



THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 28th 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); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Temporary Minister of Agriculture, Science & Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Minutes of Tuesday the 8th June, 1971 and Tuesday the 22nd June, 1971 are before you for confirmation. If there are no objections or corrections, the Minutes will be confirmed. There being no objections, these two sets of Minutes are hereby duly confirmed.

REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY COURSE BY THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have also received from the Clerk of Parliament a Report on his Parliamentary Attachment Course at Westminster, London. This Attachment Course

was held earlier this year. I am laying this Report, and Copies of this Report will be circulated to all honourable members in due course.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICES

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. The Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 56 is ready.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. member for the City wants to refer to a Resolution. In the absence of the actual wording of the Question, I will allow the Oral Reply to Question No. 56 to be given now, and then at a later stage, as soon as it can be found, the hon. member can give notice of that Resolution.

Dr. The Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member who has asked Question No. 56 is not in his place, I seek your permission to lay the answer to the Question on the Table of the House. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to inform the hon. member that this might be a bit premature inasmuch as we have not yet arrived at Question Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. member for Christ Church West, I ask leave to have the following motion revived, notice of which was given on the 1st August, 1972, and that it be placed again on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: After the passage of three months and no action is taken on a Resolution, the Resolution is deemed to have lapsed. You are now giving notice afresh.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the honourable member for Christ Church West, I am giving notice of the following Resolution afresh:

Whereas it has been proved beyond doubt that Community Centres are very beneficial to all the areas which are served by them;

And Whereas there are areas where the erection of such centres is a pressing need;

And Whereas the following districts: Club Morgan, Bonnetts, Britton's Hill, Clapham and Forde's Road constitute one such area which is in need of a Community Centre;

And Whereas there is also an urgent need for a proper Housing Area and Day Nursery at the said Bonnetts, Brittons Hill, Clapham and Forde's Road;

And Whereas Bourda Grounds also known as Crane's Pasture in the Parish of Christ Church provide a very accessible and suitable site for the erection of such a Community Centre, a Housing Area, a Day Nursery and other social facilities for the above mentioned area;

Be it Resolved that this House requests the Government to give immediate consideration to the establishment of such a Housing Area, a Community Centre, and a Day Nursery together with other social amenities and facilities in the Bonnetts, Britton's Hill, Clapham, Club Morgan and Forde's Road area;

And be it further resolved that Government takes such appropriate steps as may be necessary for the erection of these facilities on Bourda or Crane Pasture or on some other suitable site in the vicinity.

Mr. L. S. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

2.40 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. This will be subject of course to the Opposition dealing with any matters they think fit before the end of the sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the instant Order of the Day.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. 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.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1972-73 No. 22

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Resolution is for the sum of \$11,471.

In moving the passing of Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office, under Item 23 - Furniture and Equipment - we are asking for the sum of \$450 to be voted as a Supplementary for the reasons set out in the notes which are fairly explicit; but it may be that a bit more information is necessary. The whole point is that it has proved impossible to open the doors of the old safe in the Prime Minister's Office. The combination is unknown and attempts were made by the Ministry of Communications and Works to get the door opened, and these attempts proved unsuccessful. Efforts to contact the British firm Milners Safes and Co. which supplied the safe failed as the firm has apparently gone out of business.

The Financial Rules require that a strong box or safe be provided to store cash, stamps,

revenue counterfoil books and security documents etc.; so we must have this safe, and the supplementary is \$450.

I beg to move that Head 17 — Prime Minister's Office — stand part.

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

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

Head 19 — Economic Planning Unit — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again in moving the passing of Head 19 — Economic Planning Unit — there are two Items; Item 15, National Insurance Contributions and Item 16 — Office Expenses, in the sum of \$1,200. In this case I think the notes are sufficiently explicit.

I beg to move that Head 19 — Economic Planning Unit — stand part.

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

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

Head 35 — Ministry of Education — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 35, I would wish to state that this provision is in respect of the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council. For some time now, indeed since January 1964 when the Heads of Governments of the Commonwealth Caribbean met for their Second Conference in Jamaica, it was agreed that the establishment of a Caribbean Examinations Council was a fit and proper subject for regional cooperation. This was in keeping with the desire of the Heads of Government that examinations in the region for students in secondary schools in the several territories should be set and marked in the Caribbean and that the arrangement with examining bodies in the United Kingdom should be phased out.

Since then there have been a number of meetings held both at official and ministerial level and as a result in November 1971 accord was reached in Montserrat on the provisions for the establishment of a Caribbean Examinations Council. The agreement in respect of the establishment of this Council came into being in April of this year. There were however a few outstanding matters in relation to the

establishment of the centre's headquarters and operational centres, and these were officially ironed out at the recently concluded October meeting of the Heads of Governments of the Commonwealth Caribbean; so the way is clear now for the first meeting of the Caribbean Examinations Council which has been scheduled to take place in Barbados in January, 1973.

Barbados has been chosen as the Headquarters of the Caribbean Examinations Council. Our share of the cost of the operations of the Caribbean Examinations Council amounts to approximately 10.160 per cent of the over-all cost of this Council, and there are some fifteen territories which will be participating in this Caribbean Examinations Council. There is agreement among the territories of the region that it is desirable that such a Council should be established, because it is felt that in keeping with the total decolonisation of our area and in keeping with the provision to ensure that our education system reflect the whole spirit, ethos and environment of our communities such a Council should be established.

I therefore have great pleasure in recommending the passing of this particular Head to this Honourable Chamber.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman as Shadow Minister of Education, I should like to support the passing of this particular Head dealing with the Caribbean Examinations Council.
2.50 p.m.

I think it is well known in this country that the Barbados Labour Party is unalterably devoted and dedicated to the promotion of Caribbean unity and union in all its entirety, and therefore any step no matter how small which is made from time to time towards that eventual goal is a step with which we ourselves keep in step. For that reason, if for no other, on this side of the House we welcome the movement in the educational field towards not only the control of our own examinations and the setting of our own educational standards, but we welcome the step towards what we hope eventually will lead to a general awareness of the unity of the Caribbean, and finally we hope a union of all the Caribbean peoples.

It is at the level of a re-education of this region, not merely re-educating ourselves out of the colonial era, but educating ourselves towards recognising each other as part and parcel of a

common national identity. In this respect we in the Opposition strongly believe that West Indian peoples will find their true identity. I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not say to the Minister that one of the things that this Council should do quite early is to try to at least negotiate some form of reciprocity of recognition for the examinations which we set. It is perhaps true that once our standards are high and our performances are above board, that other people will come in due course to recognise that we have not departed from the standard set by the Oxford and Cambridge Boards and the Cambridge University Examination Board. We would have welcomed from this side of the House some form of white, black, blue or green paper being brought to the House setting out the proposals in concrete terms, setting out the nature of the agreement, to let us see in particular the structure and the functioning of the organisation.

I think that it is a mistake sometimes for Ministers on the front bench in the Government to assume that a statement made on television or made to the Press is any substitute for information given to this House, and in this respect I will invite the Minister in due course, bearing in mind of course his responsibility for any embargo there might be on information passing between himself and the other Government Ministers in the area, to make a disclosure by means of a White Paper to the House so that we will have a few more details on this subject. I believe that good can come from this Caribbean Examinations Council. I believe that it will grow in time to be respected not only among our own people but also among the other countries to which we send some of our young people for further education. I think the Minister will agree with me that we still have to convince some of our young people that we have the ability to look after our affairs in more than one area.

I am sure that with the assistance being given by Barbados, by the University of the West Indies and by the other territories, that we will convince them about our ability to do these things. Barbados should be pleased that it has been selected as the Headquarters of this Council. Our educational standards down through the ages have not always been consistently high, but they have been high, and I am proud to say that the Barbados Labour Party during its years of Government, maintained this high standard. If the Minister is following in our footsteps he can do no better than take a leaf out of our books. In due course when we have to follow in his footsteps if he has set a good example we will carry on from there, but I make bold to say that

the Minister, like myself and the member for St. Michael South Central, is a product of the system of the forties and fifties, and it was particularly during the era of the Barbados Labour Party that we were given an opportunity to win scholarships and to be in this House. People like Mr. Speaker, like the Minister, like the member for St. Lucy and myself, we were all given an opportunity in these widening educational fields so that whatever might be said, the point is that we have progressed and we are continuing to progress. Political rancour might befall us sometimes, but I trust that in this new step towards our educational fulfilment in the area, there will be no disagreement, and for that reason we will be voting for Head 35 of this Resolution.

Hon. F.G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church West, on matters educational, I think is competent to give his views. I think he just spoiled a very good speech by his reference to the very high standards maintained by his Party. Perhaps he has never heard of the introduction of superannuation by his Party which meant that a lot of children had to leave school at a very young age, and I know of a case of one boy who is an engineer today but under his Party's government this boy was superannuated and eventually ended up being an engineer, so if he is going to bring politics into it without claiming any credit for his Party he will do better. I wonder also if he heard about the five pound bond you had to deposit before you could get into a Secondary School. It had a very serious effect on the children of this poor community, and I also wonder if he remembers the circumstances under which we got four or five Barbados Scholarships. He is very lucky that he came up when there were five, I came up when there was only one and I know he knows as well as I do why his Party introduced more Barbados Scholarships.

I do not want to go into politics, but I am a politician and I like facts. The hon. member for Christ Church West is a product of the five scholarships which were introduced then. When you are in power and you have your family, blood is thicker than water. His Party had certain blocks and certain educational innovations which had a great effect on the education of the masses of this country. His Party was in power when the University was established, and certainly Barbados by its very nature has had a high educational standard, but he will have to admit, and I think he will stick to the truth, that in spite of his Party's desire to promote education on more than one occasion they introduced educational measures which did have the effect of retarding the progress of the working classes of this country.

3.00 p.m.

Mr. W. C. B. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this by replying to the hon. member who has just sat down. I am sorry that, in his time, there were not five Barbados Scholarships, because I am sure he would have had a good try even if he may not have succeeded. I think the hon. member knows very well that it was during the time of the Barbados Labour Party that not only was there an increase in the number of scholarships, but there was also the establishment of the Higher Education Loan Fund. The hon. member knows very well that it was during our era that a step was made towards establishing the Comprehensive Schools and setting the pattern. The hon. member knows very well that it was during our era that we did the negotiations about the University College of the West Indies which his Party has carried through.

In any kind of history there can always be at administrative level, as there was at administrative level in respect of the Hospital a few weeks ago, mistakes being made, Sir. (*Asides.*) But I am not going to hold this — I am not speaking on the Hospital, Sir — at the feet of the Government. If my friend really wants us to reply, we do not want to use this opportunity to reply under this Head. I make bold in saying that one of the reasons why we are welcoming this development is that it is the culmination of the work of the Barbados Labour Party in moving educational progress forward. The facts are there, and they cannot be denied.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may reply briefly to the points made by the member for Christ Church West, like my colleague on my right, I wish to state that the speech of the member for Christ Church West could be divided into two parts: the first part I would consider to be in keeping with the speeches which the hon. member makes of a reasonable constructive nature; the second part seems to me to be a re-hash of some of the statements which he made during the 1971 election campaign, which I thought he would have wished to have forgotten at this stage.

However, he asked for some information in respect of the powers and functions of the Caribbean Examinations Council. I should like to respond to his request at this stage by supplying him with some additional information. The Council consists of the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana; three representatives

of the University of the West Indies appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, regard being given to the geographical dispersion of the campuses; one representative of the University of Guyana appointed by the Vice Chancellor of that University; two representatives appointed by each of the participating Governments, and, as I have said earlier, there are some 15 of these Governments. Let me correct that. Two representatives appointed by each of the participating Governments of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. I wish to state here that the two representatives of the Barbados Government on the Council are the Permanent Secretary in my Ministry, and the Chief Education Officer, and one representative appointed by each of the other participating Governments. There is also one representative of the teaching profession appointed by each national Committee from among its members. The National Committee appointed for this territory has appointed Mr. C. B. Best, Principal of the Barbados Community College, as its representative from the teaching profession on the Council.

There is also a member of the Council who is appointed under paragraph 1(c) and (d) of the Articles, and he should hold office for a period of three years.

As far as the duties of the Council are concerned, these are set out in Article 6 of the Agreement. This Council shall —

- (a) Conduct such examinations as it may think appropriate, and award certificates and diplomas on the results of examinations so conducted;
- (b) Review and consider annually its examinations held in any territory of the area and remit to each participating Government:
 - (1) Make an analysis of data on the performance of candidates classified by subject and territory;
 - (2) Study a digest of submissions from National Committees along with such other information as may be considered necessary;
 - (3) Submit an annual report of the Council's activities.

The Council should also consider, having regard to standards — this is a point raised in the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church West, he

expressed the view or the wish that standards would equate with those of the examining bodies currently setting these papers and marking them – the advisability of inviting, and, if thought fit, invite any other examining body to conduct examinations in the area and award certificates and diplomas on the results of such examinations. Advise anybody so invited on such adaptation of the examination as the Council may think fit, and generally assist anybody so invited in the conduct of such examinations in the area.

The Council also has power to appoint an Examinations Committee; a Schools Examinations Committee; an Administrative and Finance Committee, and review, from any National Committee or other Committees established under this Agreement, reports and recommendations on matters relevant to the purposes of the Council and consider such reports and recommendations. On the invitation of any Government in the Caribbean, conduct any examination which the Council considers feasible. There are other general powers in relation to the arrangement of the administrative procedures and processes of the Council which I do not think it is necessary to give at this stage.

I should also like to state that it is proposed that on the Council both the Cambridge Examination Syndicate as well as the London Examination Board will be represented, certainly, in the early stages of the establishment. The Council will be operating generally under separate arrangements with the Cambridge Examination Syndicate, so that we have tried as far as possible to arrange to ensure that the experience, the expertise and the skills developed by the older examination bodies in the United Kingdom with whom we have had a long and fruitful relationship will be maintained.

I do not wish to get into Part II of the speech of the hon. member, but I would merely state in extension of what has been so ably said by my colleague, the member for St. Michael South Central, that we do not consider on this side that the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council is the culmination of any work begun by the Barbados Labour Party.

3.10 p.m.

We believe that the whole educational system is a matter which stretches far back into the history of this country to which the limited participation of the Barbados Labour Party was merely a very slight glimmer in a long educational historical tradition in this country. That is not to deny that some efforts were made, but we do not want to over-stress this point. I am not even

talking about the increase from one to five Barbados Scholarships because this tends to pale into insignificance with the over twenty-five National Development Scholarships in areas of national need which this Government, the Government of the Democratic Labour Party, has instituted in this country. The efforts which we have made in improving the conditions of service of teachers in this country ensuring that the system whereby Relief Teachers were not paid during the vacations and so on, I do not wish to go into at this stage. I think the hon. member made a very constructive Part 1 of his address, and I think on educational matters we can understand when the hon. member speaks, but he should not try to overstress or overstate the position. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I have answered most of the questions which have been asked in a constructive way by the hon. member for Christ Church West, and I am very happy to have been able to supply this additional information.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has spoken of National Development Scholarships in various areas, but I think he has failed to tell the House in how many areas and for how long this has been going on. I know of one year in which it has happened, but I do not know whether it is the intention of the Government to continue.

Now, Sir, people talk about the change of the Barbados Scholarships....

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of elucidation if the hon. member would give way, National Development Scholarships have been offered in each year since the scholarships have been initiated. They have not stopped. Only within the last week I made two awards on the advice of the National Scholarships Committee in the field of medicine, and there are other awards pending now in the field of journalism and in the field of the graphic arts and in tourism studies. Awards have been made in each year since the awards have been instituted. This is not a one shot effort like the Barbados Scholarships; it will be continuing.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, we have been in here long before the Minister came to this Chamber and had been pressing for scholarships in other areas. When the Hon. and Learned Minister spoke of people for family ties increasing the Barbados Scholarships, that is one aspect of it, but what the Minister should deal with is the fact that the educational system in Barbados is so high and yet people for family ties had to take their children from

leading schools in Barbados and send them overseas. They say that the standard of education is so high particularly at the Community College, and yet you find Government Ministers having to take their children from there and send them overseas.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It is not a question of having to take them away. If you have money you can send your child to Timbuctu. It is a question of personal choice and has nothing to do with the educational system. It is a question of what you want to do with your child that you have brought into the world.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not know why the Minister wants to interrupt unless it is to say that he has sufficient money to send his child overseas.

Mr. SMITH: I am saying that unless you owe his school fees or boarding fees, presumably *prima facie* you should have money. It does not take a Solomon to do that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I was saying, we are told that the educational system is of such a high standard and yet this is what you find. We are told that at the primary level there is a high standard and yet some people do not send their children to primary schools. I have always said that I am one of the people guilty of this, but I am not like the Minister who will try to profess something, because I said that I do not find that the educational system is so high. You said it is so high and yet you do not send your children to the same elementary school to which the working class people send theirs. I do it because I recognise that the educational system in Barbados is not up to standard and if I send my child to one of these schools, he would get an inferior education. One Minister is saying that it has a snob value. That even makes it worse because you have a Socialist Government full of Ministers who do not want their children to mix with working class people's children. What sort of educational system is this? There are one or two things wrong. Either they are not satisfied that the educational system is of sufficiently high standard that their children should go there, or they do not want their children to mix with the working class people's children.

The Minister talked about all these Barbados Scholarships and what happened this year under the regime of the present Minister. After all these years of the Barbados Labour Party asking for a review in the Common Entrance Examination, it is only at this stage that the Minister has seen the light.

Mr. SMITH: There is just one point. I can tell you what happens to the Barbados Scholarships. This Government has created so many scholarships and bursaries that children, after they have done well in the first year at "A" level, can go to University. I will call names. Neville Osbourne has a son who did extremely well this year and if he had stayed on for four years he could win a Barbados Scholarship. If he goes to a University it will mean that he will get his degree two years ahead of time. This happens at Harrison College, Queen's College and Lodge School.

The Hon. member for Christ Church West is a barrister, I am a barrister but not a Barbados Scholar. That only shows that you do not have to be a Barbados Scholar to be a lawyer. The headmaster of Harrison and the headmistress of Queen's College tell me that the bright boys and girls they have, have done so well during the first year that with the number of bursaries and university exhibitions given, they can go to the University because it means they will get their degree two years earlier. I can state that half the Barbados Scholars who go abroad do not come back to serve the community anyhow; so there is no special merit in being a Barbados Scholar. If you count the number of people in Barbados today who are making significant contributions to this community and you find ten Barbados Scholars, you find a lot.

3.20 p.m.

If you really go through the contributions to this community made by Barbados Scholars you do not find ten who are in any position to make any significant contribution. It is only the glory built up, and there is where the snob value came in, you were a special animal if you were a Barbados Scholar. Let me get back to what I was saying. I would like the hon. member for the City to check this with the Heads of Queen's College, Lodge and Harrison College, and they will tell you that the children do not think that it means so much to them to become Barbados Scholars, so it is best to get a year when it is lean. This is nothing to be ashamed of, there must be years when this will happen but it does not necessarily mean a falling off in educational standards.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am about to put the question, but I want all hon. members to understand that when we are dealing with an Item we should stick to it and not go all over the place and think I am going to accept that.

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Annexed Estimates – Part I – Post Office – was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this is a very short and simple item. Parcels posted from Barbados to South Africa are forwarded via London, England, and postage is made up of two elements. Apparently an investigation into this matter on receipt of a complaint showed that the British Post Office Guide which supplies all information in connection with parcels via London has shown that there is no insurance service to South Africa, but apparently the counter clerk who has no experience tried to find out from another clerk about this question of insurance and was told that there was an insurance service. The counter clerk was misled into believing that this service did exist and received the money from the person who sent this parcel to South Africa.

The amount of \$50 under Item 36 – Allowance for Shortages is provided in this year's estimates to cover losses incurred by the inadvertent acceptance of counterfeit and foreign coins in postal transactions, and to cover fluctuations in exchange and refunds of postage in special circumstances. This amount is inadequate to refund to this gentleman, Mr. Corbin, the sum of \$140.86, and so we have to come to Parliament for this amount. I promise to increase this item in the next Estimates to about \$500 so that Parliament would not have to be bothered with matters of this nature.

The Attorney General's office has advised that under Article 32.2 of the Postal Parcel Agreement the sender is entitled to a refund of the charges paid, and the view is that the Government should refund this amount. I am in a position to inform honourable members that the parcel was a gift of rum to a friend in South Africa. I beg to move that this Head do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: I wonder if the Minister can tell us what happened to the parcel. Our concern is not to vote against the amount of \$141 asked for here.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the hon. member would give way, the Postmaster General recorded that an insured parcel was accepted on 5th May, 1972. It was returned to Barbados by the United Kingdom Post Office on the grounds that there is no insurance service to South Africa, and the amount claimed is no element of the parcel but

for the money which the gentleman paid for the insurance of the parcel.

Mr. HINDS: We are glad for that information and particularly to learn from the Minister if the parcel was returned in its original state. This is very important because it would bring us to the point to ask if the Post Office itself did not carry insurance covering all this. In the light of what the Minister has just said, we are satisfied that everything was somewhat above board, except the fact that the clerk who did not know was not honest enough to tell the other clerk he did not know.

The question that Annexed Estimates – Post Office – stand part 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 \$11,471 do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of supply. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
3.30 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. F. G. SMITH, the Resolution was read a first time, a second time and agreed to respectively.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Order on the Order Paper stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Natural Gas Corporation of the amount of \$800,000.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
BORROWING BY THE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION OF THE AMOUNT
OF \$800,000**

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, before I commence to explain the purpose of this Resolution, I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members a slight amendment to the Resolution before them. If hon. members would

look at the particular Resolution which they have before them, I should like to draw to their attention a variation or an amendment to the Resolution before I go into the reason for the request. It reads as follows:

"RESOLVED that the House of Assembly under section 18(1) of the Natural Gas Corporation Act, 1950 approve the borrowing by the Natural Gas Corporation of the amount of \$800,000 at the rate of interest of $\frac{1}{2}\%$ above the prime bank rate with a commitment fee of $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of any unused portion of the loan, the said amount and the interest thereon..."

I should like hon. members to delete the words "amount and the interest thereon". I shall move that amendment in due course, Sir. It should read therefore "the said amount to be paid by annual instalments of \$114,000 commencing on the 15th August, 1975 — instead of "; interest to be calculated and paid monthly and that the Senate...." The main purpose of the amendment is that instead of the amount and the interest being paid annually, the amount will be paid annually but the interest will be calculated and paid monthly, based on the interest rates. That is the main purpose of this amendment; it does not alter the basic financial implications in this matter.

Sir, the Natural Gas Corporation which was

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is this the proper way for the Hon. Minister to have the Resolution amended?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think he is only intimating the proposed amendment that he intends to move at the end of his remarks. He has not really moved the Resolution as amended.

Mr. HINDS: I think you will agree with me, Sir, that if anything is wrong with the wording of the Resolution as it stands, he must first get permission to have the amendment made. If that is carried or negatived as the case may be, he will then base his arguments along the lines of the decision of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, whereas the point made by the hon. member for St. Peter is a good one, and it is a matter of traditional formality, etc., in truth and in fact the Resolution is not being amended in substance. The Resolution, as amended, will merely enable interest payments to be made monthly instead of

annually. The substance of the Resolution remains the same, but if the Opposition wants us to ask for leave to do that we will do it.

I think that the Hon. Minister has intimated that he intends, eventually, to ask for leave to move the amendment before moving that the Resolution be formally passed. I think he would have done that at the end. He intimated the procedure in order that members of the Opposition could follow closely his line of argument on the presentation of the Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution which is now before the House be amended to read as follows:

Delete the words "and the interest thereon"; substitute a "-" for the ";" after "1975", and substitute the words "the interest to be calculated and paid monthly" for the words deleted.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Resolution, Mr. Speaker, is intended to assist the Natural Gas Corporation to carry out an extensive Capital Programme over the next five years with a view to supplying as many Barbadians as possible with natural gas for domestic consumption. At the moment the cost of natural gas is lower than that of bottled gas, but the Natural Gas Corporation is in the invidious position that in view of the Plant which we have established at Spring Gardens, it requires feed stock from one of the very companies that sells bottled gas. Consequently, my Ministry always have to be on the look out for our being put out of operation by the increase in the raw material from this Company. As a matter of fact, I am giving very serious thought and I have set in motion an investigation as to whether the Natural Gas Corporation should not be the sole importers of gas in this country, and we are working on the statistics with a view to seeing whether we can, eventually, stop the people of this country from being put to the inconvenience of having to pay expensively for this necessary commodity by which they prepare their meals.

This is the danger. The sources of natural gas are becoming low, except that we were very fortunate about two weeks ago when the well at Spring Vale started to give us some more natural gas. I do not know whether it is a quirk of

nature or that one of the plugs got blown out, but we have been able not only to have gas for Christmas and assure people that their turkeys and hams would not be left on the midday fire, but we have not been called upon within the last two or three weeks to use this particular supply of imported gas because we are getting a supply from Spring Vale not miraculously but fortuitously.

However, Sir, it is the intention of my Ministry to put in all the areas of this community natural gas for the benefit of the poor classes of the community.

3.40 p.m.

At the moment it is a bit difficult because when I get requests from certain areas of the community and I write to the Natural Gas Corporation, they carry out an Economic Survey and they report back that such and such a project is not economically feasible. Well I as a socialist cannot stand for that sort of thinking. The Government has got to make it feasible that the working class man can get this commodity like the people up in Hastings and so forth, because for obvious reasons putting in natural gas in a small area of poor people is not likely to be as economically profitable as putting it in areas where people entertain a lot, cook more food and use hot water in heaters for bathing etc. My Ministry is going to see that we combine the economically feasible with the economically non-feasible that all sections of the community regardless of race, class or colour are served with one of the natural resources which this country has brought forth. If hon. members find that in certain areas at the moment they do not get natural gas, *nil desperandum*, do not despair, because I am going to see to it and in due course I will give hon. members some idea of the proposed areas in which this expansion, if the House votes this money or approves this loan from the Bank, will take place.

I see on the list some for the member for Christ Church West and I am sure I have his entire support on this particular Resolution; but it is a problem I am studying, because it is no sense telling me you cannot put it in Hall's Road or in New Orleans, put it here or put it there, because it is not economically feasible. Then it would mean that we would be catering to a particular type of person who uses more gas and therefore makes it feasible, and my job is to see that it is made feasible for the working classes and the poor classes in this community even if it loses money in serving the interest of that particular class. Once I am at the helm, as I said, *nil desperandum*.

Under the Natural Gas Corporation Act, the Board has power from time to time with the approval of the Legislature to borrow money by way of loan, over draft or otherwise or to raise capital by the issue of debenture stock upon such terms touching the borrowing, issue, transfer interest and redemption as may be approved by the Legislature for all or any of the following purposes —

- (a) the provision of working capital;
- (b) the fulfilling of the functions of the Corporation under this Act;
- (c) the acquisition of other gas undertakings;
- (d) the redemption of any stock which they are required or entitled to redeem;
- (e) any other expenditure properly chargeable to capital account.

The Government may guarantee in such manner and on such conditions as it may think fit, the redemption of repayment of, and the payment of any interest on any debenture stock issued by or any temporary loan raised by the Corporation.

Now on 4th October, 1968, the Natural Gas Corporation was authorised to raise a loan of a sum not exceeding \$250,000, for fulfilling the functions of the Corporation under the said Act and for expenditure properly chargeable to capital account. The approval of Parliament was sought and obtained for that particular purpose as we are doing now. On that occasion the Natural Gas Corporation negotiated with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for a loan of \$250,000 subject to the following conditions: that the rate of interest should not exceed 8% per annum and that repayment should be by annual instalments of \$50,000 commencing in August, 1969.

The sum of \$250,000 was required to permit the Corporation to purchase an L.P.G. air mixture plant to be installed at Spring Gardens to supplement the supply of natural gas. That plant as you know has been functioning, and except for one period when we did not get natural gas from abroad, I think it has been functioning to the general satisfaction of the public.

Now it has been reported to the Ministry that the sum of \$250,000 has been expended and that repayments totalling \$150,000 have been made to date, leaving a balance on loan account of \$100,000. The Corporation now has an overdraft at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce which stands at \$165,000. I think one of the few years when they didn't make profit was the year when it did install the L.P.G. air

mixture plant. Profit is very modest but if hon. member did check back on the accounts which have been laid in the House by this Corporation, they will see that it is one of the Corporations that make money and is economically viable even although the profits are not that overwhelming.

However, Sir, in order as I say to spread the need among all sections of our community and to serve as wide an area as possible, negotiations started with the Natural Gas Corporation and the Canadian Imperial Bank and they said they would be willing to offer the Corporation an increased loan on the terms which form the subject of the Resolution. I may say at this point that we did not confine ourselves to seeking money from the Canadian Imperial Bank first. We made application to the Caribbean Development Bank where we thought the terms might be easier, and we received a letter from them turning down such an application. We wanted \$1 million from them, they sent in their economist, and they did intimate that in their view supplying gas by bottles was more economical than supplying it through pipelines. Part of the letter said: If we were to finance the expansion of the pipeline system for delivery of manufactured gas to new areas as proposed by you, the new investment would be uneconomical and burdensome to the community as a whole under present conditions. Therefore we will not be pursuing this proposal any further unless there is significant change in the price and cost structure of the gas industry. That letter is signed by the Vice President of the Caribbean Development Bank.

We did not want to go to a commercial bank as we felt that the Caribbean Development Bank was established for purposes like this, and especially where Barbados was committed to setting up a big building and a nice structure to house them, we were of the opinion that Barbados should at least derive some benefit from what the taxpayers would be called upon to pay under the agreement establishing the Bank for the establishment of a headquarters. Well the Canadian Imperial Bank has agreed on the terms to loan the Corporation this amount of \$800,000 as a term loan. Had we taken it up the loan would have started for three years without repayment, but since August, 1972, we have delayed through no fault of ours and the Bank is not willing to make it three years. The Bank is willing to make it three years less August to the present time. Three months in a transaction like this might be something, but since you are asking for a loan and the Bank is adamant that they are not going to bring the date back from November or December to December, 1975, — they say they are sticking to the original final negotiations

of August 1972 to August 1975 and that it is not their fault that the loan was not approved by Parliament — then we will have to agree to lose the few months.

The loan will be subject to an interest charge of one-half percent above the prime Bank rate which is currently 7½ per cent per annum, to be paid by annual instalments of a minimum of \$114,000 with the first repayment being made on August 15, 1975. There would also be a commitment fee of one-half per cent on the unused portion of the loan. The amount of \$800,000 will be spent as follows: the present term loan would be \$100,000 which is unpaid; we have paid back \$150,000; the overdraft which is \$165,000 will be \$265,000 and capital expenditure for the year 1972–73 we anticipate to be \$261,000, and for 1973–74 we hope to spend another \$238,000 in giving natural gas to the people of this country.

3.50 p.m.

As I say, hon. members need not be worried about this particular aspect of the scheme, because as long as I have the honour to preside and to be responsible for that particular corporation — and one of the first things I did when I went to the Ministry of Communications and Works was to persuade the Prime Minister to transfer the subject of natural gas to the Ministry of Communications and Works in order not to inconvenience the public by digging up the roads without proper coordination, and I think you will agree with me that you do not see the roads dug up as badly and as often as before. I think we are reinstating them much more quickly than we used to do and everything is being done to meet the needs of the people in this community.

We hope to do some reinstatements during 1972–73, and we have to do a lot of reconstruction of old pipes because we are losing about 20 or 25% of natural gas in some areas in the ground through bad and eroded pipes. We have to deal with areas such as Barbarees Hill, St. Michael's Row, River Road, Victoria Street, Roebuck Street, George Street and Belleville. This is necessary because of erosion and it has nothing to do with constituencies. In the old days we know that we would only find natural gas pipes in areas like George Street and Belleville, but all this has changed now. We are also going to spend some money in buying a truck, other office equipment and communication equipment, because we want some mobile sets so that if you are cooking and something goes wrong we can get in touch with the various trucks and try to get a quicker repair, because gas is a very dangerous thing. We have to equip our machines with some

sort of communication where they can get to areas very quickly, especially in the poor areas where there are a lot of houses bunched together and where an explosion would put quite a number of people out of shelter. We also hope to spend another \$81,000 for equipment because we are creating posts for technical staff to meet the expansion programme.

In 1973-74 we are going to Highway 7, St. Lawrence Gap, Graeme Hall, Tweedside Road, Farm Housing Area, Rendezvous Terrace, Club Morgan Gap, Britton's New Road, Forde's Road and Rendezvous. In 1974-75 we are going to Waterhall Land, Fairfield Road, Britton's Cross Road, Kensington New Road, Maxwell and Oistin's. I have instructed the Corporation that the time has come to move the office from Bay Street. Apart from the fact that this is a very busy street I do not think the Corporation can function properly on its present site, and we have looked at sites in Spring Garden and Wildey and we are in the process now of finding a suitable site. Apart from the fact that in my view where the office is at present is a very good hotel area or a good place for a window to the sea, at the same time we are seriously considering moving the Corporation from there and finding some suitable place to give them a building. Obviously we have to look for some place where the people who pay bills would not have to walk or would not be inconvenienced by transport, but we are seriously looking for some place to rehouse the Corporation. I hope to get this done as soon as possible.

I think I have given hon. members enough information to show that this is not just a request to Parliament for the sake of making a request. I get requests in my Ministry from quite a few districts and areas, and unless we get this money and unless we want the Corporation to go in the red we certainly cannot meet the needs of the hundreds of poor districts in and around this Island who would like to have natural gas in their homes. Consequently this money is absolutely necessary for this particular expansion. I remember writing a minute to the Corporation saying that I am tired of hearing that such and such an area is not economically feasible. Places like Hall's Road and New Orleans are always referred to as uneconomically feasible areas, but how can they ever get gas if we continue in this way? We have got to devise a means either by Government subsidy without putting the price of gas beyond the reaches of the working class man or by the rich man subsidising the poor, or the Government subsidising the Corporation and collecting more taxes if we are to meet the needs of these particular requirements.

This Government is committed to making the limited resources of this country available for all sections of the community regardless of race, colour or creed, but especially so for those people who would like good clean cooking but who are unable to buy the bottled gas. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that this calls for any long debate, except that on this side we would have liked to hear some more about the present functioning of the well at Turner's Hall, and how long it is hoped that that well will continue in existence to serve the people of Barbados. We would also like to hear from the Minister whether any research has been done in any other part of the Island in respect of natural gas, and more especially whether any investigation was done at the Mount in St. George. If that is so, what were the results of the investigation carried out? In short, whether the Government has accepted that the L.P.G. air mixture plant which they are now using will produce the gas at a cheaper rate than the gas coming from Turner's Hall; whether the Government is looking into the economics of that to see which is cheaper instead of carrying out any further surveys on natural gas.

4.00 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for the City has certainly asked some very relevant and important questions. As I have said before, the well at Bruce Vale fortuitously started to produce again. At the moment we are trying to discover why it has done this after so many months of inertia and non-production. As soon as the Report reaches me, I will let him know if they can, scientifically, explain why this has taken place. What it has done is to enable us to cut down the use of the LPG Plant at Spring Gardens which, as you know, is not pure natural gas, or pure imported gas, but it is an air mixture gas which mixes both. We have not had to use it, and, therefore, the Natural Gas Corporation has been able to store up enough gas for the whole Christmas and New Year season. I would hate to be rung up on Christmas day by some irate housewives telling me that their turkey is half-cooked because the gas has gone off.

We have dug quite a few wells, and the total production of oil is about one hundred barrels a day. I am put at a disadvantage here, because even though I am responsible for natural gas, the Ministry of Trade is responsible for the exploration of oil. I have asked particularly the

Ministry of Trade to get a prospectus and the persons who have already dug these wells which are producing a limited amount of oil to explore and, if possible, let us have a Report on the potential of those same wells at the Mount and so on for natural gas. If they are potentially good we could tie them in with the natural gas and be able, possibly, to serve St. Peter and St. Lucy.

The air mixture has been cheaper, but this is where the trouble comes in. At the moment it is cheaper, but since you have to rely on the feed stock from one of the companies that produce bottle gas, they can always put us at a disadvantage by increasing the price of the feed stock and then forcing us either to sell below them and lose money, or to sell above them and go out of business. That is why I am looking at the possibility of either Government to Government negotiations about the importation of natural gas, or making the Natural Gas Corporation the sole importers of this commodity.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of elucidation, Sir. On the question of investigating whether the Natural Gas Corporation should be the sole importers of natural gas into this country, we on this side would welcome that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am deeply grateful to the hon. member for his assurance, Sir. We would have to get the quantity used and so on. If it comes to that, I am prepared to do everything possible to prevent the Natural Gas Corporation from going out of existence and to take such drastic steps. I propose to discuss at Government to Government level, with a certain friendly country, the possibility of getting cheaper gas for our Plant.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUM OF
\$25,000,000 AS THE MAXIMUM SUM OF
LOANS IN RESPECT OF WHICH INSUR-
ANCE POLICIES MAY BE ISSUED
UNDER THE MORTGAGE IN-
SURANCE ACT, 1962**

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Resolution stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and it is to move the passing of 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. This Resolution states:

Whereas it is provided by section 11 of the Mortgage Insurance Act, 1962 that the aggregate amount of all loans in respect of which insurance policies have been issued under that Act shall not exceed the sum of five million dollars or such larger sum as Parliament may by resolution of each House approve; And Whereas the sum of five million dollars mentioned in that section has proved inadequate and it is expedient that Parliament by resolution of each House approve the larger sum of \$25,000,000 for the purposes of that section;

Resolved therefore that the House of Assembly approve the sum of \$25,000,000 as the sum which, for the purposes of section 11 of the Mortgage Insurance Act, 1962, the aggregate amount of all loans in respect of which insurance policies have been issued under that Act may not exceed and that the Senate.....

In moving the passing of this Resolution, Sir, I will just give a brief run down of the history of this matter for the benefit of new members. In 1962 a mortgage insurance scheme was instituted under the provisions of the Mortgage Insurance Act 1962 (1962-45). One of the basic criteria on which the Scheme was to be administered was that initially the total amount of mortgage loans which may be issued at any time should be limited to \$5 million, but that provision should be made for increasing this limit when the Government deemed it necessary. In the light of this stipulation, Section 5 of the Act provided that the aggregate amount of loans in respect of which insurance policies may be issued under the Act should not exceed the sum of \$5 million or such larger sums as Parliament may by Resolution of each House approve.

The limit of \$5 million is considered inadequate, and it is proposed that the aggregate amount of loans in respect of which policies may be issued under Section 11 of the Act should be increased to \$25 million. Of course, the Addendum sets it out very clearly. Under Section 3 of the Mortgage Insurance Act, 1962-45, as amended in 1969, the Urban Development Corporation is authorised to effect contracts of insurance and issue insurance policies in respect of mortgage loans made by an Approved Lender under the Act. An Approved Lender is a lender approved by the Minister of Finance for the purposes of making loans which may be insured under the Act. The only Approved Lender to date is the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited in which Government and the Urban Development Corporation are the only

shareholders. An Approved Lender makes mortgage loans on conditions laid down in the Mortgage Insurance Regulations, 1966, which provide *inter alia* for mortgage interest charges at a rate not exceeding 8% per annum.

4.10 p.m.

Borrowers also pay a Loan Investigation Fee of \$25 and an insurance fee of 2½ percent on the loan. Approved lenders pay income tax at the rate of 12½% per annum. Now under Section 11 of the Mortgage Insurance Act the aggregate amount of loans in respect of which the Urban Development Corporation can issue insurance policies is limited to \$5 million as I mentioned earlier, and this limit has already been reached, and the Barbados Mortgage Finance Co. Ltd. is however expected to provide mortgage financing for the next three or four years for some 400 houses at Cave Hill and their development of East Caribbean Housing Limited at Rock Dundo. In addition, a number of individuals wishing to develop their own lands are looking to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited for mortgage financing. These projections amount to a value of almost \$20 million and the Addendum does set out how the money is made up.

The Urban Development Corporation has submitted that their present commitments for provision of funds under the mortgage scheme are approximately \$5.1 million detailed as follows:

Cave Hill — 99 houses	\$2,024,000
Rock Dundo — 58 houses	\$1,405,000
Individuals — 85 houses	\$1,686,000
	\$5,115,000

Now the provision which is needed for the next three or four years indicates that an amount of approximately \$19.7 million will be required to fulfil obligations and the details are set out in the Addendum:

U.D.C.'s Programme (400 houses @ \$22,500 approx.)	\$9,000,000
Rock Dundo Park (105 houses @ \$27,000 approx.)	2,830,000
Individual Developments	2,400,000
Other Sponsored Developments	1,200,000
East Caribbean Housing Limited (254 houses @ \$17,000)	4,318,000
	19,748,000

Those are the details of the scheme and we all know how difficult it is to secure their loans at present, even through solicitors or through Banks at the high rate of interest which they are

called on to pay; so this mortgage insurance scheme has already served a very useful purpose and by having more money available it will be able to service and assist many more people from the middle income group in particular and the higher and lower income groups.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is one which can have some very far-reaching consequences. As a result, I think we on this side ought to enquire of Government on what are their present projections based, because looking on the face of the Addendum one must see that there is a scheme which in its own words tells you it is likely to be so and so. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that we on this side of the House should be asked in any respect to lend our support to a matter such as this where you have an institution such as U.D.C. operating for what I would have thought, would be the benefit of the masses. Surely there can be no denying the fact that it has done all up to the present for the classes, but what we do find in the Report ending 31st March, 1972 is that they in themselves are telling us that the Corporation sold 15.75 acres of land to East Caribbean Housing Ltd. with an option to purchase another 16.45 acres for the construction of smaller houses in order to accommodate the lower middle income sector of the public.

With all that has gone on, with all the promises and projections that we have been having from time to time by this Corporation, there is nothing to which the Corporation can point to say this has been done for the benefit of the lower middle income sector of the public, but because this Resolution was to be before Parliament at a time such as this, the Report is telling us about U.D.C.'s programme for 400 houses at \$22,500 approximately, Rock Dundo Park 105 houses at \$27,000, and they go on to tell us about individual developers and what they are likely to require. The Report also tells us of their having built 100 houses in phase one that was started in 1970. It took them well over two years and part of a third year to complete 100 houses. In other words, it is as clear as a pikestaff that they built less than 50 houses per year according to the terms of their phase 1 operation. Let us ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker, whether we are justified in continuing to give U.D.C. the kind of consideration we have been giving it in the past. Is this Corporation living up to expectations?

4.20 p.m.

I believe that there are members of that Corporation who no doubt want to do their bit to see that the public gets the fullest benefit, but on the other hand can we say that the same thing is applicable to all the personnel there? There is abundant evidence that there are people who have been associated with the UDC, and wherever benefit has accrued to anybody it is not the public who gets the benefit. It would be of interest, Mr. Speaker, if we could be told, considering our heavy unemployment figures even at harvest time during the crop season, exactly what contribution UDC is making to the employment situation of this country. We do not want to hear any slipshod statements given, because for reasons some of us have had cause to follow some of the activities of UDC. We have watched the progress of Ideal Homes, if progress there has been; we have been associated in some measure with almost every activity for good at Paradise Heights and the like, but what do we find? There are some from whom better would have been expected who have been able to prostitute the good office of UDC to their own ends.

I think the time has come when this Government should be fair to the public at large and carry out a public enquiry into the operations of UDC. You will find that if Government decided tomorrow to take such a course of action there are some very honest people who are associated with UDC who would immediately disassociate themselves from the rest, and there you will find that the public will benefit in the long run. We are satisfied that the small salaried man whom it had been hoped UDC's operations would have benefited two, three or more years ago, the hopes of those people are now dashed to the ground. They are the people asking how long is too long if it is good for some people, only for a few. In other words, it is just like the decision on the part of some people not to see another sugar cane grow, because in the same way some people can get the sweets out of the operation the same thing is applied the case of UDC. It is the small salaried man who is becoming frustrated. We know quite well that members of the Government must support this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that members of the Government side are in duty bound to support this Resolution, but in doing so are they doing something for the ultimate good of the small salaried man or woman who is looking for a shelter?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I hate to cross the hon. member, but the hon. mem-

ber knows that before 1955 we had the Housing Authority which has been doing an immense amount of work. Nothing has been done for the middle income people and it is time that these people are helped, because they are the forgotten people and something should be done at this time to help them.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is something called *ad idem*. Has the Minister said something that I have not been saying? He ended up by saying exactly what I have been saying all along. There are lots of people who are presently waiting that as soon as this measure is passed to benefit from some of these loans. I am asking again, are these benefits really and truly going to trickle through to the people who need them most? That is the bone of our contention. I have heard the Minister say that from 1955 we had the Housing Authority. I believe that other Ministers were very annoyed when the Leader of the House mentioned the Housing Authority and the good work it has done because it was not set up by the Democratic Labour Party.
4.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of elucidation, Sir. It is a fact that the Housing Board was set up in 1955. I am aware of that; I happened to be a Minister at the time. (*Asides.*) I agree that it was before then. The fact is that some of the best housing areas which have been set up and produced have been under our administration. I can refer to the Farm Housing Area. I am not saying that the Barbados Labour Party did nothing in this matter. We have managed to improve on what was done before, and today we are having model housing areas like the Farm Housing Area; Silver Hill Housing Area and so on. We are improving conditions and allowing the people who were formerly tenants to own the houses on easy terms over a 20-year period. Could you want anything better than that?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder whether the Hon. Minister is referring to the single units at Deacon's Road? Until now no units have been set up to compare with those although there are wooden structures. What about their House Building Programme and on what is it based? That is my contention. I am merely asking the Minister to give us some idea. There can be no two ways about it. Apart from the fact that the U.D.C. does not have an Inspector—at one time they did not have an Inspector at the close of the financial year—I do not know if they require some officer from a group that is not at present available. This document says that as at 31st March, 1972, no insurance policies under the Mortgage Insurance

Scheme has been issued due mainly to the lack of the services of an Inspector.

I do not think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that an Inspector with the necessary qualifications ought to present any difficulty. We are not suggesting for a single moment that the type of person required for the Mortgage Insurance Scheme is the type of person that you can find around a street corner, but, surely, something has to be wrong for us to find this mentioned in the Report before us. You will find that the Report gives us what is called a breakdown in the undertakings to be insured. We see here; Cave Hill — 97; Rock Dundo — 63; and 152 private undertakings. We have seen where there have been a few cancellations; a few rejections or refusals, and all of these things we will find in the natural course of conduct in any business. We still feel that U.D.C. are not opening their hands as broadly as one would have thought, and the group or the selected few that have benefited most are not in our view the people who should have been the main concern of the Corporation when the question of rendering assistance was being considered. This is not what Parliament itself stands for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are saying that we know this Resolution will be passed, but we are asking that we see, hear and learn of much better things about U.D.C. and its activities. We do not want to see some members of the Corporation proper slaving and doing all they can to promote the interest of the Corporation while the others are just standing by and allowing all of the sweets to flow on their side. That is not good enough.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we on this side welcome the injection of \$25 million over the next three to four years into the construction side of the economy. I say "injection" in the sense that it is being guaranteed in that way, and that this money will be spent in the construction industry over the next four to five years. The fact is that in three to four years U.D.C. will be building 400 houses; Rock Dundo Park 105 houses, and East Caribbean Housing Limited 254 houses at a cost of \$17,000. This figure of \$17,000 is of interest to us on this side of the House, because I know that during the last session the former Leader of the Opposition, Mr. St. John, used to make the point very often in this Chamber that you had your low-income housing stopping at about \$8,000, and then you had your middle-income bracket starting at about \$20,000 and upwards, but in between those figures there was nobody providing any sort of finance to assist that

category of worker who needed assistance in building houses.

We on this side welcome the idea of having houses built at this price, because we feel that one of the great needs in Barbados today is to have a proper and adequate housing programme.
4.40 p.m.

This is not limited to any one section when it comes to housing. Generally there is need for a very active building programme on the part of the Government because a look at the records not only of U.D.C. but of low income housing would show that if there is one avenue or aspect where the Government has failed, it has always been in the field of housing. That is why I say we welcome this Resolution.

On this question of the building of houses and the construction industry, one has only to look at the wording of the Economic Survey as laid on the Table a few weeks ago, and one would see on page 38 that there was in fact no significant growth in the construction sector of the economy. When you advert to the wording on page 38 of the Economic Survey, it says:

"Preliminary indications are that the construction sector did not experience any significant growth during 1971. In monetary terms the contribution of the sector to Gross Domestic Product at factor cost was \$28 million as compared to \$27.5 million in 1970. This was a percentage increase of 0.2 per cent."

Now, Sir, it is accepted by the Government that during the period 1970-71 there was no significant growth in the construction industry and this may be largely due to the stagnant situation of this sector during the year reflected in decreases in quantities of such imported building materials as lumber, shingles and steel. That may be Government's reasons for stating its reason for the absence of any significant growth in the construction industry. When you take into consideration the fact that there is so much unemployment in Barbados, one would have expected that not only at the U.D.C. level of building lower income group houses, but also at the Housing Authority level there would be massive programmes of building houses to meet the needs of the people of this country. I think the last report of the Housing Survey shows that there were some 13,000 people on the waiting list. I am one of the people who believe that you cannot separate the building of houses in Barbados, and that it is wrong to have two separate entities responsible for housing. You cannot have one responsible for Low Income Housing

and one responsible for Middle Income Housing. I think it was reflected in our manifesto that there should be a Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and not as in the past where you had a Housing Authority coming under the Minister of Housing, and the U.D.C. coming under the Minister of Home Affairs and there was a conflict between the two Ministries, because I think the technical staff would be the same, and if you had one Statutory Board it would be able to set the guidelines not only for housing development at one level, but for complete housing development at all levels. (Asides) Is the Minister of Communications saying something?

Hon. F.G. SMITH: The Government has already taken a decision to establish one Board for all housing and the Attorney General is drafting the Act to bring before Parliament as soon as possible.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am always glad whenever.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I thought the hon. and learned member for Bridgetown would have been aware of the fact that since September we only had one Minister of Housing. The hon. member is talking as though we have it as in the past. We have only one Minister of Housing, not two Ministers.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That was not the point at all. I think the point which I made is that which the Minister of Communications accepted. I have discovered that whenever I make a point as I did with tele-communications and suggested that it should be nationalised and the Government would be a shareholder, we are informed by the Minister of Communications and Works that this Government has done this. Now today I suggest that there should be a Ministry or one Statutory Board to cover housing and other development so that you have one unified policy, I am told that the Government has already started legislation in draft. I am indeed glad to see that there are certain parts of our manifesto that the Government has accepted and incorporated as their own, and on that aspect I will take full responsibility.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

The Leader of the House made the point that since the last elections you have both U.D.C. and Housing Authority under the same Ministry. This may be due entirely to the fact that the Minister who was then Minister of Home Affairs moved to the Ministry of Housing and there may have been a

decision to allow him to continue being Minister of Lands, and when he became Minister of Housing he was also Minister of Lands. But that would not solve the problem. The problem is that you cannot have two bodies doing something without any coordination between them. You cannot have the Housing Authority as a statutory body doing one thing and U.D.C. as a statutory body responsible for another side of housing. You must have one body, and I believe that the Manager of the U.D.C. still retains his substantive post perhaps as head of the Housing Authority, and this is indicative of the fact that here you have a man doing one thing and you move him and put him in a different position, whereas in effect he should be the person responsible for all the housing programmes in the entire country.

We know that there was a Draft Education Act of 1962 which has not yet been laid on the Table, but I do hope that after listening to the Minister of Communications refer to legislation which will soon come before the House, we will see it before the House in an effort to ease and solve the housing problem in this country.
4.50 p.m.

I believe that one of the criticisms which can be made of the housing policy with regard to the UDC as compared with the low incomes, — I believe that one of the decisions taken by UDC is that if you are developing any area you must leave adequate open space for playing fields and parks, — but when you look at the other aspect of it, the low incomes, this is not always so, this is one area in which you have one body but no coordination of your planning. It is time that the Chief Town Planner should wake up and not allow people just to sell 20 acres in so many spots without at the same time making them leave sufficient open land to be used as parks and playing fields for the residents of the development. This is where I think that UDC could guide the Town Planner, if it is at all possible to give the Town Planner any guidance. That may be difficult, but if it is possible, I think UDC should give him guidance in this way because I believe in the project at Rock Dundo Park no open space was left. I believe that in the Cave Hill project there will be open spaces, and by comparison you have Paradise Heights which is a recent development and the whole area consists of houses without any open space or any playing field whatsoever, and you will find that the children must play in the roads. I do not think this is satisfactory. I think this mistake was made in respect of Rock Dundo. There were no open spaces left, but in the Cave Hill area this state has been rectified.

We on this side of the House would like to see greater activity in the construction industry. We know

at one stage during the sixties when you had greater activity with building hotels and apartments there was a boom in the industry, but since then you find that there is no longer a boom in the construction industry, therefore the time has come when Government must use financial resources to inject money into the construction industry so that the unemployment rate will fall and that more money will generate in the economy. I do not want to go too far in detail on this, but I believe to a certain extent that UDC could use its powers — I do not know the actual rate of interest, but I believe it is below the rates you get from the Banks and from the Trust Companies, and I think that if more money could remain available under this scheme and the houses were completed at a much cheaper rate you will find that UDC could be used here to force the commercial Banks and the Trust Companies to lower the rate of interest. But you find that because of the number of Banks here they need to compete for local deposits because they are not bringing in money from outside, and this causes the Banks to pay high interest rates on the deposits, so that when they in turn have to lend on mortgage this causes the mortgage interest rates to be as high as 10%, plus commitment fees etc., etc., and in some cases you pay 12%.

I hope that UDC could be used in an effort by Government to guarantee even more money to ensure that the mortgage rates for building houses which between June and today have moved from 9½% to 10% with no sign of its coming down, that UDC could be used to bring the Banks and Trust Companies to their senses and make them lower their mortgage rates. No doubt because of the high mortgage rates that exist in this country and that are allowed to exist you find that people are not building houses as readily as they did before, and even the applications to the Chief Town Planner have fallen off. This must be an indication of the effect that the high mortgage rates are having in this country. It may very well be that Banks are not prepared to bring in money from outside to lend on a long term basis because of the possibility of the Government at some stage imposing foreign exchange control on money in the country. This could be one of the reasons, but one cannot speculate on this.

As I said, we on this side are in favour of this Resolution and we hope that one of the effects it will have will be to stimulate the construction industry so that more people will be employed and also to ensure that the rates of interest payable on mortgages will be lowered in this country. We look forward eagerly to seeing the Bill brought before this House giving one Statutory Body the control over the proper development of this country.

5.00 p.m.

No longer can it be separated physically. Although it is under one Ministry, you will see from the Reports that there are still two Statutory Bodies and this is not effective. I am glad to hear that the Government is going to bring the legislation, and I look forward to see the legislation brought speedily before the House.

Mr. FORDE: Before you put the question, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make my contribution. I am not going to speak for very long on this matter in order to prolong the debate, since both the member who introduced the Resolution and the two members on this side have spoken at length on the matter. There are just two comments that I should like to make, however. The first relates to a point made by the hon. member for the City. I am glad to see that the Government has taken the hint and is setting up one Statutory Body to deal with housing as a whole rather than the present disjointed system of having housing being dealt with by the Housing Authority, and U.D.C. only dealing with a limited area of operation.

I am one of those who feel strongly that we have the expertise in this country. Although I know it is invidious sometimes to single out people for special mention, I make no apology for saying that the present Manager of the Urban Development Corporation is a person with tremendous expertise and knowledge in this field and is quite capable of heading any such organisation; seeing that it is properly organised and that it functions properly. My only regret is the delay in effecting such a rationalisation of the Statutory Bodies which are responsible for housing.

Indeed, one of the social ill effects of this matter is that you divide people into classes and you perpetuate the concept that the lower-income man is not entitled to as good circumstances in his convenience as the man in the middle-income or the man in the upper-income. I trust when the rationalisation takes place that this expertise, which is definitely available at the U.D.C. in particular, will also be made available to the Housing Authority on a bigger level, and there will be a proper planning of the whole Urban as well as other development in the housing area.

The other point I should like to stress is that I think people do not recognise that this is, perhaps, the only field in Barbados where you can get a loan up to 90% of the purchase of a house. The loaning institutions in this country are very slow to lend in the field of mortgage loans affecting middle-income housing, or long-term projects or long-term loans for longer than five years. I think

only now one of the banks has started to plan for long-term loans of 20 years.

The source of funds from Solicitors have practically dried up, and instead the banks have taken to themselves almost all of the immense savings, relatively speaking, which were available to Barbadians. To this extent, the presence of the Mortgage Insurance Scheme and the presence of one lender, at least, under that Scheme is a welcome help to people who are looking to finance their houses or to purchase houses over a period of time.

My second regret, if I may say so, is that there is only one lender under the Scheme. I think that Barbadian investors are too conservative by far, and that in their conservatism they are lacking some of the social things that are necessary in this country. Certainly Barbadians place their monies in the bank, and it has not yet struck some of them that they could take some of that money and themselves become lenders in such a Scheme; helping to use the Fund as a Revolving Fund to generate employment in the economy; to generate further saving, and to help with the development of the housing in this country.

It is, therefore, left to the Commonwealth Development Corporation in conjunction with the Government to be the only lender under a Scheme such as this. Where are our marvellous Barbadians who are overseas and are so concerned about their country? Those who have done well in the United States, the United Kingdom, and in Canada. Where are those of us who have done well in the professions and in business? Why are they harnessing their funds and not using it for the development of their own country? I consider housing not only a social need, but I think it is an economic necessity and it helps as an economic booster in any economy.

I think that the Government will try wherever possible to entice, even if they have to entice them into the existing Scheme, some of the private individuals in this community and some of the private individual overseas who are of Barbadian nationality so that we can all help in this development which is very necessary in Barbados. I note that the U.D.C. last year made a profit. If I may say so, Mr. Speaker, it made a profit sooner than I expected it to show a profit, and that shows that it is on the right road. I myself have visited that Scheme on numerous occasions. I have seen the small man, if I may say so, being installed and living alongside the big man and helping to break down this tremendous class barrier which con-

fronts a community such as ours. This has been achieved in the Urban Development Corporation area.

I should not like this debate to pass without saying that it is certainly a tribute to the Chairman, to the members, and to the General Manager in particular that they have not allowed a person's position to prevent that person from getting some look into what is happening. I always like to put a word in for my constituents. I can say that I have many constituents who are waiters. Some of them are waiters working at the hotels, and some of them are working in other enterprises and are waiting for an opportunity to find the loans available so that they can get, at least, proper housing. Some of them are waterfront workers. You find the policeman, the teacher, the civil servant, the lawyer in some instances, and I hope the banker in due course, all of them, living alongside one another and their children are getting to know each other. I think this is an important social development in this Island.

It might solve the Minister of Education's problems in not having to zone the country into areas. We must be committed very strongly in Barbados to the task of breaking down these class barriers, and we can do this by making people rub shoulders side by side, living in the same street, living in the same area and growing up together. Once before, it was the colour barrier. We have managed to break through that, and I think that U.D.C. is helping in this respect to break down the class barrier.

Speaking for myself, the only regret that I have is that there are not many more houses being built. The Corporation are short of funds. Part of the fault lies with our own people. In my view our own people are looking over their shoulder every minute and saying that the Government must do something, but they themselves are not using self-help. This is a great tragedy. If we look at ourselves as leaders of public opinion and as representatives of the people and make this point, the better it will be for the country.

5.10 p.m.

We can only be as great as the people want to be great, and if they do not want to help themselves, then we will progress much more slowly than we ought to progress, and for this reason I join with my other colleagues on this side in welcoming this Resolution, and it gives us pleasure in supporting the Resolution in this respect for approving of an increase in the total permitted funds for which loans can be insurable under the Mortgage Insurance Act.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as you might have observed, the speeches of the Opposition have all been of a high order, especially the last one, and I congratulate the Opposition in joining, and in the case of the last speaker, replying on behalf of the Government and winding up the debate.

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

RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE LAND IN THE CAVE HILL AREA

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Resolution stands in the name of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Husbands and Oxnards Plantations, St. James.

The position as far as this matter is concerned is that there are seven parcels of land containing approximately three acres, two roods forming enclaves within the Husbands and Oxnards Plantations which because of an oversight were never acquired when the estates were acquired by Government. The parcels of land are set out in the Schedule. It is proposed to acquire these small bits of land from the respective owners as set out in the Schedule at a price which will be agreeable to the respective owners.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE BARBADOS UNION OIL COMPANY REFINERY (LEVY ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next item stands in the name of the Prime Minister, to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Barbados Union Oil Company Refinery (Levy on Petroleum Products) Act, 1965

As the Objects and Reasons set out, the Barbados Union Oil Co. Ltd. by special Resolution passed on the 23rd April, 1966 and confirmed under the Companies Act, 1910, on the 20th May, 1966 changed its name to Mobil Oil Barbados Limited and this Bill seeks to amend the Barbados Union

Oil Company Refinery (Levy on Petroleum Products) Act, 1965 to give effect to the change of name.

I do not think I need waste the time of the House.

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

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to waste the time of the House at all. What we on this side are concerned about is this question dealing with oil. I think the Minister of Communications earlier today when we were dealing with the question of gas made certain statements concerning oil and said that it did not come under his Ministry but under the Ministry of Trade. For many years we have had oil exploration done in Barbados, but I do not think that the Government has ever presented a White Paper or really made any statement to the satisfaction of the public as to the true position as regards oil finds in Barbados, and how many barrels would be produced daily. Whether the Minister is in a position to say now I do not know.

The other point is that from looking at the Estimates for this year the royalties on crude oil this company got out of Barbados is \$12,000. What we on this side would like to know is how does this compare with the actual revenue from oil that is sold from this country. What we would like to know is the true position as regards oil exploration and oil finds in Barbados, how much oil we really produce, whether it is in commercial or sufficient quantities, and whether the Government would issue a White Paper on it. I know it is not being done by the Government as such, but by private companies, but they must at some stage have some sort of communication with Government as to what is the position with oil exploration in Barbados. I know there is a well at Fisherpond and there is one at Christ Church producing oil. We would like to find out how much oil is being produced and how much revenue this country earns out of it, and what are the general economics of the oil situation in Barbados.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I think those three questions are the subject matter of questions which could be asked substantively. You would not be able to get information off-hand on how many barrels of oil are being produced or whether it is being produced in commercial quantities. That is something you have got to get by way of research; so no Minister can get up and

give an answer unless he is going to talk through his hat on what royalties are being paid into revenue and that a White Paper should be produced.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not ask for the royalties paid. I know the royalties are \$12,000 as stated in the Estimates, but what I want to find out is the revenue coming in from the oil company; and above all, what we want to find out is the true position as regards oil exploration in Barbados.

Mr. CRAIG: I think the Leader of the House will recall that in the Throne Speech it was stated, if I am not mistaken, that they were now ready to produce oil in commercial quantities. I think my colleague is trying to find out from the Minister what is the actual position. I am almost certain this was in the Throne Speech.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, probably the hon. member should know that I would be at a disadvantage to answer this. Probably the Minister of Finance may be in a position to answer questions like these, because he may have this information at his disposal. I have not got any file on this, but he could probably raise these questions and have them answered. Speaking off the cuff, oil has not been found in commercial quantities, except at St. Patrick's which I think is the best place where oil has been found, and this is near Woodbourne. If a White Paper was laid, it would be a means of allowing members of Parliament and the public generally to know what is going on as regards prospecting and finding oil.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, just briefly, there is no oil discovered yet in commercial quantities. We are still exploring and that is a fact. We have oil where we do collect about 100 barrels a day which is stored at the Union Oil Company, but for years now we have been negotiating the price with them. When I was Attorney General I was involved in this. They want to pay us a lower price than the world price for oil on the ground that this oil is dirty and that they are doing us a favour by storing it in their tanks. They do use it and refine it, but they claim it is not Grade 1 oil and they do not want to pay us by the international formula and negotiations are still going on about the price.

5.20 p.m

We know how much oil we had through them. It is about 100 barrels a day which is taken and stored in the British Union Oil Company tanks and is used in their refining plant. The price has not been settled because we are not accepting less than the going price on the international market. We hope that some time soon we will be able to do marine exploration, but that is the present

position. I have known this as Attorney General and in my position as being responsible for natural gas.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair. The House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Minister told us that about 100 barrels of oil were stored in the British Union Oil Company tanks. I wonder if he could tell us how many barrels are being stored now, because 100 barrels a day a year would be a few thousand barrels very well and that would be a big piece of change.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: They have been doing it now for some years, but they operate under a lease and we cannot just accept what they said. They have offered a price and we have discussed it, together with the people who are prospecting, and still cannot get anywhere. I do not think it would be a fantastic amount of money, I think it is U.S. \$1.85 per barrel but I could not give you the total amount in oil or in money.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I thought there was oil in quantities at Fisherpond. How many barrels do you have to produce to make it commercial?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: 100 barrels after refining and taking out all the impurities, I think it would not be enough to take you around your constituency for a week, but I could not tell you off hand what is considered commercial.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 3 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in

Committee. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Order is Order No. 6 and I am asking for leave to give notice of a Bill to provide for the fusion of the branches of the Legal Profession. This has been passed by the Other Place.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you asking for leave to give notice and to move the First Reading at the same time?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, Sir.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the fusion of the branches of the Legal Profession for the Legal Education and discipline of Attorneys-at-law and for connected purposes.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, the Bill to provide for the fusion of the branches of the Legal Profession, for the Legal Education and discipline of Attorneys-at-law and for connected purposes was read a first time.

5.30 p.m.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Order stands in my name, and it is to move the Honourable the House of Assembly to consider the amendment made by the Honourable the Senate to the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 1972. I think hon. members have been circulated with copies of the Bill and Amendment from the Other Place. An Act to amend the Public Holidays Act, 1968, which was passed by the Honourable House on 15th August, 1972, and duly received by the Honourable the Senate, was passed, with an amendment, by the the Honourable the Senate on 2nd November, 1972.

The amendment was to the effect that Clause 3 be deleted from the Bill. Clause 3 reads as follows:

"AMEND- 3. The First Schedule to the principal
MENT of Act is amended —
First Sche-
dule to
Act
1968-49.

(a) by deleting paragraph 6 thereof and substituting the following —

"6. the 24th October, United Nations Day, if a week day;" and

(b) by inserting immediately after the words "the 1st May," appearing in the first line of paragraph (a) of the proviso thereto the words "the 24th October,".

REASONS FOR AMEND- The Bill, as amended, covers in
MENT. Section 2 thereof matter set out in Section 3 which has therefore been deleted from the Bill.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What are the reasons for amending the Bill?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Bill, as amended, covers in Section 2 thereof all the matter set out in Clause 3. Clause 3 has therefore been deleted from the Bill.

I beg to move that this House doth agree with the Honourable the Senate in the said amendment.

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

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

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, there is a question to be answered before the House adjourns.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is most irregular! Question Time has gone.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, you had suspended the matter subject to the condition that the.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Question No. 56 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Peter.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker,

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:—

1. Is Government aware that guarantees given World Health Organisation in respect of one-year scholarships tenable at the University of the West Indies at Mona, and leading to the Certificate in Nursing Education or Nursing Administration, are not honoured by the appropriate authority in respect of the posting of the graduated upon returning home.

2. What is the structure of the staff of the Tercentenary School of Nursing at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados?

3. What is the nursing experience in terms of years, and the teaching experience in terms of years of each of the Tutors or acting Tutors or other personnel on the teaching staff of the said school of nursing?

4. Is it a fact that the Certificate referred to at No. 1 above and obtained from the UWI is not recognizable by the General Nursing Council of Barbados and therefore has no promotion value in the eyes of the Public Service Commission?

5. Will Government take steps to have the appropriate bodies carry out a re-assessment of the course offered by the UWI and the Certificate obtained in the light of the value attached thereto in the United Kingdom?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, the answers to the Questions are as follows:

1. "No, Sir".

2. The structure of the staff of the Tercentenary School of Nursing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is as follows:—

Principal Tutor
Senior Tutor
Tutors
Assistant Tutors
Sisters or Staff Nurses (Seconded)

3. The Nursing and Teaching experience of Tutors and Acting Tutors of the School is as follows:—

Acting Principal Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(10 years)
Teaching Experience	(3 years)

Acting Senior Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(27 years)
Teaching Experience	(11 years)

Acting Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(22 years)
Teaching Experience	(11 years)

Acting Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(17 years)
Teaching Experience	(8 years)

Acting Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(14 years)
Teaching Experience	(5 years)

Acting Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(16 years)
Teaching Experience	(7 years)

Acting Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(19 years)
Teaching Experience	(5 years)

Acting Assistant Tutor	
Post-Graduate Experience	(17 years)
Teaching Experience	(3 years)

Staff Nurse	
Post-Graduate Experience	(7 years)
Teaching Experience	(2 years)

Post-Graduate Experience	(6 years)
Teaching Experience	(2 years)

4. "Yes, Sir".

5. Steps have already been taken in this connection.

5.40 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can state how long those who are acting were acting in their posts.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I would not be able to answer that at this stage.

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. member should be armed with those facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper Supplementary.

Mr. CRAIG: I think the question is a proper Supplementary.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first word would not suggest a Supplementary.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It would seem as though there is no real tutor, but the Supplementary I would like to direct to the Minister is whether there is anybody with a degree in Nursing Education at the moment at the Tercentenary School of Nursing.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: It seems as if there is one person qualified in Nursing Education.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I cannot ask the Minister the name of that one person. Is the Minister aware there is in Barbados a lady who is married to a Barbadian and is herself of Barbadian parentage who has a Master's degree in Nursing Education from the Columbia University, who has applied for a job at the Hospital for about two or three years and up to now she has not had a reply or appointment?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: The Minister is not responsible for applications for posts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, therefore he is not aware and cannot be aware.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Now that the Minister has heard from a member of the House that there is a person in Barbados whose name I could communicate in private to the Minister, will he take steps to ensure that her assistance be made available to the teaching staff at the Tercentenary School?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: The Minister does not appoint anyone to the teaching staff at the Tercentenary School. He does not have the power, therefore he cannot take steps, but as a matter of courtesy I will enquire into the matter raised by the Hon. member.

Mr. CRAIG: Since the Minister tells us that he is not responsible for appointing people, would the Minister indicate whom the Opposition should ask, because he is Minister of Health? We can only ask the Minister of Health this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper Supplementary.

Mr. MOTTLEY: My Supplementary was not that the Minister should take steps to appoint the person, but to ensure that her services be made available, or at least to notify the requisite authorities that there is somebody who has the knowledge. That is what I mean by taking steps.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not a proper Supplementary.

Mr. HINDS: I just want, Mr. Speaker, to have a point cleared up. Was the Minister's reply to my question No. 4 "Yes, Sir"?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Yes, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: I now ask a Supplementary. Since the Minister's reply to No. 4 was "Yes, Sir", is the Minister inferring that the contents of Question 1 gave rise to his reply to Question 4 being "Yes, Sir"?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: The answer given at No. 4 is intended for the question read at No. 4.

Mr. HINDS: Is the Minister aware that Question 4 is related in every respect however one may twist and turn it, and that Question No. 4 arises out of Question No. 1?

Mr. SPEAKER: Hardly a proper Supplementary. It is a question of opinion. The answer may be given in a different way than the question warrants it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that as a result of persons...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, as a member of this House, looking at page 9 of my Order Paper, I am at a loss to know which is Question 4 or Question 1. If you look at pages 8 and 9 Question 56, — if I am to follow what the hon. member for St. Peter is saying, and I would like to follow it, — from my Order Paper I cannot follow it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will draw to the attention of the Clerk to have the printers set it out more carefully, as I am sure it was handed in in that form of 1, 2, 3 and 4. The point is well taken.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is a point I intended to raise because it is also giving....

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. The Hon. Minister having raised it, why do you need to raise it? The point is well made and the Clerk will see that next time it is enumerated.

Mr. HINDS: Is the Minister aware that nurses have taken the one year scholarship course referred to at Question 1?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Yes, I am aware.

Mr. HINDS: And is the Minister aware that some of the nurses taking the course have passed in a very satisfactory manner, in that their results have been very satisfactory in their examinations?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Yes, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: Now, Sir, can the Minister tell us if those persons who passed in such satisfactory manner were promoted when the time for promotion arose after they had returned?

Mr. SPEAKER: Having asked a Supplementary Question, will the hon. member wait for an answer. An answer is about to come.

Mr. HINDS: All I am asking is that the Chair protect me from heckling from the Minister of Communications.

5.50 p.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: The Minister is not in a position to state who has or has not been promoted.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, has the Minister made any effort since 17th October to discover whether or not those persons who had passed the examination had been promoted when the time for promotion arose?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, that seems to be an unfair question since the Minister has only been in this Ministry a few days.

Mr. HINDS: Am I to understand that when the Minister is replying to a Supplementary he is replying as the hon. member for a constituency and not as a Minister of Government? Has the Minister of Health or the appropriate Minister made any enquiry since 17th October when these questions were tabled to discover whether or not those nurses who have made satisfactory progress in their examinations had been promoted when the time for promotion arose?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is awaiting information which could put him in a position to answer that question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, in the light of the answer which the Minister has just given, could we ask that further Supplementaries stay over and that the question remain on the Order Paper until the Minister is in a position to reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is unusual.

Mr. HINDS: If the Minister is not in a position to reply it would be better to let the question remain on the Order Paper until the Minister is in a position to reply. That is one of the purposes for asking for oral replies, that the Minister will not be placed in the position of having to give part of a written reply and part oral.

Mr. SPEAKER: Most unusual.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I have had questions stay over time and time again for reasons such as this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not in my time. More Supplementaries please.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, in the light of the Reply which the Minister gave to my last query, is the Minister willing to admit that the replies given to this question have been given somewhat prematurely?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: No, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister is not in a position to answer all the questions, I think the Minister will be quite happy to arm himself with more facts and allow this to remain on the Order Paper, since he is the Minister to whom we are looking forward to help the Hospital.

Mr. SPEAKER: No Supplementary.

Mr. CRAIG: It may not be a Supplementary but I believe the Minister will be kind enough to do it. I wonder if the Minister can tell us how many nurses passed the finals in the last examinations. Is the Minister prepared to reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing in the Standing Orders to make him reply.

Mr. CRAIG: I know that, but it is common courtesy to do so.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am in a position to answer this in some respect. There were 32 who passed the examination at some time but there were no places at the Hospital and we had to put them at the District Hospitals and so on. The hon. member needs to bring a subsequent question to get the proper replies.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, we on this side are under the impression that when a Minister comes to Parliament he is armed with all the files to answer any question concerning his Ministry.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no more Supplementaries the time for Supplementaries will be closed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us why is it that a certificate issued by the University of the West Indies is not recognised by the General Nursing Council, and why the Public Service Commission of this Island attaches no promotion value thereto? I asked a Supplementary to question No. 4.

Mr. SPEAKER: No answer apparently is forthcoming and there is nothing in the Standing Orders to make the Minister answer.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, in view of the fact that the Minister is unable to answer many of the Supplementary Questions, will the Minister agree that he has not been properly briefed for these questions?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us, Mr. Speaker, if Government is aware that when these 1-year scholarships are offered that certain guarantees are given by Government to World Health Organisation or to Pan American Health Organisation as the case may be? I refer to the particular Organisation associated with the offer of the scholarship.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: The Minister is aware that a guarantee has been given when these scholarships were taken.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us if these guarantees have been honoured after the scholarships have been taken and the scholarship holders have been successful in their examinations?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Yes, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: Did any of these guarantees apply to any of the members of the staff of the Tercentenary School of Nursing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that a directive has been sent down to the Nurses to wear their uniforms knee-length now? Do you know anything about the Hospital?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper Supplementary.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister having given a long list of the acting staffing arrangements at the Tercentenary School of Nursing, and the Minister having told us of certain guarantees

that are given to World Health Organisation when these scholarships are offered, having told us as well that some of the students were successful at their examinations, can the Minister tell us if any of the students(Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER: Will hon. members not addressing the Chair please observe silence!

Mr. HINDS: Can the minister tell us if any of the students who were awarded these one-year scholarships at the U.W.I. and satisfactorily passed their examinations were given promotion on return to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? Is the Minister aware that there is dissatisfaction among the staff at the Tercentenary School of Nursing owing to the number of acting appointments which he was so proud to read out before this Hon. House today?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is quite out of order. Question Time is not yet closed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, in view of the fact that there is a long list of acting appointments, will the Minister convey to the appropriate body the concern of this House about these acting appointments and to ensure that those qualified persons are appointed to the posts as soon as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time is closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th December, 1972, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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