others we did before. Is he now trying to prevent the workers from getting the money?

Mr. ADAMS: I am glad that the Prime Minister appreciates that I have something to say and therefore have to keep the debate going a little longer. I do not believe that if we stay here until midnight that the workers will not get the money, I believe that if we stay here till midnight it will at least show the workers that some members of the Opposition are working for the few cents that we get. If the Prime Minister wants to go home, let him go home, he has nothing more to add to this debate, tell him to go home, I am not stopping him. He never used to come in the last House. To tell the truth I welcome him in this House sometimes because when he is present, he controls the worst excesses of those on his right and behind him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What part of this Resolution is that?

Mr. ADAMS: He is the Minister of Finance and he introduced it. I am suggesting that the increases have not got anywhere near meeting the increase in the cost of living. It is note worthy that the only people who are contradicting it are persons other than the Minister of Finance. I doubt he will contradict it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Does the hon. member want to challenge me now? I am not going to get up every time he makes a statement which I think is foolish, but one has to draw a distinction between a rise or fall in real wages and an index of retail prices, because I have heard the hon. member mention the statistics which are put out, but the statistics which are put out dealing with the index of retail prices have nothing to do with the rise or fall in real incomes but I do not want to go into any academic discussion with him, but 90% of what the hon. member said is 100% right whereas only 10% of what he says even begins to approach the truth.

Mr. ADAMS: I am glad that whatever the Prime Minister said he said that 90% is 100% right.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was referring to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, not to him. I do not want the record to go unchallenged.

Mr. ADAMS: You do not expect facts to be challenged, you stop arguing about facts when you leave the sixth form at Harrison College. At that stage you stop arguing about facts because facts can be proved by reference to printed sources, therefore I assume that something like the index of retail prices, what is called a cost of living index, being a matter of record is not going to be argued about even by the Minister of Communications and Works. The Economic Survey which was laid in the House today shows that the price of food rose between December, 1968 and December, 1971, 34 points. I can say to the hon. member that it is within my knowledge that it has risen another 16 points.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not have any time to waste. When you deal in real incomes and real wages, it is not directly linked to the index of retail prices because there are a lot of other factors which have to be taken into consideration in addition to what is put into the basket of goods, as it were, to show the rise in food prices. That is the only point I am trying to make. He can say as much as he likes, let me put it this way, that the man today in working for the Government is worse off than he was in 1968 or 1969, whichever of the two years he chooses to select, but he can talk from now until next year and the man in the street does not feel that he is worse off because he knows he is better off. To take an index of retail prices and directly link that to a fall in real wages is ridiculous, because the man in the street knows he is better off and we know he is better off.

He threw out some figures and said that the Prime Minister introduced the Economic Survey to show that the cost of living index has risen, but what is the cost of living index based on? It is an index of retail prices of a limited selected range of consumer goods, and we do not produce those particular figures to illustrate nothing more than that, but when we deal with real wages, if he looks at another section of the Economic Survey, he will see where we deal with real wages rising only by 4%, not falling; not rising directly in proportion to the amount of money income that the people should have been getting, but I did not come in here for that, I came in here to get the money for the people at Christmas time. I did not expect to be detained listening to this kind of discussion all this time with a lot of acrimony and foolishness, everybody else is satisfied. The workers' representative is satisfied and he is the only person in Barbados dissatisfied because the Government is doing something for the people.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want to go too far into academic economics because I do not want to em-

barrass the Prime Minister. When I learned economics there was one way in which you found out real wages. You divided the increase in money wages by the index of retail prices. If the Prime Minister can find me an economic textbook which says there is any other way of arriving at real wages, the very definition of real wages other than by discounting the increase in the index of retail prices, I will bow down before him and say he is really the great god that some members on that side believe he is.

9.05 p.m.

If the index of retail prices does not contain all the factors which should go to make up the cost of living, then it is his fault because he should see that all are put in. It is up to the Prime Minister to decide what goes into the index of the retail prices. It is one thing to say that wages in Barbados have risen by 4%. I do not see that anywhere in the Economic Survey, but if the Prime Minister says it is there I am not going to argue about it until I can prove otherwise. If the Prime Minister would tell me under which Table I could find it, I should be happy, but that is not relevant.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, are you afraid to put the question? All of us want to go home.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was trying to put the question a long time ago, but I realised that both sides of the House were not prepared for me to put it. I have already stated that I only want to hear something about the money Resolution for \$333,000. The Economic Survey was mentioned, and you made your reply. I could not put the question when you were replying to something that I felt was not right. I know what I am going to do the next time an hon. member moves from the Resolution for \$333,000.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am really trying to get through, but at every statement that I make I am interrupted. I am saying that these wages represented by the \$333,000 do not bring the workers to the same position in which they were in 1969. I am saying so, and if the Prime Minister feels that the Key Scale workers of Government are well satisfied with what they are getting and satisfied that they are living better than they were in 1969 when they had the same wages and when everybody in Barbados knows that the prices have gone up, then I will be satisfied to let the Key Scale workers decide that.

If the Prime Minister is prepared to say in this House that the Key Scale workers of Government — none of them feel that they are worse off although they are getting the same wages and the price of food has gone up, I am satisfied to leave

that to the judgement of the public. I know that a sensible and intelligent body of men such as we have in this Honourable Chamber will make their own private judgements despite what they may say to the Prime Minister's face. The price of food is going up every day; they give people a few stones and tell them that they should be well satisfied with that because their representatives had agreed to it. The same representatives, in 1964, agreed to put the windfall into the Union. (*Asides.*) I am not going any further with the windfall, Sir, and you will not have to stop me.

On the existing salaries you will get 25% at the bottom and 10% at the top. I still say that these are inadequate to deal with the real rise in the cost of living, and I am not going to be deflected by any talk that the cost of living is not represented by the index of retail prices. That is mere verbiage in the belief that people trust you and, therefore, they will believe that what you say has substance. But there is no greater fall than when the idol with the feet of clay gets thrown down. You must remember that Samson was a mighty man, but he lost his strength eventually.

Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that this amount of \$333,000 represents a compromise. If everybody in this matter was honest — I do not mean the Prime Minister, Sir, because he was not doing the negotiations. The Chief Establishment Officer was doing the negotiations — the House would be told how the wool had to be pulled over the innocent eyes of the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already stated that, where the hon. member for St. Lucy is concerned, I want to hear absolutely nothing at all. You will speak directly about the \$333,000 and not about the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Mr. ADAMS: He took responsibility for it, he said he represented the workers, Sir. I will not go on with that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should have been here in your seat.

Mr. ADAMS: He said that he was one of the representatives, Sir, in procuring the agreement.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Procuring is a good word.

Mr. ADAMS: You have to be good to be a procurer.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I know that.

Mr. ADAMS: You must have something and know how to use it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the Resolution!

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I am talking about the Chief Establishment Officer and this amount. I have not repeated myself in this argument. Unfortunately, I had to repeat the arguments of some hon. members. I should like the Prime Minister to deny that at one negotiating session when this amount was being settled the Chief Establishment Officer told the negotiators: "There has been no growth in the economy of Barbados since 1970," and you put it in writing in a minute. That is one of the arguments that was used. When we say in the House that there has been no growth in the economy of Barbados since 1970, we are attacked and criticised. This evening when we said that there is no real increase in wages, we got criticised. I challenge any hon. member on that side to deny that there is a document signed by the Chief Establishment Officer and he has subscribed his name to that statement. In whose Ministry is he? He is in the Prime Minister's Ministry.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I do not know of the document, but if the hon. member will give me the reference to the file and the source of his information, I will be glad to look it up and confirm it. I am not going to deny it because I do not know about it. How can you deal with a member like the hon. member? There is nobody invented, or created, who can deal with him, because when he gets ready, he goes into flights of fantasy! I think it is time to put the question.

Mr. ADAMS: Is the Prime Minister telling you what to do, Sir? I think it is time to send the Prime Minister out of....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No one is going to tell me what to do in this Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: I really think it is time to send out the Prime Minister, Sir, because he is constantly interrupting.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are now telling me what I must do in the Chair.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member challenged me to deny something of which I have absolutely no knowledge, and now he says I am getting up interrupting him. If I sat there he would have said that the Prime Minister did not deny it, and this is one of his tricks that he goes in for all the time.

Mr. ADAMS: He has not denied it, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, how can I deny what I do not know about? If you tell me that somebody just got run over by Nelson and then challenge me to deny it, how can I do it when I have not been out by Nelson? He seems to know more about Government files than I do.

Mr. ADAMS: I certainly do not know the File No., Sir. It is a copied letter. I do not want to use any impolite words about what happens to people when they are getting old and losing their memory. Has he forgotten that on the 6th June, 1972, he sent a document by the Cabinet Secretary to me. I cannot say that, Sir, but I received a document to assist me in making my Budget Speech, and it said that the economy experienced no real growth in 1971. Can he say that that is a flight of my fantasy.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member saying that I sent him a document to that effect? The hon. member is saying that the Chief Establishment Officer at a certain meeting handed around or gave out a document, and now he is saying that it is the Cabinet Secretary. He said that the document stated that the economy of Barbados has not grown since 1970. The hon. member has the Economic Survey in front of him for 1971. What has that got to do with the \$333,000?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is exactly what I wanted to find out. I have had sufficient arguments on this Resolution, and I am going to put the question.
9.15 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that I have asked the hon. member to sit. I am satisfied that sufficient has been said on this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not contend with the Chair. I am not repeating myself or other people's arguments. I would really like one or two things made clear about what has just been said, because, I am putting it a bit elaborately, but upon Budget Day an Interim Economic Analysis for 1971 was circulated and it contained these words: "The economy experienced no real growth for 1971" because I quoted from that document when I replied to the Budget Speech, and on a subsequent occasion the Chief Establishments Officer told the negotiators that there has been no growth in the economy since 1970, and when a minute was circulated at that meeting confirming what was said, that appeared in it. (*Asides*). I do not know the file number. (A VOICE: What has it got to do with the \$333,000?) What has it got to do with

the \$333,000? I am suggesting that the Chief Establishments Officer put this to the negotiators and told them that there was a \$12 million deficit and they could not pay them, in order to persuade the negotiators.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order.....

Mr. ADAMS: What point of order? If you want to finish this debate, why does the Prime Minister have to rise continually?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on a point of order, the hon. member does not have to refer to non-existent or unheard of documents. I myself said, and members were in the House when we voted the Estimates, that there was a deficit of \$12 million. I myself have said in here that the rate of money incomes did not keep up in the rate of expenses of the cost of living; so there is no secret about that. I do not know what the big debate is about, because he is saying in one breath that we can pay the money and in the other saying that the Chief Establishments Officer said we could not pay the money, as if that is some big mystery. I have said that we cannot find \$8.7 million in three weeks unless we are going to have a printing machine, and the hon. member would have to show me how to counterfeit the notes because I do not know.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member would just give way.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are three hon. members on their feet.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Since we voted an entertainment for him this evening, I think entertaining us from his vote would be a legitimate expenditure as a result of his speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the Hon. Minister to know that when I am on my feet he must sit.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. ADAMS: I really want to finish. The hon. members opposite have succeeded in their determination of preventing me trying to make it clear to the lower paid workers of Government how they are being sold down the river by their representatives. They have succeeded in that.

I will tell you what all this debate is about. It is about workers not getting enough money, not getting enough to keep up with the cost of living, it is about having to wait until May next year to get the increases which date back to April this year, it is about having to wait even now until December to get the increases at all. That is what it is about. The keyscale workers should have had their money long ago and they should have all. Look how long they will have to wait for it! That is what the debate is about, and if the Prime Minister cannot see what it is about.....of course he can see. He is making a lot of style; he is making all the style in the world. He was never a Leader of the Opposition. Truly sometimes I cannot see what hon. members on the other side are doing inside here if they can come in and think that this is a satisfactory amount of money both in terms of time, time of payment and the problem it was meant to meet.

Very briefly, the concept of 5 per cent annual increase in salaries or wages in order to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living I want to comment on since it is in the document which is associated with this Resolution. I would prefer to see a raise which is linked directly to the index of retail prices. Those very countries which were mentioned by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, nearly all of them have that. Well not Britain, but in France for many years when the index of retail prices goes up, automatically the salaries of Government workers and a large number of non-Government workers go up as well.

Now we have seen in Barbados that the salaries of non-Government employees are more responsive to changes in the cost of living than those of Government employees. If real money wages have in fact risen since 1969, it must necessarily be in the private sector, because any examination of the statistics will show that Government salaries have remained static while the cost of living has gone up, therefore it is axiomatic, and no amount of double talk or cross talk or else, nothing in the world, no amount of phony mathematics can tell them other than that people are worse off, no matter how people feel.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Government servants get increments every year. What are they given for? Do not say that Government servants' salaries remain static because it is not true. Unless you are on a fixed salary, every Civil Servant in certain categories gets an increment every year. What is that for? Does that take care of something?

Mr. ADAMS: A sound point, Sir, but he must direct his arguments to the Minister of Finance. If

there is any appearance of being better off, it is due to the scale increment which you get for increased efficiency and long service in Government. Nobody gets any increment in the keyscale in category II when he is at the top of the scale.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, increments are not paid for increased efficiency. Increments are paid regardless of whether you are efficient or inefficient. It is your entitlement, and the whole purpose of increments is to take care of gradual and not inordinate rises in the cost of living. And when a man reaches the top of the scale he goes into a better job by that time. But I do not understand what all this discussion is for. There are three members of the Opposition and about fifteen over here who are satisfied, and now Methusalah comes down now to tell us that everything is wrong; Van Winkle, I beg your pardon, Sir. I withdraw Methusalah.

Mr. ADAMS: There is one thing absolutely certain in life; I will never be as old as the Prime Minister, especially mentally. I am not going into that, but it is a novel and entirely wrong doctrine to say that increments are given in order to take care of the rise in the cost of living. Increments are given because as people work longer with you, you give them more money. In times when the cost of living is falling people still get increments; but the point I am making is not related to that. The Prime Minister is wrong and irrelevant. I will not pursue his irrelevance.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, whether I am right or wrong the Resolution is still for \$333,000 and I have not heard him say anything about the Resolution up to now, and you are extremely tolerant. That is all I am saying. I am complimenting you; I am not criticising you.

Mr. ADAMS: If only I could finish. If the Prime Minister has not heard me say anything about the \$333,000, it is because he is not listening. There is no greater deaf man than he that will not hear. I am suggesting that the rise, rather than being automatic — I am not talking about scale increments which were related to employment conditions, not cost of living conditions as anyone in Establishments will tell the Prime Minister if he really believes what he has just said and cares to investigate it; I am not talking about that — cost of living increments which are quite separate from scale increments should be related to actual rises. In that way the Government is given an incentive to keep down the cost of living, because if the Government knows that automatically with the rise in the cost of living the task of the Minister of Finance is going to be made

more difficult because there is going to be automatic rises in salaries of Government servants and Resolutions such as this one will automatically have to be brought to appropriate more money to pay them, it will make a bigger effort to keep down the cost of living. It is very significant in this context that at the recent national debate competition the winning subject in the debate as moved by two young men whom I believe to be supporters of the Government was that inflation in Barbados has its causes inside Barbados.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, what has this got to do with the Resolution. I never even heard of this institution he is talking about. It may never exist as far as I know, and he is talking about some national debates. I may be ignorant, but what has it got to do with the \$333,000 to be paid out by 19th December? What rule is it that says we have to stay here all night to listen to the hon. member being irrelevant. I am on a serious point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: I really have been at the end of my speech for so long now that I am barely hanging on by my fingernails. I would have finished if he had not got up.
9.25 p.m.

I repeat that the youth of Barbados in a national debate competition upon this identical subject, "the rise in the cost of living and its consequent necessary effect upon the salaries and wages of Barbadians," that the winning subject and the winning side was that inflation has its causes within Barbados. The Minister of Education will bear me out because he is familiar with it. This Resolution is about inflation. The Prime Minister wants to keep the word out of the debate because he knows it is an ugly and a dirty word for Governments, but that is what this Resolution is about. It is not a Resolution designed to make people better off, it is a Resolution designed to keep people where they are, to keep people at the same level as they were and could reasonably expect to have been in previously, and this is why although we on this side will not vote against the Resolution we say it is too little, too late and they will have to wait too long. Thank you, Sir.

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

RESUMPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73 NO. 18

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, we will resume consideration of the Resolution for the sum of \$279,813. I beg to move that Head 32 stand part.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister had promised to give us some detailed statement about this.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is no magic about this. On 8th May, 1969, a shortage of \$275 was discovered in the amount drawn from Barclays Bank for the payment of wages to weekly paid employees of the Ministry of Communications and Works in respect of the week ending 3rd May, 1969. In order to complete the payment of wages, the Financial Secretary approved the release of \$275 from Head 35-Item 74, the vote from which wages were originally drawn, and a Suspense Account was opened on the understanding that if the money was recovered it would be released to clear the account, but police investigations were however fruitless. As a result of trying to decide from which Head it should be paid and recovered, we have been advised that a Supplementary Provision would have to come down to the House in order to permit the Ministry to write off \$275 being the amount in wages drawn on 8th May, 1969, and for which the weekly employees of the Ministry were short. Nobody is responsible for it, if it was simply a matter of adjusting the accounts we would, but this was since 1969.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister did not tell us what investigations were carried out and what the investigations revealed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Communications and Works pays thousands and thousands of dollars. The bill per week is quite a few thousand dollars, and the police carried out investigations to see if they could trace whether it was over paid or overdrawn or where it was, but I cannot tell you what the Police investigations were, but we have been advised by the Police that they were unable to trace the source or to find out where the money had been lost.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can tell us if the Police in the course of their investigations interviewed Civil Servants who had been gambling on the premises in the same room where the money was being put into pay envelopes. Tell us this. It was discovered on 8th May, 1969.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, as far as I remember I was working at the Ministry of Communications and Works at that time in the Accounts branch. There was no gambling on the premises on that day, it was a Thursday and the loss was discovered at about 3 o'clock when we immediately contacted the Police and kept all the

Officers inside the office until the Police arrived. They were all interviewed and searched on the same day. These were all bank notes, we were not sure whether the money came from the bank or if it came to the office and then disappeared, but we asked if the Clerks had balanced the account and they had not. There used to be a lot of fooling around at the bank, and in those days when the Clerks went down to the bank, the bank Clerks and the Clerks from the Ministry used to indulge in a lot of foolishness. There was suspicion both of the bank Clerks and the officers of the Ministry, because the Accountant at the bank told me he was very concerned about certain members of his staff, and we were taking a good look at what was going on, so I believe the loss would have occurred at the bank but we were not able to prove anything.

As soon as the Assistant Accountant reported to me that there was this shortage I immediately reported to the senior officer who reported the matter to the Police. The Police came on the scene about half an hour later and this is the result of the investigation.

The question that Head 32 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 35 - Ministry of Education - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 35 (1) General Administration, Item 44 - Pupil Transportation in the sum of \$130,754 stand part.

Mrs. EASTMOND: 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 \$279,813 do now pass.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73, No. 19

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The next Resolution, Sir, is in the sum of \$75,000. As the Addendum sets out the vote of \$325,000 provided to meet the costs of passages and other expenditure involved in the representation at conferences and other official visits abroad, as well as the cost of holding

conferences in Barbados and has proved to be inadequate and a supplementary vote of \$75,000 is required. The position is that last year we voted \$364,359 for this purpose. On this occasion we voted \$325,000, so you will see that in coming now and asking for \$75,000 we are really not overspending to any great extent. There are a few other commitments for the balance of the financial year. The Ministry of Education has to attend the Annual Council Meeting of the U.W.I. in January and February next year, and the Eastern Caribbean Standing Conference on Teacher Education in January next year. These two amounts will be \$1,000 and \$1,650 respectively.

With regard to the Ministry of Finance, there will be a C.I.A.T. meeting in Berlin, and the sum of \$5,106 will be required. There are other meetings to be attended. So far as the Ministry of Health is concerned, there will be a Caribbean Health Ministers Conference to be held in Dominica, and \$2,195 is estimated for that. Other seminars, meetings and conferences will require \$4,000. Then the Prime Minister's Office has certain conferences to attend in Africa. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs have several commitments. The Conferences which we are hoping to attend and of which we are more or less committed and for which representation should be made will require \$55,155.10. Apart from that, there are other monies already outstanding and committed.

As far as the popular question which is raised in here about Ministers going on joy rides and so on, I should like to state that, as far as these conferences, seminars and meetings are concerned, the total visits abroad up to now are 119. The total number of visits abroad undertaken by Ministers is 43, and the total number of visits abroad undertaken by officials is 76. Barbados now being Independent, we have to follow up these conferences and seminars to take our rightful place and play our part. I do not think I need continue much longer, Sir, because the amount we are asking for on this occasion is more or less equivalent to the very amount which we had voted last year.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

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

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, the five Money Resolutions were read a first, and second time, and agreed to respectively.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Resolution stands in the name of the Temporary Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology. It is a Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1972, for which permission has been granted by Your Honour to deal with it in all its stages today.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUGAR INDUSTRY (REHABILITATION, PRICE STABILIZATION AND LABOUR WELFARE) ORDER, 1972

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Speaker,...

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. Is he a Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is the Temporary Minister.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You cannot have a Temporary Minister sitting on the back bench, Sir. That is unheard of in the history of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. It makes no difference whether he sits on the front bench or the back bench.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, which is set out in the Schedule. By an agreement made in 1956 the levies on sugar and fancy molasses manufactured in the Island authorised under the Act were allocated between the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund, the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund, and the Labour Welfare Fund. This year the crop has fallen below the average for the preceding 5 years. In actual fact the amount is 110,538.5 tons. The rates have not been changed this year, because in the past 5 years we were having very bad crops and the amount of tonnage of sugar has fallen gradually. There is no increase envisaged, and we are using the same rates of levy as we used last year.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next item stands in the name of the Minister of Communications and Works, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1972. The Hon. Minister will deal with it.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REGULATIONS
ENTITLED THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND
ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS, 1972

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, I think, is non-controversial. I think the arguments for the increase for the taxi drivers are well known. Like other areas of the economy, they have increased commitments. The rates arrived at were done by the Chief Technical Director, after consultation with the various taxis concerned, private as well as larger groups.

I beg to move that these Regulations be now approved.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I should just like to say in passing that the time taken in the negotiations for the increase in these fares has been a bit longer than we had anticipated. I should like to make a few suggestions to the Minister of Communications and Works on this point.

9.45 p.m.

It seems to me that where you have a Public Utilities Board regulating the fares to be paid in one form of transport, that some of the weight may be taken from the Technical Directors and the Minister himself by bringing the other forms of transport under the day to day Regulations of the Public Utilities Board, and certainly this aspect of regulating of taxi fares is one that I am sure the Minister may like to divest himself of its work and powers in this respect. I know he has a Committee which is studying the whole field of transport, but certainly I hope in future that instead of bringing to the House a Resolution merely to approve an increase in this respect that there will be some comprehensive review of the whole machinery which deals with the question of increase of fares for taxi drivers, for minibuses and for bus fares for the concessionaires themselves.

That is the only comment we should like to make. It seems a bit pointless in a territory so small

as our own to have so many different people deciding on what fares should be charged for what are related aspects of the over-all transport of the country, and I hope the Minister will bear this comment in mind for next year or the next two years when he has to go through similar negotiations.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, just briefly in reply, I would like to say that much as I have respect for the views of the hon. member for Christ Church West, I have no intention of bringing the taxi drivers under the Public Utilities Board. I do not think it is the proper organisation or board under which they should fall, because with the taxi system as at present organised in Barbados with individual taxi owners who are struggling to earn their living, I do not think the Board itself could lay down a price for this type of public transport. I think the method which is at present adopted is adequate. We take into consideration all aspects of the cost of equipment, cost of cars, cost of tyres, gasoline etc.; we consult with the Ministry of Tourism and the Tourist Board and other organisations, and I think the method arrived at is fair and I can assure the hon. member that the present increase is satisfactory to all persons.

There might be more merit in his suggestion if the Barbadian public as such was a taxi using public. In Barbados, very rarely does the average Barbadian use a taxi. The concept is that it is a tourist oriented industry. They may rent a car for a funeral or for a wedding, but ordinarily it is the foreigner and the outsider who invariably uses a taxi. I am not saying that there are not Barbadians who for one reason or another use a taxi, but I think I know my people well enough to say that it is more or less a foreign oriented industry. I have no intention of bringing it under the Public Utilities Board because I do not think they are geared to lay down the rates, and since this method has been adopted there has never been really any serious criticism of this method because we have always consulted all the interests who would matter and who can make useful suggestions.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 28th November, 1972, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

9.55 p.m.