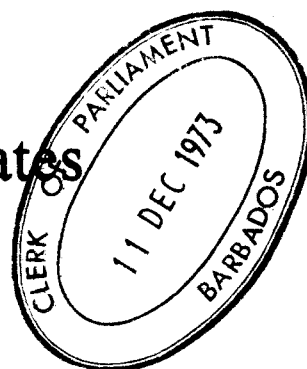


THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th 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); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Home Affairs); 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. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Dr. the Hon. R. B. Caddle, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. A. MORRISON.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of this Honourable House for Tuesday, 17th October, 1972, are before you for confirmation, and unless there is any objection, they will be confirmed.

There being no objection, the Minutes are hereby confirmed.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I am commanded to lay the following documents:-

- (1) The Report and Accounts of the Urban Development Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1972.

- (2) The Annual Report of the Parks and Beaches Commission for the year 1971-72.

Mr. Bolden entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay the following documents:-

- (1) The Marine Fuel (Exportation Fees) Regulations, 1972.
- (2) The Account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for the quarter ended 30th September 1972.

On my own behalf, I am commended to lay the following document:-

The Report on Vital Statistics and Registrations in Barbados for the year 1970.

On behalf of the Minister of Communications and Works, I am commanded to lay the following document:-

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1972.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Communications and Works, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1972.

Mr. Craig entered the Chamber and took his seat.

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

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$279,813 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73, No. 18, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$75,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73, No. 19, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Forde entered the Chamber and took his seat.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no Replies to Questions ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, at the last sitting of the House, I gave notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 54, asked by the hon. member for Christ Church-West, was ready, but we never had the opportunity to actually give him the Reply as such. Since the hon. member is here, we can dispose of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: My understanding is that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 54 has already been laid and circulated. That being so, we will move on to Private Members' Business.

Mr. Mottley entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item 14 be the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re THE RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, when notice was given of this Resolution which reads "BE IT

RESOLVED that in view of the deplorable conditions existing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, this House calls upon the responsible Minister to offer his resignation from the Government", the present incumbent in the Ministry of Health and Welfare was not then occupying that position. Notice of this Resolution was given in the House on 24th October, 1972, but the original notice sent to the Clerk of Parliament was, I think, dated 19th October. It was only after that was sent that the public of this country was informed - I do not know whether it was in view of the circumstances set out in the Resolution or not - that there was a Ministerial reshuffle and the Minister was not called upon to offer his resignation, but was moved to another Ministry. In view of that, I do not think it will serve any useful purpose carrying on with this particular item, because this was not intended for the present Minister of Health and Welfare. What I will do however, is to withdraw this Resolution, but I intend to proceed with the next item under Private Member's Business which is No. 15 which deals with the deplorable conditions existing at the Hospital, and would apply either to the present or past Minister responsible for Health.

I therefore ask leave at this stage to withdraw this Resolution.

I want to make it clear that this is Item No. 14 which calls on the Minister to offer his resignation from the Government. In view of the fact that there has been some minor reshuffle, I do not propose to deal with that Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is seeking leave to withdraw this Resolution, Order No. 14 under Private Members' Business, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before you make your final ruling, I should just like to get this matter clear for the records. The House never actually discussed this. I think there was some intimation that the hon. member intended moving this Resolution, but he brought this after the Cabinet reshuffle. I do not know what his powers of anticipation might be, but the fact is that the Ministerial change which was effected by the Prime Minister was done without his knowing what anyone in the Opposition intended or had in mind.

2.40 p.m.

The reshuffle was purely voluntary and was entirely disconnected from any act of commission or omission on the part of the Opposition members.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections Order No. 14 under Private Members' Business will be withdrawn. There being no objections, that Order is withdrawn.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 15 standing in the name of the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION re DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS
EXISTING AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH
HOSPITAL

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the Hospital and the administration thereof during the past weeks. When I attempted to debate this matter under another Resolution — and I say this without casting any sort of aspersions whatsoever on the character of the Chairman of Committees — I was told on that occasion that I had to discontinue my speech, and I willingly acceded to the request of the Chairman of Committees because I was aware that there were other means of dealing with the problem. What is the problem confronting us? As far as the Hospital is concerned there is indeed a very serious problem.

My Resolution reads as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED that in view of the deplorable conditions existing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, this House calls upon the Government to take steps immediately to remedy the existing situation". Had the Hon. Leader of the House not spoken I would also have withdrawn this Resolution, because I would have said that the remedy which the Government has taken was to remove the former Minister of Health and Welfare and put the former Minister of Home Affairs in that position, but the Leader of the House said that is not so, that it is only by chance that happened and that it had nothing to do with the Hospital administration.

Some time ago when we asked for an enquiry into the administration of the Hospital, we on this side pointed out to the Government that it was necessary to have a full-scale public enquiry into the complete administration of the Hospital and not a wishy-washy, back-door, back-room enquiry such as the one conducted where you could only appear and take notes but not ask questions of witnesses. We also pointed out that that type of enquiry would not be

satisfactory. It has proved to be entirely unsatisfactory, but you see what has happened is that we read in the newspaper that a doctor has been suspended, and I believe has now been fired, and that orderlies were dismissed or were being disciplined. Let me say this. Of course there is a case for disciplining the orderlies at the hospital, but do not let it be understood in this country that these orderlies are in any way responsible for the failure of the Government to have a proper ambulance service, and this is what the Government must make clear, that it is being put out to the public that the orderlies were responsible for the ambulance service instead of the Government being honest enough to come straight out and say that the orderlies were being disciplined for misconduct or bad behaviour or something like this, but in truth and in fact the Government of this country does not have an emergency ambulance service.

This is one thing which the Government has refused so far to come out and tell the public, that there is no emergency ambulance service, and I challenge either the former or the present Minister to get up and tell the House that there is in existence any emergency ambulance service at the hospital. What I said in here that would happen did in fact happen, and it happened again in the constituency of the member for Christ Church West. On Sunday last week a man was taken ill in the Clapham area, he telephoned the hospital for an ambulance and it took over an hour and a half for an ambulance to arrive. So long as you continue with the situation where you will have these back-room enquiries, where the reports of the enquiries will be sent to the Cabinet as secret documents, this will continue to happen. (Asides). That is not all that is happening at the hospital, there is a lot more. I attempted to mention on the last occasion..... (Asides).

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael-West is continually interrupting. He has a chance to speak at a later time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, in addition to that case — and I think that the member for Christ Church-West is more au fait with the facts than I am — it was only after the Police were called and the Police themselves made an attempt to get the ambulance from the Hospital that the ambulance came. A lot of people would say that they would get a motor car and go to the Hospital, but there are a lot of people who cannot afford to pay a taxi. The gentleman who took ill two Sundays ago did not have any relatives or friends so he could not get a motor car.

The present Minister of Health would appreciate that there are certain requirements of an emergency ambulance service that the Police cannot provide. I need not elaborate on them, the Minister perhaps is *au fait* with them, but you go on to the other point of the operation of the Hospital itself. I would have thought that the best reasons for holding an enquiry into the operation of the Hospital was the speech made by the then Acting Minister of Health, the hon. member for St. Michael North East, who said in this Chamber a few weeks ago that there was too much politics going on at the Hospital, that there was too much subversive activity at the Hospital, and who told us that the people were pulling against each other at the Hospital.

2.50 p.m.

Is that not sufficient reason for having a public inquiry into the Hospital? The only people who are suffering as a result of the politics and the subversive activities at the Hospital are the patients.

This morning I was going to Court and I met a lady who said that her father-in-law went to the Hospital with a letter from a doctor. He was admitted at the Hospital on Friday with a complaint; the doctors at the Hospital looked at him and at ten minutes to seven on Saturday night they discharged him; on Sunday morning the man died, and he is being buried this evening.

Now, take the case of Miller, a young man who went to the Hospital to have a simple operation performed. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central is aware of this case, and I think the Ministry of Health is also aware of it. This young man went to the Hospital to have a bone removed from his shoulder, and during the operation, his blood turned blue through lack of oxygen. (Asides.) If that is not true, then let the Minister get up and deny it. Miller was 29 years of age and he had three children at the time the operation was performed on him at the Hospital, and something certainly went wrong there.

The Minister made a proper speech in here when he said that if heads must roll, let them roll. He had reached the point where he realised that if you are somebody with money in this society or if you had status or some kind of standing in the society you would be properly treated at the Hospital, but if you were nobody, they would ignore you and you would be ill-treated up there. This sort of thing should not happen in this society under a so-called socialist Government. There are a number of cases to which one can refer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the only way to get at the root of this trouble is for the Government to hold a public inquiry into the working of the Hospital.

During the emergency debate when the Opposition called on the Government to have an inquiry into the operation of the Hospital, the Minister of Communications and Works, who was then the Acting Attorney-General, said that an inquiry would be held. He gave the House that assurance, when we said that we did not want an inquiry to be held by any Heads of Departments. The reason why the second inquiry was held was due to the fact that at the preliminary inquiry it was felt that those who gave evidence were not speaking the truth. That is why we asked the Acting Attorney-General to hold a Commission of Inquiry under the Commission of Inquiries Act so that the Commissioner who made a public report on any doctor or orderly concerned in the matter would be protected. In that case the people in this country would know what is happening at the Hospital.

The Minister told us that we wanted to appear as lawyers so that we could represent the people. While we were discussing the matter, the Acting Attorney-General agreed to have an inquiry, but the Attorney-General decided otherwise. In the circumstances, lawyers were allowed to attend the inquiry, but they could not ask any questions. I feel that the present Attorney-General, in the light of Ministerial responsibility, should have accepted the Acting Attorney-General's decision. Even though he had disagreed with the Acting Attorney-General, he should have accepted Ministerial responsibility. I am quite sure that the Cabinet should have stood by the assurance, if Ministerial or Cabinet responsibility meant anything.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications and Works and Acting Attorney-General gave us the assurance that an inquiry would begin at eleven o'clock, but it could not begin because they had to wait on instructions from the Cabinet as to whether Counsel should appear to represent other parties. The Cabinet decision was taken that lawyers could appear on behalf of the Hospital staff and ask questions, cross-examine witnesses and so on, but the lawyers who represented the families of the deceased could appear, take notes, but could not ask any questions. That is unfair. You are dealing with the lives of human beings. I can only come to the conclusion that the reason why Government did not hold a Commission of Inquiry into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and have it done publicly is that they did not want the truth about the Hospital to be made public. The truth is that there is bad administration at the Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched the operation of the Prime Minister of this country for too long not to appreciate why he does certain things. If he did not feel that there was something wrong at the Hospital, he would not have made that Ministerial shuffle. I said in this House one Tuesday two years ago that I was going to ask for an inquiry into the Housing Authority, and the next Tuesday there was a Ministerial reshuffle. On that occasion it was the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Communications and Works and the Minister of Housing. On the last occasion I asked for an inquiry into the Hospital, and the Prime Minister decided to shuffle the Ministers around. I certainly hope that it pays off, because the whole structure of the Hospital wants examining completely.

3 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, I hold no brief for the Orderlies or for the doctor who was fired, but all I am saying in fairness to the Orderlies is that it should be made known to the public that there is no emergency Ambulance Service at the Hospital. You only have to telephone and hear for yourself the replies given at times. Sometimes you get a reply that there is no driver, or that the ambulance is out of gas. I hope when the Minister gets up to reply that he will tell the House how many ambulances there are in operation at the moment, and how they are operating. In fact the case to which I adverted earlier about the gentleman in Clapham, the ambulance turned up but there was no stretcher in it. These are the sorts of things that happen. You send an ambulance for someone, and when it gets there, there is no stretcher. (Mr. WALCOTT: And the Minister should resign for that?)

Mr. SPEAKER: I want the hon. member for St. Michael-West to observe the Standing Order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is where the entire administration needs to be examined. Why is it that the Government has never brought into force the Hospital Act that was passed in 1965 or 1966? Why has the Government never appointed a Statutory Body or whatever body should have been appointed under that Act to run the Hospital, and why is it that the Hospital continues to be run as an arm of the Civil Service where obviously it operates with a high degree of inefficiency? (Asides) I am not concerned with the Waterworks, but I daresay when we get around to the Waterworks, I will deal with that. As a result of the firing of a junior doctor from the Casualty, I understand there is a rumour that the junior doctors say they are not prepared to work in the Casualty under the circumstances

because Government does not accept responsibility for them. I dealt with this earlier this year when we were dealing with the structure and the administration of the Casualty Department. Obviously they are not satisfied with the conditions under which they have to work. It is unfortunate that the doctor had to be fired, but here again the Government would not come out and tell the people the truth, because people are saying that he got fired because of the ambulance, but he was not fired because of the ambulance. No proper statement either by the present or past Minister has been made to make it clear to the public why the doctor was dismissed. It is rather obvious that the doctor was dismissed because of the manner in which Sybil Worrell was treated; so do not let the blame fall on the ambulance service. I challenge the Minister past or present to get up and deny that the reason why the doctor was dismissed was because of the manner in which Sybil Worrell was treated. The lady was brought to the Casualty and her boyfriend asked the doctor to admit her to Hospital, but he said he could not admit her because he had to get in touch with somebody else, and the man sat there under the impression that the doctor had gone to get in touch with someone in order to admit the lady to a ward, but the nurse came back and told him that the doctor had gone back home.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this is one of the cases where the Casualty notes pertaining to Sybil Worrell have disappeared. This is not strange but it is unfortunate that this woman died in this manner and a doctor is dismissed and the Government allows the public to believe that he was dismissed because of the ambulance service when in truth and in fact his dismissal had absolutely nothing to do with that. This is why we asked for a public enquiry to let the public know what is happening, because we cannot go on fooling the people all the time. The Advocate Newspaper of this country is just as dishonest. The family of a gentleman called "Miller" wrote a letter to them setting out the facts concerning the gentleman's death and the Advocate sent it back saying they could not publish the letter because it was critical of the Hospital and of its administration. Do you think that could be fair? They did not decide to take the facts and check them and write a story about it, they just sent it back to the people. How can the poor people of this country have any recourse whatsoever? They do not get it from the Government because the Government refused to hold a public enquiry but a woman with three children to support lost her husband through a simple operation, and the *Advocate-News* does not want to publish it because it is critical of the administration of the

Hospital. These things are not fair in this society. The Minister is aware of this particular case with "Miller".

I want to go further, Sir, and deal with the consultants. I think the time has come when the whole relationship between the consultants and the Government has got to be reviewed. It is true they are given fair terms where they are paid only a nominal fee for the work at the Hospital, but they are allowed to use the Hospital beds and equipment on the basis that they see public patients, that is, the poor people who cannot pay for themselves. It is a known fact that if you check the register of attendance, you will perhaps see that the consultant has attended his clinic at the Hospital, but you must go further and check to see how many patients he has seen on any day he has attended clinic where the practice as I understand it is that he will only see new patients coming for the first time and after that you have to see the junior doctor. This does not apply to all the consultants but to the young ones in particular whose interest is to make as much money as they can at the expense of the people of this country.

3.10 p.m.

The practice as I understand it is that he will only see patients coming for the first time and then he passes them on to a junior doctor, but if you are a private patient he does not tell you to go and see somebody else, he is going to see you himself and you will have to pay him every time he sees you. That is the situation. It is not fair and it can no longer continue. The present Minister of Home Affairs may not be *au fait* with these things, but I know that when the present Minister of Health was a junior member of the Hospital staff he was aware of the conditions that existed then, and these same conditions exist today. Perhaps they are even worse. The attitude of the Consultants to the poor people of this country, and the whole relationship between the Government and the Consultants have got to be reviewed. I know you have to pay Consultants more money, but do not let them go and see three out of forty patients in any one day so that the register will show that they attend the clinic, that is not fair to the taxpayers of this country. This is one of the things which should be investigated; the percentage of the patients seen by these Consultants. I believe that the member for Christ Church West has said already that it is time the Consultants become a little more interested in people.

The dispensary at the Hospital also needs investigating. Ever so often people come to me

and complain about how long they have to wait at the dispensary, and I wonder if the Minister knows how many qualified Dispensers there are at the moment at the Hospital. Why is it that people go there from 8, 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning and have to wait until 4 in the afternoon then to be told that they have to come back the next morning? These are all questions that need answers and they can only be answered if we have public enquiries. The member for St. Michael North East in her address asked how could the Minister be blamed when these things are being covered up, but this is why we are asking you now to uncover them so that the Minister cannot be blamed. The only way you can uncover them is to have a full-scale enquiry into the operation of the Hospital. What is there to hide? Why is the Government afraid to hold an enquiry into the operation of the Hospital? Nobody is alleging that anybody is stealing anything, this is a question of life and death. Why is it that so many people die through negligence at the Hospital? Why is it that you get cases where a nurse can make a note that at 9.30 p.m. a man asked to see a doctor and up to 8.30 the next morning no doctor saw him? We only know about these things perhaps if they come up in the law courts, and sometimes people tell us certain things. As the hon. member for St. Michael North East said, a lot of things are being covered up, so let us bring them into the open and let us have a full-scale enquiry. No Minister can do the enquiry himself, because the essential thing about it is that whenever an enquiry is done whoever the Commissioner may be, if the Government chooses to appoint one, he will of necessity have to find that there is a certain amount of negligence at the Hospital on the part of certain people, and he can only be protected from any law suit if you have his report as a Cabinet document which cannot be made public or if you have it done under the Commission of Enquiry Act.

There are scores of complaints from the public. Look at the nurse who wrote in the newspaper recently about a patient she took to the Hospital and who eventually died. Why are you afraid to hold the enquiry? Let us have a proper public enquiry. It is not a question of accusing anybody of stealing anything, we are genuinely concerned that people go to the Hospital and through what we consider to be pure unadulterated negligence, carelessness and inefficiency people are dying and it is not fair to them, it is not fair to their relatives and their children. How can the children of Sybil Worrell feel, having their mother removed from them? (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Let them bring an action

for damages). To bring an action for damages is one thing, but how many people know what rights they have and can bring actions for damages? They will only know if you hold an enquiry. As the member for St. Michael North East said, people should come forward and tell the Minister what they know, and she said then that their complaints would be treated in confidence. We do not want that, let them make the complaints to a Commission of Enquiry so that they can be properly investigated. Do not let the doctors at the hospital feel that they are above certain people in this country just because of certain friendships they have. Do not let them feel that they are better off and cannot be investigated. Are you going to let this situation continue where people are going to die? I believe one day the Minister will have to get on television and tell the nation why people are dying, through negligence at the hospital.

3.20 p.m.

I hope one day when he tells it to the Nation about health, he will tell the people about the negligence at the Hospital. You hear about Sybil Worrell bringing a case of negligence; you hear of Miller bringing a case of negligence, and so on. If within four weeks you have two cases which merit court action for negligence, can you tell me that that is not sufficient to merit an inquiry into the administration of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? Of course, the families need the money, but let us think of the people who have to go to the Hospital later on. The court action will take care of those who are now dead, but we are now concerned with the people who are living and will have to go to the Hospital for medical attention. Let us try and protect them; do not let them fall victims of the same negligence and ill treatment obtaining at the Hospital at the present moment. It started off from the Casualty and it is spreading right through the Hospital. If this attitude is not checked, then nobody knows where it will end.

Mr. Speaker, one of the troubles at the Hospital is that it is being operated as a Civil Service Department of the Government and that must stop. I sincerely hope that when the Minister replies he will tell us why the Government has not brought into operation the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Act which was passed in this House long ago.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution calling upon the Government to take steps immediately to remedy the existing situation at the Hospital do now pass.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, in seconding this Resolution by the hon. member for the City, I have a strange view as far as the Hospital is concerned. The Hospital has been operated by the Government of Barbados for a very long time, but there always seems to be some problem. The St. Joseph Hospital, the Diagnostic Clinic, and all the other Medical Centres seem to be doing a good job, and they do not have the problems we are experiencing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. When we had the old Hospital, my colleague, the member for St. Peter at the time, used to publish the *Truth*. I remember reading in the *Truth* that rats at the Hospital had bitten off the toes of a patient, and that five or ten people were sleeping in a bed. At that time the Hospital was under the regime of the Barbados Labour Party, but we were bold enough to remedy that. We tried to remove the five from one bed; we tried to remove the rats, and we built a new Hospital of which the present Government is now in control. The present Government still has five or ten in a bed.

I think I am right in saying that, within a few weeks' time when the present Minister settles down in his new office, it will be the end of him. This is a good move by the chess giant. After the last election, when the Prime Minister appointed the present Minister to the Ministry of Health every single person in this country thought that the ideal person for that Ministry would have been the present Minister because of his medical knowledge. They have some bull dogs up there who will cut off his head, and I suspect that the Hospital will now be in a worse position. I wish the Minister luck; I know he has as much courage as he is short — he is very short. You are going to have the same problems at the Hospital so long as it is under the control of the Government. You are going to have too many people placed in positions there by way of political favours.

Sir, I remember that the Ambassador to London, Mr. Tudor, gave us the assurance during the life of the previous House that everything was fine and dandy at the Hospital, and they were turning out more nurses than they could cope with. I remember the Deputy Prime Minister making a statement in this House over a year ago about the orderlies who were working at the Hospital in an acting capacity for seven or eight years. He promised us to go into the matter, but I am told that some of those people are still acting for as long as ten years. In the circumstances, you must have disgruntled people working under such conditions at the Hospital. This is due to Government's policy as far as the Hospital is concerned.

As far as the ambulance service is concerned, I say that you cannot have three, four, or six ambulances to do the work at the Hospital. Very often you have to send out two ambulances at night to convey old people to their homes after they have attended the Casualty for treatment. Some of these people have to wait seven or eight hours at the Hospital before they can receive such treatment, and you can see ambulances at eleven or twelve o'clock at night conveying old people to their homes. On the other hand, you can see some of the orderlies in these ambulances in Bridgetown making messages and going to the banks to draw money. How can you have an effective ambulance service under these conditions? You must have a separate and distinct ambulance service for emergency cases.

I believe that many of the people or their relatives who died never knew that they could have called the Police Department in a case of emergency and that the Police would have been in a better position to have them conveyed to the Hospital. They did not know this, and I believe that is where the individuals concerned fell down. I read a letter in the Advocate-News only recently regarding a nurse who went abroad and came back here with an S.R.N.; she went to the Hospital to visit an old man — (*Asides*) — I have made inquiries, and I have been given the assurance that it is true — and she saw a mug overflowing with vomit near him. The old man was lying in his bed for two or three days unchanged! I understand that the nurse, who was in charge of the ward, claimed that she had been working for almost twelve hours non-stop. She is a human and she must get tired. If such conditions prevail there, then you must expect to have these problems at the Hospital. Until you can take the Hospital out of the hands of the Government and place it into the hands of a Hospital Board you are going to get these problems recurring repeatedly up there.

3.30 p.m.

If my colleague from St. Peter were here he would give you a classic example of the operation of the kitchen where you have people baking bread to send to the doctors and nurses. I do not know enough about that, but I have heard him repeatedly in here challenge and accuse the Deputy Prime Minister for the death of the late Louis Lynch, and the Deputy Prime Minister did not have the strength enough in his legs to get up and defend the hospital on that occasion. You can say that you have a fine building built by us, because prior to its erection we were told that there were rats in the hospital, there were not enough rooms and not enough beds. We set about to remedy those defects, but the people said we

must go. We had different plans for the hospital, but the present Government won the election and have taken it over, and it is from then until today that you hear that people are dying in the hospital.

I know of a case, Mr. Speaker of a young lady who was admitted to the hospital at 2 o'clock in the morning after being there from 10 a.m. the day before. At 4 o'clock the following evening she was discharged and on her way home took ill again. She was brought back to the hospital and readmitted and was discharged two days after, and her husband had to take her to the St. Joseph's Hospital where she was kept for two or three days and is on her feet again. This is nothing which we as taxpayers in Barbados should feel proud about. Although my colleague was calling on the former Minister to resign, I do not believe he was calling on him to resign because of his inability as a Minister, but because it was a situation which he was incapable of handling, because he found those problems there. They are old problems and unless he has guts enough to establish a Hospital Board, you will have these problems repeatedly, and I look forward to seeing what the present Minister will do. I do not believe that firing doctors and reshuffling the entire Cabinet will be the answer. The answer to my mind is to have a Hospital Board directed by people who have the technical know-how. You have at its head Mr. Williams whom anybody can safely say is an able and sincere man, but his hands are tied by Government and he cannot flex his muscles because there are too many heads in the Hospital. There are cases where persons are not speaking to other persons, but of course you will have this in any business where there are a lot of people; but I would say this is not really the problem. The Government must find the answer. We are aware that they are pig-headed because anything that comes from the Opposition is wrong, and before they would carry out anything suggested by the Opposition they would rather push their heads in the sand because they feel that the Opposition would be getting the credit for it; but we have to approach the whole matter differently when it comes to places like the hospital. We cannot approach it as a matter of power politics or from the point of view of saying that this side is going to get credit for doing so and so, or that the other side said it could not be done and we have done it. We have to approach it positively. It is a serious state of affairs at the hospital

I remember that about four years before I came out of Life Insurance business I had to get a medical certificate for a man from the hospital and it took me something like four days, and

then they charged the man who was working for only \$45 a week something like \$10 or \$15 for the certificate. We have heard the Government say that they are helping the little man. Even the Head of State is a little man, but Haddock would say he is supernaturally rich.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, one of the basic rules is that you cannot refer to the Head of State is a debate. He is Her Majesty's Representative, and the Rules are there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken.

Mr. CRAIG: Is there something wrong in saying that the Head of State is rich? (*Asides*) Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw the remarks. I believe I slipped up when I said the Head of State. I meant the Head of the Government. Of course, Tom Adams will soon come in and the hon. member will keep quiet.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is most improper. Nobody in here is Tom Adams.

Mr. CRAIG: There is no Tom Adams in here. Who is Tom Adams? Anyhow, do not let us argue, let us continue. I was referring, Mr. Speaker, to the Head of the Government whom one hears from public platforms is supernaturally rich. We heard that he went to school with a great Dane at his side with the umbrella. How can you say that a poor man at the hospital means anything to him? He can fly to Canada or go to the Physician-Specialist at Delaware Clinic and be looked after; so he does not see the small man's problems.

We on this side, and I believe some on the other side would join with us to support this Resolution because it is a Resolution which is very clear about the deplorable conditions existing at the hospital. I was not in my place when the present Minister of Health and Welfare had the courage to say that there are bad conditions at the Hospital. If heads have to roll, let them roll. This can only be a move to destroy the hon. member once and for all, but I sincerely hope that through the policy which he is going to carry out we will see some improvement at the Hospital early next year. I do not believe he can walk in there tomorrow and put everything right. It must take a little time, but I daresay he will consult with the former Minister of Health who will be able to explain some of the problems he had on his hands, and even the Deputy Prime Minister would be in a position to give him a hint or two so that he can really approach the matter in the way we believe he should.

Mr. Speaker, I speak not only as a member of this Chamber but as a Barbadian with a degree of sympathy for the patients at the Hospital and the conditions under which they are looked after, and I sincerely hope that we will see an improvement that relates to the actual structure of the building.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be very long but what I would like to say is that the present Minister of Health seems to be a person who finds himself placed in positions where the public needs to be taking pot shots at his particular Ministries most of the time. I have known him for a very long time. I have had reason to deal with him in his other Ministry and I know that he is the type of person who approaches his work in a factual manner bearing in mind the needs and wishes of people and giving such consideration to the small man.
3.40 p.m.

I know he is going to find it very rough in this seat, because it has been already reported to me that they are already ganging up against him, and I would wish that when he approaches his work in this particular Ministry that he shows the same determination and desire to put right something which the general public believes is not at the moment going right. I hope that he does it fearlessly, bearing in mind that despite the opposition which he might come up against, it is the man in the street who is going to be behind him.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came into this Chamber the new Medical Bill came before the House, and my first speech in this House dealt with the question of doctors at the hospital who are able to understand the average man either on the telephone or in person when one is communicating with the other, and the Hon. Leader of the House sought to say that I was trying to gain all my laurels in one day. That Bill went to the Senate and came back, and the Hon. Prime Minister said I was correct. Why I brought this example now is this. I said before that I carry no brief for any white, black, red or yellow person, but at the hospital today there are a number of expatriate doctors who do not understand one word which is being spoken to them, and I would hope when the Hon. Minister takes up his job and is going through the Hospital he will bear this in mind. I believe that that lack of communication and the breakdown in the service at the Hospital is caused because people cannot understand each other up there. We have just had a case in the law courts and it was pathetic to see a doctor on the witness stand giving evidence that he had examined a body and

did not see any bruises or abrasions, all he saw was the body, but another doctor who examined the person while alive gave a completely different report. This was the casualty doctor who did not see these things. What can you think of a doctor who is supposed to be in casualty examining patients and in his report tells you he does not see certain things which are bound to be seen? I am no doctor, the Hon. Minister would know more than I do, he would know whether it is correct that he did not see them and whether they could appear an hour or two later but from a layman's point of view I would say that something is wrong somewhere.

I have been involved in a case where a doctor came in Court and could not spell his name in the English Language we know. He might be a good doctor, but is he able to give of his best and apply the knowledge he has when the nurses who have to work with him or the next doctor working alongside him find themselves in difficulty to understand what he is saying and he cannot understand what they are saying? I think this is where we need something of an investigation to find out whether the communication link between the personnel at the Hospital is such that would tend to give proper treatment to people who come in off the street in emergencies.

The next point I want to raise, Mr. Speaker, is the lackadaisical manner in which certain administrative functions are dealt with. As the member for St. James has said, one of the burning problems today with people who attend the Hospital is to get medical reports from the Hospital, and when you get the reports and look at them as a layman and you look at the person to whom it is alleged this report belongs, you can see something different from what the report states. Many practising lawyers find that they have to wait three or four months and write two or three letters before they get a report, and sometimes when the report comes it is not worth the paper on which it is written. You have to send it back, and in most cases you have to send the person to another doctor to have the report written based on the scars or whatever remains in order to get a proper report. This comes back to the first point I dealt with, whether or not the treatment or the method of examination in casualty in the first instance is done well enough. Is it a case that there are too many people going into casualty and the doctors have to rush through what they are doing? Is it a case that they are not giving the necessary attention that should be given to people who go to the casualty, or is it purely a question of the doctors not interested in what they do? These are the things

which I believe need some sort of examination to find out whether or not things are going to be put right.

I wish the Hon. Minister luck and I hope that he is able to do the job as thorough as he did in his former Ministry so that the man in the street would have a little more faith in this Institution. I believe there should be no political struggle at the Hospital and that any political struggle which exists should exist between the Minister and the politicians outside. Even if they want to pull against the Opposition let them pull against us but do not involve the lives of innocent persons in a political struggle. I heard somebody say that too many people run into the casualty of the Hospital, but I have always said to those persons that if they are stricken at midnight with a belly ache they would not even be able to get a doctor, and there would be no point telephoning one because he would say that he cannot diagnose a case on the telephone. My definition of a Hospital in a country like this, if you pretend to be a socialist country, is that it is the first place you will run in any emergency, so there is no question in my mind about too many people running to the Hospital. The Government has got to take into consideration that the modern doctors do not come out at night, and as my colleague has said, the old ones are afraid. If you can get a car the only place you will go is to the Hospital, and if you cannot get a car you want an ambulance to take you there, so I believe these are the considerations which should be borne in mind. I know the Minister is a practising doctor himself, he has worked at the Hospital and I hope that he will bring his medical knowledge and his practical participation to assist him to do as thorough a job as he was doing in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be long on this. The fact that four of us on this side are making statements on this subject proves the concern which we have that some of the situations which exist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital could be avoided. I should like to put an interpretation on the recent reshuffle and moving the present Minister to his portfolio in the context of remedying the existing situation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

3.50 p.m.

I believe that there are some people who perform so well, impartially, assiduously and without fear that you can put them on any hot tin roof and they will perform well. I think it is fitting that we should say that moving the Minister is a credit to him to show that he did so well in his Ministry that he had to be moved

quickly out — not the other way round, Sir. I also believe that now he is in his new Ministry he will try to perform equally well. There are some Ministries in this country that are difficult to handle. A Minister has to take unpalatable decisions; he has to step on the toes of people and sometimes on the toes of his own colleagues, and if he has to do it he does it because he finds it is his public duty. I am sure that I do not need to counsel him on this point.

My particular concern, however, is about the emergency ambulance service. I think, at least, the Minister should tell us, in the light of the existing situation, what concrete plans Government has evolved for remedying an obvious defect in hospital services. In the true sense of the word, there is really no emergency ambulance service. I think that statistics will prove that people are coming more and more to depend on the provision of this service as a welfare service and, if that is so, I believe it is incumbent on the Government to make adequate provision in this sphere. I hope that now we have had these unfortunate cases, the defects will be remedied hastily.

I only want to refer very briefly to the decisions taken to dispense with rather than to fire certain persons who were involved in the recent incidents. I think the record should be set quite clear on this point. I understand that the doctor has been given notice in accordance with the terms of his contract and, really, has not suffered any disadvantage in terms of the contractual document which he signed with the Government. In other words, he was entitled to give the Government a month's notice and to pay his passage back to the place from which he came. I understand that has been done and, rather than exaggerate the situation, we should state that quite clearly.

In the case of the orderlies, I understand that they have been allowed to retire from the Public Service with all of their pension rights in tact as well as their gratuities. If this is so it should be said quite clearly. But when all of these people have been treated in this way, in fairness to them, then I think we are still left with the situation where we must remedy the causes of these defects. I do not believe that maladministration in this case has been simply a defect on the part of the people carrying out functions. I think it is a bit deeper, and I think it is due to our omission to provide adequate service in this regard. It is in this respect that I hope the Minister will take action.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from time to time, both on this side and on the other side, reference made to the necessity for a Hospital Board. Actually in our country we seem to go around in circles. It may not be known that before the Hospital was centralised and run by Central Government it began in this country as a voluntary organisation in the first place and, secondly, being run by a Hospital Board in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century we saw fit to bring it under the aegis of the Government and of a Minister. In 1966 we passed the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Act, 1966, with the intention of again going back to the position of a Board. The official reason being given for failure to proclaim that piece of legislation has been that, since there is in Chapter 2 of our Constitution certain fundamental rights and provisions and the establishment of a Public Service Commission in a later Chapter and the safeguarding of the rights of civil servants, to change their conditions of service would be contrary to the terms of the Constitution. This has been the reason.

I am not yet satisfied, on the basis of the performance of some of the Boards I have seen operating in this country, that shifting from one to the other is necessarily an answer, unless there are certain pre-conditions for efficient operation. Some of the Boards are too politically appointed, if I may say so, without the exception of the Parks and Beaches Commission which I understand have people of both political persuasion serving there. Very few of them perform properly at all. I should hope that if all we are doing is a bit of window-dressing by sending it to a Board that perform as inadequately as some of the Statutory Boards are performing, then I would much prefer we leave the position as it is. I think what we really need is a capable, efficient Administrator; we need people who are aware of their public and civic duties; we need people who feel that they need not look over their shoulder to political masters on either side of the fence, and who feel that they have a duty to perform and perform it honestly.

The health of this country is too important to be sacrificed on the blind altar of narrow, partisan politics. I think I have made this statement before, and I would continue to say that there must be in the life of any community an area where partisan politics stops. I am sure that each one of us believes that this is the area. Now, there may be some people at the Hospital who believe that affiliation to political parties give them the right to do as they please. If that is

so the Minister must correct that feeling and each one of us must correct that feeling in their minds.

I would like to think that, at least, this debate springing out of unfortunate incidents would have brought to the minds of people the necessity to improve the standard of performance certainly in the Casualty Department, a Department which is very difficult to run. It is a Department which should be adequately staffed, and it is a Department which up to now is inadequately staffed. This has been the bugbear almost of the Hospital from time to time. I should like to think that the Minister would take a look at decentralising some of the cases which at present go to the Casualty and decentralising some of the work done at the Hospital by Consultants. There are certain Consultants that could be made to travel, at least, in one or two other parts of the Island in order to give adequate service in this area, instead of having a piling up of things as we have at present.

It is this new look that I am hoping will exist, and I trust that we will not have any more Sybil Worrells. The hon. member for the City has mentioned another case which has occurred in my constituency. Unfortunately, my constituency and its environs seem to be attracting very harsh treatment these days, but I am looking forward to better days. The gentleman who died was, unfortunately, in this case lying for a long time. A young girl of 13 from the Foundation School tried to get an ambulance to come for him, and she had considerable difficulties in doing so. She was told that no ambulance would be available until 9.30 that night when she had telephoned about five o'clock in the afternoon. That is the point. Maybe that was a genuine reason at the time until an ambulance came in, but it does show up the defect of the lack of enough ambulances.

4.00 p.m.

I want to see a supplementary Resolution brought to this House very soon so that we can remedy that defect. I hope that the Minister who is on his hot tin roof will perform that. I am sure he will. If they are doctors, crush their toes; if they are lawyers, crush their toes; if they are Trade Unionists, crush their toes. Some of us have to make statements and be criticised for them, but at least we rest on the satisfaction that we have done our duty by God, by our people and by our country. I wish you well and I hope you will take this Resolution seriously because there are bad conditions and I think you can improve the conditions, and I am sure you will make every effort to do so.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am not entering this debate to shower any praise on any Minister because I do not believe that hon. members are sincere in the praises they want to shower on the Minister. I have a tape-recording in which I heard the same members of the Opposition speaking about the same gentleman who is the Minister, and they talked about Dr. Bostic and even aligned the present Minister with a man that has no medical degrees, and it is this same medical Minister.....

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

Mr. WALCOTT: I will not sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Both hon. members will take their seats. Let the hon. member make the point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not giving way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member kindly sit down? The hon. member is on a point of order. Let him make it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who is on his way out of the Chamber said that we on this side referred to the hon. member as Dr. Bostic. I do not know if he means while we were in here because I am quite sure that during the time I was in here none of us referred to Dr. Bostic.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mrs. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell this House that since the Minister has taken over the Ministry of Health and Welfare he has seen fit to give me the responsibility of re-organising the ambulance service. I would like the members of the Opposition to know that very soon, maybe in about one month's time, I will be bringing a report to the House as regards the re-organisation of this service. We are aware that we did not have an emergency service as such, and we intend to have one, and I would like to say that the Minister is making sure that the public will be satisfied with all the services provided by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I have listened very carefully to the felicitations and incriminations coming from the other side, but I would like to assure hon. members on the other side and everyone in this Chamber that the

Government is concerned about the quality and quantity of health services being given to the people of Barbados, whether it be at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, District Hospitals or even given by the general practitioners in Barbados, because we believe that when we think in terms of health services in Barbados, you cannot isolate the functioning of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from the functioning of other Hospitals and the general practitioners in this country. I would even go further and say that we are even more concerned than they are because we in Government have to suffer in silence all the criticisms, and if we are not concerned and show active consideration and find worthwhile solutions, we will have to take the verdict of the people of Barbados when the time comes.

Much can be said about the administration of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I do not think this is the time for me to go into all of that as I have just taken over the Ministry and I would not want to prolong debate on this matter, but I would like to assure hon. members on the other side and also on this side that I will note carefully all the different aspects of administration of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I can assure them that I will do my best to improve the situation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the satisfaction of every one in this country.

There are one or two points I should like to mention and one is that I do not accept the contention that a Board is an automatic cure for all the ills at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. When one thinks in terms of a Board, there is a lot that would have to be understood before one can think of improving the situation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have no objection whatsoever on this side to the appointment of a Board, but as the hon. member for Christ Church-West has very rightly pointed out, there have been constitutional problems which have been raised with regard to the Hospital up to 1965 and the constitution of Barbados which came into effect in 1966. Until these conflicts which are primarily of a legal nature are resolved, it may be some time before we get a Board instituted.

When one goes a step further and thinks of the problems themselves in the Hospital, some of them are real, and some are manufactured or artificial. With many of the artificial problems at the Hospital, I do not want to say that it is due to interference by political parties into what goes on in the Hospital, but very often people in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are like people in the society. They have their political persuasions, and one of

the unfortunate things in Barbados itself is that even when elections have been held and won people still think afterwards that it is their duty to continue to undo or try to unseat the Government in power between then and the coming elections, and this is a problem which I will say any party whether it be the Democratic Labour Party which is in power or the Barbados Labour Party which may come into power, has to face, and unless we can get people to realise if I may quote the member for Christ Church West, that there are areas into which politics should not be introduced, then we will get this unsatisfactory state of affairs persisting, and I would like the assurance from hon. members on the other side that they will assist me in eliminating this political patronage in the administration not only of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but maybe in the health services in Barbados on the whole, because unless we can remove this, it is very unlikely that we will find a speedy solution to the ills besetting the health services of this country.

I will repeat that it is my intention to do what I can in improving the health services of Barbados not only at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I realise I have a big task facing me. I know there are many people who have their reasons or speculations why I have been shifted to the Ministry of Health and Welfare. I would like to say to them, let them continue with their speculations. I would like to say further that future events are likely to prove their speculations wrong. I will do my job, and at this stage I would like to assure them that in future debates they will be able to get an indication of all the work which will be done to improve the health services of the country, and I would like to assure hon. members that I have the support of my colleagues on this side towards improving the health services in Barbados including the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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

NOES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. A. MORRISON; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. W. R. LOWE and Mr. F. L. WALCOTT — 10.

AYES: Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE — 4.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the next Order under Private Members' Business is Order No. 10 standing in the name of the member for the City.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 10 under Private Members' Business is the instant Order of the Day.

AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1972

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a short Bill and the purpose of it is very simple. It seeks to amend the Affiliation Proceedings Act of 1963 (1963-29) to provide that instead of the maximum affiliation order for \$5 per week in respect of each child the maximum should be not more than \$10 per week. This is a very simple Bill and I do not envisage that it should meet with opposition from the other side, because as I look around I can see, for instance, the member for St. Michael North East who would appreciate that it is virtually impossible in this day and age to raise any young child on \$5 per week. The member for St. Michael West, I believe, in a recent statement said that since the last salary increases of the Government three years ago, the cost of living has gone up by 26%. In addition to that, I think one must take into consideration that there has been a devaluation in the value of the dollar, and there has been a number of salary increases in the Civil Service.

All this Bill seeks to do is to change the maximum from \$5 so that the Magistrate can order the putative father of an illegitimate child to pay not more than \$10 per week. I do not believe in the circumstances that this Bill is going to create any hardship on the part of anyone because men in this society must realise that if they are getting children they must accept responsibility for them. Therefore, I do not believe I have to make any long speech setting out the merits and necessity for this. When in 1963 the Government increased the amount of money to \$5 the Labour Party came in for a great deal of abuse for not increasing it before. Nine years later, taking into account the reasons I have given, I am going to move that this Bill be given a Second Reading. I should make one thing clear, however, that this does not mean that automatically any man who is found to be the putative father of any child would have to pay \$10, all it means is that the maximum the Magistrate can order would be \$10, and that the usual practice of investigating the means of the father through the Probation Service would still be in existence. If the father works for \$100 per week this would be a case where the maximum of \$10 could be made. There can be no objection whatsoever on the part of Government to this Bill. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, while we have no objection to the principle of the Bill in that the cost of living has increased and there would of necessity be the need for this Bill to be revised and the amount again examined, yet we would have of necessity to send this Bill to a Select Committee in Order to have the amount increased, so that I just want to draw that to the attention of the hon. member who moved the Second Reading. Government does not oppose the principle of the Bill but would expect that the hon. member would realise that the Bill has to go to a Select Committee to be fully considered.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now sent to a Select Committee, and on this side I would nominate the hon. member for St. Joseph and myself and I leave the Government to nominate their members.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Government members be co-opted and be asked to serve: the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance; the hon. member for St. Michael North West; the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works; the hon. member for St. Michael South Central; the Hon. Minister of Health and Welfare and the hon. member for St. Michael North East along with myself. Your Honour will be the Chairman of this Committee.

Mr. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

The question that those several members be appointed to the Select Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 11 under Private Members' Business is in the name of the same hon. member. I am quite sure he would like to have this sent to a Select Committee, so that both Bills could be dealt with by the same Committee. It is a very short Bill, and I am quite sure it will not take up much of the time of the House.

I beg to move that Order No. 11 be now taken.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

MARRIED WOMAN'S (SEPARATION AND
MAINTENANCE) (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1972

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that there is any need for a long debate on this particular Bill, because it relates not to illegitimacy but to married women. I commend the Bill to the Government, and I believe that they will have no objection, in principle, to this Bill. I suggest that it should go to the same Select Committee to enable us to deal with both Bills at the same time.

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

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I do not deny that the family provision legislation needs some revision. In fact, Cabinet has agreed that it needs some revision. About a year ago, Cabinet sent instructions to the Attorney-General to have an Act drafted to take care of this matter. An Act is now in the process of being drafted. I recall that our Manifesto has made reference to this, and for this reason we cannot on this side support the motion made by the hon. member for the City.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister says that the Government is not supporting the Opposition in having this Bill brought into force. He said that his reason for doing so is due to the fact that Government has already seen the need for the revision of the family law and a Bill is being drafted. Mr. Speaker, it is commonly known that if there is to be a new Bill dealing with family relationship the Bill when brought before the House will repeal the old Act then in existence. I do not believe that the hon. Minister is serious when he says that, because there is a new Bill being drafted, the Government cannot participate in amending the present legislation which limits the sum which can be awarded to a married woman to \$20. It is common parlance in Barbados that while the grass is growing the horse is starving.

The hon. member for St. Michael North West has argued that the cost of living is rising. His duty is to make sure that the worker gets a sufficient salary in accordance with the cost of living and the work which is being done. If that worker is separated from his wife — there is a separation in the matrimonial home — while the

man is working for \$60, \$70, \$80 or \$90 a week, it means that because the Government is drafting legislation the woman must be satisfied with receiving the maximum of \$20 a week which she can acquire in a magistrate's court!

Mr. Speaker, we are not thinking on this side of frustrating the actions of the Government. This Bill does not seek to stop Government from doing what it wants to do. All we are trying to do is to increase the amount paid to married women until the Government brings its Bill before the House which, obviously, we will have no reason to oppose. We are merely trying to increase the amount which the court can now award to a married woman if the court finds that she is entitled to maintenance from her husband. We are seeking to increase the amount from \$20 to \$30 a week, and we are not interfering with the fundamental aspects of the Bill itself. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do not see why the Government should at this stage keep married women, who have been separated from their husbands, in poverty by forcing them to receive \$20 a week when the Minister says that over a year ago they recognised that the cost of living has risen; the sum awarded is inadequate, and so on. We think it is time that we ask Government to participate in amending a certain portion of the Act which will give the court the authority to give a married woman a maximum of \$30 a week wherever the court finds it possible to do so.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it seems difficult for me to understand how the Government can accept the principle in respect of illegitimate children, that is to say, to increase the amount from \$5 to \$10, and yet in respect of legitimate children they do not agree that there is need to increase it from \$5 to \$10.

This Bill seeks to do two things: to increase the maximum payable in respect of a wife from \$20 to \$30 a week, and in respect of legitimate children from \$5 to \$10. Mr. Speaker, that is all.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker,...

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 4.30 p.m. The mover of the motion has also replied.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

AYES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND and Mr. A. MORRISON — 9.

NOES: Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY;
Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 4.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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.
4.30 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1972-73 No. 16

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$95,234 to supplement certain matters in the Ministry of Education. The position is that this supplementary provision is sought in the sum of \$95,234 and it includes revotes in the sum of \$84,474; so it is almost a revote as such. For example, Head 35 (1) General Administration, Item 33 – Overtime Allowance, the sum of \$1,070 includes a revote of \$224; Item 47 – Contingencies, the sum of \$3,612 is a revote. Under Head 35 (2) Item 6 – Furniture, the sum of \$20,935 is to be revoted; under Item 6A – Books and Publications the sum of \$17,586 is to be revoted; under Item 22 – Furniture and Equipment, the sum of \$9,441 is to be revoted. It is almost like that right through. It is a regular supplementary Resolution, and in this particular case almost all the items are to be revoted. If there is any extra information needed by hon. members of the Opposition, I would be willing to furnish it.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, under Head 35 (16) Sport, the whole policy of Government

towards sport needs to be reviewed, because even although a great deal of money is being spent and even although you have a Minister of Youth Affairs at every function saying that this and that are the Government's policy, from our recent performances both locally and overseas it seems that the Government's policy in respect of sport is not paying any dividends whatsoever. In our athletics, football and things like this which are supposed to be organised to a certain extent by Government where it provides and pays coaches, it does not appear as though the coaching is having any sort of effect whatsoever, and one wonders whether the whole approach of the Government towards sport needs to be re-organised. I wonder whether since the gentleman who was holding the post last has resigned there is any new Sports Officer. Perhaps the Minister can tell us in his reply.

On the question of Government coaches, I really wonder whether those people are going out and meeting the people of the country to coach them at any sort of level or are merely going to one or two selective schools to do some coaching merely to justify the salary which they are drawing, because from the performance and results shown in competitive sport in this country one can only come to the conclusion that the present Sports Department is in need of revamping. We warned this House some time ago that Mr. Wedderburn who was so adequately and suitably qualified for the job as Sports Officer to be in charge of the Sports Department was allowed to leave this country through personality clashes with one who obviously was ineffective in doing the job as Sports Officer. We have been promised hard courts and other things throughout the Island, but as yet we are not seeing anything. We have asked for a basketball coach to assist us, but we have been unsuccessful. It is the same with swimming to which our approach is really a ridiculous one. We have to depend as a swimming association on the good offices of the North Point Surf Resort which has the only Olympic Size Pool in the Island. A country like Barbados should produce so many good swimmers even at Caribbean level, but perhaps we are the worse off in swimming and this is because of failure to provide adequate swimming facilities in the country. By this I mean that if we are going to have competitive swimming or water polo at any level, the time has come when there must be a swimming pool to which not only certain people can have access. For the one at North Point I believe you have to pay so much money per evening to practise there. This is the situation not only in swimming but in lawn tennis. You talk about having the courts at the Savannah and at the Deep Water Harbaour, but, Sir, the average

young boy, not the boy from the secondary school but the chaps from Baxter's Road or in Oxley Street or some place like this would like to take part in lawn tennis, but his sport is road tennis. It means that once this is happening there is a breakdown somewhere along the line between the Government Sports Department and meeting the people of the country. It should be the function and duty of the Government Sports Officers and the coaches to go out to these people, let them know the facilities and bring them in so that we can have sports as a whole improved.

I always like to draw an analogy to this with cricket. We excel at cricket and I think this is because when you come to cricket in Barbados, you deal not only with the metropolitan parishes, but with the entire country because of the Barbados Cricket League.

4.40 p.m.

This is not so with football, it is not so with basketball, it is not so with hockey, it is not so with lawn tennis which, to a certain extent, remains a middle class game in this country, and this is where I think the Government sports programme is failing to meet the needs of the people. I have always said that what I call a mini stadium at Gall Hill should be provided for other parishes in this country. You built the Farm Housing Area without providing a proper playing field, and the time has come when you just cannot invite people to play cricket, tennis or football and expect them to undress in the open without providing pavilions. This should be the duty of a Sports Officer. I understand the Government has made provision for a number of hard courts throughout the island and I look forward to seeing this done as soon as possible so that sports will go out to the masses and not merely to any particular section.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, each time we have a debate on any matter you will note that the members of the Opposition do their best to see if they can shunt it round to the Government or to a Minister and I am sure I am going to be able to make the point in this debate that I intended making earlier. I heard the hon. member not giving this Government credit for putting up a Sports Department or expending more money in more avenues, but getting on as if a Minister now is some kind of stallion that he must now begin to breed the athletes. If they are not good it is the result of the Government's action. A Minister might not be a man who plays football, cricket or any other games, but he puts up a Sports Department as a matter of policy. The Government has given aid and assistance to the

building of the National Stadium, and there is no point in saying that the Jaycees gave it, the land up there is Government land. Trinidad and Tobago with its big economy does not have a stadium. When the Labour Party was in power they took the Bay pasture when Wanderers was using it and did not use it for the poor people to play tennis and cricket, they put more houses on it, so let us get our facts clear. The hon. member is not aware that the Bay pasture was made available and the Labour Party decided to put houses there. Why did they decide to put houses there and not provide a playing field for the people in the area? They regarded houses as more important, so do not come along now and say that we are not going out in the country because if you know something about Barbados you will know that the greater part of the population as it now stands, resides in St. Michael, Christ Church and St. James. Those are the three parishes that contain the most people of Barbados. When you go outside of those three areas you are going into the purely rural areas as far as the population is concerned. There is no point in saying that you have to go to the people, if you go to the people you have to go where they reside, with all due respect to my colleague and friend you cannot move the population from St. Michael into St. Lucy as a means of placating the people in St. Lucy, and if the people in St. Lucy cannot play football there is no point in carrying football to them. You cannot carry football in St. Joseph where you will find it very difficult to find somewhere to put a football field, so do not let us get any ideas about this.

If you are a member of an organisation, you must get up and get some of your other colleagues to try to raise funds on your own, but too many of our young people are lazy and selfish. They would not take some of the money they have and dedicate it to some of these clubs and organisations, giving them aid and assistance so that you can show what you are doing in your area instead of waiting for the Government to come along and do something. The Government cannot produce these people you are talking about — who produced Everton Weekes? You talk about the BCL, but the people created the BCL and as a result it flourished, so you do not have to ask Government's aid if it is going to flourish. I do not know if you can swim, but I can swim and I did not have any coach to teach me how to swim. I live in an island that is surrounded by sea water and anybody who lives in an island surrounded by salt water should be able to swim. They are not usually as good swimmers as those who swim in swimming pools because they become strong swimmers but not classical swimmers. You will not get a swimmer from

Bathsheba able to swim 100 yards because he never acquired that skill, but when you have swimming pools where you can learn to swim in the conventional style you will get a different thing. Water polo is a sea water sport in Barbados. All the water polo players learned the game in the sea and not in a pool, so the player who learnt his water polo in the ocean is a different player from the one who learnt his in a pool.

There is a peculiarity about Barbadians, and they must get this idea out of their heads that Barbados is a continent. There is this idea that Barbados, no bigger than Coventry, with 250,000 people must be able to produce everything that the world produces. You will expect in Barbados that we should have every Olympic sport, and this is where our problem arises. How do you expect a total population of 250,000 people, including the madmen and the people in prison, the babies and the others, engaged in all these things? When you look at that population and at the ambit of sport and try to encompass all the elements of sport, then you will see how many people you will be able to engage in all of these things.

4.50 p.m.

If cricket is a game that the Barbadians naturally take to, then accept that as a fact of life. The South Americans take to football easily; you go to any country in South America and you will see a boy or girl six or seven years old with a football in the house. That is the national game throughout South America. The Indians are good at hockey. Who can beat the Canadians at ice hockey? Do you want us to be as good at ice hockey as the Canadians are? I never had any qualm of conscience because Barbados did not get a medal at the Olympic Games. I never worried about that, but what I am worried about is the provision made for sports. I can say that Barbados has provided out of its income more facilities for people and children in sport than several neighbouring countries. Look at the school grounds that we have to maintain. Go to Guyana where there is a lot of land — about 89,000 square miles; go to Jamaica and Trinidad and then you will be able to compare what we are doing in Barbados for the children when you take into consideration the relative economies in these territories.

So far as games are concerned, we have to think in terms of the young people. You cannot provide any playing fields for old people. The National Stadium in Barbados is going to cost a lot of money. From what I have seen it is not yet a Stadium where you can hold all of the National sport there. You will have to encourage

people to pay to go to the Stadium to watch sports. The hon. member should have said that you should encourage Barbadians to pay to see sports there, and they would have more money available to do certain things.

We have too many jokers as sport organisers — I refer to people who are presidents of clubs. Why cannot all the sporting organisations in Barbados in their own interest form a virile Sports Council and make it work in order to find avenues for getting money. There are many avenues in Barbados where money can be obtained, but some people like to depend on the Government. You find people holding dances every Friday night and every Saturday night and they collect money. Why cannot some of these people who arrange sporting events endeavour to collect money from holding dances and so on?

I agree with the hon. member that some of the organisers of sports do not want to come down to meet the people. They expect all of the sportsmen to come from the Government aided schools, and they do not go out to meet other interested people. This is symptomatic in our society. The people who are organising sports must be willing to go where the people concerned with sports are to be found. That is why I said on the last occasion I would not have given the Barbados Olympic Committee any money. Do you know why? I am not agreeing to give people money when they are in charge of something and they are not prepared to make an effort to get money. They should keep dances, fairs and so on in order to make money. Trinidad can do it in order to send people to the Olympic Games and we can also do it.

The hon. member spoke about tennis. Let us be practical. No boy whose father is working for \$30 or \$40 a week can ask him for a tennis racket. He can make a bat from a piece of paling and get a stone and make a cloth ball in order to play cricket. Some parents cannot afford to give their children tennis rackets. The parents who can afford to give their children tennis rackets will find that those are the children who cannot play tennis. Tennis is regarded as a drawing room social topic. Did you go to tennis this evening? Some people ask you that question as if you were going to violin lessons.

You hear some people talking about culture. The people who can sing in Barbados are the people who cannot read and write; they have a good voice and they can sing. If you go into Chapman's Lane or the Orleans you merely have to start a hymn and the people will be able to follow you. You will also find some people who

know Shakespeare backwards, and if you go to one of those funerals the dead will be placed in the grave without anybody singing a hymn – not Abide With Me, because they do not know it. You have to improve the people you have. If people like cricket you have to give them cricket, and there is no point in believing that you can turn Barbados into a football nation. (*Asides.*) For the last 50 years Barbados has been playing football. You can bring all the coaches here; you teach the Barbadians and show them all of the arts of the game and they will turn out to be cricketers.

It seems to me that Barbadians like cricket. The public will go and watch football. The Barbadian public will go and watch bad football, because it is merely for an hour and they will go back home and feel happy about it, but so far as technique is concerned, football is something that does not seem to get into the Barbadians' feet early. The hon. member spoke about Mr. Wedderburn. He is one man and you are bound to get personality clashes in a place like Barbados where everybody knows everybody. When a man comes here he will find difficulty in any field like sport. When a man has been exposed to certain things and he comes back here in another field where he is working he will find difficulty because he is not working in a big field with professionals like himself. In the circumstances, he goes to places where he will feel at ease and be able to talk to people who think the same way as he does.

We have a system in Barbados whereby a man becomes a coach in Barbados not based on any particular qualifications for coaching as such. I will explain what I mean. If a man is a famous player, it will be said in Barbados that the Government should do something to help him. But the business people in Barbados will not say – we had one solitary case at Messrs Cable & Wireless where Wes Hall, the cricketer, was employed and he was allowed to come back here and work with a company and if he had any talent he would be able to express it. Every famous cricketer is not necessarily a good coach and we have seen that. Some of the people who are not famous cricketers are good coaches. 5 p.m.

Every teacher is not a brilliant scholar, and every scholar is not a good teacher, but this happens in all walks of life. Policy cannot be confused with personalities. If the Government has a policy of spreading sport and games throughout the Island and assisting people, you cannot blame the Government for the people within that. You will get that wherever you turn.

You have just talked about whether the hospital should be run by the Government or by a Board, but here again you are dealing with people. This Government inherited the same people. If this Government inherited a Sports Officer when it came into power, do you mean the first thing it must do is to have a requiem mass and carry him to Westbury Cemetery and bury him? You cannot do that; you have to live with him. If you come into power now, what will you do? Will you dismiss all the policemen and all the civil servants? The Government must carry on where it takes up from. The Barbados Labour Party was in power when the Sports Officers were appointed, and when the Democratic Labour Party came into power it inherited these people. You cannot fire these people so easily as the hon. member knows.

Mr. Chairman, one of the biggest sins in Barbados is that you can have an inefficient person working for you and everybody will have a criticism to make about him, but if you dismiss this person you will hear that the Government has dismissed a man that was working for the Government for the last twenty-five years. When it comes to sport, I have had my days of association with a sporting organisation in this country that had no aid from Governments at the time. I spent many years with the Barbados Football Association which never saw the necessity of getting its own football grounds in days when it could have; but again that was not the fault of anybody. The Barbados Football Association, in my view, made enough money from time to time to have owned a football ground, and I would not blame any Government because the Barbados Football Association did not own a ground. I do not think it is anything to do with the Government; it is something to do basically with people. More young people in Barbados today are given an opportunity in sport than young people at any time in the whole history of Barbados, and this is where the members of the House who are leaders in the community must be prepared to get up and tell the young people that. If all the young people had the same opportunity in all walks of life as they are getting in sport and games today, we would be saying this is a bright community. I would say that if I had the opportunity in my day like what young people have today, I would have gone to the Olympic Games as a weight lifter. I was never a weakling; I was strong. When you look at me now and you look at the hon. member for St. James, you want to know if he is my grandson, or rather if he is my grand father. I say that to show that I have always taken care of my body and athletics meant something to me, but in those days nobody helped athletes, weight

lifters or swimmers. We were excellent people in those days but we just had to fight our way through life. So I do not think the hon. member for the City can blame the Government or the institutions today for anything. In my day you had to beg the Olympic Theatre to allow you to put on a performance and they pushed you around. Those are the days people had to fight through; so I do not think it is anything in placating the young by telling them that the Government is not doing anything for the young people. Plenty is done for the young people as far as opportunities are concerned, but their fathers have reached the stage now where they do not have to depend on their things anymore. You only have to go on Graves End, Mr. Chairman, and see the number of little yachts in the sea, and you pass McEneaney Garage and see the little engines they are selling, and you will know the reasons why we are not swimming. Why should a young boy go in for the rough and tumble sports?

The hon. member for the City is right when he says that all the poor people can do is run, because all they have to do is to get a pair of old pants and a vest and they can run bare-footed. It is the poor ones that are engaged in these things and it is because they do not have the opportunities like the better-off children. So I do not think that the criticism about the Government in its sports policy is a fair one. It is a question of asking the sporting organisations to get up and do more and take more of the opportunities that have been offered to them by the Government.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, sometimes when I hear the hon. member for St. Michael West dealing with certain matters, he must capture the attention of all around, because he is either talking some nonsense or attempting to say something that sounds like nonsense. He is impractical, he is inconsistent. I am coming up from the bottom to the top, and will cut you down to ribbons. I know you will say I will try to; I know I am incapable, but when I am finished you will be jumping up all the time. The hon. member said not long ago that I looked like his grandson and then like his grandfather. I believe he is a diabetic; I believe this is how diabetics react sometimes. He does not know what is going on some of the time, but he is an authority on all subjects; he is a strong man. He says that we are selfish and will do nothing to help clubs, but he was the founder of Everton and you can ask him whether Everton has a club house yet. That is the member who tells people they are lazy and that type of thing, and every year Everton Club comes to me for money to

buy footballs. He is the President, some Lord God in it, but they have not got a club house up to this very day, and he was in it from 1940 or thereabouts, and yet he says we are selfish and lazy. Now what is he?

The hon. member referred in his opening remarks to the Bay Land. He was a member of the Barbados Labour Party at the time when we bought the Bay Land. Why did he not object to us putting houses there? He went along with us because it was the policy of the Government to provide houses for the people, but we also left a certain area at the same Bay Land for the people to use as a cricket field and as a football field, and you have had out of the Bay Land the famous Notre Dame Football Club. Gary Sobers is a product of the same Bay Land. What nonsense is he talking? What we are saying is that the Government has no programme, and from 1966 until this very day I have been calling upon the Government to ask some of the estate owners to release part of the lands which they have allowed people in the parishes to play on. You have in some of these little villages where there is no proper bus service young boys playing cricket. He talked about cricket being the only game we can play well.

5.10 p.m.

What happens is that we need to provide the young people with opportunities to improve their talents, and that is what the Government has failed to do. We were responsible for the first Sports Department which was set up and we had the vision to assist the young people of this country. The hon. member for St. Michael West is so inconsistent that on one occasion he said that we should give the young people this and that, and on the other hand he is saying that they are too lazy. It is from the parish of St. Andrew, St. Peter and St. Lucy, St. James and St. George where you find people with talent, but if we do not go to these parishes, if we do not carry that programme there, how do you expect them to develop these skills?

I heard the hon. member speak about playing water polo in salt water, and he said that it was a different thing from playing in a swimming pool. He went on to tell us how well he can swim and that any person living in an island like Barbados with the sea all around it should be able to swim. At the moment there nine members present on the other side and I doubt very much that six of them can swim. I see the hon. member sometimes running up and down the beach doing nonsense while I am in the water doing well. Mr. Chairman, the whole policy of the Government where sports are concerned is

rotten. It is in the elementary schools that you should start to develop these skills. Since the member for St. Michael West is going to say it is not necessary to have a coach to produce the Herman Griffiths, the Martindales and the Soberses.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I never even called Mr. Martindale's name, I never called Mr. Griffith's name, so I could not have said that.

Mr. CRAIG: I am not saying he called their names, he referred to Barbados producing people of the standard of the Griffiths, the Martindales and Everton Weekes without coaches, but why do you not tell the Government not to provide coaches at all? You have heard, Mr. Chairman, that cricket is our national game, and he said that you cannot carry football in St. Joseph because you cannot get the land. Do you meant that no body from St. Joseph is capable of understanding how to play football? You have people in St. James running a competition, and that is a rural area. So is St. Peter and St. Lucy. What is wrong is that the Government has not yet been able to provide enough people in the Sports Department to carry out a proper policy, nor do they have the equipment at their disposal. If you build a school and you put playing fields without pavilions, what is the use of having the playing fields? Do you want somebody to catch a bus from Belleplaine to come to the National Stadium? You have to carry the game down there.

There was a time when, I think, H. B. G. Austin carried a team to England and because there was a black man on the team he could not stay in the hotel with the others, and that is why it hurts my heart to see the Minister for Tourism sitting in this House. All over the world there has been progress and if Barbados could get enough coaches in football, lawn tennis, etc., this would be better. Jamaica does not have a stadium but they spend thousands of dollars sending their athletes abroad and bringing in coaches. Trinidad just brought a junior team from Brazil, but the Barbados Government will not do this because people like the hon. member for St. Michael West can afford to go to Trinidad to watch a football game. You talk about people not assisting themselves, but look at the Cycle Union and see how much they are doing to help themselves. You can even look at the progress car racing is making in Barbados.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, is the hon. member including car racing as poor people's sport?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, you can go to Bushy Park and see thousands of people watching

car racing. You do not understand that perhaps in another three or four years you will find some poor boy up there racing with them. For years the Government did nothing to assist the Amateur Boxing Association in this country. Nowhere in the schools will you find a pair of boxing gloves so that Barbados will be able to produce another Joe Walcott.

5.20 p.m.

You cannot find a pair of boxing gloves in any school, is that not sport? (*Asides.*) I do not know why somebody does not lock up Lester Whitehead for allowing him to get in here! When I look around and see some imbeciles in the place I really tremble. Imagine that you were able to win a seat in here! Democracy is really a serious thing in truth.

Mr. Chairman, you look at the clubs around here playing netball. If you go to the Esplanade you will find that nearly all of the clubs are from St. Michael or Christ Church. You have a club at the Alleyne School and one from Alexandra School. Go into those areas and see whether you can find a netball pole. I am talking about a poor man's sport now. Car racing is a rich man's sport. Go into any of the areas where you have these netball clubs and see whether you can find any netball rings or basketball rings. (*Asides.*) I spent my money to buy the rings at Trents. Do you think I am like you? You do not give the youths a cent, but you want to use you voice on them. You are a political joke.

Mr. Chairman, what the hon. member said originally is true. The Government has a dog-eared, half-baked policy, and by not having a proper policy it cannot have a programme or implement it. I hope that many people in here and in this country will understand that they should take a leaf out of the Deanes' book. I think that would be a good gesture. That is what you call a good public gesture when they allotted three acres of land to the Government on which to build a school.

For years I have been saying in here that the Government should inquire from these estate owners if they would allocate, even at a peppercorn rental, some of the uncultivated land in the villages. In a village you can find four or five cricket teams all playing cricket on the lands of plantation owners. I feel that if the Government were to approach these plantation owners they would allow the Government to take over the land used as playing fields and provide the necessary facilities as a result of which we would be able to get a better type of sportsman in this country. I cannot sit here and hear the

criticisms levelled at the Barbados Labour Party to the effect that we did nothing about sports and so on without voicing my opinion. It was our policy to assist sport in this country. The hon. member was in the Party when the Barbados Labour Party bought the land at the Bay Land and not a single word was said by him. Today he said that we bought the Bay Land and put houses on it. Of course, he bought land to put his houses on. You have Norwood, River, Bagatelle and Sandford. Very soon the people will not be able to play games on lands owned by plantations because you will soon be cutting them up and selling them at \$1.50 a square foot. You will call them Bagatelle Heights, and Norwood Park. This is the sort of Socialists Government we have in Barbados. (*Asides.*)

Even if we have nothing to say we can afford to sit here and as long as the hon. member for St. Michael West gets up and talk, we can get up and reply to him. I would refer to him as a shadow of a shadow, and he was really never a shadow.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I have on record, as the hon. member for St. Lucy would say, that the hon. member who has just sat down has told us quite openly that when it comes to telling lies there is nobody who can tell them like him. He said to us openly that he told the Leader of his Party that he does not want to deal with matters as they are dealing with them, because all he intends to do is to lie. That is all I have to say; he can get up and deny that.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I would object to the remarks as far as the record is concerned. I can deal with him otherwise. I am asking the member to withdraw his remarks that I told him I will tell lies.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am saying that he told the hon. member for St. Lucy and myself those words while sitting at the dinner table. I did not ask him anything. He said that if he were dealing with my campaign that he would not go in for what the Leader of the Party was talking about, and all he would do would be to tell the biggest lies. He said that to me more than once. The hon. member is here and he can support me. He was telling me that his Leader was too academic for him, and all he was dealing with is lies. After he told the lies the people could do what they like. I intended to throw it back at him. I allowed him to speak at the table; I sat down and laughed and listened to him. I knew that the day would come and it has now come for me to throw it back at him.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, he got up and accused me of telling lies. Now I am defending myself(*Asides.*)

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman,....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will now take their seats. There is nothing for the record one way or another. The "lies" and the "no lies" were not mentioned in this Chamber. No conversation went on in this Chamber, as far as I am concerned, regarding "lies". Therefore, that closes the matter on both sides. I will now hear the hon. Minister.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have been described as the Minister of All Affairs, but I can afford to speak on games because in this Chamber I am the only member who has represented Barbados in Inter-colonial Football. You can check the records and see whether that is so. When I talk about games, I am talking as a representative for Barbados in football. I have something to prove it.

The whole question of games is a question of history. In days gone by when you built a school nobody made any attempt to provide a playing field for the school. I am dealing with the primary school to which the working class man sends his son. You will, therefore, find several schools on Church lands without any playing fields. Now, there are 126 schools in the Island. We have girl schools and boy schools with no facilities in them for obvious reasons: perhaps it was a question of not having money; perhaps the English Administrators did not care; and, perhaps, in the days of the Barbados Labour Party the idea of spreading education rather than catering to a healthy body may have been the predominant factor.

I went to school at St. Augustine's Boys' School, and I know that if you were fielding at cover-point and a batsman pushed a ball towards you, it would go over your head, because you would be in a gully and he was on top. If you look at the playing field at St. Giles where the father of the hon. Leader of the Opposition went to school, I do not think it has improved since the late Leader of the Opposition went to St. Giles Boys' School, if they had a field in those days at all.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I hope the hon. member will know that the playing field was good enough to produce a Barbados player in cricket.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We appreciate that; he was a good wicketkeeper. If you see where Charlie Griffith was produced in St. Lucy you would shudder, too. I am saying that individuals and people who have talents can always reach the top. When I was at school it was the man who was not bright. The bright boys would get through, and it was the average and below average that you had to cater to. The Government has a policy, and if the Minister of Education were here he would tell you that he does not want to erect any new school until he has at least 9 acres of land on which to erect it. As a matter of fact, his colleagues have asked him from where can he get 9 acres of land on which to put a school? This is a recommendation by the Town and Country Planning Department, and this is insisted on by the Hon. Minister of Education every time he erects a school.

5.30 p.m.

That is why St. George's school is going to have a nice playing field; that is why the new school at the Garrison is going to have a nice playing field; that is why today you see a Resolution for money to improve the St. Christopher's playing field. In dealing with the schools to which the children of the working class man go we have got to gradually improve the playing fields. We bought land to put a playing field in Welchman Hall as the hon. member for St. Thomas knows. My Ministry says it is going to cost \$118,000 to put it in shape. I did not give that figure; it was the technicians. The Ministry says it will cost \$130,000 to put the one at Farmers in shape; so you can see the money involved in putting these fields into use for the people. It is going to take time, but we have this policy as far as playing fields are concerned that wherever possible the Government will acquire land if it is near to the playing field to extend the playing field, and we will try to get the playing fields to all elementary schools up to a reasonable standard. We are going to put in at the girls' schools wherever possible netball and if possible tennis courts. These things cost money. We are not oblivious to the need for this. For 126 schools you can see how long it is going to take, but we are not building any new school unless we have land and a playing field is incorporated. When we build the new secondary school in St. James at Trents, another playing field will be incorporated in it. We will endeavour to give the people the Garrison to use as a playing field; so we are endeavouring to provide the basic facilities.

Let us go on to the other needs. The member for Christ Church made a basic point. The Americans do not play cricket and they are the richest nation in the world; so you have got to

settle for certain basic things that spring out of the people. The tourists complain about people playing beach cricket. They play cricket on their knees, they play cricket in every form; stewed cricket, boiled cricket, fried cricket and cricket in all forms in this Island — on their knees with a half of a bat, standing with half a bat, or with a piece of clammy—cherry. That is how I learned my cricket. I think the member for St. Thomas would know I also got my First Eleven cricket colours at Harrison College and scored 100 runs before lunch in first class cricket. I know about games; so I know what I am talking about. I was a little country boy born in St. Simons and went to school in St. Simons.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have heard of Harry James in the United States blowing his own trumpet, but it looks as if we have imported one into this Assembly today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not ashamed to blow my own trumpet, because I came from far down like the same poor boys you are talking about. Can I expect you or the Leader of the Opposition to blow my trumpet? If I waited for you to blow my trumpet you will blow it over my grave playing the "Last Post". If I do not want you to blow my trumpet blowing the "Last Post" in Westbury Cemetery, I will blow it while God gives me health and strength.

The member for St. Michael—West made a good point. Let us settle for an area of sport. As far as cricket is concerned, I do not think the hon. member for the City can quarrel. You know the coaches; they are Seymour Nurse and Charlie Griffith and in cricket they go to the schools, and they can only go to the schools that have playing fields; so the aim of the Government is to improve the playing fields so that the coaches can go there.

Now there is another basic point in Barbados that we fail to stress. You should not compare Barbados with Jamaica because Jamaica has some Chinese, some Machados and they have Red Stripe who spend thousands and thousands of dollars to sponsor sport. Not one man in Bridgetown will spend ten cents to sponsor sport or bring a professional boxer, or spend money like they do in Jamaica. They are now trying to get the George Foreman—Frazier fight in Jamaica, because people are prepared to put out money. Name a man to me who is prepared to underwrite in Barbados to the tune of a few thousand dollars and take his chance; so Jamaica must be better. The sugar estates hired J. K. Holt and Valentine to coach on the estates. The ones here do not even give you the sour grass patches to put up a playing field. They are selling it

now to the bald headed eagle as rab land to build houses to make a living. You cannot get the rab land that the horses and mules that used to draw the canes used to graze on, because now that they have no more mules you have people walking about buying it to sell to poor people at \$1.50 per square foot. Do not let us compare Jamaica in that sense. They have a social conscience; they do not only look at money, but they spend money in the interest of the people.

Do you think anybody in Barbados would even dream of sponsoring the Frazier-Foreman fight? They do not even sponsor a good half of a West Indian championship of any kind; so the Government has got with its limited resources to concentrate on sport. We are getting a football coach because you know Barbadians do not like their own. You have Reggie Haynes whom they felt played with Everton and therefore cannot coach, he has not been anywhere, he never saw Arsenal play Spurs; so he does not know football. We are bringing in a coach. This is going to cost us some money in the Budget. We cannot sponsor all sport, and you can only sponsor sport when the places to which the coaches can go are in a good condition. What is the sense in sending a coach to St. Augustine's when the playing field has a tilt? The Government has these overheads to run and to bring these playing fields up to a reasonable standard for playing on. Those that do exist and are in bad condition must be brought up to standard, and I say that if the Ministry of Communications and Works can give an estimate of \$130,000 to bring the playing field at Farmers in shape, and an estimate of \$118,000 to bring the one at Welches in shape, which is nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ million alone for two playing fields, you will see the cost to this Government.

Mr. Chairman, today you have a Resolution to improve St. Christopher's. We are building new schools and insisting on playing fields as part of the development with pavilions. We have acquired some land at St. George to improve a playing field at St. Jude's. Do you not call this policy where a Government deliberately sets out to improve playing fields? For one reason or another nobody thought of playing. Cricket was a big man's game in those days unless you went to Harrison College. You heard the hon. member for St. Michael West asking why have Harrison College, Lodge and Combermere with good playing fields dropped out of the First Division? When I used to play First Division cricket, I used to tear these people to pieces on Saturday and give them a lot of leather hunting. There were Boogles Williams, Clyde Walcott and myself. They have the same good playing fields and yet they have dropped out of

First Division cricket. They cannot even win a match now in the Intermediate Division and are being beaten in a day and half a day. Is the Government responsible for Harrison College which has been in First Division from the time Noah was a little boy or Adam was a lad, dropping out of First Division? Don't you see the whole attitude of youth to games apart from the numerous diversions and apart from a lot of things that need remedying? There is the whole question of zoning schools where a boy who is going from St. Lucy to Lodge School cannot take part in extra curricular activities; or a boy going from St. Lucy to Combermere who has to catch a bus as soon as school finishes. All these are distractions and you cannot blame the Government for that.

There are two policies that we have adhered to. Wherever possible, provided that land is available, and provided the economy of the country can stand it, we are going to improve and provide playing fields at every one of the 126 primary schools which are the poor man's schools, because the secondary schools already have sporting areas. Wherever possible we are going into areas and villages as we have done at Gall Hill. We have bought land at Farmers, we have bought land at Welchman Hall, we have bought land at St. Patricks and at Lowthers for playing fields, and wherever possible we are going to provide playing fields in the community to which the coaches can go.

5.40 p.m.

There are a lot of other areas, but everybody expects the Government to do these things. You criticised the hospital, you want a resolution for vans and an emergency service, but must you get the vans at the expense of the playing fields? You must have a priority. The Americans do not complain because the Americans do not play cricket, each country has its strength. The Brazilians do not play any cricket, cricket is not a national game like football. Each country must have its speciality, and thank God cricket is ours. If we can produce the cricketers to build up the West Indies, then this Government would have done more than its fair share of contributing to the sport of Barbados. The Government does not contribute to Sports Clubs willy-nilly, we insist that they raise a certain amount, that they submit their statement to the Government, and it is on that basis that we make a contribution to any overseas tour or to any organisation. This happened in the case of the last Olympic team. They had to submit the amount of money they raised and we then gave them money as a result of that, and that was based on what they raised. The Government is doing its best with a multiplicity of other diversions in the community; television, easier money, yachting, sailing, you name it. In my day you could not even go down by the Aquatic Club because they would

throw you off the beach, but now we have a Club there where anybody can go.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, could you go by the St. Lawrence Hotel in your day, Mr. Minister, where there was a certain Captain Morgan?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I went to St. Lawrence Hotel when it was in existence. When I was a little boy, I was in St. Andrew, later when I had to walk from Harrison College to Bank Hall I had no time to walk up to St. Lawrence Hotel. All I am saying is that in this community at the moment there are a multiplicity of sports in which people in all social spheres can engage. As far as tennis is concerned, if you want to play tennis you must be able to purchase your own rackets, the Government cannot provide 1,000 rackets as the hon. member for St. Michael West said, we will provide the coach. I would like to be able to play golf but I cannot do so because I have reached the stage where I might get a heart attack, but if I were to apply for membership at the Golf Club they could not black-ball me.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir, I do not think the hon. member should have any fear of being blackballed in the Golf Club because he has always said it is the great hope of the DLP.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Go and tell the people of St. Michael South Central that foolishness.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, the hon. member may rest assured that that same argument was used against me in Christ Church West, and if he would take a leaf out of my book he will win all the votes in the area.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The economic change in the society has enabled a lot of persons who formerly would have to restrict their activities to the limited facilities that existed, so that tennis is open to the lower and upper middle classes. Yatching is also open. If I applied for membership of the Golf Club and I was blackballed it could not last three weeks after that, my Government would have to be corrupt. Anyhow, I have made the point, it is going to take a long time but we are going to increase the number of communal playing fields, and at the same time we are trying to improve the primary schools because the secondary schools already have these facilities. Any new secondary schools will have playing fields as part of the overall plan. We aim at improving the primary schools and giving communities playing fields whenever we can find suitable land, whenever the economy can afford it.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to join this debate but I was prompted to do so by two impressions which were left. One was given by the member for the City and the other by the member for St. Michael West. I believe that the comments were made from the point of view of illustrating a point, but at the same time the impression which was left is one which I would obviously have to take up. The hon. member for the City asked about football being played in St. Lucy, but let me inform him that we have a football club in St. Lucy which won the third and fourth division cups in the BAFA competition this year. This is important in that it relates to another point I want to raise.

A lot of the problems which we face in sport here in Barbados today is as a result of the attitude of the people who are involved in sport. When one looks back over the years and sees the tremendous amount of hard work which sportsmen put into any sporting endeavour in which one was involved, one can well see the rewards which accrued to one were well deserved, but one does not see this same kind of attitude displayed today. No amount of provision which the Government can make from the point of view of Sports Officers, playing fields and what have you, will necessarily improve the sporting quality which we have today. I think that unless this attitude towards sport is changed, unless people who are involved in sport are prepared to really make the kind of sacrifice which is so necessary for success in any endeavour we are not going to get anywhere in sport.
5.50 p.m.

Now, this does not mean that the Government does not have the responsibility of giving some kind of assistance from the point of view of making the facilities available as well as the provision of coaches. In the absence of the kind of dedication and the national talent which will come out of people, I doubt whether we will be able to get anywhere in particular. One just has to look around the country and look back over the years to see the sports men we were able to produce and recognise the validity of the point I am making. I just want to make the point that we have produced some great sportsmen in St. Lucy.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two points I should like to raise. I think there was a misunderstanding that I was criticising the Government's policy as regards sports. What I did say was that the Government's policy with regard to sports was, obviously, not as effective as it should be. I was not saying that the Government has no policy with regard to sports. The reasons may very well be that those responsible for

carrying out Government's policy as regards sports are not effective coaches and things like that.

I remember some time ago when the member for St. Michael South Central spoke about the things the companies in Jamaica did for sports. I remember in 1970 when there was this talk about Black Power in the West Indies; there was the April revolution in Trinidad and so on, that at that stage the business community in this country for the first time became concerned with what was going on around them. At a meeting with some young members it was pointed out that there were many people working at plantations and living around the plantations who had no community centre and so on. Although one may say that it is basically the Government's duty to provide the playing fields and other social amenities, yet the business community — particularly the Barbados Shipping And Trading and other plantation owners had a duty to provide some sort of means to assist the people of this country. Even if the Government was going to provide the technical coaching and the equipment, yet the business community in this country as a result of what they have been able to get out of this country over a period of 8 years....*(Asides)* I am not telling anybody so. I will tell the Barbados Workers Union to ask for it, too. *(Asides)* I do not know if I am taking a leaf out of your book or you are taking a leaf out of mine.

I am referring to the time when the business people were disturbed about Black Power in the West Indies and wanted to know what they could do to help people. They had a meeting with some people whom they felt were involved in Black Power in Barbados and asked what they could do to assist people. It was pointed out to them that they had made a lot of money out of Barbados over a number of years without putting back anything to assist the workers who had given them the economic strength that they have in this country. I was with the group of people, and we told them that there was a lot of uncultivated land that could be given to the people to make playing fields. I do not believe that the land should be given to the Government and the Government should go and plant grass on it for the people. I think the land should be given to the people in the area and they should do things for themselves. *(Asides)* I do not think it is merely a question of Government approaching the plantation owners. I think that the business community themselves should be aware of what is taking place in this country.

Mr. Chairman, when you look at an organisation as big as the Barbados Shipping and Trading and you see that they do not have a playing field, a community centre or anything like

that for the large number of employees there it is a shocking state of affairs. I am not breaking it down into groups. I think the Barbados Shipping And Trading are the second largest employers of labour in this country after the Government. They should not be waiting for people to come and ask them for any playing field and so on. It is their duty to put back something into the country for the people of Barbados.

When the hon. member for St. Lucy said that football teams in St. Lucy had won the Third and Fourth Division Cups, it justifies my argument that you must carry sports to the people in this day and age. The coaches must go out to the people and not merely go to one or two secondary schools and feel that they are doing a good job.

Mr. Chairman, I was not here when the Government dealt with the question of voting money to send a team to the Olympic Games, and I do not want to cast any reflection on that at this stage. I feel that the time has come when all the sports organisations in this country along with the assistance of the Government should be able to establish a National Sports Foundation in this country with money coming from all of these Overseas Banks here, the Barbados Shipping And Trading, and other business places in this community should be able to contribute to it in order to form a basis — *(Asides)* — I do not care who contributes; it could be the Arabs, the Jews or the Syrians — so that we would have money that we could use annually instead of coming to the Government to ask for \$20,000 to send athletes to the Olympic Games or \$25,000 to send them somewhere else. You would have a basis of money that could be invested and the income from it could be used for the benefit of sports throughout this country.

I have made my position known privately. If sporting organisations in this country want to compete at a West Indian level, I would be in favour of it. But it beats me how the athletes in this country, for instance, could expect to complete at Olympic level without even trying to complete at a regional level! You have the Shell Shield Cricket, but other than that there is nothing in another sport where we can compete at a regional level. Let us look at football. Is Barbados going to enter the World Cup football without trying to organise a West Indian Championship similar to the Shell Shield? The same thing should be done with hockey and so on. *(Asides)* I do not think we can start to pay for the Olympic Games and come down. We have to start from the bottom. 6 p.m.

There is one other point I want to make on what the member for St. Michael—West said about lawn tennis and things like that. If the Government is going to provide hard courts throughout the country, what is the point of doing that unless it is going to provide some sort of basic equipment which would include tennis rackets etc. You should not deny a poor boy in this country an opportunity of playing lawn tennis because his father cannot buy him a racket. It is discriminating against the poor and underprivileged people in this country. The same thing happens in swimming. It is accepted that swimming in a swimming pool where you compete at international level calls for certain things. You should either stop wasting money by giving grants to people to go to take part in water polo or swimming, or provide proper equipment and facilities, because it cannot make sense coming here and telling me that you are providing money to send somebody on an Olympic team to swim or to play water polo when you know you do not have the basic facilities you should have in Barbados. The same thing applies to hockey. You are going about the country and seeing the people, and that is why I say it is not that the Government has not got a sports programme, but the present programme in sport is failing because it is not reaching the masses of people.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I will be very short. I know this is not my subject, but I do not believe that I would be doing myself and my record over the last year in this House justice if I did not get up and comment on the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. It is the best speech I have heard him make in here; some would say the only speech. It had its few little errors, but I am glad to say that I agree with a great deal of what he has said. I cannot say I agree with him when he talked about clubs. Just to mention something, I hope he never thinks that I agree with him about something that he said, that he is a Minister of Government so he must be a member of every club. It would be an affront to my self-respect to think that when I was not a Minister of Government and not very well off that the hon. member for Christ Church North Central who is in the same position could become a member, say, of the Bridgetown Club and I could not be. It would be an affront to my self-respect then to go forward with the same people who did not want me when I was not a Minister, but who perhaps might want me now; but that is in passing. I would be glad to sponsor him for membership of the Union Club of the St. Thomas Constituency Branch of the Barbados Labour Party if he comes to live up there or any where else. (*Asides*) The hon. member asked if I want him.

I made a note on this sheet of paper in front of me that having heard the vein in which he speaks today, I will withdraw any objection I might have had of his joining us on this side of the House, he spoke so well and so sensibly today.

The preliminaries apart, I just want to speak very briefly about what he opened his speech with, which was the playing fields in St. Thomas. Sir, I was appalled to hear that the Government should undertake the purchase of two playing fields and then be quite unable to turn them into playing fields, after the hopes of the people particularly in Welchman Hall have been raised, because of the cost of equipping them fully.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We are not refusing to turn them. We have had a meeting with the Ministry of Education and we have had to revise our Estimates, and you are going to get the playing fields. We have not abandoned them having bought them, but we have had to have meetings to try and work out the cost because we could not spend \$130,000 and \$118,000, but you will get them early in the new year.

Mr. ADAMS: I am very glad to hear that. I have little doubt that I will be excluded from the opening functions for playing fields, but none—the-less I may still come and lime as the Minister and Mr. Boxill make the appropriate speeches, but that again is by the way.

There are three playing fields in St. Thomas owned by Government and not one is in really good order. One has a good pavilion, that is at Bagatelle, but no effort has ever been made and nobody has ever got to grips with the problem of levelling the playing field properly. It is obvious it will need a guard wall by the road and a little earth moving down from the hill. Nobody has ever got to grips with it. The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister tried, I believe, during his last term as Minister of Community Development at that time, but nobody has ever really made a serious effort to turn that into a good playing field. It seems to me that the Welchman Hall playing field is very level for Welchman Hall, because Welchman Hall is an area whose altitude varies from about 780 feet at Holy Innocents to nearly 1,100 feet at the top of the gully, and it is a difficult district in terms of terrain to find that much flat land. As it happens, the only playing field that they use at Welchman Hall, one of the most populous districts in the country, is the old place which I believe was Highland plantation yard 80 or 90 years ago, next to where Highland House was. It is a flat area very high up at the top of Highland Hill, so to speak, but subject to the same difficulties as St. Augustine's to which the hon. member referred. A

good stroke would land the ball in Highland gully or Lion Castle gully. I would ask the hon. member, revised estimate or not, to be sure he can pull off this early in the new year promise which he has offered for the levelling of that playing field.

The Farmers playing field I would put a less high priority on, but if that can also be done at the same time I am sure that the residents of St. Thomas and St. Andrew will be very glad.

I said I did not speak on this subject and it is with regret that I have to say that although it is not my subject, I have had to advert to this particular problem of the playing fields, I suppose, every three or four months during the six years and odd that I have been in the House of Assembly. I hope that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central will put me out of my misery both ways. Continue to speak in that vein and nobody would have to call him a sleepy braggart or anything else. I think that is the expression of many years. Continue in that vein and he would not even need to tell us he used to play football for Barbados. I was going to say at one stage I am sure there is no other member of this Chamber who has played cricket for Magdalen College's Second Eleven beside myself, but I do not think that any sarcasm would be in order in the circumstances. Just let us thank him for the sentiments he has expressed in what he said he will do.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is said that some people can blow trumpets well. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works said he would like to blow his own trumpet in the "Last Post". I knew he was an impossible man all along....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I did not say that. I said while I am alive I must blow my own trumpet, and that if I left the Opposition to blow my trumpet, it would be the "Last Post" they would be blowing with me in Westbury Cemetery.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am very thankful for that.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. The hon. member please must understand that if there is any hostility over on this side of the House to him, it cannot equal in volume the covert hostility on his own side. He can be quite sure that there are members on that side much more interested in and capable of blowing the "Last Post" on him than anybody on this side. We actually like him over here; we only wish he would behave himself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to hear the "Last Post" being blown over him as

yet. He spoke about what the Government has been doing and he said that they are bringing up to standard those playing fields which they have already got, but in all he has spoken, I have not heard him say one thing about playing fields in St. Joseph. The St. Elizabeth School was in existence for some years now, and from time to time I have come in here and asked them to at least finish the playing field, but nothing has been done.
6.10 p.m.

The new St. Bernard's School was opened in a flurry in 1970 when I heard that if the people had voted a certain way the school would have gone. The school is still there but the playing field is in an unfinished state. Since the people in St. Joseph cannot get the playing field, I wonder if the Minister would introduce some of the sailing which is being done in Bridgetown into St. Joseph.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this falls properly under the portfolio of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Sport and Community Development. I will do the work for them by making the heavy equipment available to them, so when you refer to the Minister I take it you refer to the Minister of Education.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, all afternoon I heard the Hon. Minister defending the Ministry of Education but at this point in time he is now backing out.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not backing out, I am telling him what the constitutional position is. He can check any Gazette and see that the Prime Minister appointed Mr. Erskine Sandiford as Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Sport and Community Development.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member has been drifting so long that it seems as if we have forgotten what we are dealing with. This is a Resolution for the sum of \$95,234 under the Ministry of Education, and I have given the answers to all those questions already. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works explained Government's policy very well indeed so there is no necessity to repeat what was said. This falls under the Ministry of Education but I dealt with it in the absence of the Minister.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some of us fall asleep and wake up in a hurry to catch on with what was going on before, but if when we wake up we would wash our faces, put on our glasses and start to read the Resolution we would see that it refers to Item 14 - Games.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you mean that the Chairman fell asleep?

Mr. BOLDEN: No Sir, I said some of us, but one thing I am sure of is that I have not been asleep because I was standing. All I am saying is that I heard about all the work that is being done and I want something done in St. Joseph too. The Minister of Communications and Works is now running after saying that Government's policy is to finish, and I am commenting on the Government's policy. Do not tell me that it was explained already and that I should sit down because I would talk for another hour and a half.

The question that the Resolution for \$95,234 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COM-
PULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT RETREAT TENANTRY ROAD,
ST. LUCY**

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple Resolution. Government has plans to set up communal baths and latrines in several areas of Barbados, and this is one. This is a policy Government has been pursuing for quite some time, and hon. members on the other side have no cause to be worried because Government intends to carry out this policy all over Barbados. In my time I have piloted Resolutions to acquire land in St. James and in other areas.
6.20 p.m.

On this occasion the land is situated in St. Lucy in a populated area. It is intended to serve the people at Connell Town and Retreat areas. It is approximately 2,500 square feet, and the Government proposes to use the Land Acquisition provisions to acquire it in order that a proper title can be had for these lands.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief in the comments which I have to make on this

Resolution. I understand that the Government is still in two minds concerning the establishment of Communal Baths and Latrines, since I have understood from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that in some areas he is not in favour of the establishment of these Baths and Latrines. I think he has made a point which should be looked into, and it is that it may well be that it is much cheaper and certainly much better from the point of view of health to put water into certain areas than to establish these Communal Baths and Latrines.

I should like to draw to the Minister's attention the fact that when these Communal Baths and Latrines are constructed they are not always adequately maintained. In particular I should like to make the point in relation to the Communal Bath and Latrine which has been established for several years now in the constituency of Christ Church West at the corner of Dayrell's Road and St. Matthias. It is in a shocking state; it needs a complete face-lift, and I make bold to say that it needs moving from that point into a much more convenient point.

One of the things that the Government must bear in mind when establishing these facilities is that although they are necessary they are not always attractive, and certainly a person does not always want to advertise every time he goes to a latrine or to a bath. If anyone just looks at the one at the corner of Dayrell's Road and St. Matthias one would see the great inconvenience, and it is lacking in respect of the qualities for having it sited at this particular point. I must, therefore, ask the relevant Ministers, first, to do something to update this one and, secondly, if possible to move it from that area into a much more convenient area.

I hope that in siting this Communal Latrine and Bath at Retreat Tenantry Road in St. Lucy, the same mistake is not being made as was made in the case of the one at the corner of Dayrell's Road. Let me state that that was not established by this Government. I believe it was established long ahead of the Labour Party Government as well, but we learn by experience and I would ask that the Minister give some consideration to this.

I also note that he has moved various Resolutions in relation to other constituencies. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central, the hon. member for St. Michael South East, the hon. member for St. Michael South and myself share adjoining borders in an area called Britton's Hill, Clapham and Gunsite Road. There are numerous people who have approached all of us to ask for some consideration for similar facilities in that area. I am pressing this as an urgent need not only

for me, but for the others and for the constituents whom they represent. I can assure the hon. member of my support and vote on any Resolution to establish similar facilities in this area. I hope he will soon see fit to get this passed through Cabinet and brought before this House.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Item on the Order Paper is Item No. 4 which stands in the name of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COM-
PUSLORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT BOURNE'S LAND, CHRIST
CHURCH**

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to acquire, again, a parcel of land. We have heard so much about sport, playing facilities and playing fields in this Hon. Chamber this afternoon that it is not necessary for me to say very much more about this. This Resolution calls for the acquisition of a parcel of land to improve the playing facilities at the playing field for St. Christopher's Boys' School.

I need not emphasise the point. It has been done here very adequately this afternoon. Everybody knows of Government's interest in sport in this country, and I can do no more.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in seconding this Resolution, I am hoping that not only will the land be acquired, but that the surface of the playing field will be levelled and the various dangerous rocks which are now protruding will be removed.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be long except to say that I am glad to see that the people at Bourne's Land and the St. Christopher's Boys' School will get this particular facility. A lot of people have been blowing their own trumpet in this House this afternoon, and I should like to say that from the point of view of my mother and myself we have allowed the people of St. Christopher and Silver Sands to use for several years the facilities of open lands which we have in that area. I now own these lands and I have continued that policy, because I think it is fitting that we should make some contribution to the area since we have no immediate use for the land. I can

assure the Government that, so far as my family is concerned, we are quite willing to donate a sufficiently large area for a road in order that the tenants in that area can properly get out from their houses across the pasture into the buses concerned.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Let us have that in writing.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF
A PARCEL OF LAND AT THE GARRISON
TO THE BARBADOS RUGBY
FOOTBALL CLUB**

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is another sport Resolution. We seem to be on sport or games all afternoon. Again this is another contribution by this Government to sport in Barbados. This Resolution sets out for the approval of this Chamber the terms of a lease which is proposed to be given to the Barbados Rugby Football Club. The area of land is 920 square feet; the Club House will be situated somewhere near the centre of the playing field adjoining or next to a booth owned by the Barbados Turf Club.

Now, Rugby is a mass sport. The subscription to this Club is less than \$1 a month, that is, \$10 per year. The cost of this building which the Club proposes to erect is approximately \$12,000.
6.30 p.m.

The design of this building will be in keeping with the one owned and operated by the Barbados Turf Club.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not opposing the passing of the Resolution except that I take exception to the Minister talking about mass sport. My concern here is not that I object to the lease at all, but I think one has to admire the Rugby Club for its get up and get spirit in working on the establishment of a club house, and unlike many other sports they have been succeeding in this aspect of it. What concerns me at this stage is the question of the whole use of the Garrison Savannah and whether we are getting the maximum use of the playing fields as presently laid

out, because quite recently on behalf of a club within my constituency, Oxley United, I had asked the Minister of Sport's permission to use Weymouth and he said that no application had been made. Since then I know personally that an application has been sent in on behalf of Oxley United for the use of part of the Garrison Savannah. I hope that in granting this lease to the Rugby Football Club we are not told at a later stage that because of the way in which the lease was granted or because of the position of the portion of land granted to the Rugby Football Club, it is not possible to put in any other sport. I should hope that every effort will be made to ensure that the lease will be granted in such a way that maximum use will still be made of the other parts of the Savannah. I believe this is a question which the hon. member for Christ Church West will speak on, but before I finish as an example of what I mean by maximum use, if one looks at Blenheim, one would see that there are two playing fields there, but there is still a great deal of land at Blenheim which is still not being used at all because the playing fields at Blenheim were not properly laid out, and there is a great deal of unused land which could be brought into use for the benefit of the sporting public of this country.

Once again I do hope that when the application comes in from Oxley United that it will be favourably considered. This is a mass club of persons from the Nelson Street and Beckwith Street area. They have won the soft ball competition, and have come second in the Barbados Friendly Football competition, but because of the lack of a proper playing field they are unable to apply to become affiliated to the Barbados Cricket League to play cricket or to the Barbados Football Association to play football. I hope the Government will view the application of Oxley United on its merits and as soon as possible give them the use of the land. From what I can remember of the Garrison I believe it is not properly laid out, and you are not getting the maximum use of the playing space there.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, before the Hon. Minister replies, I think I should like to add my voice to the voice of the Hon. member for Bridgetown in that the facilities at the Garrison leave a lot to be desired. I should like to say that I have no basic objection in principle to the lease of the parcel of land at the Garrison to the Barbados Rugby Football Club. I should only like to make the point that I think there are many other clubs who use these facilities that have stronger grounds of being given consideration for a similar lease. I do not know if the Minister is aware that the Radcliffe Club which is composed of a group of young men from the constituency of the hon. member for St.

Michael South Central and from my constituency make great use of this playing field. I know some comment has been made about the hon. member for St. Michael South Central blowing his own trumpet, but I should like to say that it is quite true he has helped that club considerably, and I myself to some extent although not to the same extent as he has done. The cricket field there is shared not only by Radcliffe Club but also by the Springfield Club.

I am sorry if I may take a little time on this point. Springfield was formed several years ago by the late Mr. Smith, the headmaster of St. Matthias, Mr. George Lynch now a magistrate, Mr. Cameron Grant who is a long standing member of the Barbados Workers' Union from St. Matthias, Mr. Brathwaite a former schoolmaster, and those of us who have lived in that area from children have come up supporting this club. I can state that it is probably in the B.C.L. clubs the club with the best, and the most sports gear, and I have no qualms about saying this because everybody is talking about himself, although I do not like publicity for it, that I have financed that club completely out of my pocket without getting my picture in the papers certainly for several years, and assisted by the Hon. Senator St. John who has helped considerably over the last ten years in this respect. So that when it comes to appealing to us to support sport, we have done so, and these clubs are making a contribution.

We have been looking around in that area for space to establish a club house which could be used jointly by ourselves, by Radcliffe and also by Senators, by Nicks and by Cockspurs from the Bay Land, and we have found it impossible. In fact, the club members were made to understand that the Government had plans for the development of the Garrison and had no immediate plans to lease out land in that area. Now that I know the lands are being leased, we are putting in a strong claim to have some consideration, and I would like the Minister before he gives the full O.K. to the Rugby Club to lay down certain terms and stipulations as to design of the club house, and siting of the club house so that their plans can mesh and fit in with the plans of the other clubs. I shall certainly be making a public appeal to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South to pull their pockets along with me to build a proper club house in that area.

I spend a lot of time, Mr. Speaker, watching the girls play and sometimes playing among them, and I may say that we play netball and other games. I would say that one of the things I am a bit sorry about at the Garrison is that there are no proper changing facilities for these young ladies.

Netball and basketball are two fast growing sports and are attracting a lot of young people because they are sports that are played over a short space of time, and there can be many games going on at the same time, and we are asking Government for assistance in this respect. We are going to help ourselves, but we are also begging for assistance, and I hope the Minister will give me his assurance that when he gets our letter within a few days' time, there will be a lot of speed in coming to the House to improve the area so that we can at least put up hard courts to play netball and a proper club house.

My team, I make no bones about this, is leading in the competition. One thing the hon. member for St. Michael South Central cannot boast about is that when it comes to playing cricket Christ Church West always flogs St. Michael South Central except last year when we got a wet pitch and they skittled us out quickly; but the point is, I must say, that he did exercise his influence to help both teams to be playing on the Garrison and I am appealing to Government to help this area. There are many more that the St. Matthias, Britton's Hill or Bay Land people who play on this area, and there is a strong case for making it a national centre for netball and basketball, and there is a strong case for not only leasing land to us over a period of twenty-five or fifty years but for assisting us in planning the layout of pavilions so that not only the Rugby Club but all the other clubs can have proper facilities in this area.

6.40 p.m.

I hope the Minister will bear this in mind because it is important that the masses — and it is really the masses that constitute this club — should get some facilities in that area. One point I would like to leave with the Minister. If there is one influence which clubs like Hotspurs, Springfield, Radcliffe and Senators have brought to this country is that for the first time you see people from different income levels meeting as equals belonging to the same club and not merely meeting on Saturdays as some of our BCA clubs meet and play cricket and they depart and one set goes to their area and the other set goes to theirs, without any proper fusion being established. In fact one of the causes for regret is that the levelling influence which started in the Labour Party time and has been continued since then by this Government has not yet reached out to some of the other clubs in this country who still maintain not only a colour structure but a rigid class structure, and I hope that the new clubs which are coming on in the BCL could at least break down this type of barrier.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be long, but I share the sentiments of the hon.

member for Christ Church West. I just want to sound a warning to him, we both may be affected in the allocation of space at the Garrison. If the Regiment is re-established they will have to get some means of recreation, and when the school goes to Married Women's Quarters part of the Garrison will be used as playing field for that school. The whole field is not available, but the time will come when at least two sections to meet two immediate needs — the Regiment on the one hand and the school on the other — will be affected. I share the view of the hon. member for the City that at the moment it is terribly under-utilised, and I have asked my ministerial colleague to send a surveyor and have some proper plan drawn up for the Garrison. Vast areas are under-utilised and I think if we can make maximum use of it, it certainly needs surveying, deciding on what sports we are going to have and allocate them in some orderly fashion rather than in the present lackadaisical hop-scotch fashion.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, with the leave of the House I want to direct a question to the Minister. In view of what he has said about recreational facilities for the Regiment, I would like to find out if the area which will be granted to the Rugby Club will be exclusively used by that Club.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any assurance that favourable consideration will necessarily be given to an application from him, because I think he will appreciate that I am not the Minister responsible, I have only been brought into this because as Minister responsible for lands, I am responsible for leases, I am not responsible for sport, so any application that the hon. member or members may have for the use of the Garrison will have to be directed to that Ministry — that is the Ministry of Education — which is responsible for sport. The Ministry of Education is not in his place, he has leave of absence from this Chamber and I would suggest to the hon. members who have spoken that they write the Ministry and direct the remarks they made here this afternoon to the Hon. Minister.

I merely want to make this point, that I had stated in my introductory remarks that the siting of the pavilion would be adjacent to the booth now occupied by the Barbados Turf Club. I make this point because I think the hon. member for Christ Church West asked for an assurance that this siting of the club house would not be in an area that might be reserved for games. I want to re-emphasise that it will be placed next door — that is what adjacent means — to the booth owned and occupied by the Barbados Turf Club, as well as that the design will fit into the design of that booth. In

other words, there will not be any incompatibility of design. The next thing is that the Government is not leasing playing area to the Rugby Club, 920 square feet cannot be considered as playing area, that is only 30 feet by 30 feet which cannot give one big tennis court, it might give a hop-scotch court. Government is not leasing playing area to the Rugby Club, it is only leasing a small area of land for the erection of a structure which is a club house, but the Government is not now for the first time bringing Rugby to the Garrison-I mention this because the hon. member for Christ West suggested in his speech that there are other clubs that might have priority in use over the Rugby Club. The Rugby Club has been going now for several years, so Rugby is not now being brought to the Garrison for the first time, and this Resolution merely seeks to rent them a small area of land for the erection of a club house. This will not necessarily interfere with sport as carried on at the Garrison.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for this sitting. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 21st November, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

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

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