

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th December, 1973

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A. M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Chamber for the 6th November, 1973 and 13th November, 1973, are ready for confirmation. If there is no objection, these Minutes will be confirmed.

There being no objection, the Minutes are confirmed.

Being laid at this time is the Report of the Auditor General on the results of the examination of the Accounts of the Island for the year ended 31st March, 1970.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I am commanded to lay the following documents-

The Central Bank of Barbados (Appointed Day) Order, 1973.

The Central Bank of Barbados (Currency) Order, 1973.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for seven months ended 31st October, 1973.

Also, on my own behalf, the following:-

Annual Report of the Parks and Beaches Commission for the year 1972-73.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following-

Statement showing Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations for the months June to September, 1973.

Statement showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, for the months June to September, 1973.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Tourism Information and Public Relations, I beg to lay the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1972.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following-

Resolution that the sum not exceeding \$660,000 be advanced from the Consolidated Fund and placed, at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of making advances of salary or wages on terms and

conditions set out in the Schedule hereto.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$283,868 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1973-74 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1973-74, No. 26, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Petroleum (Winning Operations) Act, 1950.

Also, a Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend certain enactments relating to Statutory Boards.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Waterworks Act, 1895.

QUESTIONS

Mr. E. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology-

Can the Minister state whether or not the Government has purchased the Spring Hall group of estates

in St. Lucy?

If the answer is in the affirmative, can the

Minister state what are Government's plans for

the effective utilization of these estates for the benefit of the people of Barbados?

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology:-

Is the Minister aware that small farmers in St. Lucy suffer from neglect and the gross inadequacy of agricultural extension services?

And is the Minister aware that there is only one Extension Officer at the Jerusalem Station to serve the predominantly agricultural area of St. Lucy and St. Peter?

Is the Minister therefore aware that the Jerusalem Station is totally ineffective?

Will the Minister take urgent steps to bring effective and adequate extension services to the parish of St. Lucy?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware that the present arrangement whereby air cargo is handled at Seawell Airport only is causing considerable hardship and inconvenience including time and expense to people from parishes like St. Lucy and St. Peter?

Will the Minister give immediate consideration to an alternative system by which Post Offices nearer the postal destination can handle such deliveries?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister aware that one of the major problems facing small farmers particularly in rural areas is the absence of facilities for the marketing of their produce?

And is the Minister aware that this deficiency is acting as a disincentive to the greater production of food in Barbados?

Will the Minister take immediate steps, including the provision of Marketing Depots across the country to rectify this situation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Questions standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Andrew.

Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister-

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) there are three large unused buildings at Lancaster owned by the Government?

(2) one of these buildings formerly housed a cassava factory?

(3) recently encouragement has been given to farmers to grow cassava and corn?

(4) it would be in the best interest of Barbados to produce as much of the constituent parts of foodstuff as possible to supplement the importation of animal feeds?

(5) the corn dryers presently installed at Codrington, St. Michael, are inadequate to dry all the onions and corn which the farmers of this country are capable of producing?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, would the Minister give serious consideration to

(a) having the land and buildings owned by Government at Lancaster put back into use as a cassava processing plant;

(b) have large corn dryers installed at the said Lancaster for drying all the corn produced by local farmers in order to reduce the high incidence of the importation of corn into this country and thereby reducing the cost of animal energy feed from the above-mentioned products corn and cassava?

12,25 p.m.

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister-

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) most of the rain water of this country finds itself into the sea through the various gullies and river

courses in the Island?

(2) this water would be of tremendous benefit to the water supply both from an irrigation and domestic point of view to reserve as much of the water provided by the rains as possible?

(3) during the dry season of the year the Island suffers a serious water shortage because of the low levels of the wells from which water is extracted?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, would the Minister consider constructing large dams at a certain distance apart in all the gully and river courses throughout the Island, so that

(a) the water will remain inland and seep through the coral formation finding its way back to the water table?

(b) some of the same water may be used for irrigation purposes?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that

(1) the cost of imported ingredients for the making of animal feed is becoming increasingly higher and higher; and

(2) many people who formerly kept animals are deterred from keeping them now, because of the high cost of animal feed;

(3) the establishment of a flour mill in Barbados would provide certain constituent parts for animal feed at a lower cost?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, would the Minister give consideration to encouraging the establishing of a flour mill in Barbados as soon as possible?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Questions standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph,

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that there is a channel in the sea immediately off the coast of Tent Bay, St. Joseph which creates dangerous conditions for fishermen who try to go off to the fishing grounds between November and February each year thus causing many of them not to put to sea?

Will the Minister cause investigations to be carried out in the area to establish what remedial action can be taken, and then carry out the recommendation?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware

(a) that there are only three street lamps in the entire Parks Road area in St. Joseph;

(b) that there are no street lamps in the Cattlewash area in St. Joseph?

Would the Minister state how soon he intends to increase the number of street lamps along Parks Road and supply an adequate amount to the Cattlewash area?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the residents in the Airy Hill, Lammings and surrounding areas are desperately in need of a playing field and Community centre?

That there is a cane field north of Lammings Housing Area which poses a serious threat of fire to the wooden houses in the area?

Would the Minister tell this Honourable House whether or not Government intends acquiring this land to provide the necessary recreational facilities for the area?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that

(1) the St. Joseph Girls' School is in a bad state of repair?

(2) the users of this building have expressed fears for their safety?

Would the Minister Forthwith institute a survey of this building and carry out all necessary repairs as soon as possible?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that

(a) despite the fact that many Science Subjects are taught at the West St. Joseph school, proper facilities for teaching these subjects do not exist at the said school?

(b) the room currently used as the Science laboratory has running water installed but no wash basins or sinks are under the taps?

(c) at the said West St. Joseph School there are numerous unopened crates of science equipment given to the school by an overseas agency more than two (2) years ago?

(d) some of the said unopened crates have been lost due to the insecurity of the room in which they are stored?

Would the Minister state what steps are being taken or will be taken to rectify the above conditions and to provide safe and adequate premises for the teaching of science in this school?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Questions standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Thomas.

Mr. ADAMS:

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

Is the Minister aware that the roads in Melrose, St. Thomas are falling into disrepair and will he take steps to have road repairs undertaken at the earliest opportunity?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that the present water mains in Spring Farm St. Thomas, are too small to meet all the demands from residents for a water supply in their homes, and will the Minister take steps to improve the situation?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Will the Government take steps to install

(a) Street lighting;

(b) a water supply in Fortress Hill, St. Thomas?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that the residents of the heavily populated districts of and near Welchman Hall in the parish of St. Thomas continue to have difficulty in transacting postal business because of the lack of transport between Welchman Hall and the St. Thomas Post Office; and when does the Government plan to construct a new post office in St. Thomas as promised for many years?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that the private roads leading to and going through the two Canefield Tenancies in St. Thomas are in a very bad state of repair and will he enter into negotiations with the several owners and provide a proper road system for the residents?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that there are two dangerous corners in the road that passes through Rock Hall in the parish of St. Thomas, where many accidents have occurred, and will he take steps to improve them?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that the road junction where the road leading to the University of the West Indies meets Cave Hill is, whether by reason of inadequate signposting lighting or otherwise, confusing to motorists; and will he take steps to improve the signposting in the approaches and at the junction and provide better lighting?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

What plans has the Government got for completing the playing fields at Welchman Hall and Hillaby in the parish of St. Thomas, promised at the time of the last election?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister investigate the introduction of Daylight Saving Time as a means of combating the energy shortage?

To enquire of the Minister of Finance:

1. With what money is the new National Insurance Building being built and to whom will the building belong at completion?

2. If the answer to (1) is that money is being provided from the National Insurance Fund, is it being provided by way of loan, gift or otherwise and if by way of loan what rate of interest is being paid?

To enquire of the Minister of Finance:

What Bank accounts, including all accounts known as "Treasury Accounts", are maintained by the Accountant General for the purpose of keeping of/or relating to the Consolidated Fund and at what Bank; and what has been the monthly balance in each at the end of each of the last 12 months?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question standing in the name of the hon. member for the City.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to ask leave to ask this question on behalf of the hon. member for the City.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

There being no objection leave is granted.

Mr. FORDE:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Will the Minister cause a copy of all seismographic, geological and other surveys relating to exploration for oil carried out in Barbados and surrounding marine areas within the last twenty years to be laid in the House? 12.35 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Petroleum (Winning Operations) Act, 1950 be now read a first time.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951 be now read a first time

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend certain enactments relating to Statutory Boards be now read a first time.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Waterworks Act, 1895 be now read a first time.

Hon. R, St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a statement which I propose making, but I am asking for leave to make it at a later stage,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Leave is granted.

ORAL REPLY TO QUESTIONS

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to state that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 112 asked by the hon. member for St. Andrew is ready. So too is the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 114 asked by the same hon. member.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 119 asked by the hon. member for St. Andrew is ready. Also, answers to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 113, 116, 117, 118, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 126 asked by the same hon. member. The reply to Parliamentary Question No. 157 asked by His Honour the Deputy Speaker is also ready. Also replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 137, 140 and 141 asked by the hon. member for the City, No. 145 asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph and Nos. 154 and 156 asked by His Honour the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that oral reply to Parliamentary Question No. 121 asked by

the hon. member for St. Thomas is ready.

NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

ON A DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT

PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that notice has been given in accordance with the rules on my behalf by the hon. member for the City. We are asking that I be permitted to move the adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance, namely the energy crisis in Barbados, and I ask for leave accordingly. I am informed that the Speaker is satisfied that it is a definite matter of urgent public importance, and I am asking for the leave of the House in accordance with Rule 18 (3).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member for St. Thomas be granted leave to deal with this matter of which he has given notice?

Leave has been granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders, 6 and 30 (5) be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. The object of asking for the suspension of 30 (5) is to enable hon. members as a result of certain representations made to me by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to have more time to debate this matter at greater length and to the entire satisfaction of ourselves and the public at large. We are asking that "20 minutes" be suspended temporarily and that "30 minutes" be substituted therefor.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Hon. R. St.C, WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the first Item is a Resolution for the sum of \$14,320. The Hon. Minister of Education will deal with this matter as it is a matter related to education.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 24

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the matter before us is a relatively simple and non-controversial one. It is a matter to give effect to a decision which was made by this Hon. Chamber some time ago.

As you may recall, Mr. Chairman, there was an agreement between the Governing Body of the Christ Church Foundation School and the Government to transfer approximately 100 acres of land in the parish of Christ Church which was vested in the Governing Body of the Christ Church Foundation Schools. The transfer of this land was validated by the Christ Church Foundation Schools (Validation of Transfer of Land) Act, 1969 (1969-10). Under the terms of the agreement the Government undertook to pay an annual sum of E600 (\$2,880) to the Governing Body of these schools for the purpose of allowing the Governing Body to provide enabling scholarships. 12.45p.m.

Unfortunately, no provision was made in the Estimates for the payment of this sum of money until the Current Estimates, and the amount that is outstanding now is some \$21,136. The purpose of this Resolution is to make provision in the sum of \$14,320, which would be the sum to which I made reference a little earlier - \$21,136 less the revenue collected in the form of rents in the sum of \$7,795.85 plus the legal expenses of the transfer amounting to \$980, leaving a total amount of \$14,320 approximately to be provided in order to give effect to the Agreement.

Mr. Chairman. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I will make a very brief comment on this Resolution. I would have expected the Hon. Minister to give us some reason why this Resolution has been so long in coming to the House. There must have been some oversight on the part of the Administration in dealing with this matter. In the meantime, I should like to point out to the Minister that the people who have been renting the land particularly near the Airport have been experiencing a lot of difficulty in that some squatters have taken over in some instances, and I trust that the Minister together with the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance will investigate the tenancy of the people occupying the land in that area

so that the people who originally rented the land will now become tenants of the Government. I should hope that in future these oversights would not lead to several years of delay as has occurred in this instance.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member that there was some delay in bringing this matter to this Honourable Chamber. Indeed, it was only when the Draft Estimates for 1973-74 were being considered in the Estimates Committee that it was decided that this matter could be more appropriately dealt with by the Ministry of Education rather than the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance. This Resolution is now giving effect to that decision that the Ministry of Education should deal with it.

I will undertake to pass on the comments made by the hon. member regarding the plight which certain of the tenants on that land in Christ Church are suffering to the Minister of Lands.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$14,320 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with the next item standing in the name of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance. It is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Church Street, Bridgetown, for the purpose of Highway improvement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Leave has been granted, and you may proceed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COM-

PULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

AT CHURCH STREET

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the object of this Resolution is to secure an indefeasible title to the parcel of land in the absence of one party who is the owner, and in order to acquire a marketable title to the land the appropriate section of the Land Acquisition Act is being invoked. As the Schedule sets out there are three parcels of land involved in this acquisition.

Firstly All That certain piece or parcel of land the property of Grace Chandler situate at Church Street in the City of Bridgetown in this Island containing by admeasurement 2,115 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands of C. D. Carrington, on lands of the Barbados Government being lands of the Central Scavenging Department, and on the public Road known as Church Street or however else the same may abut and bound.

Secondly All That certain piece or parcel of land the property of C. D. Carrington situate at Church Street in the City of Bridgetown in this island containing by admeasurement 2,325 square feet or thereabout abutting and Bounding on lands of J. R. Edwards being the property thirdly herein described, on lands of the Barbados Government being lands of the Central Scavenging Department, on lands of Grace Chandler being the parcel of land firstly herein described, and on the public road known as Church Street or however else the same may abut and bound.

And Thirdly All That certain piece or parcel of land the property of J. R. Edwards situate at Roebuck Street and Church Street in the City of Bridgetown in this Island containing by admeasurement 8,911 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and Bounding on lands formerly of E. F. King but now of the Barbados Government, on a public road known as Church Street, on lands of C. D. Carrington being the parcel of land secondly herein described, on lands of the Barbados Government, on lands of the Barbados Knitting & Spinning Co. Ltd. and on the public road known as Roebuck Street or however else the same may abut and bound together with the buildings and erections thereon. 12.55p.m.

Now the object of this is highway improvement. I have the plan here, and I can pass it on to the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues. As far as the question of price is concerned, for one lot it is \$7.20 a square foot. The owner of another lot in the Church Village area cannot be found and we will need a title for the land under the Land Acquisition Act. As far as the third lot is concerned, the one with the building on it, is being acquired at the rate of \$16 a square foot.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems strange that the Government can acquire one lot at \$16 a square foot and the other at \$7.20. (Aside It has a building on it.)

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker on a point of order, I emphasised that the lot at \$16 a square foot had a building on it. You want me to shout louder? I can. I have been shouting for the last 30 years.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would prefer hon. members to speak amicably rather than shouting.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker whenever anyone is in trouble they shout louder I am coming to the question where quite recently this House was misled over a dealing in land by the Government. We in the Opposition have got to be very careful with the Government because they pass around the plan at the last minute, they come with a Resolution and ask you to approve it in all its stages in one day.

We are going to bring a Resolution to this House asking the Minister and possibly the Civil Servant responsible to resign because this House has passed a Resolution for land at the Stadium to be leased and this House has been misled into believing that the land belonged to the Government and granted a lease to other persons. That is why the Opposition has got to be very careful in dealing with land in this country. We have to know exactly what is going on. The Hon. Minister has come back now saying that they will acquire more land and cannot find the owner. You will soon hear what is going on behind that too.

We are taking a very dim view of Ministers and Civil Servants who mislead this Honourable House, and that is being done daily. We are going to bring a Resolution. This Government has no authority whatsoever to do what they have done unless they repeal the Act. (Aside: out of order!) I am dealing with land.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order! I am only going to hear the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want the Minister to tell us what investigations have been carried out in respect of the piece of land where they say the owner cannot be found.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to be too long. The hon. member for St. Joseph is right on the question of the land. The Minister who is unfortunately not present has promised to make a statement on the matter. Had the Minister been in here, a statement explaining the situation would have been laid.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in dealing with this Resolution, I would like to say that I do not know if the Rules have changed. If one is going to make a speech saying that what has been passed in the House

should not have been passed, that, in my view, would be reflecting on what the House has already done. In my view, you have no right to do that. No one, no member, can reflect on a decision of this House. If it is done, it is out of order.

What I rose to say is that in so far as this Resolution is concerned, I am not opposed to it nor am I worried about the question which the hon. member for St. Joseph has raised because the Opposition is always accusing members of the Government of misleading and misconduct and things like that. I think that they should have a little introspection first before they begin to talk about these things.

What I would like to see the Hon. Minister do is to look at the whole Land Acquisition Act, because we copy these English Acts lock, stock and barrel and bring them here; the economy of Barbados is changing, and in my view, we should pass legislation to suit the present situation.

I do not subscribe to the view of expropriation. I do not want to expropriate people's property or confiscate people's property, but I do not believe that Barbados can afford - it is true that we have a Land Acquisition Act whereby you can get titles - but what are you doing about the acquisition of land and properties that can be of use? I am referring to owners who cannot be found. The longer you wait the more expensive it is going to be.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a lot of blind corners in Barbados. They have been talking about these blind corners for years. This Resolution is for highway improvement. I would like to see when you talk about highway improvement that you really mean highway improvement. Now, since the energy crisis, I have been walking more than I used to walk before and on the question of foot paths, I see that the Courtesy Garage has wide areas. I do not know what the Town and Country Planning people do. They give some people quite a small distance and then you will find elsewhere that there is a wide area of land and there is nowhere for people to walk. You hear that there is going to be a lot of landscaping. I am not saying that you should not do that but there should be also somewhere for people to walk. 1.05 p.m.

I would like to see this whole Land Acquisition Act studied with a view to being in line with our needs. I do not believe in freehold, so I want to say that from the outset. Barbadians believe that this is something to copy from the English but what I would say is that I was not born with any land in my hand, therefore I feel that it should be shared with the people in the community. People are paying fantastic prices for land in Barbados; land has risen higher than anything else in price in Barbados for the last ten to fifteen years. There are people who want to be millionaires quickly and some of them believe in having land at astronomical prices.

The Government is called upon to acquire land at some of these fantastic prices, and this should not be the case. Land selling at \$1 and \$2 a square foot is bound to be beyond the capacity of people to purchase. Who can purchase land to put a house on when this land is going to cost \$10,000? At this rate at which land is being sold only the rich will be able to own any place or to be able to live in Barbados. This community has been having injections and we will have more injections of freehold land all the time. I know I will be in the minority of those people where this question of freehold is concerned but that does not matter.

I feel that the time has come when the Government will have to give some consideration to this question of land acquisition and the Land Acquisition Law; you cannot improve a community like Barbados at the rate at which one has to acquire land. The time has come when the Government must come clear and declare their policy on this matter. Land acquisition is a matter to which the Government will have to give some further consideration if they want to improve this community.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I begin by saying that it is a pity that the hon. member for St. Michael West was not in his place when we had a similar Resolution before this House a few weeks ago because on that occasion I called for an overall plan to deal with the areas which the Government wants to acquire, and also in regard to the question of road building in this country, and a reply was given by the Minister of Communications and Works to the effect that the cost to the country would be phenomenal. I want to say this, that all of the phenomenal costs are due to the policy of the Government. In places like Australia and Trinidad leasehold is more the standard form and there has been an increase in leasehold. What I think the Government should have done before is to bring in a capital gains tax in order to siphon off the rise in land values in this country. I do not want to go too far into the theory of this except to caution the Government to try and publish the Development Plan which has been ready for several years and which shows what areas are being set aside for certain purposes so that what is set aside for land acquisition would be well known. If this is not done the danger is that in time when the Government is ready to acquire land they would have to pay more for it than what the land is really worth. I do not know how long we will have to ask the Government to publish this but it is long overdue.

I should like to make one other point. There are certain lands which the Government is not making the best use of. I know of a place which cost \$195,000 that has been shut up for the past two years and this is the sort of thing which should not go on; and I hope that we are not going to be paying \$16 a square foot for Church Street land for which you have no immediate plans. 1.15 p.m.

I am wondering whether it would have been in the interest of the Government rather than agreeing on

the price of \$1,620, to send this matter for arbitration before the High Court so that at least we will know that the value is a fair value in this instance. I cannot think of any strong property at the corner of Church Street that would probably fetch this kind of money, and I should really like him to take the House into his confidence on this particular point.

The final point I would like to make is that the Labour Party, during its years in Government, did have the facilities where there was control on the price of land. This was removed under the first Democratic Labour Party Government and therefore some prior enterprise can be traced for the removal of the safeguard of the legislation at that time. Perhaps the hon. member is now convinced of the legislation, and the Government should have a second look at the matter and try to adopt similar legislation which was repealed either in 1961 or in 1963.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this stage it may be a convenient time, seeing that we have completed Government Business as such, to lay the statement in connection with the current international energy situation as it affects Barbados.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Leave had been granted previously.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following statement

**STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON
THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTS BARBADOS**

For some time, and especially since the outbreak of the Middle East war, the Government has been monitoring the world energy situation in relation to Barbados and the effect it could have on our economy.

2. On Tuesday, 20th November, 1973, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce was advised that owing to cut-backs in production and selective embargoes imposed by certain of the Middle East and North African countries, the Mobil Oil Company had imposed a reduction by 12% on the amount of crude delivered over the first nine months of this year. The reduction was made effective insofar as Barbados was concerned from 1st November 1973.

3. Consequent on the receipt of that advice the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce convened a meeting on Wednesday, 21st November with representatives of Mobil Oil (Barbados) Ltd., the marketers of gasoline and fuel products, and the Barbados Light & Power Co., to consider the effect of the reduction in supplies on Barbados. It was ascertained that -

(a) local supplies to the marketing companies and to the Barbados Light & Power Co. would be reduced by the same 12% immediately.

(b) there were adequate stocks of fuel oil and diesel for the Barbados Light & Power Co. to enable it to operate at least until the end of the third week in January 1974.

(c) there were stocks of gasoline available to meet local requirements on a reduced basis for a similar period;

(d) further supplies, on the 12% reduction basis, are expected on or about 7th January, 1974.

4. Following that meeting the Minister of Trade made a broadcast on the evening of Wednesday, 21st November, in which the situation was announced and local consumers were asked to exercise economy in the use of electricity, fuel oil and gasoline so as to make the available stocks last longer. Economy in the use of water was also included in the appeal.

5. The Cabinet continued to review the situation and the Minister of Trade met with those primarily concerned to keep the situation under review.

6. At a further meeting between the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce and the representatives of the Barbados Light & Power Co., the Manager of Mobil Oil (Barbados) Ltd. and marketers of gasoline and fuel products on Tuesday 27th November, it was ascertained that the response by the public to exercise economy had not been as successful as had been hoped. Following a special meeting of the Cabinet on that day, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce made another broadcast, on that evening, in which he announced that because of the disappointing response by the public -

(a) certain public functions which would utilise fuel and electricity would be cancelled, or have their scheduled duration shortened or have their commencement time brought forward to take advantage of more daylight time;

(b) there would be a token shut-down by the Barbados Light & Power Co. of light and power for one hour throughout one half of the island on Wednesday 28th and throughout the other half of the island on Thursday 29th November between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m.

7. Special arrangements were also initiated for gasoline supplies to be made available for ambulance, medical and other essential services.

8. Because of the cut-back in the fuel supplies, the Transport Board had to reduce its bus services, and the Minister of Education ordered the closure of Government Schools for the two days preceding the public holiday on Independence Day. The Minister of Education also withdrew all permissions for the use of schools or Community Centres for night time activities other than for purely educational instruction. Government departments were also ordered to exercise greatest economy in the use of electricity and electrical power.

9. At further meetings between the Ministry of Trade, industry and Commerce and those primarily concerned, arrangements have been made for -

The Transport Board to get further supplies of diesel so as to enable it to restore its bus schedules to very near the former frequencies,

Fishermen,

Taxi drivers and operators of registered mini-buses to obtain the supplies of fuel which they require for carrying on their business,

Food distributors to obtain their requirements,

Police and Fire services to obtain their requirements. 1.25 p.m.

10. At another special meeting on Monday, 3rd December, the Cabinet was advised that because of the token shut-down of light and power on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th November, and because of an improved response by householders, the electricity situation appears to be coming well under control; but economy has still got to be exercised so as to maintain that control.

11. The situation of long queues at the gasoline stations, resulting in traffic blocks, although not as acute as at first, is still, however, a matter of concern to the Government. This important matter is under review and appropriate steps are being taken to cope with the situation as the occasion arises.

12. The situation as regards economy in the use of water is not what was hoped for. The Minister of Communications and Works has reported that there has been no significant overall reduction by householders in the amount of water used. If this does not improve very soon he will have little alternative but to order shut-downs of water services during some part of the day or night.

13. The Cabinet has set up a Sub-Committee to monitor the Energy Crisis and to make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet from time to time. The Sub-Committee has met and consulted with interested parties. Further meetings have been scheduled to take place in the immediate future.

14. In resolving the problems arising out of the Energy Crisis the requirements of the sugar industry

are being given top priority.

15. The Government is aware that this energy crisis is a completely new experience for most Barbadians and the reaction of the public to this experience brought about by the international situation beyond the control of the Government, while quite understandable, is somewhat disappointing. The Government is satisfied, however, that Barbadians do possess the necessary qualities of unselfishness, tolerance, understanding and altruism, and discipline which will enable the country to overcome this crisis with credit, pride and in a manner satisfactory to all.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder whether the Leader of the House, having delivered his Statement, would be good enough to indicate how he anticipates dealing with the rest of the order of the Business of the Day. There are questions; there is Private Members's Time, and there is the adjournment debate which, normally, could not be taken before 6.30 p.m. We would certainly like to deal with the questions, and time for luncheon will also have to be taken into consideration. Some members' stomachs revolt against waiting until 2 p.m. or 2.10 p.m. to have lunch. We are getting out copies of this Statement, and I am sure that all hon. members would prefer that an adjournment debate on this subject should not take place until after we have read the Statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I was expecting you, as Leader of the House, to decide what should take place, but it appears as though the hon. member wants to take the wind out of your sails.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am always grateful for any assistance. I appreciate the point raised, and I am very grateful to the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition. I think, at this stage, we will have the luncheon interval, provided the food is there. When we resume we can give the answers to the questions, and deal with the adjournment motion when each member may speak for half an hour.

I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for 1½ hours.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.35 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:

The sitting is now resumed. QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are a number of questions which are ready for answer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this be Question Time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION RE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT

BELLEPLAINE

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 112 which stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Andrew.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member not being in his seat, unless any other hon. member wants to ask the question, I ask that the Reply be laid.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There being no objection, leave was granted.

The Reply was laid.

QUESTION RE PLAYING FIELD AT BELLEPLAINE

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 114 standing in the name of the same hon. member.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Andrew is now absent, but when I was in the Chair, he intimated that the hon. member for St. Lucy should be in a position to ask this question.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, the question is as follows -

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that the playing field at Belleplaine is in dire need of attention? Is the Minister aware that the grass on the playing field has not been cut for several months and that it poses inconvenience to the youths who make use of this playing field? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister take immediate action to improve the

conditions existing at this playing field so that the youths of this area may make maximum use of this playing field?"

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows -

"The Government playing field at Belleplaine, St. Andrew, is in a fair condition, except that it needs remoulding in some places. The field had, however, not been cut for approximately two months prior to 6th November, 1973. This was due to the fact that it was waterlogged on two occasions that the equipment was sent to cut the grass, and that subsequently the equipment broke down. The grass on the field was cut on 6th November, 1973, thereby removing any inconvenience caused by persons using the field."

Mr. CRAIG:

I wonder if the Minister could state if the remoulding of the field has been done.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The remoulding of the field has not yet been done.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister has said.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is that a supplementary question?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Yes, Sir. The Hon. Minister has said that the machinery had broken down. Is the Minister saying that there is only piece of machinery for cutting grass at the playing field?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The equipment available to the Sports Department for cutting the grass at this particular field was out of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

That is not quite the same thing. Is he saying that the equipment was the only one piece of equipment that he is referring to? Is there only one piece of cutting equipment owned by the Government available to the Sports Department?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The answer is "no".

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us if "fair condition" is a condition under only which people of the district can make use of the field?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The answer to that is "yes".

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Can the Minister tell us whether it is the intention of the Government to carry out improvements to this playing field in the near future, and if so, how soon?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the Government to improve playing fields, and as far as this particular playing field is concerned, in due course. The moulding that is necessary at the playing field will be undertaken.

QUESTION RE RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC TRAINING SHIP

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 121 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Thomas.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, unless any other hon. member wants to ask the question on his behalf, I ask that the Reply be laid.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I have permission to ask the appropriate question in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition. It reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Government aware that the crew of a Russian scientific training ship arriving at the Bridgetown Harbour earlier this year were subjected to restrictions on their movements not normally applied to the crews of ships of countries with which Barbados is at peace, and is there any policy of imposing these restrictions on citizens of the Soviet Union or of any other country, and if so which, and what is the reason for behaving in this manner towards the citizens and ships of any state with which Barbados enjoys peaceful and friendly relations?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows -

"The Government of Barbados has not received any protest and is not aware that the crew of a Russian scientific training ship, arriving at the Bridgetown Harbour earlier this year, were subjected to restrictions on their movements not normally applied to the crews of ships of countries with which Barbados is at peace and there is no policy of imposing restrictions on citizens of the Soviet Union or any other country."

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister saying that these restrictions did not apply?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Would the hon. member please repeat his question?

Mr. HINDS:

Is the Minister saying that the restrictions as stated in the question did not apply?

QUESTION RE WATER SUPPLY AT ST. SIMONS, ST. ANDREW

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No, 119 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Andrew.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as it has now been established that the hon. member for St. Andrew gave me permission to ask the question on his behalf, I would like to go back to Question No. 112.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That permission cannot be granted. We are dealing with Question No. 119.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows -

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that, especially during the dry season, the residents of St. Simons and King Street, St. Andrew experience grave shortages of water and indeed at some times the residents have no water at all? If the answer to the above is in affirmative, would the Minister consider supplying water to this area via Turner's Hall Woods, or, as an alternative, installing a booster pump with a tank of adequate capacity in the area as a means of solving the water problems of the residents of this area? 3.15 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the reply to that question is as follows "Yes, Sir! Water consumption has increased substantially and consequently water levels in the reservoirs fell sharply. The shortage of water is caused primarily by the lack of rain and in these circumstances it is necessary to shut off the distribution system

served by Bowmanston and Golden Ridge nightly when the demand for water is low. The present rains are also inadequate to recharge the Aquifers.

The Waterworks Department is at present implementing plans for improving the water supply to certain districts in St. Andrew with water from spring sources.

These plans include the erection of a tank near Chalky Mount School and the building of a small booster station near Haggatts Agricultural Station. This booster pump and tank will serve St. Simons, Bawdens, Triopath, Chalky Mount and Cheltenham. Work on this project will be completed within the first quarter of next year."

QUESTION RE LEONARD BECKLES ROAD IN BAYWOOD

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 113 asked by the same hon. member.

Mr. GREAVES:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister 1. Is the Minister aware that Leonard Beckles Road in Baywood, St. James was scheduled to be done on the tenantry improvement programme in 1971? 2. Is the Minister aware that subsequently water mains were laid in the above-mentioned road? 3. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state how soon will contruction on this road begin?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that question is as follows

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. Yes, Sir. Construction of the road was deferred for this to be done.

3. The current year's provision for the construction of Subsidiary Roads is already fully committed. Consideration will be given to the construction of this road when the 1974-75 Subsidiary Roads Programme is being prepared."

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, this is a supplementary. Is the Minister aware that a question of this nature was asked in here in 1968 and a similar answer was given?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister of Communications and Works was not a member of this honourable House in 1968 and therefore is not responsible for any undertakings given in 1968.

Mr. CRAIG:

Is the Minister aware that a similar answer from the Ministry was given in this House on that occasion, not necessarily by the same Minister?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister of Communications and Works is not aware that any such answer was given before. If it was given the Minister regrets that such an answer was given and nothing was done to remedy it between 1968 and 1973.

QUESTION RE TENANTRY ROAD AT ENDEAVOUR, ST. JAMES

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 116 asked by the same hon. member.

Mr. GREAVES:

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that there is a tenantry road at

Endeavour, St. James, known as Endeavour No. 2 Road, where several houses are sited? Is the Minister aware that people in this area who own motor cars and other vehicles find it very inconvenient to reach their homes? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister take immediate steps to make this road passable, even if it means just grading the entrance, which is very rugged, and cover the road with marl as a temporary measure to facilitate the inhabitants of this area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that question is as follows

"Yes Sir.

This road will be considered when the 1974-75 construction programme is being prepared."

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister give the assurance that this road which will be considered at that time would be given priority since a similar question was asked about this road in 1968?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a proper supplementary.

QUESTION RE ROAD IN ST. SIMONS, ST. ANDREW

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 117 asked by the same hon. member, the member for St. Andrew.

Mr. GREAVES:

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that the road in St. Simons, St. Andrew ends in a Cul-de-Sac? Is the Minister also aware that representation was made by the honourable

Member for St. Andrew to him to join up the road either with Isolation Road, Belleplaine, St. Andrew or Babylon Road, Walkers, St. Andrew? Is the same Minister aware that both St. Simons and King Street Roads are in very bad state of repairs? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state what action he proposes to take and when he proposes to improve the condition of these roads, and give the people of this area an outlet?"

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that question is as follows

"1. The question of joining St. Simons Road with one of the other roads in the area will be considered when the road programme for 1974-75 is being drawn up?

2. The roads in St. Simons and King Street have recently been repaired.

With regard to the answer to Paragraph (1) I will add that an investigation will be carried out and the implementation of this investigating will depend upon the availability of funds."

QUESTION RE INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONES IN ST. ANDREW

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 118 asked by the same hon. member.

Mr. GREAVES:

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that the bridge at Belleplaine has been destroyed by floods since 1970 and that after long delays little work has been done on this bridge which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state whether it is his intention to accelerate the pace of the work being done on this bridge in the interest of the travelling public?"

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that question is as follows

"The Minister is aware that the bridge at Belleplaine was destroyed by floods in 1970 and that some inconvenience is experienced by the travelling public as a result of the closure of the bridge.

The Minister is satisfied that work on the new bridge is proceeding at a pace commensurate with the resources available

I would add, Mr. Speaker, that on the assumption of office the Minister attempted to impress upon the staff the importance of getting ahead with this work as early as possible

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state whether he has received any representation from the hon. member for St. Andrew prior to the asking of this question, and if so, when?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister of Communications and Works on assumption of office in October, 1971, did receive urgent request from the hon. member who was then Minister of Agriculture, for St. Andrew, and the Minister of Agriculture was aware at all times of the problems affecting the initiation and beginning of the said work.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Hon. Minister state what is the scheduled date for the completion of this bridge?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister of Communications and Works regrets that he cannot give any information as to the scheduled date for the completion because there are several factors over which the Ministry has no control - the availability of cement, the completion of filing by sub-contractors and other matters incidental to the construction of a bridge which we hope will last for a life time.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state if prior to the commencement of the repairs of this bridge, whether or not a work schedule had been drawn up? 3.25 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

A work schedule has been drawn up but the work schedule has not been kept up because of the factors which I mentioned before. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the contractors because of the increase in the price of cement have increased their prices for pouring cement, and the Ministry has now undertaken on my instructions to do the cement work themselves, because the cost of doing this has become almost prohibitive.

Mr. ADAMS:

Does the Minister mean the sub-contracting piling work on the bridge without either setting a fixed price or setting a time for completion of the same?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The piling aspect of it is not dispute, the pouring of concrete in the piles because of the increase in the price of cement and the unavailability thereof has altered the entire position with the construction of this bridge, and to expedite the construction the Ministry has undertaken to do the cement work itself from the cement available to the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, if I may remind the Minister, does the Minister remember answering a supplementary a moment ago and saying that the difficulties with sub-contracting the piling were responsible for the delays, and if he recalls' answering that supplementary in those terms, will he answer the supplementary I just asked, did he sub-contract the piling without fixing a fixed price or without setting a completion date?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The piling, Mr. Speaker, was sum-contracted but the Ministry is not in a position to lay down any fixed date for the completion of any job owing to the limited number of persons in Barbados who can do pile driving.

Mr. BOLDEN:

In view of the statement that the Schedule had been worked out before, will the Minister now state what was the period of delay existing in the construction of the bridge based on the schedule?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is unable to give any details on this matter because the Minister does not control the elements - rain, lightning, thunder and other things - which can affect the construction of the work.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Hon. Minister, that is not what I asked;

Mr. SPEAKER:

You have asked three supplementaries.

Mr. BOLDEN:

That is why I want to explain, I asked a question based on the schedule which the Minister said had been completed before the bridge. What is the delay now?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has no control over the way the Hon. Minister answers. The hon. member is out of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Dishonesty as usual.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 122 asked by the hon. member for St. Andrew.

QUESTION RE REPAIRS TO ROAD AT LAKES, ST. ANDREW

Mr. GREAVES:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that the road at Lakes, St. Andrew is in a bad state of repair? Is the Minister also aware that this road is very narrow and ought to be widened with proper verges constructed to avoid the breaking away of the edges of the road? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state how soon he proposes taking action to ameliorate this situation?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is as follows "Normal maintenance will be carried out on this road, The widening of this road cannot be given a high priority owing to limited finance and other prior claims for more heavily and densely populated roads in the country."

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be in a position to say whether the hon. member for St. Andrew was informed about this before he asked the question?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper supplementary.

Mr. ADAMS:

Will the Minister state at what point in time his attention was first drawn to this problem, by whom and what was his answer to that person?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Improper supplementary.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister state whether or not the repairs to this road have ever been brought to his attention?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is prepared to say that the repairs to this road were brought to his attention on the assumption of office of Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Hon. Minister state by whom it was brought to his attention?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

By the hon. member for St. Andrew who was then Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology.

Mr. ADAMS:

Will the Minister say when it was decided it was not a top priority?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister decided that on the advice of his technical officers who said they did not consider, this a high priority and that to widen the road would involve the setting back of many houses in the area.

Mr. ADAMS:

When?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper supplementary. Reply to question No. 123 asked by the same hon. member.

REQUEST FOR WATER MAINS FOR ST. ANDREW

Mr. GREAVES:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that residents of Lakes, Farrell's Road, Belleplaine, Walkers and Shorey's Village have deposited money for almost three years with the

Telephone Company for installation of telephones in their homes? Is the Minister also aware that some of these deposits have been refunded and that some are still outstanding? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister investigate the reasons for the failure of the Telephone Company to install these telephones, and use his good office to find out how soon, if at all, these people will be able to have their telephones installed?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

A preliminary check with the Barbados Telephone Company Limited has indicated that the facts as set out in the question were true. The Minister has written to the Telephone Company for a full and detailed of the reasons for such action as they have taken. On the receipt of such explanation the Minister will take such steps as are necessary to accommodate the residents of the area mentioned.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister in any position to give this House any idea about whether the Telephone Company intends to expand or to build a facility in the area to accommodate the users of telephones in that area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Regrettably the Minister is not at this point in time in such a position, but as soon as the facts the Minister requires come in from the Telephone Company the Minister will send a written explanation to the hon. member who asked the question.

Mr. GREAVES:

I wonder if the Minister is aware that about a year or two ago the Barbados Telephone Company published in the Advocate-News an expansion programme, and included in this expansion programme was the construction of a facility in the Belleplaine area which would also serve St. Lucy, and that they said this would be finished by the end of 1973 or early in 1974.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister of Communications and Works only reads the Advocate-News when articles complimentary to him appear therein.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker; Mr. Speaker, would the Minister state whether or not he has asked the Telephone

Company to credit the interest which has accrued on any monies received from residents in this area to the accounts of those same persons?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister of Communications and Works is not concerned with that aspect, it is a matter purely, entirely for the Public Utilities Board. The Minister's function on the Telephone Company is to request the Telephone Company to instal telephones in areas public and private where the Minister thinks the need is greatest and most urgent. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Hon. Minister state whether he is considering the necessary amendment to legislation to make the Telephone Company account for interest which has accrued on monies which it has demanded in advance of service given?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper supplementary!

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker in connection with this matter, is the Minister aware that in the last Parliament the question of telephones for these exact areas was raised by the Opposition during the debate? If he is so aware will he state what steps the Ministry took then to bring pressure to bear on the Telephone Company to bring a telephone service to Belleplaine?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows that the Barbados Telephone Company is a private utility company registered under the laws of Barbados. The Minister can only impress on the Company, without any legal powers to compel them, the necessity of meeting the needs and requirements of the people of Barbados. There is nothing in the law which falls within the portfolio of the Minister of Communications and Works which enables him to put pressure on the Barbados Telephone Company Limited to meet or to carry out the requirements of the Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The answer to Parliamentary Question No. 124, asked by the same hon. member.

REQUEST FOR WATER MAINS FOR ST. ANDREW

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the appropriate Minister; Is the Minister aware that the residents of Grecia's Road, Corbin's Village, St. Andrew have for quite some time now, been asking for a water main without any success? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take immediate action to see that a water supply is provided for these said residents?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the Question is as follows There is no main road in this road, and 8 houses and one Mission Church are affected. It is necessary to lay 700 ft. of 4 inch spun iron main estimated to cost \$6,000. The matter will be taken into consideration when the Ministry's main laying programme for 1974-75 is being drawn up.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 125 asked by the same hon. member.

REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS IN ST. ANDREW

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the Appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that there is a small village in the Parish of St. Andrew called Cleland Tenantry? Is the Minister also aware that this village is serviced by a road which is not macadamised? Is the Minister also aware that residents in this village in the rainy season find it difficult to get in and out of the village because of the bad conditions of the road? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state what action he proposes to take to improve the living standards of the above-mentioned residents?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is as follows The road mentioned in paragraph 1 of this question, Cleland/Merits Road, is a private tenantry in that the entire portion of land in this area is the

property of Cleland Plantation. The surface is uneven and unmacadamised but fairly hard. Its length is 1,584 feet. There are two houses in the length of the road, while 7 other houses are situated almost at random in two separate directions at the end of the road. The residents are both tenants and workers of Cleland Plantation. The Manager of Cleland Plantation has stated that there would be no objection to the road being constructed and macadamised. Cleland Road is a part of a private tenantry and will be considered for improvement with other private tenantry roads when the Ministry's 1974-75 programme of repairs is being considered in accordance with the Government's avowed decision to repair all tenantry roads in the Island of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 126 asked by the same hon. member.

REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHTING FOR RESIDENTS OF TROPICAL, ETC.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, Is the Minister aware that the question of street lighting for the residents of Triopath via Friendship and Foothill via Crane Garden in the parish of St. Andrew has been discussed with the appropriate Utility Company since 1971? And is the Minister aware that to this date no positive action has been taken in respect of the installing of the street lights in these areas? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state what action, if any, is proposed to supply these two areas with street lighting as has been done in respect of several areas in other parishes since the initiation of the extended street lighting programme?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications is aware of the need for lights in the said area as mentioned in the question. At the moment the Ministry of Communications has been advised by the Light & Power Company that lights are not available but will be available in January, 1974. On the receipt of such lights immediate action will be taken to comply with the request as stated in the question by the hon. member.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Communications and Works agree that, in view of all of these questions being asked, his Ministry is doing little or nothing in the parish of St. Andrew?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper supplementary! Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 157 asked by the hon. member for St. George North.

REQUEST TO REPAIR STREET LAMPS IN ST. GEORGE

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the Minister of Communications & Works Is the Minister aware that there are numerous street lamps in the parish of St. George and other rural areas that do not burn at night? Would the Minister bring this fact to the attention of the appropriate authority so that the necessary corrective action may be taken?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is as follows The Minister has been aware for a long time that the lights imported by the Light & Power Company, because of the atmospheric and other countries tropical conditions, have created problems. There are several lights throughout the Island that have not been working, and the Light & Power Company has taken steps to experiment with twin 40-watt bulbs instead of the 80-watt bulb. The matter has been reported to the Barbados Light & Power Company and immediate steps will be taken to install such lights as measure up to the climatic conditions for efficient lighting.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the light in Drax Hall Tenantry was turned on in the month of September, 1972, was turned off in the month of January 1972 and has not burnt since?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, that is a different question, and it is not the object of a substantive question. If the Minister is not so aware, and if the facts as stated by the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition are correct, then the Minister will investigate the matter - which is a different question from the one before the House - and give an answer to the hon. member in writing.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that there are numerous street lamps in the parish of St. George...." Drax Hall is in the Parish of St. George, and I have, therefore, asked that supplementary. Is the Minister aware that the Drax Hall Tenantry in the month of September, 1971.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minister has replied.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is willing to answer questions in cases where lights have failed, but if the hon. member is suggesting that these lights were deliberately turned off rather than faulty due to climatic and tropical conditions, then the matter will be investigated.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister say whether any of the lights he investigated were the lights in the Golden Ridge District which were put up and then by order of the Prime Minister taken down and carried into St. John?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper supplementary.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Hon. Minister state whether or not any lights have ever been installed in the parish of St. George and subsequently removed?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, during my tenure of office as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, no such instructions have been issued by me to any agency responsible for the installation of lights. Between October and the present day I have issued no instructions for the removal of waterpipes, lights, or anything else from any area in Barbados.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that lights have been removed from the parish of St. George and carried to St. John?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a proper supplementary.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, it arises out of.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is not a proper supplementary!

Mr. CRAIG:

Please do not shout at me. 3.45 p.m

QUESTION RE STREET LIGHTS AT BEDFORD'S LANE AND GILL'S ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 137 standing in the name of the hon. member for Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

This is not quite fair, Mr. Speaker. I did not understand you. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let hon. members keep silent.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the question is as follows-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is the Minister aware that street lights are needed in Bedford Lane, and Gill's Road in the City of Bridgetown?

2. Will the Minister take the necessary steps to remedy this situation immediately?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Reply is as follows-

"The Minister is aware that these street lights are needed in the areas mentioned in the question. The Barbados Light and Power Company has informed the Minister that they are out of stock of this kind of street lights, but that they will be in stock by January, 1974. The needs of these areas will be considered and installations will be made."

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I wonder if the Minister would give the assurance that before the arrival of the lights the needs of the areas will be considered so that when the lights arrive they will be installed immediately, and not wait until the lights arrive to consider the needs of the area. Will the Minister also state how long the Light and Power Company has been out of stock of these lights?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

From the end of August, 1973 at which period they installed 1,247 street lights in the Island of Barbados, They have received requests to instal another 1,247 and they have assured me that they are ordering another 1,250 more so that the situation will not arise again.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister indicate whether in that 1,247 lights the area of Bedford Lane and Gill's Road will be included?

Hon. F. G. SMITH; The areas mentioned by the hon. member for the City will be included in the siting of these lights.

QUESTION RE DRAINAGE AT NEW ORLEANS, BRIDGETOWN

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 140 standing in the name of the hon. member for Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: 1. Is the Minister aware of the need for proper drainage in the New Orleans areas of Bridgetown? 2. Will the Minister state what steps, if any, the Government proposes to take to remedy this situation and when?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. Proposals for the improvement of drainage for parts of the Island including Bridgetown have been received and are under consideration. The needs of the New Orleans area will be taken into consideration when a decision is being made on these proposals."

Mr. FORDE:

Will the Minister state if it is the intention to publish the Report or lay it on the Table of the House?

Hon. F. G. SMTH. The publication of the Report, as far as the Minister of Communications and Works is concerned, is a matter for the decision of Cabinet. The Minister has no objection to publishing the Report.

Mr. FORDE:

Will the Minister then consider laying a Green Paper on the Table of the House giving the proposals with regard to this matter?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister will consider the suggestion made by the hon. member for Christ Church West.

QUESTION RE ROADS AT CHAPMAN'S LANE, CITY

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 141 standing in the name of the hon. member for Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the question is as follows-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: 1. Is the Minister aware of the need to provide proper roads in Chapman Lane for the residents of the area? 2. Will the Minister state whether the roads in Chapman Lane are included in the road building programme for 1973-74? 3. If the answer to (2) above is in the negative, will the Minister state when the Government will provide proper roads for the residents of the area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. No, Sir.

3. The need will be considered when the 1974-75 Road Works Programme is being drawn up. Slum clearance and other matters will not be carried out before that."

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state what are the other projects being considered by the Government for this year?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

That is no secret. The Government has undertaken with the assistance of the inter-American Development Bank the study of a sewerage system for the City of Bridgetown, and one of the sites being considered for siting the system is the very area mentioned in the question.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Does that mean that it is Government's intention to remove the residents of this area if such a scheme goes through?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I said that a site is being considered and after a study has been made by the Government and the facilities of this area are suitable, the Government will take steps that are necessary to prevent and minimise any inconvenience to residents of this area.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I would like to be more direct. Does this mean that the residents of the area in due course will have to be moved?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The matter is still under consideration. I regret that, at this point, in view of the long term projection of the Government for the development of Barbados, I cannot answer the question.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state whether this area has first, second or third priority in the Report submitted to the Government?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

No Report has been submitted. The Government expects a Report in January next year.

QUESTION RE REPAIRS TO ROADS AT BLACKMANS TENANTRY, ST. JOSEPH

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 145 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Would the Minister state whether or not the Government has abandoned its plans of carrying out repairs to public tenantry roads? If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state how soon Government intends to carry out repairs to Blackman's Tenantry Road in the parish of St. Joseph?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

"Provision is made yearly in the Capital Estimates for the construction of Subsidiary Roads and Private Tenantry Roads, The need for repairs to Blackmans Tenantry Road in the parish of St. Joseph will be borne in mind when the 1974-75 Road Works Programme is being drawn up."

Mr. BOLDEN:

Is the Minister aware that this road was dug up during the bye-election in 1970 and has never been surfaced since that date?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not so aware, but he regrets that the member did not draw it to his attention so that the Minister could have taken steps to repair what was obviously an injustice.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Is the Minister not aware that this question was raised previously in this House?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not so aware.

Mr. FORDE:

Arising out of the Minister's first answer, will the Minister tell us the order of priority for public roads which will be repaired in the coming year?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the programme has not been drawn up, but the Minister endeavours along with the technical staff to visit all the roads for which requests for repairs have been made, and based on the financial collection, the Minister and the technical staff establish what they consider the priorities of this programme; but the House should know that the Minister has prepared a programme to go to the Inter-American Development Bank. To find the millions of dollars needed to do roads in Barbados based on the present collection of funds would take 25 years to satisfy the needs of Barbados. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, has the Minister stated that the provision made by Government is not satisfactory?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is saying that the allocation from the point of view of the needs of the people is not enough but the Minister appreciates that the allocation is based on the competing needs of the Government for financing other areas. The Minister could spend more money if granted, but the Minister appreciates and understands that the allocation is the maximum that can be allowed in view of the competing areas of finance for the development of the country.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

In view of the Minister's reply, will the Minister give priority to roads which need surfacing for the very first time rather than roads in the Regency Park area, Sir?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that is that in view of the new Land Tax Act and other considerations which did not obtain before the original Cabinet decision, the question of priorities and the question of doing roads has got to undergo constant review and I can give no undertaking as to which road or other roads will be done; it depends on a set of criteria which are all being constantly reviewed.

Mr. FORDE:

Having regard to this review will the Minister consider using the same criteria in relation to St. Joseph and Christ Church West as he has used in relation to St. Michael South Central?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The St. Michael South Central's have been for several years worse than the roads either in Christ Church West or in St. Joseph, and the criteria we have used is that the roads in St. Michael South Central in view of their urgent priority and the priority I have set, should be prepared before roads that are better in many respects than the roads in St. Michael South Central.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the hon. Minister admit that no major road work has been done in the parish of St. Joseph since 1958?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister would like to be advised on this question. In 1958 I left the country; I was in Jamaica until 1966. Unless I can investigate it, I would not like to mislead the hon. member, If he wants a written answer, - I cannot guarantee for something when I was out of the country from 1958 to 1966 but if he wants a written answer, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to investigate it and give him a written reply.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister admit that questions have been asked and requests have been made to the Government of this country to repair roads in Barbados even from 1970 when he was back in this country, and nothing has been done, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper supplementary.

QUESTION RE LINK UP OF MIDDLETON TO DRAX HALL

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 154 asked by the hon. member for St. George North.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows

"To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that (1) the Bairds Village Road in the parish of St. George, which links up Middleton to Drax Hall is the only means of communication; (2) the said road poses a threat to pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic due to its bad state of repairs? Will the Minister take appropriate action to have the necessary repairs done to the abovementioned road at the earliest opportunity?"

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

"Bairds Village Road which links up Middleton to Drax Hall off Highway 4 in the parish of St. George is not listed as a Minister of Communications and Works road. Included as part of this road is Daniel's Tenantry Road. This combination of roadway is over one mile in length by approximately ten feet in width. There is a water main from Middleton end of the road to Drax Hall end with Highway 4 but there is no water main in the tenantries known as Bairds Village and Daniel's Land. An investigation on Bairds Village and Daniel's Road was carried out some time in 1971. At about the same time a course of marl filling was spread over the surface of the road from Middleton to Fairview. The entire road is rough again due to the action of flood waters over the surface from time to time.

The technical section of the Ministry of Communications and Works has been instructed to take remedial action on this said road after an investigation but the matter of complete repairs to this road will be taken into consideration when the 1974-75 road programme is being draw up."

QUESTION RE RESIDENTS OF BRIDGE COT WITHOUT WATER

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 156 asked by the same hon. member.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

"To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works

Is the Minister aware of the fact that the residents of Bridge Cot in the parish of St. George are without water for several hours daily? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take all the necessary action to improve the situation?"

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that question is as follows

"Bridge Cot, St. George is served out of Golden Ridge Reservoir and is one of the areas affected by our nightly shut-off which has been made necessary by the prolonged drought conditions. During the last few weeks the Department has been manipulating valves in the area in order to ensure a satisfactory supply during the day time hours for all residents served out of Golden Ridge Reservoir.

For a period of a few days the Waterworks Department throttled through severely on the valve controlling the supply to Bridge Cot and the surrounding area and as a result the residents of Bridge Cot did suffer shortage of water for about two to three days. The situation was rectified and the supply to Bridge Cot is once more satisfactory."

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question Time is now ended.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Private Members' Business now stands.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with Private Members' Business, in order to deal with the motion which has been moved by the hon. member for the City in connection with the energy crisis, I beg to move that Standing Order 18, section 2, 3 and 4 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting together with two other Standing Orders which I moved earlier on. At this stage I move that Standing Order 18, section 2, 3 and 4 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Hon. L. R SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

DISCUSSION ON ENERGY CRISIS IN BARBADOS

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, in the ordinary way of business, Private Members' Time would normally have arrived but due to the particular nature of the situation, the fact that the whole House views this matter as being one of urgent public importance and no longer being constricted by the 6.30 p.m. Rule, at this stage I beg to move that the House do now adjourn, and the purpose of my moving is to raise, in accordance with the letter sent to Your Honour on the unanimous leave of the House, the definite matter of urgent public importance which is the energy crisis in Barbados. 4.05 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this is splitting hairs. This is Private Members' time, we have already agreed on the arrangements for the conduct of the meeting of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

All that the hon. member has done is to make a formal motion for the adjournment of the House on a matter of public importance

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The hon. member cannot adjourn the House, he is not competent to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is a technicality here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

A technicality cannot arise, proceed. We have given you a concession.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is there a seconder? Mr. MOTTLEY I beg to second that.

The question that the House do now adjourn to consider an urgent matter of definite public importance, the energy crisis in Barbados, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am sorry the Hon. Leader of the House after all these years in Parliament has misinterpreted the nature of an adjournment motion. I was of the impression that a member other than a Minister could move the adjournment of the House only on a matter of definite public importance.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I want to make this doubly clear, The hon. member is not competent to adjourn the House, when the business is finished it is for the Government to do this.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The point is very well taken.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am sorry that my technical correctness has given such offence, Sir.

THE ENERGY CRISIS IN BARBADOS

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the heckling apart, we are faced - the House, the Government, the people of Barbados, indeed the people of the entire CARICOM area and the people of the world - are faced with what has gone forth and abroad as an energy crisis. It is in fact a crisis which arises out of the shortage of oil supplies primarily, although the burden of my speech will be to show not entirely by restrictions arising out of the Middle Eastern war. The first point which I wish to make in drawing this matter to the

attention of the House relates exclusively and entirely to Barbados, because while the crisis is of importance to everyone, it is with Barbados and its affect on Barbadians that we in the Opposition wish to deal today. We believe that we, the people of Barbados, were entitled in this year of 1973 to better treatment, to better foresight, to better handling of the situation which all should have been able to see was going to arise for some months now. We are going to attack the Government for its lack of foresight, lack of planning, lack of ordinary principles of good and decent Government in respect of this matter - and by decent I mean it in the Barbadian sense, I do not mean that there is anything improper or corrupt in the handling of the crisis - but it is good for once at the start of a speech in this House to be able to say that we are not attacking the Government on this occasion for improper conduct or corruption, we are attacking the Government for ignorance and failure to do what a Government should do, for mismanagement, for a casual attitude towards the people's business.

We are attacking the Prime Minister for abandoning the country in its hour of need. I think the best answer of all that could be given to the Prime Minister when he said that he could leave his country and that others cannot, that he can go to a University and relax, is Dr. Williams' answer when a reporter put to him "what do you think of the Prime Minister of Barbados' statement" and Dr. Williams' answer was "when I want to relax I go and write a book." For our Prime Minister perhaps that is a little beyond him, but the oil crisis in our view could have been foreseen from last year or earlier. There have been a number of factors and indicators which any Government worth its salt would have taken into account in dealing and planning for Barbados's energy needs, and particularly its petroleum needs, over the passage of time.

The first indicator goes back some years. It was the formation of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and coming more up to date it was the fact that last year, 1972, and the beginning of this year, 1973, this Organisation - OPEC as the actual name goes - has been extremely militant and has been able to get agreements for increases in oil prices for Venezuelan oil, Mexican oil, oil in this hemisphere well over and above those which existed over a period of years. My information is that Venezuela (which is the source of all our crude or field stock and mixed petroleum) that the price of oil in Venezuela had risen by only \$1 US over the last 40 years at the beginning of this year. For 40 years ago Venezuelan oil was costing just over \$2 US a barrel, and at the beginning of this year it was costing \$2.80, but OPEC increased prices in the Persian Gulf, they increased militancy among other Arab producers, and they all combined to thrust up the price of oil not in the last month or two months but over the whole of 1973, and I understand that again this week President Caldera of Venezuela - goodness knows if he is trying to help his Party in the current election campaign or what - but he has announced yet another oil rise in contradiction of a statement he made a fortnight ago. This is not something which has happened since Tuesday, 20th November, 1973, this is something that has been going on for a long time. The 200% increase in the price of Venezuelan oil has been something which was known and could have been foreseen for some months now.

It is not only Venezuelan oil that has gone up, the Nigerian Government long ago had the foresight to

take all its oil reserves into its own hands. It has been able with its share of its own crude oil production which accrues to it by way of royalties from the oil companies to make a deal in which the price of its oil is just under \$17 million per barrel of 42 gallons. All of this has a meaning for the future, and we attack the Ministry of Trade and the Government of Barbados firstly for not seeing this and not taking some steps to consider the position of oil and energy in this island of ours.

The second point which I take to have been a barometer of the energy situation is the condition of the politics of oil over not just two or three months since the Yom Kippur war, but over a number of years. I think it is fair to say that since the 1967 Middle Eastern war there has been pressure on Arab oil producers, notoriously the most conservative among the Arab states - with the exception perhaps of Iraq - to use oil as a political weapon, especially with the rise of President Gadafi in Libya, it could have been seen by anybody with eyes to see and with a mind with consideration to understand, that Arab oil would be a more difficult commodity to obtain in the future, I would suggest, especially if you live in the western hemisphere.

Other barometers have included, and again this is not recent, the altered attitudes of Japan and of the African States towards Israel. It is clear that the politics of the money that oil has been able to put in the hands of relatively small Arab countries have been exerting a fantastic pressure on all countries which have maintained good relations with Israel, Japan and many African countries, and that this pressure has been paying off not just recently with what one might call a Japanese sell-out of its former interests in Israel, with the breaking of diplomatic relations by all those African countries helped by Israel in the past, when the Arabs perhaps looked on the Africans only as descendants of their former slaves and the place from which they drew their former slaves, you can see.....

4.15p.m.

You can see in the new-found relationship between the African and the Arab countries and the breaking of relationships between the African countries and Israel that big, important matters were boiling up in the politics of the oil producing States. To take an example, a country that none of us have particular love for I, am sure, although I remember the Prime Minister said once that he would prefer to be in an aeroplane with Ian Smith of Rhodesia than with the members of the Opposition - a former colleague in the Royal Air Force.

For years now South Africa has, apparently, been stockpiling. I think the percentage which was quoted to me was 20% of the oil imports which were entering the country in order to meet the challenge that it expected would some day come of a cut off of its oil imports. South Africa had the foresight to refuse to

allow oil coming in to dominate its economy as it dominates the economy of nearly every other major industrial nation. I believe, again, that the correct figure is that 80% of its energy needs are still supplied from coal mined within the Republic. The South Africans have had the foresight to take such action.

Our International Expert at the Ministry of Trade, apparently, first knew of the oil crisis the day after Mobil Oil told him of it a couple of weeks ago. Now I come from the mention of Mobil Oil to the third factor which should have been considered by the Government planners and should have been under consideration for years: the position of oil supplies to Barbados itself. This is the factor of the Mobil monopoly on the supply of most petroleum products in this country. This monopoly has a long history. If the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown can well recall his father's contribution to the debates in this House in 1962 - there will be other hon. members who were present in the House. I see the hon. member for St. Philip South, and I have no doubt the Hon. Leader of the House would remember it. The Mobil monopoly then the BUOC monopoly was under attack in this House when it started. The monopoly in the debates of 1965 was strongly supported by the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union then the senior member for St. Peter, and won general acceptance in the House three years after the initial monopoly had been signed in October, 1962.

This monopoly has managed to continue in Barbados with very little public outcry or comment ever since that time. The name has been changed. We all know it is Mobil Oil now and not the British Union Oil Company. I believe that the requirement that it should be a British Company was removed some years ago with the repeal of the British Union Oil Company Act and so on, and there have been various tinkering with the different Acts, the Petroleum Act and the British Union Oil Company Act, both to increase taxation and to make one or two stringent requirements as to the storage and giving out of petroleum in this country, but no one has questioned from its inception what the Mobil monopoly on oil supplies means to Barbados and what are the dangers therein or, indeed, what are the advantages.

I am not here to deal with the advantages. Mr. Crawford dealt with them very well, and I have no doubt that the hon. member for St. Michael West will remember his contribution 10 years ago and set out the advantages of having a monopoly or something operating in Barbados again, if called upon to do so in this debate. But like all monopolies, this particular one is dangerous. The facts are not generally known to the public, so I would ask the House to bear with me if I remind members of one or two. All gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, bunker sea fuel, distillates, as my information goes, all petroleum product except aviation fuel, which is supplied at Oistin, and liquefied petroleum gas, which arrives at Cane Garden, ultimately comes from the Mobil Refinery by the Hilton Hotel. No matter what pump you buy gasoline out of, it comes from Mobil. This is a fact of life in Barbados. Another fact of life is that no matter how much it is called Mobil (Barbados) it is in the modern fashionable parlance a multi-national corporation.

Now, I hope that God will give me strength to allow this to be the last time I will ever use the words multi-national corporation in here. The expression multi-national corporation represents a first-class public relations job by the corporation to persuade people not to use the words "foreign monopoly" any more. It is merely another way of describing "foreign monopoly" or foreign companies, and I am going to use the good, old-fashioned expression "foreign monopoly" when I deal with it with all that it implies, because that is what we have to consider at the present time.

Mobil monopoly may have kept down prices in Barbados for a time, although I think that the Government must be praised more than Mobil for that. It may, in easy times, have ensured the continuance of Barbadian oil supplies; it may have prevented a price war among the different brands of gasoline or among different competitors. I believe that the argument used by the hon. member for St. Michael West is that it gave employment to people in the refinery. I believe that they could have got that employment without giving the refinery a monopoly, or not so long a monopoly. That is by the way.

The essence of the Mobil monopoly is that in a time of crisis Barbados is in no position to handle its own fuel situation, because the Government has willingly given away to a foreign monopoly the control ultimately over the importation of petroleum in this Island. Decisions can be taken by the Mobil Company's parents, whoever they are, in distant countries that irrespective of whether or not Barbados has any quarrel with any Arab state, or with any country in the world, yet the supplies of fuel to Barbados may be cut. We have no control, and I quite freely admit that we have no control over such an act of decision taking. I say that Barbados has no quarrel with any Arab State anywhere in the world. I say this quite deliberately even though I know that the Prime Minister has stuck his neck a far way out - a further way out than almost any other World Leader not directly concerned with the matter in his support for Israel. The reason why I say we have no quarrel - he says he is a Jew, I believe - with any Arab country is that the Prime Minister's utter unimportance on the world scene is such that I very much doubt if his remarks have ever been reported to anybody, except to us here in Barbados. I doubt if Arab countries enquired as to who he was they would pay him enough attention, or respect, as to give any weight whatsoever to the foolishness he said in Telaviv.

Getting back to the situation of no quarrel and being involved in a foreign quarrel not of our own making, there is, according to a statement which I see is made by an extreme political group in Barbados and to some limited extent confirmed by responsible Trinidadian authorities, a source of petroleum products within the Caricom area which, apparently, would be enough to satisfy the needs of the Caricom area itself. Now I am suggesting that when the planners were getting down to organising the Caricom Agreement they should have insisted in asking Trinidad "What can you do for us in Caricom if we give you the concession which you are demanding for your exports when the oil crisis comes upon us and we can no longer rely upon the foreign monopolies to keep up our supply of oil? 4.25 p.m

There is no evidence that any such foresight was ever brought to bear upon the CARICOM negotiations or has ever moved for one moment a ripple of thought in any of the occupants of the Government front bench. It has to come from the Trinidad Minister. He had to make the offer, and I hope that we can take his offer at least as a guarantee that the supplies of liquified petroleum gas which come here from Trinidad will be continued notwithstanding Trinidad's great dependence upon Saudi Arabian oil to man its refineries and supply the basis of its exports.

Yes, Sir. Mobil Refinery is also one of the matters on which I accuse the Government of a lack of foresight. These matters were all there. You may say that it is hindsight which enables us to look back and say that we should have taken these things into consideration. I believe that looking back and taking things into consideration is an essential part of the portfolio of any Minister who wishes to be thought worth his salt. But if you want something else that did not need much looking back at, the newspapers have been full since the beginning of this year, certainly since the large scale motoring restrictions were started in the U.S.A., since the onset of spring of this year, of the fact that there has been a gasolene shortage in the U.S.A. I myself have been in the throes of some gasolene shortage in the U.S.A. earlier this year when there were limitations in the supply of gasolene and there was a closing down of gasolene stations in the mid west and other parts of the U.S.A. and restrictions on the amount of gasolene which should be sold to each motorist in the U.S.A.

One would believe that Senator Taitt, the Minister of Trade, with his great American experience and his great American car would have been the leader among those who could read the indicators and see that a gasolene shortage, a fuel shortage, if it could strike the U.S.A. could also strike Barbados. Again I see nothing whatsoever in the conduct of the Government, in the arguments that I have heard employed one way or the other that anyone at any level of Government took such matters into consideration. Instead I heard complaints from Ministers that there is no one from whom the Government could get proper advice on petroleum matters. There is no one to turn to. The Government is complaining now, in effect, that nobody told them that this was going to happen.

If the Ministers were worth anything, they would have found it out. Now the present crisis, the present gasolene shortage happened earlier in America. The present crisis started early in October. I have forgotten what date Yom Kippur is; the Prime Minister is not here to remind me. No doubt if he was here he would say that he was celebrating it; but it was early in October. The war started, and what is the first thing we heard about the war? It is between the Arab countries, all the Arab countries, not Egypt, not only Syria or Israel, but between Libya with a contingent of troops, Moroccan troops, Saudi Arabian troops armed on one front or another. In other words, it was obvious to anyone who had a duty to think about these matters - and the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Trade have a duty to think of these matters - it was obvious to anyone that this particular warlike exercise was one which had the support of the politically militant Arab countries as well as the politically conservative ones.

Saudi Arabia is now one of the world's largest producers of oil. I have a tendency to believe that the Americans had long foreseen - the United States is the world's largest producer, and Russia is the second largest. I beg the pardon of hon. members, but I am talking about the Middle East itself. Saudi Arabia, I believe, is now the largest producer in the Middle East. I thought of Saudi Arabia as the largest producer because the Americans have long foreseen the movement of King Feisal towards militancy, and they have been getting the oil out of the ground as fast as they could, and getting as much as possible before the petroleum ran out; but that is hardly a matter which need concern us in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You have six more minutes.

Mr. ADAMS:

I was assured that the time limit had been lifted.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Only to the extent of extending ordinary members' time for 20 minutes to half an hour.

Mr. ADAMS:

With great respect, Sir, the Leader of the House gave the assurance that the first speech would be unlimited.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Mr. Clerk will check as to whether that assurance was given. I was not here, as members will appreciate.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The position, as I would remind you, is that the Hon. Leader of the House said that the first speaker would have up to two hours to speak. That was the undertaking given because we asked that the time limit be removed since this was a matter which affected the whole country, and everybody would like to have a say. The Hon. Leader of the House said that the time limit would be removed and said that the first speaker would have an hour up to two and the other members would have even up to half an hour. That is why he suspended part of Order No. 18.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Clerk is going to check with the Leader of the House to verify whether this assurance was given.

Mr. ADAMS:

I do not think that I will take two hours, Sir. I should like to say that I had started my speech under a misapprehension, because the points I wish to make perhaps could have been made much more briefly if I knew that it was half an hour and I very much hope that Your Honour will not allow me to stray.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Go ahead.

Mr. ADAMS:

Now, Sir, the Government's statement which was made in the House today makes no mention whatsoever of any precautionary steps taken to deal with the Middle East's current crisis, to deal with the old crisis.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes, that is confirmed.

Mr. ADAMS:

Thank you. I shall not be so long.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No unlimited time for other members.

Mr. ADAMS:

He said half an hour for other members. The statement made by the Acting Prime Minister is in answer to no detail of any foresight, of any plan, of any consideration of any matter which took place before the 20th November. The statement reads "On Tuesday, 20th November, 1973, the Minister of

Trade, Commerce and Industry was advised etc." "Consequent on the receipt of that advice the Minister convened a meeting on Wednesday." Not that they had the oil crisis in mind. Nothing like that. He was too occupied with failing to give rice to people and maintaining the potato shortage. Not that he had ever considered for one moment matters which we in the Opposition suggested that he should have been considering. Not that he as Minister was leading or taking the initiative. The first initiative seems to have been taken by the foreign monopoly of Mobil and it was presented as a *fait accompli*. Nobody questioned it. Mobil Oil just said "we are not going to give you the oil any more." They gave no facts to the Government to show there was any cut back in the Venezuelan supplies.

Mr. Speaker, it is no part of our duty to be allowing Mobil to make oil available to the U.S.A. where Mobil and the U.S.A. Government have specifically long ago worked out their monopoly and marketing arrangements by which oil is supplied to one area by this Company and to another area by the second Company. There is no question of Mobil having said that they have commitments to meet worldwide, to the U.S.A. and so on, and that Barbados is part of an inevitable cut. They have not said that there has been a cut back in Venezuela. Far from that, the President has clearly said that he is going to increase production, and Venezuela is the source of our oil.

I am sorry to have to attack the Minister of Trade when he is not present in this House, but it is not my fault, and it will not be my fault either when the electorate rejects him totally and utterly at the first or any subsequent opportunity at which he presents himself at the polls. That will not be my fault.

He is a very bad Minister, a Minister who brings a wealth of inexperience to his office, a wealth of arrogance and ignorance, a night school Minister who has antagonised every one with whom he has come into contact, and whose name will go down as a by word in the history of Barbadian politics as incompetent to deal with the particular office to which he has been called. If there has ever been a Minister in Barbados who is universally recognised by the public as a man incapable of dealing with the situation that was thrust upon him and which passed through the hands of the Minister it will be Senator Taitt. If there is one Minister on whom it is really time to call upon to resign it is Senator Taitt.

The former Minister of Agriculture was sent home. For what? Not for incompetence. The Barbados Marketing Corporation was taken away from the Ministry of Agriculture and put under the Ministry of Trade. It did not improve its competence, judging from the results. It was incompetent before and was definitely worse incompetent after; and of all in whom the people of Barbados would not have the slightest trust in his capacity to deal with a shortage Senator Taitt is above all of them. We have put a man who failed to control rice, failed to control potatoes, failed to control foodstuffs, failed to control the rising cost of living, and put him in the sensitive position of controlling the energy shortage. My God, Mr. Speaker - that is all I can say. Look at who is put to deal with the energy shortage. 4.35 p.m.

His colleagues in the Cabinet cannot with honesty get up and each one put his hand on his heart and say I have full confidence in Branford to carry on with this particular energy crisis; and if there is one thing I welcome in the Government statement it is that a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been appointed to oversee the energy crisis and report back to the Cabinet at all times. You cannot leave it in the man's hands alone. He will ruin that as he had ruined the situation of the food supply of Barbados; as if he was not satisfied with having created the worse food shortage in Barbados since Hitler and the second world war he is now trying to force upon us the same energy shortages, which we suffered then at the time. He is ruining the economy of the country, and the Prime Minister is not even in Barbados to do something about it at this hour of greatest need. When has there been a more serious economic crisis in Barbados than in 1973? And what year does the Prime Minister choose to run away to a University to pretend that he is a University teacher? Abandoning his responsibilities. The Emperor Charles IV retired and even after his great achievement, when he retired to a monastery his place in history was diminished by it but at least he never ran away when his responsibilities were on. The Prime Minister runs away when the people are crying out for leadership, guidance and help. At least the Prime Minister is a man of experience; he has been Prime Minister for twelve years. He might remember from his years in the House of hearing of a properly run Government, and of sitting at the feet of a great Prime Minister in here, to add to his own experience. At least we could not accuse him of inexperience if he were here dealing with the crisis.

Now how has the crisis been dealt with? At all times the crisis has been dealt with by applying pressure where pressure was easy, and I am going to deal first of all with the Government's approach with the Barbados Light and Power situation. Now the Barbados Light and Power is, I believe, the greatest user of petroleum products in this Island. Our electricity is generated entirely by fuel oil. I did hear the percentage. For some reason the Barbados Light and Power thinks that it is a secret how much fuel oil it in fact consumes every year, but, I am not going to pursue frivolity such as that. They consume a lot out of the millions of barrels of oil that come here every year. I view the Barbados Light and Power Company as a very basis and essential industry in this Inland. I believe that if you want to put on pressure, that private motoring is better able to take pressure than the Light and Power Company.

I believe there are other fields where economy can better be made than seeking to economize on the power supply to particular categories of users of power in this Island.

Now the figures which I have, Mr. Speaker, are that domestic users of electricity account for just under 30 percent of all electricity used, and industrial for 70 percent. The further breakdown that I have been given is that street lighting is 11/2% percent, industry is 9 percent, commercial users of electricity are nearly as much as domestic, 28 percent, hotels used 16 percent of electricity, the water works use 15 percent and agriculture uses one percent.

Now my colleague, the hon. member for St. Joseph will deal with the industrial and agricultural side. What I am looking at is that the Minister of Trade some how has seen the ordinary use of electric light as being the most dramatic way in which he can make an approach to the public. Electric light which in fact uses very little electricity. It is electric light that he chose to pick out in his second speech, how he went down on the West Coast and he saw houses ablaze with light. He went in tenantries and he only saw one light on. He was using gasoline to drive down there instead of minding his business and asking the Light and Power Company what their priorities were. I am told that the greatest reduction has been effected eventually when it was possible to persuade the commercial business in Bridgetown to abandon air conditioning in some measure. We have not abandoned it in the House. The Government very largely has not abandoned it.

Over the first few days certain stores in Broad Street were still air conditioning the pavement. They had on air conditioning, with their doors wide open, so if you wanted to feel cool without any obligation, you could go and stand up in the doorway and get a little bit of the breeze coming out. The Government should have been among the first to economize - the very night of one of the power cuts I drove across the bridge which was ablaze with light, and upstairs the Financial Building there were two floors full of light. A picture even appeared in the Nation, Sir, a fine new newspaper and enterprising, were able to take a picture "We are short of power, look at the fairy lights."

Now, I believe that the Minister has rejected Daylight Saving Time but if you brought forward daylight, in fact, it would be beneficial because everybody would be involved and not merely one or two people holding functions. There is no doubt that if there is a genuine necessity to cut back on power, the first thing required to be cut back on is the luxury use of air conditioning. I hope that every Minister will be able to say that he has turned off the air conditioning in his office. I am looking, forward to all Ministers to say that. I am sure that so responsible a Minister as the Minister of Communications and Works must have turned off his air conditioning long ago and opened the windows wide.

We heard from the Minister of Trade that one of the things he is going to stop is speed boats. Now how many speed boats are there in Barbados? But having said he would stop them you would believe he would stop them, but up and down the West Coast the water ski-ers and the speed boats are still as prolific as ever.

Now I myself have doubts about whether it was necessary to cut off the power on the nights of the 28th and 29th of November, at all, and cause a lot of candles and torches to be sold in Bridgetown. I would like to see figures as to how much power was saved; I would like to see figures as to how much power was used when the generators had the overload of charging up again to relight one half of

Barbados. That is what I would like to see. I would like the Government to make public what the Barbados Light and Power Company said to the Minister when the Government proposed to have these cuts. These cuts are easy to make. 4.45 p.m.

It is very easy to turn off the power, it only causes a lot of engineers and so on to have to go back to work to get it back on, it is easy for the Government to say turn off the power, it is more difficult for the Government to get a plan.

The next thing I want to deal with is the 25% increases in gasoline prices. I again have very grave suspicions of this formula. It looks too much to me as if somebody has pulled the wool over the eyes of the Minister, that the price of oil has gone up from \$2.80 a barrel since the last price was fixed to \$6.80 a barrel, that is \$4.00 US per barrel of 42 gallons, which means 4 cents US approximately a gallon, so somebody tells the Minister to put on 20 cents on a gallon of gasoline and he would be giving them what they have to pay, but I do not believe that that is the true arithmetic. A barrel of oil may cost \$6.00 or \$7.00 US on the well head, it costs perhaps when it is refined and sold to its marketers around \$150 US, and the first cost of oil is by no means so important in the ultimate cost to the consumer of petroleum products as is the cost of refining the oil, the wages you pay at the refinery and the cost of refining plant. The first cost of oil is one of the smallest of the inputs into the ultimate cost of gasoline, and I have grave suspicions of the arithmetic which has led to this 25% increase in gasoline prices. Let me line myself up right away with those who say that it is wrong to seek to curb a gasoline shortage merely by increasing the price, because that means the rich can buy and the poor cannot.

I have a fully authenticated report of a gentleman of Arab origin driving a large motor car who paid \$10 to somebody in a queue at a gasoline station to give up his place in the line and then went and bought \$24 in gasoline, and I can make this report available to the appropriate Minister. I do not think that any crime has been committed so perhaps there is no point in pillorying the Syrian gentleman who did it so that some rich man who has done well out of the DLP regime can go and put \$24 in gasoline in his car while the people behind are suffering to put in \$5.00, \$6.00 or \$7.00 in a small car. Again, if there is one thing that is chaotic it is the gasoline situation. How can any Government accept casually, just like that, the tremendous traffic problems, the chaos at every gasoline filling station in Barbados? How can the Government Ministers just see that before their eyes and do nothing about it? One gasoline station owner was quoted to me today as saying that he has sold more gasoline in the past week than he did in the month before. All of that needs checking, every gasoline station should be required at this stage to make returns to show how much gasoline is being sold at the present time. There is utter thorough-going chaos and there was a shooting incident yesterday morning over a tankful of gasoline and the young man appeared in court today. The entire position at road junctions like Eagle Hall, Deacons Road, Fontabelle, Bay Street and Roebuck Street is crippling productivity in this country. People cannot get to work, they are spending hours at gasoline stations instead of trying to do some productive work to get Barbados moving again after the mismanagement and misgovernment of the DLP Government over the past three years, and the Democratic Labour Party and the Government have

no plan for it. (Asides.) I am obliged to the hon. member for St. Michael West for saying that the DLP has been mismanaging the country not for three years but for eight or ten. The Government has not presented anything by way of a plan to deal with the proper distribution of gasoline, nothing at all, except appeals from the Minister.

I really have to digress very slightly here at the moment, and I must press upon the Minister of Communications and Works and I am going to ask him to spend a few mornings driving on the main roads into Bridgetown, from the north, from the south and from St. Thomas and St. George as well, between the hours of a quarter to eight and half past eight and say if he thinks that Barbados' economy can support such a traffic situation as we have even without a fuel crisis at the present time, because there are queues every morning at Bay Street, a relatively wide highway from Barbados' standards, from the Garrison right into town, and now with the gasoline situation it is even worse and the Government is planning nothing at all in this light. I am saying that what has to be done for the future of the energy crisis is this. An overall plan must be needed at the present time controlling every aspect of petroleum importation, refinery, exploration, marketing, everything in this country, and the Government has to go back to basic first principles in order to put this into operation. We have reached saturation point with the present monopoly system, I believe all the good it can do for Barbados it has done. I do not believe that the day will ever come when if you choose to end Mobil's monopoly position that anybody will be sent home from working at the refinery, I believe that if Mobil will not refine unless they have a monopoly that it is not beyond the Government to extend its operations by means of a corporation or otherwise - not a BMC type corporation for heaven's sake - but a corporation perhaps run a little more on the lines of the Natural Gas Corporation. Extend a corporation which will see to this. We have to go right down to basics.

Part of the reason for the present confusion is that nobody can believe what anybody else is saying about the crisis. Senator Taitt had a Press briefing - I was not there but I am informed by the reporter of the Beacon that Senator Taitt said he was doing his best but nobody will believe him. That is a very terrible admission for a Minister to make. He must know what his past record in dealing with people has been before he can say that. (Asides.) History will look in the Official Gazette to see in the long run who was believed. It is an easy thing to say of a man that you do not trust him or that you do not believe him but those who say so must go and look for the lies he has told and confront him with them. I can look in the Official Gazette and confront the Prime Minister with untruths. Hon. members if they wish to accuse me must go and look in the Official Gazette and confront me with untruths, or go and look at the reports of public meetings and confront me. I am confronting Senator Taitt with his own statement. He must know why he made it, that is all I am saying.

In my opinion nobody in Barbados is either capable or has been called upon properly to test Mobil's statement made to the Government, made to Senator Taitt, made to Barbados Light and Power or to other persons, whether it is a fact that they cannot convert their reserves from producing gasoline into producing diesel oil for the Transport Board and fuel oil for the Light and Power. They say that their oil

comes from Venezuela, it is what I believe is called a field stock, although they may not have used that expression to the sub-committee which was dealing with it, it is partly refined and they say that it can only produce so much gasoline, so much kerosene, so much diesel and so on, that you cannot shift from one to the other. I do not know if it is true and I have heard from persons in the highest circles that advice which would convince them of its truth or its untruth is not available to them. I do not want to say a word against the Government petroleum adviser, he is a man whom I have had occasion to take advice from and to discuss matters with, but I believe that his great expertise deals with oil exploration. He has explained how you can find oil in the lenticular formation of St. Philip and what not, why it may run out and why it does not produce more, he has explained it to me in great detail and I was in the fortunate position once of having worked with an oil company and was therefore able to understand a little of what he was telling me, but I do not believe he is an expert on oil refining.

The Government obviously needs advice on such a delicate field as the refining and marketing of oil. Who can tell the Government whether it is true that Mobil is obliged to cut oil supplies to Barbados by 12%? Who can tell the Government whether that is true? 4.55 p.m.

I cannot tell them. I am not an expert in everything. Mr. Speaker, nobody I believe in this House knows if there is really of necessity a fuel crisis or not. Nobody knows how much oil is going to arrive here on January 7. The Government has been told certain things. Nobody knows whether pressure cannot be brought to bear on Mobil, whether the rise in gasoline prices could not have been conditioned upon a fuel supply coming here. I can bet you that, if you told Mobil that the gasoline prices would be allowed to rise by 10 cents now and by 10 cents on January 8, providing a full load of petroleum came here, they would have filled their tankers and brought it here in order to improve the profitability. Although it may be thought that Mobil owes something to the U.S.A., I can guarantee that profitability is more important to Mobil than any other consideration. All of these things, Sir, are matters which will be coming under the Government's purview in the future.

The Government should have a plan to have proper advice on petroleum matters. It should have a plan for stockpiling petroleum. You must bear in mind what I said earlier about the South African Government, notwithstanding the wastage. When you stockpile petroleum there is a wastage. Notwithstanding the wastage, there should be some element of stockpiling so that we do not have to live from month to month, or even from quarter to quarter. There should be a plan for the proper distribution of gasoline to put an end to this rush and haste where the strong get and the weak are crowded out at the gasoline stations in Barbados. There should be a plan of ensuring natural gas supplies; there should be a plan of ensuring that Barbados does not lose its position as a bunker port for seagoing traffic and as a bunkering station for jet aeroplanes which land so profusely at Seawell and whose purchases of gasoline, we are told, contribute so substantially to the Government's revenue in due course.

I am suggesting, Sir, on this adjournment motion that the Government has not given the people of Barbados the leadership in the matter of the crisis which they deserve. Perhaps the most incompetent of all the Ministers has been left to deal with it. Certainly the most incompetent of the Ministers who have been in office for a year or two has been left to deal with it. I do not even exempt my friends who have, from time to time, come under the Opposition lash, or my friend the Minister of Communications and Works. Mr. Speaker, I never thought I would come to see the day that I would have to say that I really wished the Minister of Communications and Works had been in charge of this from the beginning. I never thought that day would come in this House. We cannot tolerate that any longer; we have to know whether there is a crisis at all and whether it is serious; we have to know what the sugar industry will do and what the tourist industry will do when the hotels have to switch on the air conditioning for the tourists in December. All of that has to be dealt with, and the Minister of Tourism is not even in here. Where is he? In Turkey? The Minister of Tourism is on a tour and he is not here even to say that if you are going to turn off the air conditioning, what are the tourists going to do when they have bought tickets in New York for air conditioning rooms. This is a very significant point, Sir. The hotels use 16% of the power and that is more than the Waterworks. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Why do you not stop interrupting?

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, the hotels use more power than the Waterworks anyhow. The hotel industry uses more power than the Waterworks. (Asides.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no argument. Each member is entitled to speak. Paper is circulated for that purpose. Each member is entitled to make his points and then get up and speak.

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, I am allowing these distractions - especially these contradictions. The Light & Power Company told me that the hotels use 16% and the Waterworks use 15%. If they told the Ministers otherwise, then that is exactly what I mean about confusion. It will be a serpent with many tongues and none of them speaking necessarily common sense in respect of this matter. There is no motion of censure on the Government in connection with this. If I were moving a motion of censure it would be moved on the Minister of Trade. I believe that many Government Ministers are as concerned with what they see as all of us, but I would just remind them as in the words of John Donne "No man is an Island. We are all part of the main." What one Minister does badly is the responsibility of the entire Cabinet. Ministers coming out and saying that they will never trust Taitt again, and how he could tell them this and that is no help. He is part of you, and you are part of him. If you feel that you cannot trust him, then it is your duty to

force his removal from the Cabinet before he drags Barbados right down into the abyss from which not even a Barbados Labour Party Government will be able to pull us out in due course.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to second this motion for the purpose of debate.

Mr. SPEAKER:

As far as I am concerned, this motion has already been seconded.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I will speak on the motion. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition made a statement and he spoke about confusion. I want him to listen to me very carefully. I am a little confused when he speaks about confusion. He was not sure whether we have a crisis, and yet he asked this House to accept a motion that the House do adjourn to deal with this as a matter of public urgency. How am I going to reconcile matters, if he is not sure that there is a crisis? The Speaker and members of the House have agreed to debate this motion, as a matter of urgent public importance, but the hon. member himself is not sure whether there is a crisis. I cannot understand this paradox.

The hon. member says that he is not censuring the Government. He is not praising the Government, and even in his closing remarks what he has said about the Minister of Trade is a censure on the Government. It is also an indictment of those members of the Government, who talked to him about the remarks made regarding their Ministerial colleague, and when he repeats those remarks it is an indication of the quality of those who spoke to him as well as himself and the sort of seriousness they attach to public affairs. 5.05 p.m.

Now let us examine what he is saying and what we are dealing with. There is an international situation, nothing that Barbados has created, nothing that the Minister of Trade has created. We have too many clowns in Barbados for us to bring clowns into the House of Assembly. Let us keep clowning to those areas that can accommodate it; but you do not have to be a political clown. You have enough melodrama at the National Stadium.

There is an international situation. There is war in the Middle East. It is known that the amount of oil which comes from our area is microscopic compared with the amount that comes from the Middle East. Venezuela and Trinidad are members of OPEC. Trinidad wanted to be a member of OPEC and was

admitted to membership and that is why they are now taking the stand they have taken.

We are dealing with an international matter, not a local matter, not a matter that originated in Bay Street or Roebuck Street. We knew that this was coming. I was in Amsterdam and no private cars were allowed on the road on Sundays, only street cars which include buses or trains. Only those or taxis could run, but the private cars could not run because it is an international crisis.

An embargo has been placed on Holland. An embargo has been placed on the U.S.A.; so you cannot now be debating something which is international and not confined to Barbados alone. In West Germany, the Chancellor, Willy Brandt, had to walk on Sundays like anyone else. You cannot come here and give the impression that Barbados is outside the pale of these things.

What I find in the substance of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition is that their method of dealing with an issue is to be making a personal jab - let us now see how we can deal with the Minister of Trade, and let us now see how we can deal with the Government and not deal with the issue as it stands.

He says that he is not sure what is going to happen in January. Who is sure what is going to happen in January? Are you making a point when you say that they are sure what is going to happen tomorrow? Who is sure about that? He is asking who is sure what the tankers are going to bring in, but who will be such a fool to believe, knowing what the situation is today, that tankers will come in with the same amount that they brought in five years ago? Only the five foolish virgins. You will have to be more than a clown, more than a convulsed idiot to be living in a world like this and to believe that Barbados is such a gem in this whole world that we can be isolated from the rest of the world and that no matter what happens to the rest of the world, Barbados is going to get it anyhow.

Let us be clear about this. There is no man possessed of such wisdom as to say what will happen. I have my views on all these matters. All of us have our views. You are not living in an egalitarian society where everyone is sharing alike. You are living in a society where there is already disparity between the haves and the have nots, and unfortunately when you live in a society with these inequalities it is bound to happen, if you introduce a voluntary method, that suspicion will arise so that people who are members of the have nots will say I cannot volunteer to do this because I will not share the same way as the haves. You have to be more rigid.

The hon. member is right that now this is an international issue it is not a question of looking at the Minister who is responsible to the Government but looking at the issue as a whole to determine your stance. I was not in the House, and the hon. Leader of the Opposition is famous for saying things when I am not here. He said something already when I was not here in relation to the hon. member for St. Lucy, and it is for that reason that I am going to resign from the Public Accounts Committee because I am not going to sit under his membership in the Public Accounts Committee. I am going to resign because he makes statements about people when they are not in the Chamber. The hon. member talked about monopolies because I have a record of fighting against monopolies, fighting against them and I will carry on the fight. (Asides.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order! (Asides)

Mr. WALCOTT:

I am not in that arena.

(Asides)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I can hear hon. members' voices.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Do not stop him , Let me deal with him sitting down there. He looks for company. Ask him who is the godfather of his first child. He looks for me to name as the child's godfather. He wanted an M.P. to be godfather.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Let us get on with the debate. (Asides.) That has nothing to do with the debate.

Mr. CRAIG:

That is an insult to you, a big empty old man like you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Let my voice be heard.

Mr. WALCOTT:

He can get there and talk about a big empty old man?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I am not going to sit here and have him saying that. (Asides.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

This House is now suspended for ten minutes due to disorder. 5.15 p.m.

On resumption

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Sitting is now resumed. An incident took place in the dining hall within the precincts of the House during its suspension and I now call upon the hon. member for St. Michael West and the Hon. member for St. James to apologise to this Honourable Chamber immediately.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, the incident which occurred in the dining hall.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I want an apology, unqualified, to this Chamber.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you what I am apologising for. The incident which took place in the dining hall just now.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will you apologise or not?

Mr. CRAIG:

Well, Sir, I am going to apologise to you and this Honourable House. Sir, I apologise to you and to this Honourable House.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I have an unqualified apology to make to you and to hon. members for what has taken place both outside this Chamber and what has taken place in here. I apologise, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Very well. The debate on the energy crisis is now resumed.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, during the debate I was addressing the Chair on this motion and I was at the point of explaining that the hon. Leader of the Opposition made a statement when I was not in the House, about monopolies in respect to the Mobil Oil Company, and I said that this is the habit of the hon. member in making speeches when you are not in the Chamber; he made that statement on a former occasion when the hon. member for St. Lucy was speaking. The remarks were made in the House when I was not present; I was out of the Island, and from those remarks which he made I said I would have no intention of serving as a member of the Public Accounts Committee under his Chairmanship, and it seems to me that it was felt that in exercising my feeling which I have a right to exercise, the hon. member, from what he said, seems to believe that I do not have a right to say if I will serve on a Committee or not. This is an unqualified right I have, and after I had said that, from then on there have been interruptions in my speech.

Mr. Speaker, we are on a serious matter and, as I said at the beginning, this is a matter of international

importance. It is not a matter applying only to Barbados. The international energy crisis is something which is taking place in the United States of America, it is taking place in Europe, it is taking place in Japan, it is taking place in Latin America, and I do not see how Barbados can escape from this.

Now this is a matter which affects this whole country. I am not a member of the Cabinet, but I am not going to abdicate my loyalty to the party to which I belong on the basis of saying that because I am not a member of the Cabinet therefore I am going to abdicate from my responsibility and try to look for an escape clause. This is an issue which affects the whole nation. Now as I said, I was in Europe three weeks ago, and I decided that I would purchase two bicycles here in Barbados because I intended to ride when I came back here but some of my colleagues in my office seemed not to believe that I am capable of riding a bicycle and they did not take me seriously at that time, and when I arrived in Barbados they told me that all the bicycles were gone. I had intended riding a bicycle when I returned because I realized that there would be a situation through which we will have to use some alternative method. I could feel it all the time I was in Europe and I felt sure that in Barbados we could not escape it - that in Barbados we would have the same problem

It is not a pleasant thing to see people lining up at the various petrol stations trying to get petrol, but as a result of this energy situation we had to cut back on a national basis and make sure that we do not have such cut backs in this situation that it causes people who are already employed to be thrown out of employment, and if we have an unemployment situation as a result of no work, certain operations cannot take place. We cannot have unemployment benefits; we are not like the United States of America where a man can still go and get unemployment benefits. In Barbados our people can only get sick benefits, so our problem will be a very serious problem and that is why we have a national crisis to face, and it is for this reason that those of us who have an interest in our country have to make sure that the Government takes the right step in order that we do not make the situation worse. Mr. Speaker, what I do know and what I can say is that there must be a more rational basis for dealing with this matter than leaving it at the whims and fancies of the dealers, whether they be Mobil Oil or else.

Mr. Speaker, I am back and everybody knows. Barbados is a small community. We have seen and we have heard that the oil field workers organization has made a statement about what it feels about the oil for the Caribbean countries. In any case one would expect that a decision would have been taken to the effect that oil should be made available to these countries in the Caribbean in order to prevent national hardship. Now I cannot say that we will not have cut backs and will not have a ration ourselves, but, Mr. Speaker, I do not like to see people lining up at gasoline stations. Now, Mr. Speaker, I came back on Thursday and I had to go first of all at the gasoline station at 5 o'clock and wait until half past seven; and this is a gasoline station that the organization for which I work spends \$6,000 a year in gasoline, so I was kept back just the same as anyone else. I mean to say however that I do not want any special privileges granted to me but what I do know is that for the number of people I do see at the gasoline stations and the number of cars I see relatively on the road, the situation must affect taxi drivers seriously. I feel that taxi drivers who work for a living out of running a taxi should be treated differently,

and we owe it to them to make sure that they can get adequate supplies. 5.40 p.m.

I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition when he reads the statement which was made by the Hon. Leader of the House must see that no Government can sit back on an issue like this and regard it as a light-hearted matter only for a Minister, this is for the Government as a whole and a statement has been made here today and I think that everybody in Barbados would realise this. I feel that any debate here today should not be on the basis of jibing any more, not on the basis of any bitterness for any Minister. They were saying that the Ministers have gasoline, but what are the Ministers going to do with more gasoline in their cars than they need? It is nothing to drink, are they just going to drive about to show that they can burn up gasoline? The hon. member asked how do we know that we can utilise oil from one area to the other area with the use of chemicals, but again we have to depend on our advisers.

I am not a great admirer of Mr. Nixon, but two advisers resigned on this question and they are experts differing with each other on this whole question at the highest level, not on the Barbadian level now. Mr. Schultz, the man who was in charge of the Treasury, feels that you should increase the price, or the other way, you should increase the tax before you increase the price of gasoline, and the experts say you should increase the price of gasoline and then ration it. Mr. Speaker, if you have to rely on advisers and they say this is the quantity of oil you have, what are you going to do when a position like this is facing you? The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that we are not sure what the carriers are going to bring in January. We are not sure but we cannot act on the hypothesis that the carriers are going to bring a larger amount than they did before, we have to work on the hypothesis that they are going to bring less. We have to do this rather than doing like the five foolish virgins. Nobody forgives you for making a mistake when they have to go without anything, but if you make a mistake on the other side you are better off. In this instance I do not think that a debate or a situation like this can be resolved right here. Nobody knows what is going to happen in the Middle East, so there is no point saying that you should censor the Minister of Trade. Any of us can be censored, but I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition should base his position on the fact of what we have to face in January.

We are still manufacturing sugar, and with a sugar crop in January or next year you have to think of conservation. Let us be quite frank. More workers have to look for jobs, therefore you have to think now in terms that if you have more workers looking for jobs or expecting jobs as a result of the turning of those wheels in the sugar industry, we have to be prudent, we cannot ignore this, this is a loss to the whole country.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Five more minutes.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Thank you very much, Sir. I am satisfied that the Leader of the Opposition would not have forgiven the Government if they had made an error on the basis that they dissipated all their stocks and then found themselves in a crisis where they did not have enough to start our industries going. Just look at this thing, the starting of the sugar crop and the laying off of people. Just imagine what you have, you will be having a civil war in this country.

The hon. member mentioned that some people used firearms at petrol stations as a result of this sort of thing, this whole excitement, but people get angry and I have seen it. When people get angry children cannot go to school, they cannot get food and it affects the whole community. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that we should be capable of debating this matter without any bitterness to the Minister of Trade, without any bitterness to the Government, that we should be able to look at this as a national issue, and if the members of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition regard this as a national issue, it is not an issue that we want to score any debating points because there is nothing here for any of us to gain any political points, it is an international crisis where we have to deal with human resources and see what is the best thing to do. If I had my way I would ration everybody from now on so that everybody will know what they should get and the quota allocated to them. This takes some time, but I believe this energy crisis is going to last for some time, I believe it is going to last long after January, the ships have not yet come to the Gulf ports, it takes a month for a ship to go in and out of those ports. Where I join the Leader of the Opposition - and we passed a resolution last week in Brussels that we must ensure that the oil companies as a result of this crisis stop the indiscriminate increase in the price of oil - but we must make sure that the oil companies do not come out of this oil crisis so much better off than they were before. That is a problem, and so far as a developing country is concerned, we passed a resolution saying that as a result of this crisis the net result should be shared by the developing countries, and I hope that the Ministers and the Governments responsible will make a plea for a revision of these increases which have been made by the oil companies, because they have been making increases and selling less oil for more money, and we want to make sure that this is not done. The people should also share some of this gain.

This is an international inflationary situation as a result of something that we have no control of, and we are faced with a very serious problem. I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition should be prepared to say that we should all get together and see what we can do but do not say we want the monopolies to run, we do not. 5.50 p.m.

I feel sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition will rise to the occasion not by accusing the Government of mismanagement, not by accusing the Minister of mismanagement or by saying that he should be thrown out of the Cabinet, but by realising that we are all faced with a national issue which requires our total collaboration and co-operation in order to see things through. (Cheers.)

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, when the cheers from the other side have died down, I want to say that my Party condemns the Government and the Minister for the method in which they have handled what they say is a crisis. The hon. member who has just sat down spoke at length about his journey to Brussels and the Resolutions they have passed, but it is a pity he was not in this country to know that the Ministry of Trade never told this country anything about the crisis of oil until a little more than two weeks ago, despite the fact that he, as a member of this Government, told his Union over three weeks ago to buy two bicycles for him but they did not heed his words. Is that not enough to condemn the Government and the hon. member when he says that he is not going to abdicate his position in that Party? He has told the Leader of the Opposition that he should try to score a point on this, but throughout his speech he is a most worried man as to what is going to happen to the workers he represents in a crisis of this nature. That is why we have brought this matter to the House as a matter of urgent public importance. When you roam the world and you get reports, you must get them right before you start talking,

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether this is a crisis of fuel, a crisis of policy, or a crisis of prices? I observe that the Statement which was passed around today refers to the action being taken by the Government in this matter. If the hon. member had looked at this Statement in the light of his grave concern for the workers in this country, he would have seen that not only the Minister but the Cabinet has panicked over the whole situation. We are calling on them to let the Cabinet Committee sit down and make an analysis of the priorities of this country, so that if there is a crisis We can go through it without the mass unemployment of laying off people which is going to take place.

I want the Government to look at certain aspects of this society. First and foremost, when I asked whether it was a crisis of energy, or a crisis of policy and prices, I am going to show that it is primarily a crisis of policy. When we first heard of the energy situation, the Government panicked, and I want them to reassess the whole position as of now. We, prior to the 20th November, have been going through a crisis of food. There is a world crisis which is affecting the world, which means that there will be fewer boats coming to this country. I have inquired at the airlines, and I am told that the local airlines are well provided for in Barbados when they come to Barbados, but they have been cutting back their schedule because there is uncertainty about refilling when they get on the other side and they cannot carry enough fuel to take them from here to the other side and back. Our food situation will therefore be affected.

I am asking the Government now to take a serious look at the Light & Power Company. According to this Statement, the Light & Power Company has been advised to make certain cuts and to cut back its production. Does anybody in the country understand what this means? This is a question of panic on the Government's side. We have to grow more food in this country. At this stage of our development, Mr. Speaker, we depend on irrigation to a considerable extent to produce food in this country. If you tell Light & Power Company to make a total cut between 6.30 and 7.30 one day and 6.30 and 7.30 on

another day in a different district, have you really considered what you are doing to this country? Have you considered how much food is going to spoil? Have you considered whether or not the people in this country will be able to do their necessary irrigation in order to grow food?

There is a crisis of policy. The Agricultural Department in this country have sat down for 10 years and have not yet equipped themselves sufficiently well to tell the people how to grow food in this country, or even to give enough water. You have asked them to cut back on water. How can you grow food between December and March, the peak period of dryness in this country, without getting water? You have told Light & Power to cut back; you have told everybody to conserve on water and electricity; why do you not tell them to conserve on starvation, too? That is where we are going to condemn the Government. When somebody comes in here and says that this is the time when we should come together, we can come together if you are doing things right.

Let us go further, Mr. Speaker. On their list today the first thing on paragraph 9 is that the transport should get further supplies. Is it not a crisis of panic? The first thing the Government did was to instruct the bus companies to cut their schedules by 2,500 miles per day. Where did they cut them? Is it not a crisis of panic when they shut down the schools for two days? I would have thought in a crisis of fuel that the first thing you would have done was to increase the mileage by the public transport and tell the local car owners: "Put your cars down and use the public transport which we supply."

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order. Mr. BOLDEN I am not giving way. Hon. C. E. TALMA On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

He has risen on a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know by now that under the Standing Orders of the House he cannot discuss a Statement which has been made only this afternoon, and that he must of necessity move a substantive motion in order to discuss the Statement which has been laid. At present he is doing precisely that, and Your Honour should rule on that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is a point which I recognise. It is a very difficult point indeed, but I do not regard him as discussing

the Statement, quite frankly.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I say that this is a crisis of panic and confusion in the Government's ranks. The first thing they should have done was to increase the public transport instead of cutting it back by 2,500 miles a day. The moment you cut it back you are asking every motorist to take his motor car out of the garage and try and get to town. The second point regarding transport is that when you begin to cut transport you cut your city limits first. Those people who are nearest to their work should walk first; then you cut your intermediate districts, and lastly you cut your country districts. 6 p.m.

But, what has happened to the Route 10 buses? They are cutting out the buses in St. Peter, the buses in St. Joseph, the buses in St. Lucy and the buses in, St. Philip first. It is not a crisis of panic? Answer that now. Mr. Speaker, I go further and I am showing how this is a crisis of panic. This morning the first thing you hear was that the Government has made a provision that taxi drivers, mini bus drivers and the drivers of food delivery lorries can get gasoline. Between which hours? Between 1 o'clock and 3 o'clock. Is this not a crisis of mass confusion? Each delivery truck leaves Bridgetown at 8 o'clock in the morning. Will they not have to use gasoline to run back to get gasoline between 1 o'clock and 3 o'clock? Is it not a crisis of confusion?

Let us go further. The hon. member who has just gone outside talked about the sugar crop. Is it not the Leader of the Democratic Labour Party who said that he hoped to live to see the day when there would not be a cane blade growing? Why are they now worrying about the sugar cane crop?

I know, Mr. Speaker, that this year oil companies by written notice informed plantations that they only had diesel to last until January, 1974. I have said already that the Ministry of Trade has gone to sleep long ago. It does not know what is happening.

Let us look further, Mr. Speaker. They talk about diversification. Every planter in this country is now using a tractor but he is being told, particularly at this time, that he cannot draw more diesel fuel than at the equivalent time last year. How can you produce more food? Is it not a crisis of confusion ?

Let us go further. The Minister of Trade got on television and he was the first to chastise the householders. He was there to whip the householders for not cutting back on electricity; but what we say is why did he not talk to the Broad Street merchants about air-conditioning units being on with doors

open every day? Go to Warrens and look at the half-finished cemetery, in other words, the incomplete cemetery, and see how many lights were burning there when the householders' lights were cut out; but the Minister is chastising householders who use less than 30% of the electricity which is consumed in this country. Further than this, by advising the Light and Power Company to cut back in production, the Light and Power Company has forthwith put on an energy charge, and on whom will the burden fall now? On the householders again because up to the 15th November the Light and Power Company was telling the people to use more electricity because by that method they have been able to hold down the price.

Today, despite the cut back, they must now advertise according to the Government's panic policy to use less electricity. Who will pay? The people who cannot afford it. That is the answer to panic and confusion.

Let us look at the famous story of the woman who drove around a whole day to get gas. When she got to a particular station the man at the pump said, Madam, your tank is full. Because of the system, people are still queueing up today. Where is Government's planning? Have they got planning up to date? This is total mismanagement of a situation which everyone knew was coming, but the Government sat down on it. The last statement made by the Minister of Trade was so sombre that everyone said he is in the wrong profession; he should be burying the dead.

Mr. Speaker, we have to look further into this whole thing. This Government has always said that tourism - I am sorry that the Minister is not here today - this Government and the Minister have always talked about tourism overtaking any other industry in this country. The Minister spoke about more people visiting Barbados in the coming year than we have living in the country. I want to see what the Government is going to do because of the energy crisis with no food for the tourists coming here who will also want air-conditioning units. I want to know what the Government will do.

The Government must look at their methods of deciding the priorities of this country in relation to the necessary finances which we can depend on. Sugar is important. The tourist industry is important. The fishing industry must have a satisfactory amount of this fuel; but, Mr. Speaker, we have heard of a thing called "influenza". I have had it and you have heard about several kinds. You have heard about catching a cold from the moonlight, a cold from a draft, a cold from getting wet, but there is one disease that has suddenly overtaken this country, and it is "Taititis" and it is volatile.

The time has come when the Government must seriously sit down and look at its policies in this country. We have been going through too many crises since 1970. There was a crisis in the chicken

industry. There was a crisis when it was said that we were not going to increase gasoline prices. We have been reliably informed that a statement was made that we are not going to increase the price of gasoline or other fuels; but a crisis comes along and everybody is queueing up because the price was still 98 cents a gallon. A tourist boat was on the horizon and the barges had to go to meet it. There was no fuel and in answer to a telephone call to the suppliers they said they had no fuel. When the Minister telephoned they said "We have no fuel at your price". At 2 o'clock in the evening the price had gone from 98 cents to \$1.22, and the oil companies have said that they want \$1.25 and in the next few weeks they are going to be asking \$1.40.

That is the crisis we are facing in this country. Let them deny that. Let them deny that the price will be moved from \$1.22 to \$1.25 a gallon and that the oil companies are asking how do you expect them to negotiate a new wage agreement with the Union and not compensate them together with the effect of a new agreement from abroad.

The merchants are wiggling the Government by the tail and they cannot stop themselves from being wiggled. This is the Government which said that they would curtail the merchants in Bridgetown and who called us lackeys of the merchants. Today we see that they cannot stop themselves being wiggled by the same merchants. They are puppets on a string.

I want a Committee set up to look carefully at our priorities. Essential services must be maintained. The food situation has been mismanaged and the fact is that hungry people are dangerous people and the people of this country have been fooled for too long and they will not be fooled any longer. It is time that the Government come clean, and come they must now and improve their policies to meet the current situation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to a few speeches by the hon. member for St. Joseph, and as a citizen of Barbados I know what my approach would be if such a situation had arisen and they were in charge of the Government because one would certainly not expect in a situation like this which affects the entire economy of Barbados and the lives of every single citizen to hear about panic of confusion and panic policy. My approach would be to give advice to the Government, if they have any advice to give, as to the best method by which this international situation could be overcome. 6.10 p.m.

At the same time saying as they do that they represent a sizeable section of the voting population, to call upon the people in the country to understand that the situation that has arisen is not one of the Government's own choosing but a situation which, in the Advocate-News, in any international magazine

of any repute, is shown to be a situation that affects from Japan to Iceland, to Britain and to the Middle East, and to every single country in the world, and when I listen to them I would imagine that Barbados is a little Island suspended between earth and space, which was getting some sort of energy from the sun or the moon and was not part of an area affected by a universal calamity brought on by circumstances beyond Barbados' control.

When I listen to the Leader of the Opposition and his ramifications about the monopoly of Mobil I would like to know, in Mobil operations with cars and other industries, how far Barbados really figures in an international global company involving millions of dollars which is also part of an international group that deals with oil explorations throughout the world. So he has talked as if Mobil Oil would suddenly pick Barbados out from a global context with commitments in the far East, the Middle East, in Europe and Africa, and suddenly say to Barbados "You don't worry Barbados, your international request for oil will be met at all times." So that when, on the 29th, Mobil having discussed their international policies and deciding how they will meet their international commitments to their global requirements, say to the Minister of Trade "we have got to cut back 121/2% because of our international demand to meet these requirements," you suddenly hear that the Minister of Trade should have sent a gun boat to New York where the headquarters are or he should have kidnapped the manager of Mobil, or he should have demanded that Barbados get oil for all times. They talk as if Barbados is suddenly a big oil producing state in the Middle East or its influence on international global policy is so great that its oil requirements must be met by an international oil company regardless of what happens.

I wonder how we can get up and make political capital out of international situations when we have got to stick together, we have got to ask the people of Barbados to show their guts, their grit, their altruism, their understanding and you get up and think you are criticising a Government. All along Barbados has been having its oil requirements met. Barbados has increased in cars, electricity is being spread throughout the Island; people have been going along very good. Suddenly an international crisis comes along - this is not the time to deal with whether Mobil is a monopoly. The time is not now. The thing is how can we meet our oil requirements and our energy requirements, placed as we are in an international situation where from day to day the Arabs in the Middle East or the American Government in the States, or the Common Market can affect the international oil situation and the energy situation.

Japan has done a brilliant about face; a country which has been neutral on the Middle East because of its economic situation has turned a complete somersault on the Middle East question. Do you think that is honourable? We have to ask ourselves this question. Now Barbados has been told, whether we like it or not, that we will be allocated 871/2%, not on our total annual consumption but on our nine month consumption. That is on the 20th November. Any international magazine would tell you of the oil position. We know that Britain was preparing ration cards. We were not unaware that at some point of time the Barbados economy would be affected by the oil situation. We were getting our oil mainly from Venezuela, not the Middle East - all the oil we use for gasoline, diesel, etc., comes from Venezuela, and I think the hon. member for Christ Church West who prides himself of being Shadow Minister of

Foreign Affairs will know that the big western powers including the United States - Japan with all their secret service, CIA and what not in the Middle East - have got to admit that they were completely fooled that the Arabs would have used oil as a political weapon. Even the big powers say that when "Push" comes to "shove" the Arabs would not have used the weapon as they thought. They all have to turn around and admit that in spite of the millions we are spending on Embassies abroad, we did not know that the situation would be so critical, the Arabs would have pushed us to the point where the oil situation would be affecting the entire universe. 6.20 p.m.

They have sat down at their Head Office and imposed a 12 1/2% cut back on your nine months' production. Do you want us to send somebody to kidnap the Head of Mobil? We in Barbados begin to think we are the world and that our demands must be met. As I said only a few weeks ago, this crisis will have a very good effect on Barbadians generally in making them understand that they are part of an international global situation which like a chameleon changes from day to day and which can affect the very lifeblood of your country. They informed us on 20th November that they were cutting back. Take the transport which the hon. member for St. Joseph talks about. The tanker arrives at the Transport Board, the driver of the tanker says to somebody at the Board, this is your last allocation for November. No letter, nothing comes to the Transport Board, so when the Manager gets on to the Manager of Mobil he says that what the driver said was true and that he will confirm it in a letter the next day. At that point what can the Transport Board do but cut back its schedules? The Government has since made it quite clear to them, because if we are told today that we can only get X gallons for December and the balance of November, that they should cut back their schedules even although at that point I was convinced that public transportation should have been given priority, so when he talks about the public transport being cut back this was necessary at the time when the oil was delivered and they did not know if they would get the full quota for the remaining months.

There is no panic about it, there is no panic of confusion, there is no panic of policy, the point is that one assumes in Barbados that you say "abracadabra presto" and everything happens. Take for argument's sake the question of rationing. I will give you an example of how difficult it is, it is not as easy as people think. Take doctors, they should be given priority but you have doctors and doctors in the sense that you have doctors at the hospital who live at Enmore; can you therefore say that all doctors must get a tank full of gas? You have to separate those doctors who need it for their practice and those who can walk through a wicket gate and get to the hospital. You have people with tanks like the one in the car of the hon. member for St. Joseph which one writer in the newspaper called a guzzler because the tank holds between 18 and 22 gallons.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Sir, I do not mind the hon. member speaking about my car, but he should start with those above mine, like the Prime Minister's, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Trade and the member for St. Michael West.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

You cannot say a tankful because the man with a mini minor will get about eight gallons and the man with a big car will get 22, and the Government has discovered that a tankful can mean from 8 to 22 gallons. The Minister of Health has a guzzler too, but I do not think he will object to that all it calls for is some ramifications. Then you have to go into the question of where people live, who are travelling officers, who must get to work etc. The Government is not unaware of the need to regulate the supplies, we were not taken by surprise, the only surprise was the amount of the cut back, but the Government always anticipated that the international crisis with oil and energy could and would have an effect on Barbados. The only surprise was the amount of 121/2% which we were told by the Mobil Oil people would be the position. What have we done? We have endeavoured to assure the people of Barbados and ask for their cooperation.

The question of shutting off on Wednesday and Thursday was no great problem, food could not spoil in an hour if you have a well working deep freeze or refrigerator, but the point is that we were endeavouring to indicate to the people - and if you read what the Manager of Light and Power said, he said the reaction of the people has been excellent and there should be no need to cut off again at all - but this is a psychological thing, and I am going to do it with my water very soon. I want to bring home to people that when times are hard arid when times call for united action we have got to face it. Mr. Speaker, we have to be bold and work together as a team. This Government was not panicking it is the drivers who panicked, and this not peculiar to Barbados, this is a West Indian situation. When the Cornwallis hit the wharf, instead of Bajans running to the country everybody ran down to the wharf to see the torpedoes hitting the ship in the harbour. If you stand up in Barbados and look up and say there is a satellite in the sky everybody will flock around you and look up too.

In the United States they queue, this is not peculiar to Barbados, but because the roads are narrow and the gas stations are not off the road it does impress you. Again a very serious situation. I heard of a ridiculous incident which again can be attributed to people trying quite wrongly to jump the queues where 75 cents in gasolene filled a man's tank. Another fellow called for two pints of oil and he was told he could only get one and he threw that one on the ground and said he was not moving until he got two pints. You can get all types of mentalities, and this is where the Government gets the blame, because you cannot legislate for man's responsibility to a situation or for his reaction to a situation which calls for self-sacrifice. There is no panic in Barbados, we are not asking the people to panic, we are not saying it is a panicky situation, we have a Cabinet sub-committee and we have met with the oil companies and the distributors and we have a clear idea of the reserves, we have a clear idea of how much we must consume per week. The Government is going to work out in a very short time the machinery by which

everybody in the country can get gas. We have not banned Sunday driving, although I personally would do this, but it has been done in Germany and the Netherlands. We have not asked the people to turn down their air conditioners to 68 degrees as was done in the States. There are a million and one measures which Barbadians are not called upon to do that countries with greater oil reserves, with greater economic wealth are calling upon their citizens to do, so because we have not asked the Barbadians to do these things we are panicking. What happens in America when President Nixon in his oval office turns up his air conditioner? In America they are thinking of a million and one ways to combat it, they are thinking of putting a tax on gas to make it so high that people would not buy more than is necessary.

In Europe other measures are being thought of. In Britain they have ration cards ready which may come into effect at any time, and if you look throughout the world, Mr. Speaker, you will find nations with greater resources, with larger numbers of people, with greater energy reserves taking measures in order to ensure that their industries run and that the country survives the winter. We have no winter coming up, we have no problems of heating our houses, we have no problems of heating our cars, we have no problems like those of the northern countries, all we have endeavoured to do is to tell the people of Barbados this in simple language. We have told them we have been instructed by the suppliers of oil in Barbados that they have cut back their supplies of oil. We have enough oil and fuel to carry us until the third week in January.

I would hate to be in this country if you had any say in running it. I would catch the next plane out.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is nothing to be personal about.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, we have got assurances that a tanker is scheduled to come on the 7th January. We have looked at the sugar industry. We have preparations for the sugar industry starting usually the end of January or early February. If the tanker comes in January, then we are safe. (Asides) We do not own a tanker. Suppose it ran into a floating mine off Carlisle Bay. How can you predict such things? The Government has taken precautions, but there can be a million and one other circumstances which can affect the situation but we are not without friends in this international community. This is something that they do not know. They get up in here and the Leader of the Opposition talks about the Prime Minister has no friends. He says that the Government has created such a bad impression. I say in this House that if they go abroad and meet people who hear of Barbados, then they will realise that we have more friends who will run to our assistance tomorrow in times of crisis than they will ever dream of. That situation has not yet been reached. I think you know and I know that you should only tap your friends when you are in dire need.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has demanded that the Transport Board get the maximum amount of fuel with a view to putting it back on schedule. The Transport Board has got the fuel. The taxi drivers have been asked, and we have been told that it is their living, to go to a registered station and they will get a certain amount of gasoline. The hon. member questions the time at which they should go for gasoline. There must be a particular time at which they should go for the gasoline. (Asides) The Minister of Trade, who has been so maligned in this House, had a meeting with the mini drivers, the taxi drivers, and asked them to choose an hour. If you know so much, why do you not admit that the taxi drivers chose between one and three. Are you going to crucify him now? You know that is true but you will not get up and tell the House that they themselves chose the hours of from one to three o'clock to collect their gasoline. Be fair and give Jack his jacket.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I have often said that this.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is a different matter.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I never said that the taxi drivers should collect their fuel between one and three. I said that every lorry of the food distributors leaves Bridgetown around eight o'clock every morning.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I accept that. If they collect the gasoline between one and three on Monday, cannot they leave at eight o'clock the next morning?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member does not understand trade. That is the trouble with the whole Government. On Monday morning at eight o'clock they deliver things, too. You do not understand what is going on in this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

All I am saying to him is that it is common sense. There is no law saying that you must get gasoline between one and three and run to the country after that. If you fill your tank between one to three, then you can leave for the country next morning at five. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order! Each member has a right to speak. Let the hon. member continue.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, it really puts me off. This is the type of thing that irks me. The Government are endeavouring to remove from the line of cars the numerous taxi drivers, nearly 2,900 taxi drivers; we are trying to give them a period where we are going to remove 2,900 drivers from the queues that block the roads, and you are still getting members of the Opposition telling you that taking them from the rushhour and giving them a specific period in which to get gasoline is the wrong thing. How can you do anything right for them? This very measure in itself means that 2,900 cars are removed from lining up in the road blocking traffic in the sure knowledge that they will get gasoline at a specific time. Similarly with mini buses who form a big part of the numbers who gather to get gasoline. There are a lot of mini buses. The fishermen we have ensured will get theirs; the food distributors will get theirs; the mini buses will get theirs; essential services; ambulances will get priority. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

This is no question of panic or politics. Mr. Speaker, I cannot say any more. I have made my initial remarks. Any right-minded person who has listened, or who has heard the Statement of the Hon. Prime Minister broadcast - if I were he it should be on the air about nine times - would realise that this Government are not panicking. The Government have the situation well in hand. It is a question that there are so many aspects that have to be worked out before you can really regulate a system suitable to

everybody.

In our last paragraph, I would like to say that I personally have faith in the Barbadian public. I appreciate that the situation with which they are faced is novel to them, and I think they will understand the position. Barbadians are not fools. I think that any man in the street will know that we did not create this crisis. The people will realise that Barbados is part of a global situation. If they read the newspapers as most of them do; if they listen to the radio as most of them do, they will realise that the whole world is suffering from this situation. I have every reason to believe that this is not a situation in which a responsible Opposition should try to make capital out of it, because they cannot give Barbados oil. If they were in power they could not give us any oil.

There are now calls in Trinidad to nationalise oil. In times of crisis every fool has a solution for a problem.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Two more minutes.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am satisfied, as a member of this Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, that we have done everything up to this point to make sure that all aspects of the Barbadian economy and that all users of energy who must be serviced will get their supply to allow their livelihood to be earned and the even tenure of their way to continue. I would like to finish by appealing to Barbadians to listen to the request, the exhortation, and the pleas of this Government and let us rise out of this crisis which for most of us is novel but which is not beyond us to overcome.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Two hon. members are on their feet. The position is that the member for the City of Bridgetown sent a letter intimating that amongst them the member for Christ Church West would be one of the speakers on this matter, so I am bound to hear the hon. member for Christ Church West.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the position is that this is a crisis which will go on, presumably, for another few weeks if not months.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what is the hon. member rising?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am rising to adjourn the House at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I deem it a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

This is a matter which will engage the attention of this House for many long weeks or months, and sitting here until nine or ten o'clock listening to a great amount of statements or misstatements.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order. I do not want a speech. Make your point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

My point of order, Sir, is that the House do now adjourn. I am moving that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 11th December, 1973, at twelve noon on the basis that this debate will continue indefinitely for many long weeks. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That motion I cannot entertain. Perhaps you could achieve the same results by a different method, but not by adjournment. Perhaps by suspension if you so desire.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to begin my address to this House by saying that it is not unusual for the position of the Opposition to be misrepresented as it has been on so many occasions in this House when we have sought to try to give the Government ideas or correct their misconceptions on many matters. The Opposition has not said that a crisis in energy in the world or indeed in Barbados has

originated in the Government of Barbados. If I may put it in short, the Opposition has said, however, that the Government's method of dealing with the crisis has been the method of mismanagement, and that's what the debate so far has been about.

I do not seek in this debate to repeat the arguments advanced by the Leader of the Opposition or the hon. Member for St. Joseph. In fact, if I may say so, the member for St. Joseph in particular made a very pungent criticism of aspects of the administration and of the Government's present policy of dealing with the energy crisis, a criticism which the Government should take note of. There were valid points, constructive points, and even if they were made in his usual pungent manner, they are not points which should be ignored.

But, Sir, let us deal with one or two of the issues leading up to this situation. It is an undoubted fact that ever since last year, and particularly at the beginning of this year, all of the reports in foreign economic trade journals, all of the reports in any serious analysis of the political situation in the world were pointing to the fact that the Arabs would use oil as a weapon either to get back the lands which they say belong to them or in any international conflagration with Israel. If the Ministry of External Affairs had not monitored this simple message, and if the Ministry of Trade had not monitored it, then the Government has failed and the Ministry of External Affairs has failed; but I believe that what happens here, Mr. Speaker, is that there is no correlation, as we have pointed out on numerous occasions in this House, between the various Ministries, and that the reports sent by our foreign embassies are not properly noticed. I go further and seriously suggest that the Government does not look at the economic implications of its foreign policy, and it is on this issue that we have been criticising the Government's tardiness in reacting to a situation.

Mr. Speaker, is the Government telling us seriously that on the 20th November this year they were advised that Mobil Oil had cut back retroactive to 1st November, 1973? In other words, the Government is telling us that it is faced with a situation that for the first time on 20th November it becomes alive to the fact that the international oil situation is such that its only main supply of oil in Barbados has been clamped down upon by a 12 1/2% cut back.

For me there are two serious implications about this in Government's policy. One is..that the Government has no contingency plans, and this is a serious position. It is all right for the Minister of Communications and Works to say that the Government was not taken by surprise, but the facts show that if it was not taken by surprise, it did not administer its policy properly because they had no contingency plans, as today it has no contingency plans for rationing. It has still not formulated any contingency plans for rationing up to now.

It is either that, or the hon. Member, with all respect, has not really told the House the full truth and that the Government was taken by surprise. Otherwise, it would have prepared the contingency plan. In Japan, in Holland, in Belgium, in all of the western countries there were contingency plans. Holland today, which is supposed to be one of the worst hit countries is still ensuring maximum supply although the steps which it has taken are an endeavour to conserve that maximum supply for as long as possible.

In Rotterdam which has the biggest oil refinery in Europe, today you are still getting 30 million gallons passing through the Rotterdam Oil Refinery, because the Dutch were aware of the implications of the oil crisis in the world and had prepared for it.

What we are saying is that the Government cannot abrogate its responsibility to one multi-national corporation. Furthermore, the Government must recognise that it is the Government of the country and not Mobil Oil. It is very strange to me that Mobil Oil could tell the Government on the 20th November that it is making the cut back retroactive as from the 1st November. The Government, if it seriously wants to control this economy - we are not saying that it should nationalise everything - but they are in a position to issue policy directions and your arrangements and agreements with the multi-national corporation must be such that there is an area of responsibility where you take over.

That is what the Opposition is criticizing. We are as sympathetic as the Government, not only to the national situation, but to the whole world situation where the Arabs today are calling their own terms in the international situation; but where we cannot sympathise with the Government is that we cannot sit down and see the Government make administrative errors and then appeal to us in the Opposition to show a bi-partisan approach in these matters. The best contribution that we can make is to point out those errors and ask the Government to mend its ways in this respect.

I believe that the Government's foreign policy, for instance, in this sphere is absolutely incorrect. They are incorrect on two scores. One is that they maintain a monopoly which is geared to the U.S.A., Mobil Oil, and secondly they are posing as the absolute backer of Israel without an objective analysis of the rights and wrongs of the Middle East crisis; and Barbados has become the laughing stock in the United Nations for the stand which it has taken. In this issue it is not in step at all with even the Third World countries on what is happening in the Middle East today.

This must be because apparently we have very strong Jewish connections and we seem to be afraid in our foreign policy to see where the vital interests of this country lie. Make no mistake about it, there is no question that the vital interest of a particular country is the guiding line of its foreign policy.

I think that we need a re-orientation in this respect in our foreign policy commitments in the Middle East. The other aspect of foreign affairs that I think we are making a mistake in, and have been consistently making a mistake in is the regional correlation with our sister countries. It is all right for the Government to say that we are only saying this in hindsight; but I respectfully submit, in spite of what the Hon. Member for St. Michael West may say, that we have consistently taken the attitude both inside and outside of this House that it is only by regional co-operation and unity that you are going to be able to stand up to the multi-national corporations and to manage your foreign resources adequately to withstand international big business and international political combines and that is why we have been foremost as advocates of Independence in a regional political system; because had we been a federated West Indies, we would have been in as good a position as Trinidad in relation to our oil supplies.

Let us face it. Trinidad has had no cut backs. It produces oil. We would have had no cut backs or difficulties because Trinidad would have been part and parcel of a federated West Indies. It would not be an outside party vis-a-vis ourselves. Your chickens have now come home to roost because the long term projections of a West Indian nation must always look forward to...

Mr. WALCOTT:

On a point of order. The hon. Member must remember that Trinidad withdrew from the Federation, not Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order.

Mr. FORDE:

Even taking that point, Mr. Speaker, the long term position of the West Indian people cannot be in haphazard regional co-operation in fields that may suit one or two people. 6.50 p.m.

I have heard the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central in reply say that in times of crisis everybody gets up and recommends that you should take over this and take over that, but the policy that has been followed by the under-forties and the Barbados Labour Party has always been towards owning the natural resources of the Caribbean for all of the Caribbean people, and oil happens to be part of those resources. And it is about time that we discuss seriously as a people and as a Government how fast we can move, with those countries in the region who want us, to plan the economic development and the

political development of the Caribbean, because unless we do so we will not ever be able to withstand the pressures from outside.

I regret very much, Mr. Speaker, that I have not heard from the Government side, what consultations have gone on between our Government and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in particular, and the other Governments about ensuring oil supplies for this country. I have seen that the Minister of Industry in Jamaica as well as the Prime Minister have made representations to the Venezuela Government and have been assured that their supplies will be maintained at the same level as existed over the last nine months. I have seen a unilateral statement issued by the Prime Minister of Trinidad in relation to the situation, but this House is never treated with the respect of having such communication conveyed to this House, and we are always left to speculate as to what role Barbados is playing. I believe the reason for this is very simply that the Government believes that the people's business is something that you play close to your breast. The Government has not learnt to take people into its confidence and that is why when it gets irresponsible action or statements it has only itself to blame, because it does not understand that you must come candid with the House and come candid with the Opposition if you want from the Opposition a bi-partisan approach on a matter.

I would like to talk a bit about the oil supplies in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed that in an energy crisis in this country this House is told nothing from any Member of the Government so far, who has spoken, including the Minister on the front Bench, about what is the potential of the Barbadian oil supplies. It is being left to the Opposition to ask, by questions in this House, important information which belongs to the people of this country - the information as to what are the oil supplies - and we are being told in asides that we will only know this after the next election. That must stop, and the sooner it stops, the better, because I think the Government must understand that the natural resources of this country are not a matter for Mobil Oil or Gulf Oil or for the Prime Minister, nor is it a matter for people who are buying up plantations left, right and centre in this country; it is a matter for the whole country and it is not such information that it is in the national interest that it must be concealed at any time at all; and I am calling on the Government, as part of its exercise, to let the country know what oil finds there have been, let us know what are the Government's proposals in relation to sharing in any oil finds, and let us know whether, at all, there is anything that is worthwhile.

I am not interested in moving from the constituency of Christ Church West except, Mr. Speaker, to come to pay my respects to the constituencies of St. Philip North and South, but let me say this right away, that on a really serious level, I do not believe it is proper Government to come into a House at this time or indeed to go on television without letting the country know what it has in its own backyard in order to help supply the energy crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that it is 20,000 barrels a day that we can secure. I am being told this. What is

the price at which that is going to be sold when it is refined? No information at all is given to any Member of the House and we are being asked to show a bi-partisan approach on this matter.

I would like also to talk about the attitudes of people. It is being said that the Opposition is trying to frighten the country. Let me say that that job has been admirably done in the first broadcast given by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, although he has subsequently recouped the position somewhat by showing a greater degree of calm than he had at first. The Barbadian, contrary to what the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central might think, is not at all new to such a situation as this. This is nothing new to him During 1939-45 when I was a young kid growing up - I think I was something in the region of four years old - we faced the prospects of rationing and I remember vividly, each one of us knew then how we had to tighten our belts and how we had to use substitutes, and how we had to help in hewing wood, in drawing water, in conserving food, and it has always been in the ability of the Barbadian to ride out a crisis, regardless of whether it is under this Government or any other Government. I was a child in the 1939-45 period, and that was one of the times when I admired, not only the illustrious Sir Grantley Adams but even the hon. Member for St. Michael West, and I can remember particularly the distinguished Leader of the House who was very friendly with my adopted father, frequently, as a child, counselling at home and telling me how I should appreciate our locally grown potatoes in those days. So this situation is not novel as the hon. Member seems to think. It is one that the Barbadian knows, but you must not push the panic button for him to make him lose confidence in himself; and I am asking the Government to begin by making contingency plans in relation to rationing, to let the country know that it may become necessary to institute a rationing system. Administratively it is a difficult system; to institute and to manage it is probably a reasonably expensive system if it is only in relation to a short term situation; but it is a contingency which the Ministry must be prepared to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to defend the people of Pine Gardens. I am one of those who got the strictures of the Honourable Minister on the television, and let me say that I myself did not drive; I have walked through Pine Hill, Pine Gardens, Belleville, Brittons Hill, St. Barnabas and many areas since this crisis began, to see how our people were responding; and I would like to say that the member for St. Michael South Central is fortunate to count the people of Pine Hill among his constituents because there were two houses in that area that I saw lights of any significance in. I am not going to mention them on the floor of the House; I do not like doing things of this nature. But the Minister was not telling the truth on this matter, and it is cheap politics if you want to talk about cheap politics merely to single out the people of Pine Hill whereas there were other areas like Swan Street where there were very few Swan Street merchants who had their lights on at all, and if you doubt me you can check with the Central Police Station because one of the policemen was there when I commented on it and he said his reports were similar to mine; and the Government was tardy in turning off the lights on the Treasury Building and at the Barbados Marketing Corporation, I do not believe in that sort of politics myself and I think it is unfortunate that you should single out people who have cooperated completely. I cannot speak for Rendezvous as I have not visited it; It is part of my constituency and part is also that of the Minister of Tourism, but I am sure they too must have cooperated. 7.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end by appealing to Barbadians, despite the administrative mistakes that are being made at Government level, to cooperate 100%. I would like to appeal to the Government in this instance to be much more candid and to be much more level headed and to set an example. I am not satisfied that some of the people who are qualifying at the moment for special treatment in relation to oil supplies should get it. I believe the hon. Member for St. Michael West said that he wants no special favours, and likewise I will say that I am not exercising any special favours in this way but I am sure that this is a time when Government must make Government vehicles available to Ministers for ministerial duties and not for private pleasures. I am not going to use any essential supplies for my own personal pleasures unless I queue up like anybody else and my household should do the same.

I am appealing very strongly to all persons in this country at the moment and particularly to those people who support the Opposition, because we speak for them as well, to cooperate with the Government despite some of the mistakes that have been made to see if we can needle out - I think the ladies like to talk about needling out - what we have to make a bigger bread so that we can reap that crop. May I just join with the hon. Member for St. Joseph in saying that the important need is not only to get essential food supplies going and to keep them going, but the most important need is to keep the Light and Power going so that the factories in the new industries can work, so that the hospital services will be available, so that the airport can work, and finally, so that we can get the crop reaped, because regardless of what we say this economy is in a very bad state. It is going to get a further setback from the energy crisis. The implications can mean worse unemployment, I think the hon. Member for St. Michael West knows this and no doubt he is appealing for bipartisan support on this, but unemployment in the tourist industry or in the new industries can mean that we are going to have falling standards of living and that we might find ourselves being able to repay and meet the public debt which has to grow. In the next two years the public debt of this country will grow at a terrific rate to cushion the effect on the economy and also of this oil shortage because we are not generating enough within our own country. I am asking for support on this measure in the hope that we will ride it out.

I have every confidence as the hon. Member said, in Barbadians and it is because I have confidence in them that I can criticise the Government fairly and feel that the Government should be big enough to acknowledge that it made some mistakes. We are not moving a censure motion, we are saying that you have made some administrative mistakes, review them and correct them and take the Leader of the Opposition at least into your confidence with some of your measures. (Asides) Mr. Speaker, a lot of people, as has recently happened in Trinidad, hope to take over, but as far as I know on this side there is only one person in charge and that is the Leader of the Opposition, and on the other side there is only one person in charge and that is the Acting Prime Minister. It is not a question of taking over at this stage, the question is whether we are sufficiently large nationally to ride out this storm. We can, but the Government must be on its toes otherwise we cannot.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, at this stage pursuing this matter would hardly serve any useful purpose. I beg to move that further consideration of this motion be postponed until next week Tuesday.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, this motion cannot be postponed because according to the rules as soon as the sitting finishes this motion automatically dies.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The point is that this is a matter of definite and urgent public importance moved on the adjournment. When the House is adjourned this matter automatically dies, and unless those persons who have indicated their desire in writing to speak indicate that they no longer desire to speak, in which case this is the end of the matter, I do not see how one can procedurally move that further consideration on this matter be postponed.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I will suggest to the Hon. Leader of the House that it would be of better interest if he were to have the House suspended so that we can meet again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

There are so many irregularities which go on in here from time to time. If he wants it suspended let us suspend. I beg to move that the sitting be suspended till Tuesday, 11th at 12 noon.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Again we are in procedural difficulties because the motion for the adjournment has already been moved.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition was that the House do now adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. What happens at the completion of that discussion is that the House automatically reverts to the business it was doing, so when we finish that motion it goes back to Private Members' Business and then you adjourn at that stage. If the House is suspended till next Tuesday, we will have to have an Order Paper.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw Your Honour's attention to Standing Order 18(1) which states "Any Member other than a Member of the Government may at the time appointed under Standing Order No. 10 (Order of Business) rise in his place and ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance."

My submission is that this is a matter that stands on its own feet, and if Your Honour agrees that a debate on this motion can be postponed it has nothing to do with the question of the House meeting again to deal with this, because it stands in the same way as a motion, unless we refer to Mays, but dealing with the interpretation of this rule this is for the adjournment on a definite matter of urgent public importance. If Your Honour feels that before you adjourn you have to dispose of this matter it is a matter for members to vote on the question of whether or not the House should adjourn. I think the Leader of the Opposition who made the motion should be in his place to deal with this matter, but my view about it is that we should seek to prevent the House from meeting again on this matter because it is not an adjournment like an adjournment in the Other Place where we adjourn at 9.30 and nothing else is discussed. 7.10 p.m.

If this adjournment had been moved, it was not going to be an automatic adjournment that the House stands adjourned until next Tuesday.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I would think that the hon. Member has forgotten one point that after this motion was put forward the Hon. Leader of the House rose and asked that Rules 2, 3, and 4 be suspended. Therefore the only Rules that would be applicable at this time would be 18(1) and 18(5).

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is what the hon. Member has just read - 18(1).

Mr. BOLDEN:

At this point all the other things pertaining to time will go. As far as I am advised on our side, we have completed our job. It is now for the other side to decide what they want to do.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That was my main concern. People who had indicated in writing that they wanted to speak have now changed their mind. If that is so, then this is the end of the matter. I am now prepared to accept a motion for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. ADAMS:

We have spoken out the substance which permitted me to move the motion. All the Leader of the House has to do, presumably, is to add to my motion "until next Tuesday at twelve o'clock."

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the Hon. Leader of the House indicate when the House is to be adjourned for?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, it has only now been drawn to my attention that all the speeches are in. I did not hear that before. That being the case, the debate is concluded as such.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th December, 1973, at twelve noon.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.15p.m.