

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 11th December, 1973

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock Noon.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Mr. R. StC. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. C L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. H. deB. FORDE, MA., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A.,

MA,(Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., EdM.

Prayers were read.

MICROPHONES NOT WORKING

Mr. SPEAKER:

I beg to explain that the microphones Nos. 2, 3 and 4 on the Opposition's side are not working because the wires were damaged, so I must apologise to hon. members on that side who will have to make themselves properly heard at all times.

I have just been informed that none of the microphones are working; this means that it will be very necessary for all hon. members to make themselves heard at all times. I understand that all the wires have been damaged.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following-

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$373,184 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1973-74 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1973-74, No. 27 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also a Resolution to grant the sum of \$677,586 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. 28 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also a Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,800 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. 29 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

BILLS

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the licensing of persons who wire buildings for the supply of electricity and for connected purposes.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Questions standing in the name of the hon. member for Christ Church West.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Questions-

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Does the Government anticipate that a petrol rationing and oil restriction scheme will be necessary in the near future?

2. Has the Government any plans formulated for such a scheme?

3. Will the Government make it its policy to lay documents relating to arrangements concerning petrol rationing in Parliament before outside sources are notified?

4. Will the Minister state what communications and/or consultations, if any, have been taking place with the Government of Trinidad & Tobago with regard to supplying the oil and petroleum needs of Barbados?

To inquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Will the Minister state Government's practice and/or policy in relation to the issue of diplomatic passports?

2. Will the Minister state how many such passports have been issued since independence and the categories of persons to whom the same have been issued?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of road construction and repairs (particularly in relation to tenantry roads) in Christ Church West?

2. Will the Minister state when it is intended to repair the roads in September Square, in the Avenue in Harts Gap, and Forde's Road?

3. Will the Minister state what is the earliest date on which it is intended to construct and/or repair the tenantry roads in Worthing View, Old Navy Road, Thomas Gap near Club Morgan, and Rockley near Ventnor Land?

4. Will the Minister state whether it is intended to barter-green (and if so, when) the newly constructed road at Gills Gap off Dayrells Road?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. Will the Minister state:-

(a) what has been the percentage rise in the cost of food in Barbados since January 1962 to date;

(b) what is the current rate of rise in food price;

(c) what has been the increase in wholesale food prices since September 9, 1971;

(d) what has been the increase in retail food prices since September 9, 1971?

2. Will the Minister state what has been the average percentage increase in the price of imported commodity goods into Barbados during the years 1961 to 1973 inclusive?

3. Will the Minister state the number of price increases which have been allowed under the relevant Miscellaneous Control Legislation since September 1971?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

In view of the uncontrolled rise in the cost of living over the past year would the Minister state how soon the Government intends to increase personal taxable allowances?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to provide for the licensing of persons who wire buildings for the supply of electricity and for connected purposes, be now read a first time.

Hon. L..E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 130 asked by the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 144 asked by the hon. member for Bridgetown is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

STANDING ORDER SUSPENDED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended for the remainder of the Day's Sitting.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.15 p.m.

RESOLUTION FOR ADVANCES OF SALARY OR WAGES TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

A Resolution for the sum of \$660,000 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, as the Addendum sets out, these are the regular advances which are made to certain categories of workers in the Government Service. On this occasion it is limited, as you will see in the Schedule, to those who are in receipt of salary of \$600 per month or under. The Addendum is quite clear, it states "It is proposed to make advances of salaries and wages to certain Government employees, to assist them in meeting the additional expenses of the Christmas Season. These advances are to be repaid by 31st March, 1974."

This is the regular resolution which comes at this time and is subject to similar terms and conditions as in the past, only on this occasion it is limited to those in receipt of salary of \$600 or under, but is subject to similar terms and conditions for repayment. It is all set out in the Schedule. The categories of workers who will be benefiting under the Scheme are monthly paid public officers whose salaries are \$600 per month or less on 1st November, 1973. Examples of the categories of officers who will receive the

advances are as follows:

(a) teachers, senior teachers in receipt of \$600 per month, qualified teacher whose salary is not more than \$600 per month, supernumerary teacher;

(b) police sergeant in receipt of \$600 per month and other ranks below sergeant;

(c) leading fireman and fireman;

(d) senior nursing sister whose salary is \$600 per month, staff nurse, special nurse and nursing assistant; and

(e) secretary, stenographer, senior clerk, assistant accountant, clerical officer, telephone operator, key punch operator, laboratory attendant, field assistant, welder, foreman, etc.

Mr. Chairman, generally speaking, all who are in receipt of salaries of \$600 per month or under and wages as stated are eligible for these advances. This of course also applies to the unestablished and casual staff who will receive an advance equivalent to twice the net weekly earnings received by them during any average week for a period of eight weeks immediately preceding the date of repayment.

Members will probably want to know how this scheme has worked over the years, and I will give them a rough rundown. The scheme was started in 1962 and in the year 1962-63 the amount advanced was \$257,484 and at the end of the financial year the amount outstanding was \$724.46. In 1963-64 the amount advanced was \$262,373 and at the end of that financial year the sum of \$3,242.23 had not been repaid. The position for the remaining years is as follows:

Year	Amount Advanced	Amount Outstanding
------	-----------------	--------------------

\$ \$

1964-65 296,400 2,459.88

1965-66 301,208 72.24

Year Amount Advanced Amount Outstanding

\$ \$

1966-67 21,579 2,193.70

1967-68 371,628 6,696.80

1968-69 380,902 3,176.50

1969-70 432,789 5,292.73

1970-71 515,089 8,398.02

1971-72 345,398 10,008.15

1972-73 660,000 29,575.60

The position is, as we all know, that the majority of these workers, I think, are from the Ministry of Communications and Works, and we are all aware of the fact that when the crop season comes along many of these workers may be found drifting to the crop and assisting in reaping the crop, and that is one of the reasons why some of these amounts are outstanding. Be that as it may, I think that the scheme generally speaking works well, it serves a very good purpose and it is a good gesture to help those in the lower brackets to see that they are put in a better position to be able to enjoy the Yuletide season and to feel happy at least for a short time. I do not think I need to elaborate, but the fact is that we are doing our part, so without any further ado, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I think the closing remarks of the Leader of the House, one can safely say, were remarks which will always be remembered. He said that this is to make them feel good for a short time. I would have thought that this dynamic Government as they always pose to be would try to make these people feel good all the time, but from the mouth of the Leader of the House it is made quite clear that this is only for a short time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member is trying to catch at every little thing, but they should be made to feel a little better. The Government is doing all it can and in giving them these advances they should feel that the Government is doing its best so that they will be in a better position to feel well. 12.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I am sure that the Opposition would not take the Government to task on a Resolution of this nature, because whenever and wherever it is possible the Opposition will endeavour to assist the workers of this country at any level. However, there is one set of people that the Government seems to forget in this society at all times. I recall that the Government usually gives old age pensioners an extra dollar during the celebration of Independence. Unfortunately old age pensioners were unable to get an extra dollar this year because the Government was faced with certain financial problems.

Anyway, I would have thought that in bringing down this Resolution the Government would have brought along another Resolution to be endorsed by Parliament for the purpose of giving old age

pensioners \$1 or \$2 extra to enable them to enjoy themselves around Christmas time. I believe that this will be the last occasion before the House rises for the Christmas recess, and I feel in the same way the Government brought down this Resolution to give casual workers and certain civil servants a little extra finance to assist them at Christmas time that those unfortunate pensioners, who gave their toil and sweat all over the years, should be given something extra rather than allowing them to remain in the same position. I am asking Government in future, to bring down a Resolution to give old age pensioners something extra at Christmas time so that they will be able to have a better Christmas.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, it is amazing to find that an hon. member would get up on a Resolution such as this, that has been coming before this House for the last twelve years, and say such things. You cannot challenge this Resolution. If you challenge this Resolution, you will be challenging what is written in your Manifesto, you will have to say that the Government should not give a Christmas loan to casual workers and public servants.

Now the Hon. Leader of the House said that this Resolution is going to be more restrictive. If the Opposition wanted to debate something, then they should ask the Minister why it is more restrictive than in the past. They have not done that, but the hon. member is now talking about a Resolution which has absolutely nothing to do with old age pensioners. He agrees that this Resolution should be passed, but he is asking the Government, in future, to bring down a Resolution at Christmas time to increase old age pensions. This is unrelated, irrelevant, and it has only been suggested because he can get up and talk and make unnecessary rude remarks because he is a member of the House. What he has said adds nothing to the quality of the debate, or to the commonsense of the motion with which we are dealing. This is something to help people at Christmas time because public servants, during the period of inflation, like everybody else will need more money to spend.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has decided to lend certain people money at Christmas time. This is a Resolution that has always been accepted by the whole House, and because we have agreed to do this I do not see why we should ask the Government to increase the amount paid to old age pensioners at Christmas time.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, some people seem to think that they can rule the world with their own thoughts, but common sense and procedure teach us that when it is a money Resolution we can roam the whole ambit of the Government's spending. My colleague was dealing with a money Resolution and the Government's spending of the taxpayers' money. If he suggests that certain members of the community, who are under privileged, should be given an additional amount of money at Christmas time, then nobody can rule him out of order.

I know that some people would like to be in your seat, Sir, but thank God that nobody else can make a ruling while you are in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will decide when to make a ruling.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to challenge the statement Made by the Leader of the House about persons drifting from one job to another in order to reap the sugar cane. That statement is not correct. On that side of the House they have been misleading this House Tuesday after Tuesday as they have done when we were discussing the land at the National Stadium. They said that it was the Government's land when the land had already been vested in the Government's Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I will go further and say that Government has created a situation whereby casual workers were able to leave MCW, go and reap the sugar cane crop and return to work with MCW, They collected money from MCW on the one hand, and profits from the sugar industry on the other. This is no longer happening and that is why the Government is forced to bring in labourers from St. Lucia and St. Vincent to reap our sugar crop. You can ask the Government now if it is not true that they are preparing a list at MCW to lay off people.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

That is not true. 12.35 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the point about it is that there is a complete breakdown in the administration of the system when workmen can borrow money in one department and move to another department and the money is not being deducted. They cannot even tell where a workman is working today who borrowed money eleven years ago. You cannot get a paying officer to tell you whether one workman has moved from one department to the next. Let the Leader of the House say how many have left the Ministry of Communications and Works for the canefields of this country and have gone to reap canes and who owed the Government money. Mr. Chairman, they must not mislead the people like this. They will tell you at one time that they are not responsible for the staff and at another time they will tell you that they are defending staff. When the ship is sinking everyone will break for himself, and that is what is

happening now.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to correct one idea. The point is that the Opposition has no idea of planning or what life is all about. Someone has run to him with a list saying that they are laying off members of staff. With an energy crisis, any proper Minister would have to get statistics to show with the shortage of fuel, oil and cement what effect it would have on his Ministry. The person who has run to him with his nonsense does not know what it is all about. You had a cut back in oil and diesel. The Minister will have to see how it will affect workers in his Ministry so that he can make representations to the proper authority to get back a proper quota...

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order. The Hon. Minister is replying. Would he say why a list was prepared in every Government Department long before the energy crisis, and how many you will cut back on and retrench?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

We have to ask where the officers are from and how much travelling they do so that the Government will be in possession of statistics. When they got here last week and talked about the energy crisis, they said that the Government was riot prepared. Now that the Government is doing something to combat it, they come and tell the House that the Government will lay off people. Do you expect the Government in a situation where there is a cut back in oil not to get statistics as to how many people go to work by car etc. so that the Government can total up and get the necessary statistics? Would not any right thinking Government get those statistics?

He has come with the usual nonsensical propaganda information giving the House the impression that we are going to lay off these people. I have 154 vacancies in the Ministry of Communications and Works. If people have to be laid off because of the shortage of fuel, can you expect me not to know what effect this will have in terms of employment? If I did not take every precaution. I should have been kicked out. I have to take these precautions to see that this does not arise. If we did not do this, we would hear that the energy crisis caught us with our pants down. If we have to ask someone how far he travels, do not give the public the impression that someone in the Ministry will clap his hands because people are laid off. I am one Minister who grieves when one single worker has to be laid off who has a family to support. As a Minister I am conscious of my obligations to see that everyone works. I ask for statistics as a responsible Minister because I want to know the effect of the energy crisis on the employment situation.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order. Will the Minister say that when the list was sent to him he cut it back a little more?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

He is lying.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I will not have the Minister -the road builder - saying that I am lying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I want to make it, clear to both sides. I have given sufficient latitude and I will; ask hon. members from now on to confine themselves to Standing Order No. 28(2) which states -

"A Member must confine his speech to the subject under discussion, and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto."

We are dealing with the Resolution for \$660,000, a loan to Government employees. Deal with that and nothing else but that. (Asides)

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, you cannot allow a member to say that "Walcott, get over there," There is no person in here named "Walcott". You have to make him behave himself. He is too near to you to behave badly and you cannot hear. You cannot sit down there with that common place behaviour. I do not stand for that. (Mr. CRAIG Go outside!) I am not going outside. You have to make him withdraw those remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are no remarks to be withdrawn because the remarks were not made to the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT:

You heard the remarks that the hon. member made. If you sit here and cannot hear these remarks you will have to be deaf.

Mr. CRAIG rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Both hon. members will sit. I am standing. I want all hon. members to understand that any sotto voce remarks made in this Chamber are not for me. I will only rule when hon. members are on their feet. If there are any unseemly remarks in this Chamber I will ask hon. members to desist from that behaviour or to leave.

Mr. WALCOTT:

You have just said something that is against the Rules. When a member makes sotto voce remarks or makes any statement in the Chamber at any time, it is a remark for the Chairman to hear. When you say that you are not paying attention to it, it is tantamount to saying that a member can sit down in his Chair - (Aside You cannot question the ruling of the Chair.) 12.45 p.m

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon member for St. Peter will now speak.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that I am right in saying that the Government's decision to restrict the lending of money to those employees earning \$600 per month or less is an indication that the Government wants us to understand that they do not have any money. One has been hearing time and again remarks such as this, the Treasury is empty, and what not, but I am to say that in the absence of worthwhile information from the acting Minister of Finance and what not, in the absence of an explanation from that hon. Minister one is led to believe that it is true that the Government does not have money to lend money to people working for \$600 per month or over. It is all well and good to suggest that one cannot challenge the Resolution; it is also true that we cannot be expected to exercise control over the way people spend their money but I believe I am right in saying that much of the money lent to these people at Christmas time - they get less than half of the money they spend at this particular time.

As far as we hear, at one time the amount was \$29,575.60 that you were in arrears. That is a tidy sum.

When one bears in mind that the terms laid down stipulate that the money must be loaned to persons who will be working until the end of March - in other words you lend the money to persons whose means of a repayment is guaranteed by their terms of employment until the 31st March, yet you find in one year you have a deficit of over \$29,000. What we have got to look at is this. Despite the fact that the money is loaned to workers who are supposed to be employed until 31st March, you seem to be making provision for lay offs, perhaps because of this energy crisis.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. I am not making provision for any lay offs. I am getting statistics of how a cut back may effect the labour situation - as to what effect it may have on the labour situation. I am not making provision for any lay offs. I am making provision for anything. So do not let the member misrepresent me. Do not misrepresent me.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I will not attempt to misrepresent the Hon. Minister. The unemployment situation, work conditions, and all such things relate to money spending and if the Government does not have the money with which to employ these people, the fact is you lay them off. The position is as the hon. Minister knows, "the last come must be first to go".....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. I know nothing about "the last come first to go". It is not a matter of any last come first go. If I did say to anyone in my Ministry the last to come must be the first to go, he must carry out my policy but I know nothing about what the hon. member is saying that "last come must be first to go."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister is now admitting that there is a question of some going.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. There is no question in my Ministry of anybody going. They come and they go because of a job having started and having been finished. I do not ask for any information about who comes and who goes. I am not interested in that. I don't have time to waste on "who come last first to go."

Mr. HINDS:

I believe what is worrying the Minister is this, that it is expected and it is normal to expect that the energy crisis will see a retrenchment. Let us put it that way; let us get away from the word "layoff" and "last come first to go". The fact is that some of the people who may benefit from the Christmas loan may be retrenched during the period January to March. That is what the Minister is making preparation for, I suppose.

Mr. Chairman, we find that there are occasions when people get Christmas loans and then quit their jobs. That is a situation which cannot be corrected easily, but the hon. member for St. Joseph touched the core, so to speak, of this question of arrears. What we are saying is that there are several people who are responsible for making deductions from these workers - we are not suggesting that there is any connivance on the part of anybody, but what we understand is that there are certain departments and more so the department of the Ministry of Communications and Works - in that department there are large numbers of workers who have benefited from these loans and no deductions whatsoever - no attempt whatsoever - has been made to deduct money at the end of the week as the case may be or at the end of the month from the earnings of these people, and we find ourselves from time and time trying to staff the various departments. I feel the time has come when the Government must look at this matter, and after a time and these people who have money do not repay it and make no attempt to repay it, the Government should recover it through the courts. I am sure that justice is not being done to the workers who seek to repay their loans. The attitude of some of the pay masters has been to let some of these people get the money and get it as a gift, and that's that, and we have to ask ourselves if this is fair and just. 12.55 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Finance ought to be in a position to tell us this point now. Here is a case where we are making provision to lend people money, as the Minister has said, to make them feel good for a short time. He wants them to feel smart for Christmas; that is what the Minister really means, but the Government now has in many of its departments quite a number of workers who have had to go on holiday and the Government could not find it possible to advance those workers their holiday with pay, but some of these same workers are some of the workers who are now to go and get some of these advances. I am sure that there are some workers who would be on holiday at this time, that if the Government had seen to it to make these people's advances to them whilst they were on leave it would prevent some of them from having to turn back and get Christmas loans then to be in debt. The truth is that the Government does not have the money, it is raking and scraping the bottom of the bucket at the end of each day to meet its day-to-day commitments. I have said this in this House before. That is the state of the finances of this country, and we are not saying so because we are not true nationals, it is a case where we have to face up to facts. This going on fooling people all the time, making the outside investors believe you have this and that has got to stop, because when they come they find that you do not have it.

It is a fact that the Government does not have money to meet its commitments, and even this \$660,000

we are voting here, I wonder if on this occasion the money is in truth and in fact going to be lent to people. We want the Government, if they are going to lend people money, not to do it as we have known them to be doing it in the past. Many people when they go to sign the paysheet after they make applications for these loans, go with the Democratic Labour Party passport in their breast pockets to let somebody see that they have the passport so it will be all right. If you were to carry out an investigation you will find that amongst the leading supporters of the Democratic Labour Party, the passport holders are the leading people amongst those who have not made repayments of these loans, and amongst whom you will find that no attempts have been made by the civil servants responsible for making deductions from the wages and salaries of these people to do so. That is scandalous, and we would like to see that this is stopped. It is not fair and it is not right. There has been confusion from time to time in various departments where these loans are put on what is called a temporary paysheet, and until it is transferred to what they call a weekly or a monthly paysheet, these deductions cannot be enforced and are not often enforced. All of this is just a matter of mal-administration or administrative inaccuracies. Whatever they might be, we are asking the Government now to set about lending the people money for them to get some benefit, even as the Leader of the House said, that they will feel good for a short time. We want them to be happy for all time, and that is what we are promising the people of this country, that we want them happy at all times, but I believe it has been turning over in the mind of the Hon. Acting Minister how long is too long, so he finds it necessary at this time to make them feel good because he knows that they have been oppressed, depressed, suppressed and wrongly assessed.

Mr. Chairman, I hardly think there is any other point which needs to be made on this Item. We are in favour of the advances being made to the workers, we appreciate the point that the Government is now saying that if you earn \$600 per month or over you have to tighten your belt, the Government is not concerned with you at this time, you do not have to feel good, you have to make yourself feel good, we have no money to lend that type of worker, and I believe that the sooner the Hon. Ministers on that side come face to face with issues and let people know the truth about all things about the Government the better it will be for the nation as a whole.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, there are just two small points I want to make on this matter. One concerns the collection of arrears. It seems to me that we have got into the habit of allowing these arrears to accumulate over the years to the extent that some of them in law are statute barred unless there have been acknowledgements in writing from the parties concerned. In my view this is most unfortunate, and I think that the Government should give some consideration to introducing a Judgement of Wages Act. This could be used not only in circumstances such as these where workers may move from one department, or indeed from one form of employment to another, but it can also be used in a wider sphere of judgement of wages for supporting children which I consider a reasonable obligation to place on people who do not maintain their families. Such a Bill could be properly discussed with the worker's representatives so that it does not entail people using it indiscriminately simply to get at debts.

The second point I should like to make concerns the attitudes that one should try to inculcate in the country at large. Politically it will not be feasible for any member of the Government or any member of the Opposition not to support such a measure. Indeed the level of politics in the country has got to the stage that both the Government and the Opposition might find themselves hooked by their own petards, and a bit of gratuity at Christmas has become the catch phrase and the pass word and a necessity to keep in with the voters. I know all that, but I should like to issue a further statement which I think we should tell the country at large. It is an undoubted fact that the economic situation in this country is very difficult, regardless of whether the Government feels that it is in a position to state this candidly or not, the situation remains that unless the Government can borrow from overseas financial houses or financial houses in this country to look at the day to day administration, it is finding it difficult on the basis of the monies being generated from taxes in general to support the administration. That is a fact. I do not believe that any Minister of Finance can deny this, because the figures are there and they speak for themselves. It is not the sort of time that we should therefore be encouraging people in this country to go on a spending spree at Christmas. 1.05 p.m.

I am disturbed every morning to hear advertisements over the radio saying that all you have to do is to come to Bridgetown and without any down-payment you can get almost anything: usually luxury goods, some of which are consumed after one use at Christmas. People spend money on toys, some of which are really totally irrelevant to the needs of the community. It seems to me that the Government is shirking its responsibility in advising those in the public sector to spend their money usefully. Although it is impossible for the Government to supervise the use of this money, I believe the Government should use its position to influence attitudes in this country. Unless these attitudes are influenced, I predict for this country a worsening economic situation within the next two years.

As legislators, it is our duty to make it quite clear that unnecessary spending in the private or public sector in Barbados should be cut out drastically for the next two years. If the people fail to do that, then this Government has the power to use fiscal measures to control it. I ask the Government to set the example in relation to spending money and let the community understand what is happening with the economy as a whole, and this could be the best Christmas bonus that legislators could give to this country as a whole.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$660,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

A Resolution in the sum of \$283,868 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 23 - Regiment - \$2,500, I wish to point out that the notes are fairly complete. The sum of \$2,500 is required to supplement the 1973-74 Estimates of the Barbados Regiment Head 23, Item 20. The amount approved in the 1973-74 Estimates had proved inadequate. Supplementary provision is required for the following reasons

(1) The rates being charged at the General Rate instead of the Domestic Rate as formerly on account of additional buildings.

(2) Additional buildings have been allocated to the Department.

(3) Additional security lights have been installed.

(4) There has been an increase in the number of weekend camps taking place. These are some of the reasons for this Resolution.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 23 - Regiment - Item 20 - Utilities - \$2,500 stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education - \$68,000 - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the request here is for the sum of \$618,000 by way of supplementary provision, and it is to permit the Government, through the Ministry of Education, to carry out its commitments in the maintenance of the Schools Programme. The major repairs to some 12 schools have so far been carried out in a number of parishes in this country, and it is necessary to meet certain expenses of that major repairs programme and to continue certain minor works which include plumbing and electrical repairs. The need for additional funds has arisen from a number of factors, namely -

(1) The unavoidable payment of claims for the financial year 1972-73 from the provision in the current estimates.

(2) the increase in the cost of labour and materials;

(3) the unforeseen repairs to schools, including repairs and replacement of lavatory fixtures and fittings as a result of the increased acts of damage to school buildings.

Major repairs have been carried out at St. Mark's Primary School, Chalky Mount School, Bay Primary School, St. James Mixed School and so on. There are still certain works to be carried out at the Hindsbury Primary School and the Bay Primary School and this provision, if approved, will enable the repairs to be carried out.

In addition, we get many requests from time to time concerning the St. Joseph Primary School for repairs to be carried out, and this provision will permit the works to be done.

Mr. Chairman, this is a noncontroversial matter and I, therefore, move that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education, Item 12 - Maintenance of Buildings - in the sum of \$68,000 stand part.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister feels that this matter is not controversial because he feels that it is normal for us to see many of our school buildings looking as shabby and uninspired to the people who enter therein as we know them to be. The Minister must have gone around the country during his tours of duty, and he must have seen some of the conditions which we know exist in our schools. What must be of serious concern to us is that there are many of these projects which are called minor repairs. Up to the time when the work is finished it is a minor project, but what makes it a major project is the long unsupervised hours spent on a job, the consequent rise in costs, and so on.

Mr. Chairman, there was a time when we had the local School Managers of those schools looking after certain matters. There were certain minor works at those schools where the Manager in conjunction with the Head Teacher would, from time to time, pay attention to the work that was being done at a particular school. In those days you would find that the work was done at very low cost, very satisfactorily, and the workman would not spend more time than was necessary on a job.

Mr. Chairman, that is not so today. We have had an example from the Hon. Minister of Education as to how he ignored his own Finance Committee and his own General Purposes Committee and all of those Committees which should have gone into certain matters. 1.15 p.m.

You will find that an entirely different system is in operation and an ad hoc way of approaching these matters; but the result is that the buildings remain as we see them, and as the Minister himself must admit, some of them are found in this condition because there is now not the case where any teacher is expected to be a caretaker of Government property; but you find that several of our schools are neglected and after the school session is over there is hardly any activity and there is no caretaker. It is unlike the day when you had a headteacher residing on the premises, but we are not suggesting that the Government move back to such a situation.

We have got to look at things as they really are. Now, on the question of vandalism. Although there is a belief that the more you talk about this the more it is encouraged, I still believe that enough is not being done by the Government to lecture to people, to teach people to appreciate what is being done for them by providing these schools and what not. Here again a point arises out of the absence of the local school manager or other person with some sort of interest in the school property, and in the absence of that person you will find that children in the area come and play games.

The type of sophisticated windows you find in some of our schools today are broken, but there is no immediate attention paid to this. As soon as one is broken and left broken and unrepaired, two, three or four more are broken. That is the type of thing that you will find. But if it was a case where the schoolmaster as in the past could hire a carpenter or someone in the area and he had some petty cash from which to disburse payment you will find that the pane of glass or two would be replaced and things would be kept in a much better condition than we find at the moment.

Our lavatories, we understand, suffer badly because children and others have not been making use of them in the way they should be used. Here again it is perhaps parents who will have to take part of the blame in this respect; but again you will find that if you have children coming from homes not equipped with the type of facilities that you find in these schools, part of the blame must then be borne by the teacher or some other person who should try to educate these children. Perhaps it might be suggested that we are not keeping day nurseries and that when a child goes to school he should know how to use these facilities. Yet it arises out of the inability of these people to use the facilities provided for them in the way it is intended that they should be used that we find this Resolution or part of it here today.

I want to counsel the Minister. The Ministry of Education kept its own building officer in the past. I believe that they must have two of them now. The point is that some of these jobs exceed their original estimate by two or three times and that is by too much. We appreciate the fact that the buildings are not all new and in the case of plumbing and electrical fittings we find that as soon as you tear open or burst here you will find trouble hitting from behind; but we have too many cases where people have been getting rich, just about a bit too soon, out of doing these small jobs for the Ministry of Education.

I am urging the Minister wherever possible to carry out some sort of check on this. It is the spending of the taxpayers' money that is involved, and we have to look at it in its broadest possible sense.

Now we have, Mr. Chairman, Head 36(5).

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We are dealing strictly with Head 36(2).

Mr. HINDS:

Yes, Sir. Head 36(2). I think that I have said enough on Head 36(2).

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister has paid attention to certain remarks that the hon. member has made about children coming from certain homes and who cannot use these facilities. I do not know what kind of homes they are expected to come from if they are going to elementary schools. The hon. member said that some people were getting rich too quickly. It seems to me that some of us are getting great too early. The hon. member talked about children coming from homes and going to elementary schools and being incapable of using the services we have in elementary schools. What nonsense am I hearing? Are you beginning now to say what old-fashioned conservatives have been saying about people going into the Universities today and stating that the reason why you have riots in Universities is because university students of today are not the same kind of people that were university students 30 or 40 years ago?

You get children going to elementary schools coming from poor homes and districts and here is the hon. member saying that they cannot use these facilities, that they do not understand how to flush a toilet. These are children who have to go to the pipe for water. Many of us had to do the same thing and we had to get past these things so that we can now help these people. 1.25 p.m.

How is it that you are representing poor people and yet making these indirect slurs at them saying they are incapable. I did not believe I would live long enough to hear a black man get up in this House of Assembly and talk about people coming from homes and being incapable of using the facilities of a water toilet. You must.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I spoke as an hon. member and not as a black man.....

Mr. WALCOTT:

You do not know that you are a black man?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I repeat. I spoke as an hon. member and not as a black man.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will counsel the hon. member for St. Michael West to refer to the hon. member as an hon. member.

Mr. WALCOTT:

He is an hon. member but he is black. He is black. What nonsense is he talking about?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, for the hon. member for St. Michael West to be addressing the Chair and saying that I am a black man is out of order and I am objecting to that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

He has explained the whole thing by saying "He is an hon. member but he is black." There is nothing wrong in that now.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I started off, Mr. Chairman, by addressing the hon. member as an hon. member but I did not think the hon. member could be so silly as to think that he is not an hon. member because he is black, because he will never be able to change that never mind how many hon. members you call him. This is one of the changes we cannot make. What I am saying is that I am surprised to hear an hon. member who is a black man making a statement like the one he has made because our origins would not permit us to make these kinds of statements, that people e coming from homes - people who cannot utilize these facilities that we are providing the community with. That is not for us, let some of the others talk that sort of nonsense. We provide these facilities for the people we represent and we are part of the people we represent. Today we have more boys going to Harrison College, more girls going to Queens College - altogether, more boys and girls going to the first grade schools and more boys and girls going to elementary schools who make use of these facilities at their homes than ever before and these facilities should not now be regarded any longer as special privileges.

Mr. Chairman, the old Parry School was in shambles before we came into power; in bare shambles. The old Coleridge School was in shambles also; you could run a horse through some of the boards. We know these things. To repair the schools was something of the past. We can look at the old elementary schools and see what they are today as compared with the past. Considering what we have as elementary schools today as compared with the past, they are palaces, so do not let us fail to see this in the right perspective. The parents of children are living in better homes today than years ago and the children are coming from homes with water toilets in them. Water is installed in more homes today than in the past. There is no point belabouring the fact that things are destroyed in the schools, because children will

behave like children and break glass, and toilet seats will be destroyed because children are children, and that is nothing to do with the homes from which they come. We have to question ourselves and ask whether the facilities which we had at school in our day compare as favourably as those provided in the schools today. I hear some hon. members referring to the situation in the past and saying it was so good. So good what? Forty five years ago when some of us were going to school, you could count everybody who was going to Queens College and Harrison College. Today there is nothing like that. So what good are you talking about when you say that in the past it was "so good"? Today you look back at the past with some nostalgia. People today talk about girls having babies when they are so young, as if people in the past did not have babies until they were fifty; they try to make you believe that in the past they did not have babies when they were sixteen too and that only the young girls of today are liking boys early.

Mr. Chairman, there are people today who want to get rich quick, and the fact is that among them are politicians. Politicians want to get rich and become millionaires overnight too, but it should be borne in mind that you can only get rich quickly if you get people to work for you cheaply. So you must understand these things. 1.35 p.m.

It is not only the builders you have to watch. I do not want to deal with that, but the hon. member must know that if you send something at somebody you have to get back something, so be very careful. I can bear any examination you put to me on these scores, I do not have anything to worry about. I was in public life too long to be worried, I cannot get rich quickly now I would have to get rich lately, you cannot use that phrase with me. I do not think it was fair for the hon. member to say what he did and I object strongly, I object even further, from his roots, and if he objects to being a black man I object to hearing this and I am going to object till I see it get out of this community, because we cannot follow people who are making these vain statements about our people being incapable, it is a fact of spreading too far and wide, and when some of us reach positions of responsibility somebody believes we are lucky. That has come about because we use these statements too loosely about people not using these services, and not being accustomed to this and that. I am black and I am proud to be black. Beauty is something of the mind, unless you have a beautiful mind you cannot see anything beautiful, everybody cannot see beauty, so therefore the point I would like to make is that I feel that the hon. member should endeavour on this question of adult education to see if he can spread the scope for more adult education to remove completely from Barbados that kind of language which the hon. member has used, and if he can get more facilities for adult education then the kind of language we heard today would not be accepted in Barbados, not even for a split second.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I think the member for St. Michael West has dealt, I believe, quite effectively with the sociological implications of the statement of parental origins by the hon. member for St. Peter. I do not propose to say anything on that particular matter, but I would like lest there be any misunderstanding, to state a principle, a fact, what flows from that principle and that fact. The principle is, and I think this is one which is shared by both sides of this House, that we would like to see our schools in as good a

condition as possible, because congenial surroundings in schools will assist, and do assist, in the business of education. It is right that both the teachers and the students should be in as congenial a set of conditions as possible. I think this is a principle which would be agreed upon on both sides.

The amount of money which is provided for our schools, most of which are many years old, depends upon the amount of resources that the country can afford for this particular exercise of keeping our schools in proper condition. As is stated in this resolution, the sum of \$300,000 was provided by this Hon. Chamber for the maintenance of our primary schools, some 119 of them and you, Mr. Chairman, and all hon. members will realise that with rising costs of materials and rising labour costs and other factors, that that amount of money cannot keep our schools in the type of condition that we would like to see them kept - that would be ideal - so it is a question of cutting the coat to suit the cloth. This has nothing at all to do, as the hon. member for St. Peter might try to have us believe, with ignoring any Finance Committee or any General Purposes Committee, it has nothing at all to do with that. There are 119 primary schools and it takes money to keep them in repair, whether it is to replace some as a result of burglary, whether it is a plumbing fault due to the normal wear and tear or to the damage which comes about naturally when you have a large number of young pupils around, or whether it is due to deliberate acts of vandalism, whatever the case may be we have to repair them and they can only be repaired in terms of the amount of money that is provided, so this has nothing at all to do with any finance committee or general purposes committee. The schools are surveyed, an estimate is presented, and perhaps by the time the estimate is made - as my colleague the Minister of Communications and Works would know - by the time the estimate is prepared the cost of some particular item or component has increased. These are factors which we have to take into account, and I think we should put all this in its right perspective.

We all wish to see our schools in as good a condition as possible in order to assist in the proper business of education, which is the education of the young people of this country, but we have to do this within the framework of the amount of money that can be provided and in a situation of rising costs, the amount of work that can be done naturally depends on the combination of all these factors. It is the duty of the accounting officer in any Ministry, the Permanent Secretary, to keep a close check to ensure that the Government gets proper returns for the money it expends. I do not know of any pepons out of the Ministry's building and maintenance programme getting rich quickly, I do not know of that and I would take it, it is the duty of the accounting officers to ensure that adequate returns are got for the money expended, and I am satisfied that the maintenance programme of the Ministry is operating satisfactorily.

The question that Head 36(2) - Primary, Adult and Special Education - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 36(7) - Hotel School - was catted.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, as the note to this particular Item states the sum of \$30,240 including a revote of the sum of \$28,000 is required to purchase the new bookmobile to replace a unit which has been found to be unserviceable. The unit was ordered from the United Kingdom during the last financial year but the delivery date could not be met because the suppliers indicated that there was a shortage of materials to permit the construction and the shipping of the vehicle.

This particular provision which is being sought by way of this supplementary vote is to ensure that when the vehicle arrives the money will be available to meet the commitment. I beg to move that Head 36(7) Item 18 - I am sorry Mr. Chairman, I was dealing with the Public Library, but this particular Item, Item 5 - Office Expenses - is for the sum of \$1,128 and this is to ensure that the Hotel School which from 1st April this year was set up as a separate institution would have enough funds to meet its commitments under this particular Item. 1.45 p.m.

The school was hitherto part of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and it has now been set up as a private institution. At the time of the preparation of the Estimates it was not known how much money would be required for this school Experience has shown that the requirements for this particular item were larger than those that were provided, and hence a supplement is being requested in order that the commitments for stationery and other items can be met. It was felt that, because of the importance of this particular institution and because of the need to provide education in more skills training, it would be better for these two institutions to be separated. The Hotel School has been allocated some 11 rooms and two suites, and the Ministry of Communications and Works has been requested to carry out the repairs to the rooms to make them adequate for the housing of the Barbados Hotel School. I expect that during the course of next year the school will be moved into "Marine House".

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (7) Hotel School - in the sum of \$1,128 - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Hotel Training School is not necessarily the Minister's particular

expertise, so to speak, but I am a little concerned about the Hotel Training School, and maybe the Minister of Tourism may speak on this matter and enlighten me on certain things. I have been a member of an organisation which deals with this Hotel Training School. There is something that runs through my veins which makes me feel that we have not yet grappled with this question of a Hotel School with the dynamism I would like to see,

With all due respect to the Minister, I do not look at the Hotel School as a matter of education per se, but as, a question of training. I feel that the hotel people in Barbados have not played their part in the manner that they should have done. When it comes to the question of training, I find that we do not get the contribution from the people in this country who benefit, in the final analysis, from this training. The Hotel Industry should be asked to make a substantial contribution towards the maintenance of this institution, and then you would get more drive in it because they would be directly spending some of their money on the project.

With regard to the question of the Graduation Ceremony, I know that some people believe in a lot of melodrama. We spend money on the Graduation Ceremony, but we do not spend enough money in content. I think we could cut out the Graduation Ceremony and spend the money more profitably. I was just in Washington at the Inter-American Foundation, and I know that if we want to put up a Hotel School that we could get the assistance of certain people who would like to help in the social development of certain countries. The Minister of Tourism is more experienced in this matter than I am, but I would like to see a Hotel School standing on its own feet where its functional aspects would be to serve meals instead of practising on people. It should be able to serve proper meals, and the staff should have the necessary facilities made available to them. You should have a Hotel School where people would be able to graduate as Chefs, Front Office Men, and so on.

Mr. Chairman, there are about five thousand workers in the Hotel Industry. Let us have things clear in our minds and do not allow the Hotel Industry to suffer the same fate as the Sugar Industry where people only work on the basis of a reserve labour force, and then you have to send to St. Lucia and Grenada for labourers because you are looking for a cheap reservoir of labour. People should be properly trained and they should be respected in their work. I would like to see the Hotel School or any subsidiaries to it so revitalised that everybody who goes there will be respected.

Mr. Chairman, mention has been made about "Marine House". I am not a believer in old buildings. If somebody leaves one for me I will take it, but I would not go out of my way to buy an old building and then hurt my head to renovate it in the manner in which I would like to see it. An old building usually turns out to be more expensive than a new one. I do not think that we should carry the Hotel School to "Marine House" because it was once known as the Marine Hotel. That kind of logic does not impress me.

I feel that the Hotel School should be able to stand on its own feet whether it is at "Marine House" or elsewhere. I have seen "Marine House", and it would take a lot of money to convert it into the sort of Hotel School that I would like to see in Barbados. It has enough land to accommodate the construction of another Hotel School. If it is intended to convert "Marine House" into a Hotel School, then I will warn the Minister of Education that he must be very careful. These old buildings catch fire very quickly. I feel that a Hotel School is necessary in Barbados and no one can doubt that. I would like to see it succeed because it will be a means of improving the industrial life of this country. You will get better productivity when people are trained and they are respected in their jobs.

Mr. Chairman, hotel workers in Europe, the U.S.A., and other parts of the world, are respected workers. I have been to places where hotel workers speak three or four languages easily. Some of them speak, English, Dutch and German. If we had one of those people in Barbados speaking three languages, he would have to be a professor, and if you gave him a job in a hotel he would have to be the Governor or the owner. 1.55 p.m.

The whole concept is different. People go to England from foreign countries to learn English and go back to work in hotels in Europe and vice versa. English people have to go to Europe to learn to cook. I say that because English people, with all due respect to the Englishman here, can only cook to suit the English. If you really want to enjoy a meal the place to go is not England unless you are a survivor and then you have to put up with anything. On the other hand, the French know how to cook, how to embellish food, how to make you like food.

We in Barbados have to get accustomed to people who can make yams and breadfruit look like something different from yams and breadfruit, and that calls for training. If we can make our hotel school more efficient in training people in a better way of bringing out what is produced in our community it would be a good thing.

Someone spoke about getting rich quickly. In my view hotel operators are the biggest sinners in this respect. They want to amortise their investment in hotels too quickly for my liking. A hotel as a building is going to last between 25 and 40 years. No one can expect to amortise these things too early, and one of the things in Barbados is that hotel operators want to be also real estate owners. They want to put up a hotel, sell it and turn around and go into real estate making the price go up on that hotel, so that the hotel which cost \$100,000 in year 1 will cost \$1/4 million in year 10. So you are withdrawing out of the industry so much money to pay back interest and mortgage that you are not distributing the money, and then you hear loose talk about inflation and wages and you find that wages are not really the important

factor.

With proper training you will understand some of the economics of the industry and there will be more understanding and less ignorance about it. I therefore feel that this is a very good thing to have, and I have no objection to the expansion; but I do feel that the Minister should give that aspect of this matter the closest attention because you are not at the stage in your hotel school where we can say that we know all about it. I say this because I do feel that the hotel industry, despite what some people are saying, will still be one of the important areas of our economy, because we do not have many areas which we can turn to. Sunshine is there and the sea is there. Those are our natural resources and we would be fools not to maximise our natural resources.

We should have expert hoteliers in Barbados, not now but years ago. If it is late it does not mean that you should not do something about it.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, there is an aspect of this Resolution to which I would like to make a contribution, and that is the question of the crash programme at the hotel school.

The school has been in operation for a number of years, and it seems to me that one of the criticisms which can be levelled at the school is the fact that enough opportunities for training have not been created to enable people who have gone through the initial training courses to return to upgrade their training and to give them an opportunity to go forward and move up in the hotel industry.

If one looks around hotels in Barbados and sees the number of people at managerial level who have passed through the hotel schools, one would see that this number is not very high, if indeed any are appointed to these posts. It seems to me that what we should try and concentrate on is ensuring that people trained in the industry at the hotel school should be given opportunity for further training so that they can achieve managerial positions in the industry. The industry is a very unfortunate one and it is one in which Barbadians should have a considerable amount of say and control.

This, Sir, brings us also to the point of the lack of cooperation which comes from the hoteliers themselves in that the kind of contribution which hoteliers make to this training is not the kind of contribution in keeping with the rewards they get. We feel that they should be upgrading the contribution that they are making and providing more opportunities by making time available off with

pay for workers to get the benefit of better training.

One of the disturbing aspects of the hotel school is that one finds that there seems to be in some instances an insistence on a high level of academic achievement. I think that this is one area where one has to be careful. I feel that the kind of emphasis which is placed or misplaced on academic achievement can stultify people with natural ability to do the particular course. When we try to step up these achievement levels, opportunity is given for people to move in and get the value of the training which is provided there. I think that these are areas to which we must give some consideration.

Training in the hotel industry is extremely important and we should try to maximise any benefits we can get from this particular area.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the speeches made so far have shown very clearly that this House was taken for a ride earlier in this very session.

Hon. C. E. TALMA. On a point of order. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be now suspended for one hour.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.05 p.m. On resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER:

When the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When the Sitting was suspended the hon. member for St. Joseph was speaking.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, time is showing up more and more that unreliable statements which are being made in this Chamber constantly by members on that side of the House. When one sits and hears the hon. member for St. Michael West and the hon. member for St. Lucy, two trade union officials, say openly and without challenge that the hotels in this country are not contributing to the hotel school, one has got to wonder whether or not the Minister responsible for Tourism can tell this honourable Chamber how he manifestly, when he was challenged by the Opposition some time ago that the hotels in this country were doing nothing towards the uplift of the people of this country, he could say that the hotels were providing personnel and were contributing substantially to the hotel school. Now the trade unionist says it is not true; but I have often said that he, the Minister, looks out for the big hotels. The hon. member after he was challenged, he ran outside and came back in later with a loose leaf but never made that document a document of this House. But now, the trade union man says.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On what point of order is he standing, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I must decide what is a point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I presume that the hon. member for St. Joseph is referring to the hon. member for St. Michael West. Well, he is not a trade union man. Mr. Chairman, all I am asking is that he refer to the hon. member for St. Michael West in his proper parliamentary term.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member for St. Michael West not a trade unionist?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

He is not a trade union man in this Chamber.

Mr. BOLDEN:

All right Sir. I recall that the hon. member for St. Michael West who is also general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union which is a trade union in this country, said you do not go to England to look for cooks. Mr. Chairman, do you not see that once the tourist industry is in the hands of that gentleman, the member for Christ Church North Central we will never get any further? Look at the Hotel School at Marine House. As far as that gentleman is concerned - I think I will refer to him as an Englishman as long as.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We only have hon. members in here. We do not have Englishmen in here.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Very well, Sir. As long as the hon. member is in charge of the hotels and tourism, the hotel school will soon leave Marine House and be moved to St. Lucy. But Mr. Chairman, the point I want to make is that it should be possible for the people at this hotel school, when they get a chance, to learn another language in order to climb up the ladder of the hotel school in Barbados; but under the Hon. Minister of Tourism they shall never. I am saying that they should not always be trained and treated as waiters. The hon. Minister of Tourism is reported as saying "I like Barbados because the natives call you, Sir"; that is what I heard. At any rate these people at the hotel school should not be treated merely as waiters, they should be taught the fundamental aspects of the three R's. They must be able to take a course in typing, accounts, or something like that, so that when vacancies are opened they can say on making an application, "I do not only know how to serve but I can type too". But, Sir, these people who go to the hotel school are not going to get time to study anything which will help them to climb the ladder so they will never get pass stage one in the hotel industry; so the hon. member for St. Michael West will understand why the hotels have no interest in putting money in the hotel school. The very people themselves who go to this school are not satisfied so this Chamber will understand why it is that everyone of these people are preparing for the strike that is coming at the end of the month. Tell me that that is not true now. Tell me that that isn't true. Ask the people who are really interested and know something about the hotel industry and they will tell you we know that the hotel industry is in a helpless state. I would like the Hon. Minister of Education to realize one thing - Mr. Chairman, I have heard fancy figures about 70% of the hotels is in the hands of Barbadians, and I also heard the Minister of Education said that the small hotels must get together in a cooperative if they want to benefit. But why talk about this percentage? Percentages are funny things with which to deal. Seventy percent of the hotel industry might be in the hands of Barbadians but what percentage of the tourist industry do they enjoy?

Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister of Education must understand that when he is told to move the hotel school from where it is he has to look at that suggestion very carefully. Ask how many of the small hotels are contented with the Bonanza trip, and they will all tell you that this is a gimmick to suit the West Coast hotels and these big hotels in Barbados. Ask how many of the small ones are satisfied with this operation and can list their names on this Bonanza trip? I know of a case where a hotel (A Pause).

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. BOLDEN:

I wanted to call the name of the hotel, Mr. Chairman, but I cannot remember now. Anyhow, a gentleman came in here. He was in Barbados for one week when he was sent on a Bonanza tour to Venezuela. Just one week, Mr. Chairman. 3.20 p.m.

One hotel aide said the only reason he did not back out was because there was a risk of being blacklisted. I want the Hon. Minister to study carefully whether it is in the interest of Barbadians to divide the Hotel School from another institution of learning. Mr. Chairman, this is no joke, if you look at any advertisement in the newspaper in the hotel industry you will see that they state the person must have five years experience, a certificate from a recognised hotel school of training or diploma. I have never heard.....(Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am calling once again on hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the hotel I was talking about was Southern Palms where the man came in here and was one week in Barbados when he went on a Bonanza trip to Venezuela. I am dissatisfied, I have constantly said Barbados has the sun, the sea and the sand, and it is now famous in Canada for the other "s" at the end. I believe Barbadians should profit as much out of this institution as possible. I believe they should have the facilities not only of the Hotel School for teaching them how to be good maids or good butlers, they should be in a position to utilise every aspect of training which the country offers and they should be able to achieve the highest position in the hotel industry. I know what the defender of the faith will get up and say, they can go elsewhere, but if you know hotel work you know they will never get the time to go elsewhere.

Mr. Chairman, they are working by a hit or miss method. I heard the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works in this Chamber a few weeks ago say to the Leader of the Opposition when we were discussing the National Insurance Act that you do not get on your feet and make policy, you work out costs first. When the schools were separated nobody knew what it was going to cost, and I wonder if anybody knows where the school is right now. I would like the hon. member to think carefully whether or not it is in the interest of Barbadians to have the school so removed from all the other institutions of learning where persons can benefit from a little more than what they are going to teach at the Hotel School.

Mr. HINDS:

A Chairman, I believe that one cannot stress too often that the time has come when the Ministry of Education must decide once and for all, or at least make a beginning, by issuing a White Paper on education. This hotch-potch method of dealing with matters pertaining to education cannot and will not go down well with the Barbadian public much longer. You will remember, Sir, it is not so very long ago when we had our Technical Institute, then we had our Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and we were told that the Technical Institute and the Evening Institute would be phased out one into the other and what not. I am not concerning myself, as some other hon. members, over the Grantley Adams

Labour College or anything like that, I leave that for the Hon. Minister, but what we are saying is this. We now have the hotel school as we have heard from other hon. members, there is little known even by the Minister what the hotel school really intends doing in the course of another five years or anything like this. We have heard from the hon. member for St. Michael West and the hon. member for St. Lucy that the hoteliers themselves are not making adequate contribution, if a worthwhile contribution at all, to the hotel school and things of that sort.

What we are saying is this. As the hon. member for St. Michael West has said, taking the Hotel School and carrying it up to Marine House does not mean anything to Barbados as such, but what we believe is this. We have seen the kind of surroundings that the Hon. Minister for Tourism himself - because the hotel school trains people for the tourist industry - and the type of surroundings in which the Minister of Tourism would like to see and to have himself, the school and certain people who would be employed there working in those surroundings, but does this really mean any greater contribution to the teaching and the learning which the hotel students are to benefit from at any given time? We do not know, the Government itself has not shown that it really knows. I believe if the Minister of Tourism does not feel that the old Marine Hotel can accommodate him and his minions so to speak as he would wish, that it would be located there for any length of time, it will be moved somewhere else again, and we understand that there is likely to be a name change. This is not being considered, but what is the reason for all this? We ought to be told what Government really means, what are their plans with respect to education and not merely every now and again something ceases to become part of that, other changes are made and people are drifting all about.

This is a matter of education and a very serious subject with which to deal. We are urging upon the Minister of Education to consider in respect of the hotel school issuing a White Paper and let us know what he intends doing over a period of years, if he has any policy at all, let us know something about this. Education on the whole has been in the balance here for some time. At one time we were the proudest people in Barbados, we had a name all over the world of being the most educated, but can we still say this today? What about the hotel school, what are you going to do about it? 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the standard of training that is given to the students at the Hotel School leaves much to be desired. We feel that the students, as a result of their ability in the various hotels, have measured up to expectations. However, we want to know that there is some set plan for upgrading the teaching and broadening the scope of training that is given in this institution. We do not want to train all cooks. We want to see front desks workers and so on coming out of that institution, bearing in mind what the Hon. Minister of Tourism wants us to believe. We want to know that people coming from the Hotel School have received the sort of training that will enable them to hold Executive positions in the hotel industry. We must do everything possible to help the people who need this type of training. Mr. Chairman, we want the Minister to put before us something concrete instead of going on in this half-way approach of educating people in the Hotel School.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with hon. members that more should be done by way of training people for the hotel business. It is a question of time. For not less than five years the Hotel School was held up because the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1958 refused to create a Hotel School. At that time I knew that the hotel people had offered their time, services and so on. They offered to give Barbados the assistance of their chefs, accountants and other expertise.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the hon. member tell us what strings were attached to that offer?

Mr. CHAIRMAN; No point of order, it is a point of interruption.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

A point of interruption with which he likes to practise.

Mr. BOLDEN rose - Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Sit down.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I will sit down because he likes to mislead this House and the people of Barbados.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I must ask you to ask the hon. member for St. Joseph to withdraw the words that I like to mislead this House. That is objectionable.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You must withdraw those words; you cannot impute improper motives to any hon. member.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I said that he likes to mislead. Are you asking me to withdraw that? What am I to withdraw, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Withdraw the words "you like to mislead people in this House."

Mr. BOLDEN:

I withdraw that statement. I now say that he loves to mislead the people of Barbados.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I am objecting to that last remark.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. member for St. Joseph to withdraw the words "He loves to mislead the people of Barbados."

Mr. BOLDEN:

I withdraw that statement. His statement is in conflict with the statement of the Secretary of the Trade Union. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN; I should like the hon. member to obey the Standing Orders.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will obey the Standing Orders, we can continue with the debate. I was saying that in 1958 the first proposal for the Hotel School was put to the Government. Every single year the offer was put and every single year it was rejected. It was, eventually, included in the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party in the year 1961 and in 1963, after many long years, this Government established the Hotel School. Five years have been lost, and five years is a very long time. I am sure that any lawyer or doctor will agree that five years of training is a long time. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

This will be the last time I will be asking hon. members on both sides of the House to adhere to the Standing Orders. The loudspeakers are not working, and the shorthand writers, at least, should be allowed to hear what is being said. All of this cross-talk in the Chamber must be stopped completely.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the Hotel School was established in 1963 with the assistance of the Canadian Government, as far as the Chief Instructor was concerned. The Hotel School has gone from strength to strength. It has not achieved all that one would have hoped for, but it has gone a long way. Again the main feature of assistance came from the Canadian Government who wanted to establish a higher level of Training School in the entire region in order to have training for management people or even people at a supervisory level. You need to have a certain volume of students in order to warrant the calibre of instructions that you would need in such a school. Unfortunately, some of the people in the Eastern Caribbean did not want to have the Hotel School erected and established in Barbados. They asked that the money be divided and each of them put up a little Hotel School in the various areas. This made no sense whatsoever, and the Hotel School for the region was never established.

So far as personnel are concerned, we still have to depend on formal courses from large countries like Canada, Britain and the United States. Although Germany and Austria have offered courses, the problem still remains. 3.40 p.m.

So, Sir, we are limited in the number of countries to which our students can go and study. We had several in Canada and one or two in the U.S.A. and England. I am sure that the Minister of Education will be in a better position to tell the House, that it has been agreed that at the U.W.I. a course in hotel management and tourism will be introduced. I think that the restraining factor is in fact finance.

The hon. member for St. Michael West seemed very concerned about the educational side of things. Again I do not wish to trespass on my colleague's grounds. As far as the remarks of the hon. member for St. Lucy are concerned, I will say that I agree that training, re-training and new training are very important in any kind of work if a person is to improve himself and is to be qualified to take on a bigger job. That is the kind of work that is being done at the hotel school at the time, and many of the girls who started in the maids' course have gone back to do the housekeeping course, and many who started as waiters or barmen have gone to the front type sort of jobs and have succeeded in their present work.

Another kind of training is done by BIMAP - the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity - which runs courses for supervisors. As regards general education, as I said, I will leave that to the Minister of Education.

Mr. FORDE rose.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Sir, I have not finished.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You may continue.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I will not detain you. I was simply replying to the remand of the hon. member for St. Joseph in the manner which they deserve.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I should like, as the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, to recoup a bit of the history surrounding the formation of the hotel school, and indeed I think it is regrettable that from time to time we heard charge and counter charge in this House some of which I am sure will be substantiated by the actual records; and I advise very strongly that the first exercise should be to get the historical background of the commencement of the hotel school.

Let me just say simply that in 1958 the Hon. Minister was then one of the principal advisers to the then Government, the Barbados Labour Party Government, and he was then one of those persons who believed that they should serve any Government in power, and obviously it was very convenient after the 1961 elections to switch.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of Order. Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church South Central is breaking Standing Order 33(4). I am calling on Your Honour to take notice. If a man commits a crime and runs away it plainly shows that he is a coward. It shows that he does not have the courage of his convictions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

All members will take their seats. I have already appealed to members of this Chamber for the benefit of the Reporters not to do so much speaking in undertones. I am not prepared any longer to accept this behaviour from hon. members, and next time I will use the Standing Orders. That is no point of Order. 3.50 p.m.

ML. ADAMS:

I am sure no hon. member on that side is aware of what Standing Order I am speaking on. They do not know what the Standing Order is.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, when I am speaking on a subject I like to speak rather seriously, and though members may be in a peevish mood I would be glad if hon. members would just restrain themselves for a while.

Mr. Chairman, I think that history would show that the Barbados Labour Party did its best in the 1950's to bring about the establishment of tourism and the hotel industry and they left a sort of legacy for this country, and I am surprised when I hear people who have come into this country after a lot of us were born throwing the remarks which they do and which are quite unjustified. In 1950 the framework for the tourist industry was being laid and most hon. members here know that the Barbados Labour Party did everything possible for establishing a hotel school not only for Barbados but for the region, and the hon. member in particular knows that the Barbados Labour Party took pains to try to encourage tourism in this country. The fact that the Barbados Labour Party was able only to make a start is to its credit and no one should discredit the work which has been done before if some other party has come along and taken it a step further. I want to make it clear that if in 1950 the proposal came for the first time under the Barbados Labour Party which then formed the Government, it took some years, despite the research which has been done before this idea was implemented by the Democratic Labour Party. It took them years to catch up with the establishment of this hotel school.

I can understand that this is the sort of thing you get in politics but, let us appreciate what was done before you came into power. If something worthwhile was done by one Government when it was in power certainly this should be appreciated by any other Government which has the opportunity to take this a step further. Mr. Chairman, we can appreciate that in this matter there is a question of priorities and a question of money and the point has been made that the hotels could not get further because of the lack of finance, but certainly the Government should seek to correct any such situation. Today many hoteliers, particularly those outside have a tendency to promote young Barbadians because they know if

they do so they will stand to benefit. Another thing, Mr. Chairman, that is noticeable is that the problem with the Government is that in it there seem to be separate kingdoms and when you touch on Governmental policy you are told by one Minister it is not my policy it is the other Minister's policy, and certainly we can see that in this there is the need for coordination. If one thing that has been said in here is true it is that there should be cooperation between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Education and if this cooperation comes about there will certainly be benefits accruing to the Government and to the people concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that for the years since tourism has come to be recognized as an international trade in substance, that we have put enough of our own people in positions of importance. We have made a start but enough has not been done and we should find the money for this sector of the industry if we find that it is important, as it is. There are many people who have gone into the hotel industry and have the expertise and knowledge and know-how that they should be able to progress up the ladder. Merely saying that people should go from waiters to front desk managers is not satisfactory. Something practical should be done about this, and if merely saying that people should be promoted from waiters to front desk managers satisfies the Minister of Tourism it does not satisfy me. What I want to see is many more opportunities made available and made available seriously.

Some of the advertisements put out by some industrialists will apply for manager at a particular salary, and this is a front line advertisement and when somebody is brought from outside he is paid on better terms, so that many of the local people have been hesitant to apply because of that. I would like the Government to be satisfied in its mind that whenever managers come here, that they are getting the salaries which have been advertised. This is most important. Not that I am condoning that external investors in this country should not be able to bring in personnel but they should also recognize that they have a duty on them to see to it that others are given an opportunity to participate. 4.00 p.m

After all we are putting into the tourist industry a great input of resources both human and physical. Indeed it is significant that even within the Government's own hotel, the Hilton Hotel, there has not been one single manager of Barbadian note appointed in the hotel despite all the hot air and talk you get from the other side. Do not mind what he said, let him tell you since he jumped off our band wagon into the DLP since 1961 what he has done to have the Government hotel managed by a local person. That is what annoys me about this point of trying to score a point on this matter. It is time you have a Barbadian manager and this should be told to Mr. Conrad Hilton. It took time to study the idea, we had to look around to find the money and the resources, and we have done some of the spade work which enabled the Government to carry on something which is to their credit today, but they should not hesitate to criticise any defects they have, and I am sure the Minister of Education would be the first person to take the constructive suggestions which came from both sides of the House and use them to the advantage of the country as a whole, but I will not sit by and hear these slurs being passed in circumstances that are not justified.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the request that is before this Hon. House is a very modest one for the sum of \$1,128 to supplement the provision for office expenses. It has however developed quite a bit of heat, if not light, and I would merely like to respond to some of the points which have been raised.

I join with the hon. member for Christ Church West and will of course readily assure him that any constructive suggestions tending towards the improvement of those subjects for which I have responsibility, whether the suggestions come from that side or this side, that I will try to implement them as speedily as possible so long as they are constructive suggestions. I would like to state first of all Mr. Chairman, something that you know very well, that tourism represents an important sector of the economies of most developed countries. There is a considerable influx of people into the developed countries, and they do their utmost to provide the type of hospitality and services as would enable the visitors to enjoy their stay in those countries. In a country such as this country tourism bulks very large because the other productive and industrial sectors are not as developed as in developed countries, and hence the tourism sector bulks very largely. All the more reason why in a country such as this efforts must be made on a continuing basis to ensure that adequate training is available at all levels of the industry in order to ensure that Barbadians can occupy not only the lowest positions in the industry but can rise as their experience and their knowledge increase to the heights of the industry. That is why in the first place a hotel school was established - I am not going into the pre-history of it, I bow to the historians on this particular matter - but what I would say is that the training for this industry is generally set out at three levels: There is the craft level which provides training for personnel at the basic levels in the industries, your cooks, room maids, receptionists, barmen and so on; then at the middle management or supervisory level your heads of departments and your executive positions, and then there is the top management level in your big hotels where you get the managers and the sub managers and so on, but three main levels are identified in the industry.

When I listened to some of the comments which have been made in this debate, I got the impression that the hotel school is operating only at the craft level and is training out only cooks, room maids and waiters. The position, Mr. Chairman, is this, that the hotel school - and we are not waiting until BIMAP develops, that is not the only place in this country where middle management training is provided - but it is being done in the hotel school right now. The first graduates out of the middle management level programme at that hotel school have already graduated and some of them are working in supervisory and middle management positions. I want this to be known. They have already graduated and the second middle management level course is already in being at the present moment.

I would like to assure this Hon. Chamber that we are not sitting back and taking this particular aspect of our responsibility lightly, because we realise that the place of the hotel industry and tourism in this country is a very important one and we have got to train our human resources so that those resources can

occupy middle and top level positions in the industry and that this will not be the preserve of persons not born in this country. Why are we moving from the Richmond compound? It is precisely because the facilities at that compound are inadequate for the new directions and the new programmes and the enhanced place which training in the hotel industry merits. We are not divorcing ourselves from some other educational institution as the hon. member for St. Joseph would have us believe. I listened very attentively to his speeches, and I have a measure of respect for his contributions particularly in the field of agriculture, but on this particular matter I believe he wanted to make other points. 4.10 p.m.

On this particular matter I believe that he wanted to make other points, but I would say that his contribution has not been as perceptive as hitherto.

Mr. Chairman, the Hotel School is now in modest surroundings. It is an old dwellinghouse which is occupied. Some two or three years ago we had to make provision, with the assistance of a private firm operating in this country, for additional wooden facilities for class rooms to supplement what was there, but that is not adequate. We have been searching for a location for this particular Hotel School, which would enable it to do its job more effectively. As a Minister I have spoken with external agencies in order to obtain funds for the establishment of a new Hotel School which would have included something like a model hotel, a kitchen to serve that hotel, and a production kitchen specially equipped. We identified the site at Cave Hill, but finance for this project has not yet materialised. In the meantime, rooms at "Marine House" have been allotted to the Hotel School to enable it to carry out its programmes.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the hon. member for St. Michael West has had a bad experience with the present Hotel School. This School now currently serves good lunches to members of the public. I understand that the price is modest and the food is good. I do not know if they have practised on the hon. member, for St. Michael West, but I myself have had lunch at that institution and I can say that the fare is reasonable and that it provides a laboratory for the students to obtain practical training. The facilities at "Marine House", when renovated, will ensure that greater facilities are available in this institution. They will have their normal lecture rooms, a bigger kitchen, laundry facilities, and in addition they will have 11 rooms and 2 suites where guests can be accommodated so that within the framework of the School itself they will have a living laboratory where they can actually cater to the needs of guests and have their practical experience right there.

I join with the hon. member in saying that the industry should make a much bigger contribution towards the training of these people, this is at the present appertaining. Right now some of the members of the industry do assist by making their expertise available on the new Advisory Board in terms of the new arrangements. At the new Hotel School there are 173 students enrolled for various courses such as Middle Management Courses, Front Office work, Personnel Courses, Hotel Accounting, Craft Courses, and so on. I am satisfied that when these new facilities become available they will provide an

opportunity for all of our people who are interested in this industry to be trained for the lower and middle management levels.

As far as the top level top management Courses are concerned, I am sure hon. members are aware that provision has been made for National Development Scholarships whereby persons are given an opportunity to get training, and this provides the type of collaboration and consultation to which the hon. member for Christ Church West so readily refers. The only trouble is that he has stopped at the 11 independent kingdoms. I should like to assure him that there is cooperation and collaboration in this Government, and it is not because one Ministry has done something that another Ministry will not know what is going on.

Mr. Chairman, I have dealt with the matters that have been raised and, again, I will commend this particular supplementary provision to this Honourable Chamber.

The question that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (7) Hotel School - \$1,128 - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (12) Public Library - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I had inadvertently addressed words to this Chamber on this particular item. It is merely a revote in order to provide a new bookmobile to replace a unit which has been found to be unserviceable. The new unit was ordered from the United Kingdom during the last financial year, but the delivery date could not be met. It is merely a question of revoting the sum of \$30,240 so that the money will be available and the commitments can be met.

I beg to move that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (12) Public Library - Item 18 (new) Motor Vehicle - \$30,240 - stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to this bookmobile, I think it was some time in 1948 when the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation made a grant to the schools in this country for the purpose of establishing a free library under the auspices of the Ministry of Education in order to improve facilities and encourage young people to read and write. I wonder whether any survey has ever been carried out since the bookmobile was in circulation to determine if there is any commendable improvement in the reading habits of the people who are served by the unit? Can the Minister tell us what has become of this scheme that had been established by C.D.& W.?

Mr. Chairman, I very well recall that in 1962 Mr. J. C. Hammond, Headmaster of Harrison College, remarked that not even the scholars in his school loved reading. What he laid emphasis on was that children did more cramming just a few days before the examination, but apart from that there was no genuine love for reading. I am wondering what is being done to encourage our children to engage in independent reading on their own as separate and distinct from cramming. 4.20 p.m.

The Common Entrance examinations, Sir, I believe could very well be taken as an indication as to the results obtained from cramming as we see so much of it amongst us today, and I believe that the poor results that we get in our examinations both at home and in external examinations should be noted; and I am sure that the Minister should be in a position to offer some sort of explanation as to what type of encouragement the bookmobile of the Public Library has given to encourage children to read on their own.

I do not think that it can be said in this case as in the other Head by the Minister of Tourism that he can throw any slurs, so to speak, on the Barbados Labour Party because it is known that the B.L.P. in the days of the Reverend J. R. Nicholls as inspector of schools - he drilled into Barbadians the need to see that children developed a love of reading, and I am sure that it was in those days that the establishing of libraries in the then elementary schools was very hard indeed.

What has been the result of all this the Minister should be in a position to tell us because he must fully realise that it is not only loading the bookmobile with books and despatching the units to any particular district. You may find that children and others may go to the centres and you may see them walking away with books and returning on time to make an exchange; but are we saying that there is any evidence that the children are reading or that the people are reading and understanding what is being read, or that there is the initiation of discussion at any centres to show that people are reading these books that the bookmobile is taking around to them?

We commend the usefulness of the bookmobile service, but we would like to see and know for ourselves, we would like to get what is called a feed back to know exactly that somebody is benefiting from the work that is put into it and not merely placing books on the shelves and having people take them away. Let us know the result of all of this.

The question that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (12)Public Library, Item 18 (new)Motor Vehicle - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 43 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 43, Item 35 - Maintenance of Parks and Beaches - the sum of \$182,000 is required. I think that the Addendum sets out the position very clearly. The position is that under this Head the amount of \$450,000 in the current estimates to meet administration expenses of the Parks and Beaches Commission was based on salaries and wage rates prior to the last general salaries revision. Eight per cent of the vote represents provision for salaries and wages but due to the salaries revision this additional amount is necessary to meet commitments to the end of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 43, Item 35, stand part.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I think that we should congratulate the Government and the Parks and Beaches Commission. I think that it is doing an excellent job, but I should like to see some of the good work extended. I have seen some of the beaches, and I think that they are doing a good job. The beaches are being beautified.

I am not selfish, but I would like to see something done to the beaches and land adjoining the beaches. In my own constituency, I would like to see something done with Brandon Beach because Brandon is one of the most famous beaches in Barbados. There are few people in Barbados who do not know about Brandon Beach. Even those who live in St. George know about Brandon Beach. It has a famous name.

I do not like to speak out of turn or behind the backs of hon. members who are not in their seats, but after I heard the hon. member for St. James, I would like to say that Bathsheba, in my view, is a national spot of this country. I am not speaking in any parochial sense, but as a citizen of Barbados, and I would like to see something done that would enhance the national character of the East Coast Road. There are some beaches on the East Coast Road that we should be able to beautify, and I hope that this will be extended.

I do not know what the funds of the Government are, but in some of these things I believe that some national effort could be made to raise funds apart from Government funds to do work in some of these places and I hope that somebody like the National Trust and such organisations will set about making appeals to this end. I feel that sources like bingo and other forms of gambling could be tapped and some of this money earmarked for the beautification of this country so that we can have some lasting memorial of the money that people spend in these areas. I am drawing to the attention of the Government that there is nothing wrong with drawing some of the money from these sources for the beautification of the country. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG; Mr. Chairman, there are times, I think, when members say something worthy of note in a debate, when one is forced to agree with them; and on this occasion, in spite of what one may consider a silly conflict I can say I want to support the member for St. Michael West when he referred to what a good job the Parks and Beaches Commission have done over the past year. I do a bit of landscaping myself and therefore such things attract my attention. However, the point which is very important that I want to make is, that it would be a very good idea if Ministers would take a leaf out of the book of the Minister of Education whose portfolio this Parks and Beaches Commission come under.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, this comes under the portfolio of the Minister of Housing and Lands; not Education. So the hon. member must get it straight.

Mr. CRIAG:

You will observe, Mr. Chairman, that the majority of people who sit on this Board are people who one can say are very well qualified to carry out the job that is being done. If you read the Board's report for the past year you will see that they had 37 meetings for the year which averages about three a month, along with many sub-Committees. However, I also observe that although very much money and time has been spent in making this Parks and Beaches Commission worthy of all Barbadians, there is a great deal of vandalism which exists in certain areas. I can recall several instances including one just a few weeks ago when I observe an incident which was very very irksome. In a district where the Parks and Beaches attendants work there were some youngsters just pulling up plants and riding cycles across the

grounds and when the Parks and Beaches attendant walked up to one of the youngsters and drew his attention to the fact that they were destroying the grounds, there was some terrible abusive language by the youngster who is just about fifteen years old.

Mr. Chairman, I think it would be a good idea if the Parks and Beaches attendants were given authority to make arrests. I think there is some Act - (ASIDE) yes. I know some are Island Constables. However, some of these people who are attendants and who are not Island Constables should be given a test and let them understand what rights they have so that they can make arrests because there are many young people around who have no regard for authority. I call on the Government to bring down legislation whereby all these people would be given authority to make arrests.

There is another matter which I want to raise while having praise for the members of that Commission. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that since we have spent much money on the canalization of the Constitution river, or swamp or whatever they call it, there should be some provision given to the Parks and Beaches Commission to make it more beautiful. There is much that could be done with it because with all the money spent we still have stench coming from it. So I hope the Government would see to it that something is done so that the Parks and Beaches Commission will apply their attention to that aspect of it. I am not one of those who would agree with Government spending what little money they have at their disposal in cases where we see nothing in return for it but I will call on the Minister in charge of the Parks and Beaches Commission to see what more money the Government can put towards the Parks and Beaches Commission in order to enhance the work they are doing, and finally to give them authority and power to make arrests; give authority and power to these people whom they have put there.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, the note on which the last speaker ended was to the effect that the Parks and Beaches Commission should be given more money to carry out its operation and it is one to which we should pay close attention. However, Sir, there are some matters in which one cannot avoid being parochial and I would have to be in this particular matter because I view the Parks and Beaches Commission in terms of what they are doing in the constituency which I represent. In looking at the last report of the Commission one would see for example that it has only done work on one or two beaches in St. Lucy, while there are many others which need attention, River Bay in particular. I have made representation on more than one occasion to the effect that River Bay should be improved. As I see it, River Bay is where some sort of development should take place from the point of view of beach facilities being provided in the general area because this is an area used by members of the public of Barbados and this area deserves to be developed. Those members of the public who have gone to this area can speak of the beauty of the area and I think the Government should direct some urgent attention towards the construction of beach facilities and general development of the area surrounding River Bay, and that is why I feel the Commission should be given money with which to operate.

One of the other points I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, relates to the question of the access to some beaches in Barbados and the difficulty which some of our nationals still encounter in getting into certain beaches. 4.40 p.m.

I think that this is an area which would seem to me that the Parks and Beaches Commission should also be directing its attention to. I happen to know, for example, earlier in this year when there was a flare-up about the ownership of River Bay, that the Parks and Beaches Commission realised that this is an area of their responsibility and they were in it very early, but I think that some kind of survey should be made of the beaches which local people still encounter some difficulty in getting to, to let the owners of these properties know that the beaches in Barbados are primarily for Barbadians and that free access should be given to Barbadians to enjoy what natural beauty we have here.

Another thing which we should try to direct our attention to relates to the whole question of how we treat our beaches. One sometimes finds that the work of the Commission is widened or intensified because people do not treat the beaches as something of which they should be proud, and you find people throwing all kinds of litter on the beaches and in the sea, and I think we should try to direct people's thoughts to the fact that these are things of which we should be proud and that we should try to assist the Parks and Beaches Commission is doing the wonderful job they are doing. I would hope that this job will reach out into St. Lucy and that we will not only get more attention paid to the beaches in St. Lucy but also that a beach facility be erected and the general area around River Bay be developed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I shall not be long, I just rise to pay a public tribute to the members of this Board. As a Minister in Government who sees the Minutes of several Boards in this country I am more than pleased to realise that there are still in Barbados a body of persons who for no remuneration can dedicate themselves to the beautification of their own country and who can make a solid contribution to this island. I think that anyone who has driven through this island, who has visited Farley Hill, Barclays Park, the Esplanade, the Rocks, and the traditional places of beauty would agree that if there is one Board in Barbados which deserves the thanks and congratulations of all the inhabitants of Barbados it is certainly the Board of the Parks and Beaches Commission. I know for a fact that they have very good ideas, and as the member for St. James says, very often they have been hamstrung by money. I would like to assure the member for St. Lucy that they will not only beautify the beaches of St. Lucy but they will improve the access to those traditional holiday spots but it is a question of costs, and they have got the island at heart. It is a question of not being able to do everything they want to do.

As I said, I merely rose to pay a public tribute both as a Barbadian and as a member of the Cabinet to a particular dedicated body of citizens who have given of their best in contributing to keeping Barbados as

beautiful as possible.

Mr. BOLPEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with an aspect of the Parks and Beaches Commission which I believe has affected the lives and operations of quite a number of persons. As you are well aware, the Annual Exhibition which was kept in Queen's Park for more years than I can recall has not been kept this year. I am reliably informed that the Agricultural Society was told by the Parks and Beaches Commission that they can no longer use Queen's Park. I understand what the Parks and Beaches Commission is trying to do, it is trying to beautify Queen's Park, but certainly the question of the beautification and remodelling of Queen's Park could have been taken in the light of the activities which went on in Queen's Park for all these years, and I believe something could have been done because you have to encourage agriculture and its related topics, otherwise if you kill what is one of the main affairs, that is, the Annual Exhibition of agricultural produce, cattle, etc., then you are not giving the farmer any incentive to produce at his best to show what he is doing in Barbados.

Another point is that at the end of the last exhibition the Agricultural Society wrote to the Government saying that because of the loss of funds they did not think they would have been able to stage the next exhibition and were seeking Government's assistance. The Government Information Service published the letter without the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture or any other Ministry. I believe the Parks and Beaches Commission might have taken this as official notification of not holding the exhibition any longer and this is why they might have decided on this course of action, but as I said, I would have thought these two bodies could have got together and phased out the use of Queen's Park while bringing into operation another exhibition area so that there could be continuity in what we are doing, I would like the Ministers responsible to have a close look into this, because I know the Agricultural Society has looked at several areas and has not been able to locate a suitable area for the exhibition.

I know the Parks and Beaches Commission have been doing a good job. I would like to praise them for the good work they have done in the relatively short time they have been in existence, but I would also like them to take a serious look at one or two beaches where there is urgent need for lifeguard service. Barclays Park which falls in St. Andrew but borders on St. Joseph is a public recreation ground now. Sundays, Bank Holidays, and even during the week there are quite a number of persons between Barclays Park, Cattlewash and Bathsheba bathing and skiing. It is a potentially dangerous area at some times of the year and there are no lifeguards there. I know there are problems with lifeguards. The hon. member for St. James some time ago asked about extending the lifeguard service after a boy lost his life at Dover, and I know that up to some time ago this lifeguard service was paid for by the Jaycees, but the poor Jaycees are stretched out to their limit. I know from my association with the Jaycees that the lifeguard service was started by the Jaycees as one of its projects to be handed over to the Government, they agreed to bear the cost of half the projects but they have only paid half of the cost of the first station which was set up and have not met their commitments with respect to the other stations.

When the question was asked by the hon. member for St. James, Government asked the Jaycees for a report on the lifeguard stations, and the answer was that if they paid half they would release more money to put up the services, and I think Government should have met some of the cost. I would like the Parks and Beaches Commission to take a serious look at Barclays Park and the Cattlewash area. There is always a large number of people bathing there, they have already erected a canteen and a bath. I know certain members of the Commission feel that the bath was put up at an exorbitant sum and that it could have been put up cheaper, but I would like to see a lifeguard station erected so that we would not have further tragic loss of life in that particular area, because as I said it is a public area now and is very often frequented by quite a number of persons. 4.50 p.m.

Once, again, I would like to congratulate the members of the Board because I know that several of them are very enthusiastic about their work. I want to join with the hon. member for St. James in calling upon the Government to give power to the Guards to make an arrest. I know that the Government may be hamstrung by an Act of Parliament which says that only a certain number of Island Constables can be appointed in the Island. I would like the Government to repeal this Act. I have heard from very reliable sources of a gentleman who travelled from the south east of the Island to Barclays Park, accompanied by two of his assistants, and took away a lot of trees which had been planted down there. When he was questioned about the matter, he said that it was a question of public property. You cannot expect the Board to make plans to improve the area, and then allow people to travel from all over the country and take away the plants. If the Parks & Beaches Officer had the power to arrest, he would have arrested not only the three people, but he might have been able to confiscate the motor car in which the trees were placed. (Asides.) (Hon. F. G. SMITH: If you know the names of the people, you can inform the police about the matter and they will be prosecuted.")

Mr. Chairman, I have said in here on several occasions that the hon. member takes leave of his senses every now and then. If a man goes there at eleven o'clock at night, and the Parks & Beaches Officer asks for his name and he refuses to give it, then what can he do? The Parks & Beaches Commission reported the matter to me. If the Government would give the Guards the power to arrest, then a lot of the vandalism now taking place would stop.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that all of these congratulations that have been heaped upon the Parks & Beaches Commission will not place the Board in a position of dumber. I do not want them to take it for granted that they have earned the praise of everybody and that they need do no more. We would like the members of the Board to know how much we appreciate what is being done, and we would like to see the Board spurred on to greater efforts.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that we have only a few parks in Barbados, and I suppose that I will be told that in the light of our limited finance we are unable to provide more at the moment. However, we feel that there are areas of land in very many of the villages of this Island, and that the Government could lease some of this land for the purpose of providing mini-parks.

For instance, you have the Farley Hill National Park at St. Peter, but can we really and truly say that the National Park is fulfilling what we have in mind as a National Park? It merely has the name of a National Park. We know that it will take some time before it can be developed into a full-fledged National Park to meet the needs of our Nation. I think that the Government should embark on a project for acquiring land in the villages where children live. Government could lease the land, install minimum facilities, and allow the children to enjoy themselves. We do not want something elaborate like what obtains in Queen's Park or St. Philip Park. It would be difficult for the Government to say that children from one area should use Queen's Park at a certain period, and children from another area should use it at another period, because it would be necessary to provide transportation for the children. It should be possible for the Government to lease land in a village near the homes of children. We would like to see something develop along those lines, and I believe the Government would be on the right road.

Mr. Chairman, mention was made of being parochial, but I am being national when I make reference to Heywoods Beach in St. Peter. I believe I can say that Heywoods Beach in recent times, has become a very attractive spot, and it caters to a very sizeable portion of our community. Despite the fact that it is lacking in all the facilities we would like to see there, we know that Heywoods Beach and Miami Beach are attracting a lot of people. We would say that, if there is to be any further development of the land at Heywoods Estate, the Government should see to it that people are not deprived of going to the beach to enjoy themselves. We understand that a hotel will be built on Heywoods Land and the privileges now afforded to people who travel from all over the Island to have their picnics on Heywoods Beach and Miami Beach may no longer be available. Quite recently they have been building a road to divert traffic from travelling along the present road which leads to the sea.

Mr. Chairman, we are not suggesting that the owners of the land should not be allowed to build a hotel. People should be able to invest their money, especially when it is a question of finding work for Barbadians. If they are going to do something to increase the revenue of the country we will be glad to encourage it, but we want the Government to make a move now so that thousands of people will not be deprived from using Heywoods Beach and Miami Beach after this hotel has been constructed. 5.00 p.m.

What we want to see and know is that the rules and regulations of the Parks and Beaches Commission are observed by every individual who goes to these beaches. Keep these places as tidy as the Parks and Beaches Commission may impose from time to time; but under no circumstances do we want the

Government to sit idly by and allow developers to come here, who want to make money, and do not care who is inconvenienced.

At Heywoods and Mami beaches we should see to it that the nice sea bathing there is the first and foremost for Barbadians. Let them enjoy it quite freely and unrestricted in any form or fashion except for any rules that are imposed by the Commission. We want the Government to give the assurance that the development at Heywoods would not interfere with any of the freedoms enjoyed by people who bathe at Hey wood Beach or Mami Beach.

I am asking the Government to do everything possible to protect Barbadian people because we know, Mr. Chairman, that a mistake was made undoubtedly in some respects as regards Sandy Lane. Perhaps some of us do not want to ponder over this, but there is a question of vehicles not being able to enter and this or that. A lot of obstructions, impediments and hindrances are still being put in the way of people who would like to go there. I believe that in the case of Heywoods Beach one may find that you cannot drive a motor car nearer than 100 feet or 100 yards, whatever the case may be into the area. We do not want any obstructions placed in the way of our people. Do not destroy property, enjoy the natural life of the area; but for heaven's sake we ask the Government to move now and protect and keep our resources for the benefit of our nationals. I think that I have said enough that if the Government were to act upon these suggestions something could be done so that our parks and beaches could be given more protection.

I also feel that the Parks and Beaches Commission should have some public officer under their control, perhaps from Bats Rock to Speightstown or further North, but they must have some sort of public health officer attached to their department to assist in keeping these beaches clean.

Members of the Parks and Beaches Commission are doing good work in these areas, but sometimes they encounter the presence of dead animals thrown on the beaches. There has been time and time again when the Parks and Beaches Commission people feel that it is not their work to remove these. The public inspectors feel that they should be buried with white lime etc. and in ways with which the Parks and Beaches Commission are not acquainted.

I feel, Sir, that there should be some closer liaison between the Public Health Department and the Parks and Beaches Commission so as to have such a situation corrected so that people who happen to know of the presence of these dead animals and other foreign matter along the beach may be able to take some sort of action. I have been talking to the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission and he says that he tries his best; but I remember that in the past on the West Coast there was a worker to whose

house you could go and invariably you could find him at home and he would tend to such cases. Invariably the question arose how he would get paid. I think there should be some arrangement whereby in a day or two he will know where to go and collect his pay chit; but in this case it might have to be on the certification of the Public Health Officer attached to the Parks and Beaches Commission or to the Public Health Officer for the area. This is a problem which, with a little liaison between the Commission and the Public Health Department we might be able to overcome in an amicable way for the benefit of those who frequent the beaches from time to time, like me, by day and by night.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I merely want to give members the assurance that I shall draw to the attention of the appropriate Minister, and more especially to the Parks and Beaches Commission the comments and suggestions made by members. I refer especially to the points made by the hon. members for St. Michael West, St. Lucy, St. James, and lastly St. Peter, and more especially in connection with the point of authorising that the people in charge of the beaches be made Island Constables and be given certain powers.

In so far as Heywoods Beach is concerned, I give the assurance that I will certainly draw it to the attention of the Minister and I will see that these various suggestions be given due attention.

The question that Head 43 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of \$283,868 do now pass.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of , \$62,980 under the Ministry of Education, Head 104.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, this provision of \$40,280 under Item 20 -School Meals Service, is being sought as the Addendum to the Resolution explains. The Addendum states that at the end of the last financial year the sum of \$83,672.12 lapsed under this item. A revote of the sum of \$40,280 is now required to complete payment to the Contractors for the construction to the School Meals Centre, Country Road, and to meet outstanding claims for the Chief Supply Officer in respect of the financial year 1972-73. 5.10 p.m

Mr. Chairman, as hon. members will note, there has been constructed at Country Road a School Meals Centre which is expected to have capacity for serving 5,000 meals to the Primary School children attending schools" in St. Michael, and some in Christ Church. This centre has been constructed and it has been handed over to the Minister of Education, and staff for that centre is now being recruited. I believe that the normal procedures have been followed and persons have been offered appointments at this Centre. It is expected that early in the new year, possibly from the start of the new school term commencing in January, that the centre will become operational at that time. The amount of money required here is to pay outstanding debts to the contractors, Messrs Nord Construction Limited; the total cost of the building is \$170,000 approximately.

Mr. Chairman, this particular provision is for purposes which are already agreed. It is the objective of this Government to extend the School Meals Service and the additional provision being sought here is to carry out that or enable that particular objective to be met as well as to meet claims from the Central Purchasing Department which are due and payable in this particular provision. I therefore beg to move that this Head 104 - Ministry of Education, Item 2 - for the sum of \$40,280 stand part.

Mr. Chairman, may I also deal with Item 25 - Teachers Training. This amount is for an outstanding sum due to the contractors, Layne Construction Company for work done on the renovations to the buildings at the Lazaretto, which have been carried out. These adaptations and renovations have been carried out in order to make the buildings there serviceable for educational purposes, namely, the provision of a course of training for graduate teachers at Secondary Schools. That programme is already in being but we have an outstanding sum due to the contractors.

I also beg to move that the whole Head 104 as set out in the Supplementary Estimates do now pass.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, contrary to the expectation of the Minister, I only rise to say on behalf of the Mentally Retarded Organisation of Barbados that that organization and those people interested in special education are indebted to the Minister for extending the School Meals Service to that organization. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I think you will recall that during consideration of the Estimates on a previous occasion I have spoken on this matter and the response of the Minister to the needs of the mentally retarded on the whole has been very good and I think I would be failing in my duty both as a member of the public and as somebody who is interested in special education, and also as a parent indeed who has a child who is a special child in this respect, if I did not say that we are pleased with the extension of this service; I am sure that congratulations have been offered to the Minister, but I think the public should know that the mentally retarded school is now benefiting from the school meals service, and I can assure the House that the Minister did make it his business to pay attention to this matter. (ASIDE) I must also say, Mr. Chairman, that the Ministry of Communications and Works has responded likewise by supplying vans.

I am glad to hear that the Centre will be operational as from January 1, and I am really hoping that in the new year the Minister would have responded to the needs of the Christ Church West in particular, and the Christ Church School. He promised that their needs would be attended to as soon as the School Meals Centre was ready and I should ask him if at all possible, to look at the Seventh Day Adventist School - the primary section of this school - and perhaps the primary section of the St. Patricks School where there are many people of note with high economic standing whose children go there and pay \$5 a month, or tarn, to be educated at this school. So perhaps the Minister may consider the needs of the St. Patricks School - the primary section of the school - and also the Seventh Day Adventist School; and particularly I am pressing the case strongly here of Christ Church West which includes St. Matthias Boys and Girls. This is not parish pump politics. I think we have a large number of children in these areas who will benefit from the School Meals just as those at St. Pauls are benefiting from the representations made on their behalf by the hon. member for St. Michael South and myself.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. member who has just sat down might find that his constituency receives some sort of attention because he plays up to the Minister of Education. I am saying here and now that I have no praises for the Minister of Education even when he does something. Get it straight.

My duty is this Mr. Chairman. The Minister was put.....

5.20 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, Sir, I do not like rising on these points of explanation but I want to get it quite straight. I did not come in here bought by any political differences, but in my view the contribution to the Mentally Retarded School is in order and I will say so. I object to any remarks about playing up, and I should like to make it absolutely clear that as far as I am concerned if it is a contribution it is a contribution.

Mr. HINDS:

What we are saying is this, Mr. Chairman, the Minister took office because it was felt he could do the job, and even when the Minister does something for the Mentally Retarded School there is a lot more to be done for that school and for many other schools. The numbers at the Mentally Retarded School can now be increased; there are others in this country who cannot get into the school as such, there are cases not being taken care of, so let the Minister get on with his job. I am not prepared to fool the Minister to get him to go down to St. Peter to do anything for the people of St. Peter, the end of his term will come and if he fails to do it anybody else who is elected will do it. If I am elected I will do it for the people of this country, the hour is almost at hand, Mr. Chairman.

What we are particularly concerned about is that there are large numbers of children who have been going to school when school meals became a reality. In truth and in fact it was the Barbados Labour Party which started the school meals. Mr. Chairman, the rate of expansion of this school meals service is nothing that the Minister can be proud of, when we look at the demand which is made on the service and the small percentage that is being catered to, we built a School Meals Centre here in St. Michael, do we really believe that building the centre where it is presently located that it is in any central position to cater to the needs of any one part of the island? Was it built with a view to catering to the schools that are nearest to it? Building on land which was available, commission knocking about, property bought, conversion brought about and we are faced with the bill without taking into consideration anything related to the progression, to the speeding up, the expansion or whatever it is, of the system. What we do know is that every child today in school will see the meal coming to his school before he leaves. Let us get the feeling that by the close of the year 1974 we will see that every school in this island is being served with school meals.

If one were to look at what has gone on year after the year and hear all the promises which have been

made in this House time and time again by Minister for Education and Minister for this and the other, and now we are going to hear that the emergency situation - I believe that one of the reasons why they closed the schools arose out of their inability to feed the children on those two days, that even the energy crisis has affected the expansion of the school meals programme - but we are asking the Minister in all sincerity to put a programme before us for money to provide the service for each and every primary school in this island, and I have asked further that even those secondary where there are deserving cases that some provision be made for those children to benefit as well. I have stressed the point that the children who are now in our secondary schools are the same children who come from the same homes of those in the primary schools, and if you need the school meals for the boy who is going to the primary school you also need it for his brother or his sister who is going to the secondary school, and you need it more so because the smaller child will not necessarily take as much as would the older child, so the Government has to look at it in a broader sense than the way in which, they have gone about it.

Government cannot say that it is a question of not having money, and if you look at the education vote you cannot say that it is an inadequate amount. I do not think Government would say it is a lack of men and material because Government has had enough preaching, urging and prompting from this side of the House that our Ministry of Agriculture should be able to grow enough food to liquidate half of the expense now involved in imported food to help with the school meals programme. Since the programme got on its feet we ought to be able to take up a paper and read that our Ministry of Agriculture is providing so much local food at a cost of so much as against what used to occur two, three or four years past. None of this is being done, we are just going about catering to the children who make love to you and what not, and that is not the way to go about it. It is high time that since the programme was launched that every child in this Island should be benefitting and it is a disgrace to find that children have been in school for the past five, six or seven years and have only heard of the meal but have not tasted of it. This is in addition to what has come to us from abroad, and we cannot hear anything about this now.

We have built this School Meals Centre and I am hoping that the planners will now have a menu, one which will not in any way give children diarrhoea, a menu which is contributing to the health of our young nation, and I am hoping that the planners will have enough room to sit down and relax and that we will not see that they feel so cramped and so tired in their old quarters that they have to go up to Gun Hill during working hours to play draughts, other games and the like. 5.30 p.m

I hope we would not see any more of this, because we have given them a School Meals Centre where there would be no congestion. I hope that transportation will be laid on. I do not want to hear the Minister coming back to this Chamber to tell us about any cement shortage. If you are going to extend the School Meals Centre, let us get on with the job, cement or no cement. We have some buildings for housing children, and I hardly think that one bag of cement has gone into one of those buildings. The Canadian Government gave us wooden structures for housing children. If buildings are giving us problems, then let us get wooden structures and pray to God that every school in St. Peter and all over

the Island will benefit from it. There are only 8 schools in St. Peter, as the Minister has told us. Why cannot we get more assistance?

Sir, I am appealing to the Minister to speed up the extension of the School Meals Programme. He can be assured that money will be made available to him, and that he will get the support from this side of the House so that all children in schools will have an opportunity to taste the school meals. The meal is not free, and it is still sold at 10 cents. I am appealing to the Minister not to seek to increase the price, because some parents are still experiencing great difficulty in finding 10 cents to give a child to pay for the meal. I am asking the Minister to give a child a balanced diet for 10 cents. I feel that as many children as possible should be given an opportunity to participate in these school meals.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I was out of the Island for some time. According to the Opposition, I ran away from 1958 until 1966. On my return the first thing I heard about the school meals system was that a member of the Opposition, Mr. Fred Miller, said that if he got in he would call on Mr. Victor Chase to sell the pots and pans that were used for the school meals system.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister say whether he heard it from somebody on his own side, or from somebody who tells the truth?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

During the last two political campaigns, and especially in the last campaign in which I had the honour to run, I took it for granted that the Opposition Party completely denied the possibility of school meals being served to children in this country. They laughed at the Government when the Government talked about a school meals system, and now they are so converted that they can turn around and criticize the Government for not proceeding with the scheme as fast as they think it should be proceeded with. Their politics is fantastic.

Sir, have you ever analysed the political somersaults that they have been turning? Years ago they told the people that we were fooling them when we talked about a school meals system; they said it was

impossible to give every child a hot meal; and they said that we were tooling the people in the country in order to get votes. I now have the pleasure of hearing even the Evangelist - I understand that Brother Lally was a person of reputable standing and that he could persuade persons in his congregation to accept what he was saying as the truth - I am not saying that the hon. member is very much like Brother Lally, but he has now reached the point where he is trying to convince the public that this idea of giving children school meals was his, and that the Government which initiated the scheme was not progressing with it.

Sir, a very distinguished member of the Opposition once said that Barbadians have short memories. The younger generation who do not know the history of this matter may listen to the hon. member for St. Peter, and they may believe that the Barbados Labour Party were at all times the protagonists and the initiators of the Barbados School Meals Scheme. I am not claiming anything for this Government. The facts speak for themselves. The Minister can tell you how many children are being fed, how soon things will progress, and so on.

Of course, the hon. member for Christ Church West would not be expected to be conversant with the history of the Barbados Hotel School. He would only be able to know about it from any research he may have made, because he was a scholar in the fifties. I am amused to find that a Government that has initiated this scheme and dedicated itself to providing a hot meal for primary school children, is now being asked to provide more money from a bankrupt Treasury to provide hot meals for secondary schools, and so on! They have asked us to provide three more Resolutions although they say that our Treasury is bankrupt. They say that the Treasury is bankrupt, but they are asking us to provide more meals for children, to give old age pensioners more money at Christmas, and so on. They seem to have forgotten that the people were given back pay and an increase in salaries quite recently to the tune of \$22 million, Why stop at \$600? They would not tell the people the truth. If some people were able to analyse what is being said to them they would know who have their interests at heart. If some of the simple people were able to analyse some of the speeches made they would realise that some people are telling them what they want to hear and not what would be good for them.

Sir, I want the Opposition to know that the Government of Barbados started this scheme, and it is committed to broadening this scheme so that every single school in Barbados will be able to have school meals. You have to buy the food from the stores and certain thing's from the farmers, and the cost of everything is going up. 5.40 p.m.

Consider the cost of providing these school meals. The school population must be nearly 50,000 or 60,000 children. I speak subject to correction but we are feeding over 20,000 school children in this Island, and this new centre is going to feed another 7,000. I am telling you that I am prepared to do all the roads, and give everybody water and everybody electricity and see that everybody gets a meal, but I

cannot do it in a day. Everybody cannot get at the same time. The Government does not have a money tree at the Garrison. You have to collect money from the people and the people already have high taxation and high cost of living. You cannot say abracadabra, hod pod and the money comes up.

This Government is committed to extending the scheme to every child, but this has to be done according to the economic position of the Government. It has got to be done in that context. Nothing that the other side can do, nothing that they can say by way of criticism can deviate us from the course that we have set ourselves that every single child in our first grade and secondary schools should have this diet so that they will get at least one balanced meal a day. Those two are fortunate, like the son of the Leader of the Opposition, can get three square meals and so should be able to learn better; but the working man's son, will be able to avail himself of the glorious opportunities that the Government is offering to make him a more competent citizen of this country.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, this is one of the most brilliant historical features that I have heard in this House, but unfortunately it belongs to the election campaign of 1961 and not to a debate in 1973. The issues which have been so ably canvassed by the Hon. Minister were then living issues. That was a school meals election. That was an election in which the Labour Party, having considered the question in Cabinet in June, 1961, found that Barbados could not afford it at that time, and were unwise enough to say so with a general election pending..

The Democratic Labour Party put in its Manifesto that it would give a school meal free to every child by the September term of 1962, so this is eleven years that the children of Barbados have been promised a hot school meal, and all the children still have not got it yet.

This question has occupied the attention of politicians for a very long time, because hon. members with memories not as short as those of the member for St. Michael South Central must remember that election campaign because there was the introduction of sweet drinks with the alternative of milk in the schools. I have a record of a political meeting held outside St. George's School in the 1956 election campaign at which the present Prime Minister was a speaker. He uttered these words in relation to the supply of cokes and biscuits:- "Adams is spending sixty-five hundred dollars on cokes and biscuits to give school children and people are lying two in a bed at the hospital." (A VOICE FROM THE CROWD Let the children have their coke, man.) If you have T.B. you have to go the Almshouse, or if you can pay you can go to Trinidad (A MAN IN THE CROWD We are building a hospital. What more you want us to do?)

In 1956 the present Prime Minister was trying to find a stick to beat the then Government and he lost his seat as a result. This is an authentic report. It is the report of a Meeting at which the present Prime Minister said in 1956 that the Barbados Labour Party was taking \$2 from every small farmer per ton of canes to build a Deep Water Harbour, but that you would never see a deep water harbour in this Island. He proved as inadequate a prophet in this respect as in the saving of his seat.

In view of the statement that I have read, and the statement made by Mr. Freddie Miller, it is true. Miller has promised to sue anyone who says outside of this privileged Chamber that he threatened to carry the pots and pans up to Mr. Victor Chase and sell them. Very careful attention was paid during the 1956 campaign when the Labour Party became aware of the slanders, but no candidate would put his neck so far out as to put it inside the law. The then member for St. George made note of what he said and that statement had been denied from start to finish. I will remind members of one thing. Mr. Freddie Miller has at least succeeded in libel actions based on what members have said about him. It was not so long ago when in saying that Freddie Miller had threatened to burn down canes.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That has nothing to do with the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS:

A stand sometimes has to be taken about the malicious rumours spread about members or former members of this House. Now, Sir, the history of the attitude to this programme is clear. In 1961 we pledged in our Manifesto that we would extend it within a stated time to all schools. That was our policy also in the election before the last. In 1966 we paid little or no attention to this, nor did the other party except for the canard about Mr. Miller; but it was our scheme, they said, and therefore our people should have the jobs. A reference to the records of the House will reveal that these words or words to that effect were used.

I do not think, Sir, that a School Meals Service should be made a political football. That is why I would like to note the speech of the hon. member for St. Peter when he said that the Job of the Government should be to cover the whole Island with this service. All that I can suggest is that if there is any member on the opposite side in whose estimation the School Meals Service is not yet established, let him resign. 5.50 p.m.

If there is one thing that is absolutely clear that the School Meals Service can rush, it is a bye-election. We saw this in the City. The Minister of Education must accept some of the blame for whatever happens or falls short with the School Meals Service. He must be saving a great deal of money at the present time

in one respect and another, Mr. Chairman. Let him invest some of this money in the School Meals Service. Let us finish with politics for school meals and let us make sure we have complete school meals for all the schools.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, it is very noticeable that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has the habit of quoting people when they are not in their seats. He should reserve this type of thing for the occasion when the person who he is quoting can answer for himself. He brings a piece of paper and sets out to read this piece of paper as if he is reading from John 316; He starts out to read the epistle. Now the hon. member knows that he cannot use these gospel shot tactics in here and get away with it. It is alright for the Salvation Army when they are picking up pennies on Saturday nights but it is not good enough for the House of Assembly, because any of us can come in here and say the hon. member for St. Michael West is not here but this is what he said.

Now on this question of the School Meals he is right in that this is a subject which both sides are very touchy on. Now the Opposition claim that they started the School Meals and they should get credit for that. If a Government is going to be in power for sixteen years, is cannot be in power for sixteen years and be spending money and not doing anything. It must do something. When the Democratic Labour Party put forward the concept of School Meals it caught, them by surprise. They did not have this in their programme. When we started the School Meals they said that we could not do it, but it was not a question of if we could do it. If one Party comes up and puts up a programme that seems to be catching on, the other fellow plays it down. In the last campaign there were things that we put forward and they played them down and lost, and when you play down something and lose, you cannot recover; the other fellow always beats you. So much was said in 1956 by all sides; I would not quote what the Leader of the Opposition said then because it is on record, but, the hon. member for St. Peter said a lot of things in 1956 about the Barbados Labour Party, From what he said in 1956 about the late Sir Grantley Adams, if I were Sir Grantley Adams' son I could not even be in a graveyard with him, far less in the same political party, but now, you find the hon. member in the same Party with the Leader of the Opposition. He is in the same pairty that the Leader of the Opposition is in now. (Asides) Barrow and I were always in the same party. The Hon. Prime Minister and I were always in the same party and your father and I were always in the same party. I was never a Conservative and then turned over to the Labour Party, so don't talk nonsense. The political history is clear.

What I want to say on this School Meals Programme is this. The Labour Party started a programme for School Meals. That is true. When I went to school there was no Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party. When I went to Parkinson they had school meals going, so this was a concept that was going on for many many years - going on years ago - but it took a long time for the politicians to get on with it. When the Opposition was regarded as the Government, they played it up and said they would take it up. Any party that is in power, you must expect they would put up something different from yours. But there is no point going back over the past now, Mr. Chairman. All along you were

underwriting die programme that was put' up. If you look at No. 13 in your programme, on page 18 you will see where it is said, "improve the quality and administration of the school meals." So you accepted it, so there can be no question about that. What do you find? When the School Meals programme came on, the members of the Opposition in order to play it down began saying "the meals not clean," and "they are putting in a lot of dog in the food," and all of this kind of thing you were saying. You started playing down the Scheme on the basis that hey are giving the children bad food and you have to watch the children and the food." 6.00 p.m.

People have bought drinks and found things in them. The hon. member for Christ Church West is a lawyer who had to defend people who had drinks and found things in them. Some of the biggest companies had to go to court and pay money because people found things in their drinks; companies like Coca Cola and Banks Breweries, and the hon. member cannot tell me that he has never found a roach or a rat in his house. We are not saying that you do not want the highest standard of public health, by all means, but do not play down the scheme in itself on the basis of these deficiencies which are human deficiencies. They know this is what happens, too. I dare any of you over there to go against the scheme now; you would be mad, it is part and parcel of the culture of this place, school meals will go on until the end of time but it is a question of extending, and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that. Cost is always going to be a factor. If you accuse me of not doing something when I was in power it would have to be matched against cost, because if I were in power in 1961 I could only spend the amount of money available in 1961. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that if he became Minister of Finance tomorrow he would not be able to spend all the money on school meals, education or waterworks, you have to plan a programme for the country because you are dealing with a community and you have to balance the situation. (Asides). I did not get a name when I was big, I went to school as Frank. I want to make it quite clear that when I was christened I could not tell the Priest good morning eitheid, so there is no point in saying these things.

If you have a school meals programme and you are dealing with the problem of extending that programme you have to have a plan. He knows that if they take over tomorrow they cannot get the school meals all over the Island at one time. The hon. member for the City is the shadow Minister for health and he would like to do this, but you cannot turn over the Island in one day, it takes time. The school meals programme is aimed at helping the children with a better diet, and we cannot see the benefit of this now because some of the children are not coming out to school, but I believe you will find it in their growth and that you will find a better standard of health and everything else, but the hon. member knows that it is not what the Prime Minister said because the Prime Minister was not Prime Minister in 1956. When the hon. member said that he lost, that is no point because lots of people have lost. The Labour Party had a resounding victory at the polls in 1956, but let us remember that it only took the Labour Party five years, but this is 1973 and they are still in the wilderness. Let us be clear on this, that you can be in power and you can be in the wilderness too, but understand that when you are in the wilderness.....(Asides)---He was never in Government yet, the closest he went to Government House was in the yard, but he had his pads cleaned and ready during the last election and the other fellow won the toss and he had to take off his pads, and up to now he has not realised that he is on the fielding side and not batting.

You had an election programme with the same school meals, you had an election and a bye election, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was right, the Party put in a programme for school meals during the bye election in the City and the hon. member won, so that sweetened the Party and they won another one in St. Joseph but when the general election came off they thought they had it but they lost and therefore they have to behave like losers. You are not the Government, we have the right to say how it is to run and you can only voice your opinion as to how it should be run but you cannot run it. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition made a point, I have the tape and I heard the hon. member's voice but I am not permitted to play his tape, but he knows what he said, I do not want to repeat it. 6.10 p.m.

I have heard a lot about this School Meals Programme: I have heard about it from members of the House that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said at a meeting in Westbury Road that the Minister of Health is not a doctor; that there are doctors and doctors, and that Dr. Bostic is a doctor, too.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, Sir. I said that I knew of Dr. Jekyll, Dr. Bostic, and I mentioned someone else.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I do not like to bring what was said in a campaign in this House. When an election campaign is in full swing you may say certain things, but when they are played back to you, you may find that you should not have said them. It is part of the election campaign. The Opposition said that the Democratic Labour Party was only putting forward a School Meals Programme as an election gimmick to fool the people. After you have been carrying on this scheme for 10 years and you are looking at the general commitments as well as the nominal costs, can anyone say that you are breaking faith with the people? A school meal would cost 10 cents, and the price of a Coca Cola is 15 cents. You must be practical about these things.

I thought that the Leader of the Opposition was going to make a speech, but he got trapped in this 1956 matter. He was like Jekyll and Hyde; his political mind was in conflict with his reasoning mind. He should forget politics in this matter, and let us try to see what can be done in the interests of the Nation. There is no question of Opposition or Government in this matter. Let us get together and see what can be done to give every child in every area in Barbados an opportunity to participate in the School Meals Programme. I am sure that all of us will agree on that.

Sir, I hope that the Minister will apply to UNESCO and some of the International Agencies for assistance in this matter. It is my personal view that there is enough international aid available in this world to permit us to have our share of assistance. Barbados has a population of 250,000 people. Our population is not like Bangladesh, or Pakistan, where you are likely to see thousands of people crossing the river. We have a representative at the United Nations; we have the UNDP Agencies to whom we subscribe, and we should be able to get aid from these people to enable our children to get school meals.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to reply very briefly to some of the points that have been made during this debate. My colleague, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, has already dealt with most of the points. While I may be able to offer a few emendations to the statistics which he gave, his general trend of argument I do not suppose to repeat.

I would, however, make this general point that certainly no member of the Government or any person on this side of the House, and certainly not me as Minister of Education, is looking for commendation from the Opposition. The hon. member for St. Peter knows that we would look in vain for any commendation from him. He seems to think that his position in the House is merely to oppose, and, rather than making destructive comments when someone like the hon. member for Christ Church West gets up and makes a point constructively, instead of trying to tear us down ungraciously, he should deal with the point not merely as far as his constituency is concerned, but in the light of the national interests.

I think that the Opposition in this country and in most countries should be able to rise above petty party political points and to view matters objectively. When it comes to the handicapped, or those who suffer from some particular handicap, whether mental, physical, visual, or whatever it may be, I think it is ungracious when action is taken for somebody to get up and criticise what has been done. I think we have to realise that comments should be made on an objective basis, and things can be observed for what they are.

I will take the point made by the hon. member for St. Thomas, the Leader of the Opposition. All of the schools in his constituency are served with school meals. He has advised the hon. member for St. Peter to resign and put his seat to the test. The hon. member for St. Thomas is certain that he will be returned to his seat and that the schools in his constituency will continue to get school meals. There are two schools in St. Peter being served with school meals at the moment. I would ask the hon. member for St. Peter to take the considered advice, which has been given to him by the Leader of the Opposition to resign his seat and put it to the test. As has been stated by the Leader of the Opposition, a man in his time plays many parts.

The hon. member for St. Peter has somehow transformed himself from being the chief spokesman and apostle against the School Meals Service to a person who wants to see all the children and, maybe, all the adults in the country being provided with school meals. We must be responsible in our utterances, and this Government is not going to tell anyone that the School Meals Service can be extended to include everybody in the country. 6.20 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman, I have never been any chief opponent to the School Meals Service, and the Minister with his training, and the respect which some hon. members of this House have tried to show to him, should be more decent in the discharge of his functions and in particular in his speeches.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of elucidation.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

That was a point of confusion. Elucidation means a clearing up. That was a point of darkness.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I believe that the Minister has lost his sense of direction when he speaks of darkness.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the point I really wish to make is that the School Meals Service started in 1963 with some 1,600 meals being provided. That is approximate. Today in 1973 there are some 20,000 meals being provided, and with the start of the new year, during the coming school term, another 5,000 meals will be served.

That, Sir, is the programme between 1963 and 1973, and for someone even to imply that it is not a commendable rate of progress I think that they have no idea at all of the resources of this country and the many demands made from day to day which this Government through the Ministry of Finance has to contend with. I say that because the School Meals Service is not the only sector, and the Ministry of Education is not the only sector claiming additional funds from the Government. Any Government

which is serious about its responsibilities has got to take into account the many demands from the various sectors of the economy and run the country as its resources and those commitments will permit. That is why we will expand the School Meals Service in terms of ensuring that meals will be provided in the first instance for all children of primary school age, and then when we have attained that objective, we will see how we can extend it beyond that. Our primary concern at the moment is to get this programme extended to all school children of primary school age.

I think that the hon. member for St. Thomas knows that there is no Minister who saves up any money, at least not those of us who are in the social sectors of the economy. Money is provided to carry out a certain programme and we are not allowed to run up savings. I do not want anyone to get the impression that the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Health or some other department in the social service sector runs up savings and that they can take money out of the bank and serve other sectors.

The contract with the World Food programme comes to an end next year and we have started to negotiate an extension of that contract. We have got to be certain where our supplies of food are coming from and that aid and assistance is coming to this programme in terms of the expansion of the programme. I do hope that it will not be necessary with a programme going for ten years, on each occasion to have to come and remind members of what is merely a supplementary vote dealing with the policy and programme which is already accepted by the Government and by this Honourable Chamber. (Cheers.)

The question that the Resolution for \$62,980, Head 104 - Ministry of Education -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 three money Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

BILL TO AMEND THE PETROLEUM (WINNING OPERATIONS) ACT, 1950

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next Item under Government Business is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Petroleum (Winning Operations) Act, 1950, standing in my name.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Objects and Reasons set out, this Bill will amend the Act to provide for the removal of the restrictions on well spacings. The position, Mr. Speaker, is that certain representations were made by Messrs. General Crude Oil Company for a renewal of its prospecting licence for a further period of two years, and in so doing they wrote to this effect: "The results to date of the producing wells in Barbados and the study of the producing wells in Trinidad indicate to us that closer spacing is necessary to efficiently drain the numerous reservoirs that are probably within the area and to make our production in Barbados economical. We feel that the well spacings should be made unrestricted and that all well locations submitted by us should be subject to approval by the Ministry. We would like to request that the Minister make the appropriate changes in the Petroleum Drilling Production Regulations to this effect so that we can propose a programme for denser drilling in the Fisherpond and Woodbourne areas to our management and to the Barbados Government."

The position is, Sir, that as a result of their experience and a report which was submitted - I will read a few points from it: "General Crude Oil has been aware of the pending energy shortage for the past several years, a shortage which has been accelerated due to the Middle East problem. It has therefore embarked upon a very intensive programme in the U.S.A., in the Caribbean, New Guinea and in the North Sea." They felt that the money would be recoverable in the event that we were successful in discovering commercial petroleum products. They have drilled sixteen wells in Barbados with only minor success. 6.30 p.m.

The engineering firm of Gaffney, Cline and Associates were appointed to study the results obtained

and to recommend the best method to develop those petroleum deposits discovered in Barbados. The study was completed in April this year and a copy was presented to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce with a statement that they were proceeding as fast as possible to implement the recommendations presented.

They have to date accomplished the following (1) reassigned a manager (Petroleum engineer) to the area; (2) surveyed the locations and presented a request for permission to drill wells, to Givotal Agency for personnel; (3) purchased a drilling rig and obtained a contract to furnish the required personnel; (4) purchased all material and equipment required for the first four wells; (5) despatched rig, materials and equipment to Barbados, and, Mr. Speaker, many other arrangements were made. So this gives an idea of what the company was doing.

Now this entire matter was submitted to the advisor of Government and the relevant sections of the Act which are sought to be amended are Section 2(1) subsection 71, and under the Regulations, Regulations 3, 4 and 11 of the Petroleum Drilling and Production Regulations 1950. So those are the relevant points. The entire matter was submitted to the Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas and he has commented as follows:

"Barbados should model itself after the Trinidad method of five-acre well spacings rather than the one-hundred-acre well spacings as has been previously done in Barbados under the method used in Alberta, Canada.

Drilling operations in this Island during the past five years have brought to light sufficient evidence to show that very much closer well spacings would be necessary in order to effectively exploit the possibility of finding oil in commercial quantities.

Deep drilling carried out by the General Crude Oil Company has further confirmed.....results of production obtained.

One hundred-acres would not permit satisfactory exploitation of these areas and would mitigate against the possible viable operation."

So with the information and advice of the Director of Petroleum and Natural Gas, he has agreed with the recommendations put up by General Crude Oil, and the object of this today is really to enable the operators of General Crude Oil to continue the operations here and to bring Barbados in line with operations which have taken place in Trinidad. So that the Cabinet considered this matter, Sir.

These are the important points which were made (a) the division of.....as being one hundred-acre.....and shall be changed to provide an area of five acres in the form of a square with a well at the centre.....facing north and south. The one hundred-acre shall be removed and spacing areas shall be determined by the Minister; but in the case of the boundary wells this will not be less than five acres. The distance from the road and from residences shall be reduced to 100 feet and 150 feet respectively. So it is agreed that instead of an area of one hundred acres, it should be five acres in the form of a square, while the distance from the road should be one hundred feet and from residences one hundred and fifty feet.

So those are the amendments we are doing here today. I would like to point out that formerly wells were dug at.....of one hundred acres, but now to five acres. In this case the area will be square.

So that the rights and royalties of parties within the area are protected. It is not a question of the small man being affected. If oil is found in commercial quantities the whole community benefits, and anyone here this afternoon who raises objections to the recommendations of the exports who know what they are doing is not interested in the economy of the country. It should be realized that drilling operations here are not being conducted on a party line, but a new basis which has been tested in Trinidad is to be laid down and adopted here in order to improve operations here, and there should be no objection to this. What we are doing here this afternoon is, we are trying to facilitate General Crude in striking oil. Already they have struck oil and they have a certain amount of it in stock but they have not got enough storage, and if they are granted this concession in having this Act amended, it means they would be able to go ahead and employ people and put the situation on a better basis. 6.40p.m.

If this Act, the Petroleum (Winning Operations) Act, 1950 is amended and they are granted this concession it means that they will be able to go right ahead and provide employment for people and put our oil and energy situation in a much better position/At present the royalty paid by the local crude oil company is 12 1/2% and 25% goes to the land owner or owners. The total production to date of General Crude Oil is in the vicinity of 65,000 barrels and at present we have 45,000 barrels in stock. The price paid is \$4.50 US per barrel, the royalty is 12 1/2% and 25% goes to the land owners, so I think we have a great opportunity to assist ourselves and to see that the various concessions which General Crude has asked us to meet in order for their licence to be renewed are granted, and this can only be done if this Bill is read a second time and passed here tonight.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the only complaint which the Opposition has with these amendments which have been brought before the House is the length of time it has taken the Government to accept the unanimous opinion of expert advice of what was needed to improve winning operations in this country.

In 1950, as hon. members may recall, the Barbados Labour Party passed the original Act which made it possible for the Gulf Oil Corporation to come here and renew the oil exploration operations which had been in obedience for many years at that time. The Gulf Oil Corporation, at which I was employed for a little while, operated for a number of years but failed to find..... (Asides). I like to be very careful in this House, the slightest interest or connection I have had with anything or any subject I like the House to know. This does not concern finance, the Gulf Oil Corporation was unable to find oil in commercial quantities and gave the search. Subsequent to that both the Government petroleum advisers were replaced and a new economy brought to Barbados to carry out petroleum operations, and the new Government petroleum adviser was a petroleum engineer of great talent who had experience in the West Indies - he was a West Indian - and I am glad that his advice has at long last been followed, because by good fortune the Government was able to bring someone from Trinidad who knew the type of formations that might reasonably be expected to be found in Barbados.

The Minister has indicated that our original regulations were drafted after those in force in Alberta, Canada where great deposits of oil in the reasonably shallow Alberta areas were found, and that regulations appropriate to Alberta were not appropriate to Barbados. I imagine that if the Minister looks back in the file he will find that this fact has been recognised for at least seven years, this is not anything new, this is not anything brought on by the energy crisis, this is panic brought on by the energy crisis. If there is one statement which had a great deal of common sense in it made by the member for St. Michael West over the last two or three years is that we in Barbados live in a crisis community, and the Ministry of Trade and Commerce has quite clearly been dragging its feet on the matters read out to the House from the brief which the Acting Prime Minister read today.

My few recollections of the oil formations of Barbados are that the oil formations are very faulty.

Barbados rose from the ocean floor very suddenly, some of the fossil indicators used by the geologists to find oil are found nearer to the surface in Barbados and with greater profusion than almost anywhere else in the world, and I am sure that all this produces faults, lenticular formations. The regulations which enforce a 2,400 ft. specification between oil wells on the assumption that the wells are collecting oil from a large underground drainage area have not been in force for a very long time. Again I am informed that General Crude Oil has very high hopes of oil finds at the southern end of the St. George valley and in St. Philip. The two wells are not too far apart, and it has long been thought, according to my information, that permitting the Company to drill wells closer together than these would have resulted in an improved oil production. Oil wells cost in Barbados about \$150,000 to drill at the depth which the Company is hoping to go down, and I have no doubt if the Company drills enough of these wells it will produce enough oil in the fullness of time to justify these operations. You only have to do a little arithmetic to see how much this will cost to get some idea of the likely oil production which Barbadians can expect, but I want to warn the Government against any complacency in this matter. It is impossible for us in the Opposition to rule, even when we get such a very frank disclosure as we got from the Acting Prime Minister today, to know what advice reaches the Cabinet. When it is being given such good advice in attenuating circumstances as the Natural Gas Corporation, which is mainly interested in gas for its consumers, you cannot be sure that this advice is being treated with the urgency which is necessary in the circumstances.

I have spoken on these matters several times in the House before, and I think that in 1967 I urged the Government to explain the search for natural gas in the southern parts of the Island. Reference to the debates reveals that I spoke when this Bill was last amended in 1968, but yet we hear that action has only been taken five years after the Government has been urged to do something. The Minister read from the brief that the General Crude Oil Company has long been aware of the energy crisis and has been seeking to extend its operations. I think all hon. members will agree that this fortifies the arguments which were urged on the Government on the last adjournment motion which has been taken and that the Ministry of Trade has been caught flat footed on the energy crisis. As long ago as 1971 the Ministry has been told that power supplies were falling behind and that it would become more economical to continue the search for oil in Barbados. I very much hope that no time will be wasted and no barrier placed in the way of the operations of the General Crude Oil Company in Barbados following the passage of these amendments. In Trinidad there are no restrictions, although I believe that they have various unusual rules there, that the drainage areas are to be measured in a radius of 300 ft. from the drainage well, which means that you will have a no man's land somewhere where nobody will be able to drill an oil well, and I am glad to see that a square area is laid down in the new drilling area in Barbados.

6.50 p.m.

In Trinidad there is no restriction, and Trinidad is pressing ahead with expanding its oil production in terms of the present energy crisis. I would hope that, when the Minister embarks on his reply, he will find it possible to give the House an accurate picture. I cannot rely on the Minister of Trade to give an accurate picture of anything relating to any of the shortages for which he is responsible, I would like to have an accurate picture of what is involved in the offer by the Minister of Petroleum and Mines in Trinidad to maintain a supply of petroleum and oil to Caricom districts.

Sir, I have been doing a little arithmetic here regarding these wells that they have to drill. I would say here and now that this Government would be foolish if it did not tell General Crude Oil to improve on its target of 1,000 barrels a day within a space of two or three years. I am told from expert advice that this target, with proper support and protection by the Government, is attainable. The Government must bear in mind the fact that we are far behind in this question of oil exploration.

The Minister has been kind enough to make mention of my father's effort to find oil in Barbados, and the Acting Prime Minister will be aware that Sir Grantley Adams was the moving force behind the exploration of oil in this country. I am not going to call on them to name one of the oil wells the "Sir Grantley Adams' oil well". I think that all hon. members will realise, if and when General Crude Oil is drilling enough oil to make some impression on the Barbados oil needs by a programme of extended oil drilling, that it will be recognised that all political parties have had some share in this.

If I can rely upon the Government's honesty in this matter, unlike the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, I will not say that the Government was in power for 12 years in its oil exploration, but failed to take a positive step to have oil exploration carried out in Barbados successfully although it should have known what the problems were when it came into power. We in the Opposition are going to support this Bill in order to repair some of the damage that the unfortunate junior Minister of Trade has been doing in this Island since 1971.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I am, indeed, happy to hear that we have embarked on a programme which we hope will be successful in discovering a commercial petroleum deposit. As a representative of the people of St. Philip South where the wells may be drilled, I am glad to hear that the Leader of the House has cleared the air by stating that the residents who are in close proximity to these wells will be entitled to royalty. (Asides.) I refer to the landowners. There is a rumour going around that only the actual land where the well is drilled will be entitled to royalty. I am, therefore, glad that the Leader of the House has cleared the air so that I will be able to explain the matter to my constituents. This is a crisis and we will do everything possible to see if we can improve the situation with the oil found in this country.

Sir, I must let this Honourable House know that as soon as a well is drilled in a particular area it reduces the value of the homes in that area, and it is actually impossible for people to sell their homes as no person would be interested in buying them. Therefore, it is a very happy occasion for me to hear that the Leader of the House has clarified the matter. I am now in a position to explain all aspects of the matter to my constituents. I wish that those who have decided to invest funds so as to alleviate the

hardship with which we are faced will be able to find more oil in this Island as soon as possible. I hope that they will find oil in commercial quantities, and that the residents in the area will have no regrets.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think this is a controversial matter. I am sorry that the Leader of the Opposition is not in his place at the moment. The reason why I say this is that he spoke of the 1950 Act and the part his late father played in putting the matter on the Statute Book. I believe that I am the only member in this Chamber who at that time was a member of the Executive Committee, and I can very well remember that the same fears that have been expressed by the hon. member have been expressed by some of our own Party members. At that time we had to go to St. Andrew where they were beginning to drill.

Now, our position in 1950 was that we wanted to pass legislation to take over all the land and make it Crown Land, so that there would be no question of vesting rights in any person other than the Crown. Twenty-three years ago we found it difficult to do that because some of our own Party members protested vehemently against that. They thought that it was a new Eldorado. 7 p.m.

Since this was coming his way and he had land in this area, he threatened to resign from the Party if we brought down legislation that would vest this land in the Crown. That was 23 years ago. The legislation was passed and it is providing royalties. I would say that the then Leader of this House, the late Sir Grantley Adams and I and other members were accused of receiving so much money from Gulf Oil Company to the effect that the son of Sir Grantley, the present Leader of the Opposition in the inter regnum after he won the Barbados Scholarship in the early years had nothing to do, and he went to work with Gulf Oil. All he was doing maybe was adding up some figures. He had no particular job. He was only collecting some money until the next school term came along. The member for St. Michael West had to wend his way to the Coleridge-Parry School, and pick up, in those days a few pennies. I do not know what you had to do, Sir, if you were in St. John where maybe a more elite atmosphere prevailed and landowners behaved quite differently from the proletariat.

The position is that in 1950 for the first time in our country this question arose, and we are hearing the same thing today. As soon as you talk about oil in Barbados, someone feels that someone only has to press his finger on a button and oil will gush out. I was greeted by Barbadians in London and they said how they wanted to come back because they heard we had found oil. I told them I had not heard about it, that I had only left about three weeks ago.

I do not think that we should give this matter so much prominence because, as the Leader of the

Opposition has said, this is a matter for hard negotiations. I am hearing today about the Alberta Agreement. I sat down with the late Sir Grantley Adams on this question and a man was sent out from Alberta and spent weeks advising the Government; and the reason why we came to the decision that we did was because it would have given Barbados a better deal at that time than we would get today.

Twenty years ago oil-producing countries in the Middle East were not up to it as they are today. The whole situation has changed because oil-producing countries are demanding not royalties, but the ownership of the oil and selling it to the oil companies.

I would say that the Government should get the best advice available. I do not think that you can get this on the floor of the House because this kind of negotiation would have to be conducted in the manner in which it should be conducted. Then there is always the fear that oil companies do not have to get oil up in Barbados because they have oil elsewhere and they only want to hold it here. That is a matter of conjecture and you usually get these ideas from people who are not engineers and not experts. The history of oil has always been clouded in secrecy. I think that what we should hope for is that if oil is found in commercial quantities, the Barbados Government would get the best possible advice in order that they can get the best terms for the country because, as we have heard, we will be only a microscopic part in the whole scheme of things.

We know that in the 1951 elections this question was a prominent one because it went to the point where it was used in St. Andrew that we were trying to take away people's lands and that there was oil under the land. That was the campaign against the Labour Party at the time. It was the Government then in power which was dealing with these negotiations in 1951. It was not the D.L.P. We were all members of the then Government Party. We won the election in 1951, but we won it against the Conservatives led by the late father of the hon. member for Bridgetown. He was the standard bearer for the Conservatives. They were urging not to touch that land because it was golden. I remember in this House when they were trying to court the late Parry Foster over to the other side, to pull him away from the Labour Party because he had land in Boscobelle and other areas.

Now, 23 years after, a generation of people have grown up with different concepts. Many members of the House were then schoolboys, and they are the ones now presiding over the situation. In my view, it is not a question of what we are going to give the landowners but a question that if we are successful in winning oil what we are going to do for the people of Barbados, because I hope that this will transform the whole economic position of Barbados, and it would come at a very opportune time when Barbados is facing an agricultural slump. I am not saying that we should abandon agriculture, but I do feel that we should use some restraint. Do not go around the country telling people that because they live in Woodbourne or in St. Philip, get ready and line up. Do not move; remain there because prices are going up. I give that warning because all of the land sharks will start closing up on you. 7.10 p.m.

So, Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is a matter which the Government, when it comes down to the question of negotiations with any oil company, should seek the best possible advice there is in the world because there are many sources from which they can take advice today, but they should certainly seek to get the best when it comes to the question of oil.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, it is really very refreshing to me to sit and listen to the hon. member for St. Michael West reminiscing on the days which he spent in the company of that great man, the late Sir Grantley Adams when they were both socialists together because a lot of people looking at the history of this country do not realize that the first real act of nationalism in this country took place in 1949 and associated with that act was no less a person than the late Sir Grantley Adams and among those with him, the hon. member for Christ Church East who is now acting Prime Minister, and I think I should repeat that since that time there has been no great act of nationalism in this country at all.

I was very much younger in those days but I can recall the allegations which were made by people in those days but today we can look back at the Legislation which was drafted in those days and give it its true perspective in the history of this country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, turning to the matter under discussion. It is my opinion that we may be able to supply one-third of the oil needs of Barbados in the next five years and I believe that it is time that the Government should seriously look at what it wants in terms of ownership of the natural resources of this country. The Barbados Labour Party during the period between 1949-50 took the first act in making sure that the petroleum and natural resources of this country should be owned and vested in the Cabinet of the country. It took steps to make sure that the land itself was vested in the Crown but the opposition to that idea was inside and outside the Party. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is satisfactory to give a company a sole monopoly over refining rights in circumstances where forever the know-how is being retained by them and I feel there should be a serious consideration by this Government as to whether it should not join with other oil producing and non-oil producing countries in owning part of the oil resources and also of the oil refining resources in Barbados. This is not a dream, because if the Government waits until it is too late the price will sky-rocket. We know that Mobil Oil Barbados Limited is a subsidiary of Socony but I feel that the people of this country should make it clear that when the sole licensing of Mobil Oil comes up that we see to it that we have much more than merely having foreign capital invested in this country. They should see to it that we own some say in the oil supplies of this country and in the development of the oil resources of the country.

It may be said that the Government is in economic straits and that it is difficult to find money to buy into a company like this but the Government should consider itself able to plan a programme whereby they can make this possible; and since reports suggest that in five years time this country might be able to have as I said, one-thirds of its oil needs provided by local oil findings in commercial quantities, the Government should therefore seriously look at what it wants in terms of ownership of the country's natural resources and it should do every thing possible to see that this becomes a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow this occasion to pass without saying that I am not satisfied in knowing that the Government does not have sufficient statistics on the oil situation in Barbados, and indeed, the Research section of the Government leaves a lot to be desired, I have said before, that the expertise must be within the Ministries themselves, and the Government should know what are the oil supplies available to it at all stages of the day to day life of this country, and I would like to see concrete steps taken into a "process whereby Government would have its own adequate facts on the local oil situation and whereby we would be provided with basic statistics so that the Government can make its decisions knowingly rather than having to rely on second-hand information coming from Crude Oil Company and such sources - that Government can make its decision knowingly, based on information which they would want to put forward in their own interests. In this respect also the Government should use its overseas diplomatic service to monitor the world's oil situation.

We have the position of Trinidad which gets confidential and sometimes not so confidential information from the OPEC Countries, and this Government should be aware that Jamaica is at present expanding and building a massive oil refinery in the hope that it would become a booming area and would be supplying the needs of the other Caribbean and Latin American Countries. 7.20 p.m.

We should be looking at where in the Eastern Caribbean we can be a subsidiary in this great expansion, and we could join together with Trinidad in particular in planning the expansion of natural resources of natural gas and also in oil in the area.

Mr. Speaker, finally, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked for some information in relation to the Trinidad offer of oil. I believe that the country deserves much more open Government than it is getting at the moment and that it has had for a long time. I do not believe that reports of oil finds and oil exploration should be a matter to be closeted up by the Cabinet and that we should only get snibbits of it from time to time if a question is asked, or that it should be the preserve of any particular hierarchy of any particular Party. I believe the Government should make these reports available, they should be laid on the table of the House and we should be able to discuss them and that this could prevent some of the mistaken views which go forth in some of the constituencies, and prevent some of the problems from occurring of which the hon. member for St. Michael West spoke. I am hoping that my appeals in this area would bring forth some substantive answer. I believe that those of us on this side of the House who

are interested in our means of getting information and are as knowledgeable as many members of the Government on many aspects of oil exploration - because we follow the journals and speak to people from outside, and therefore it is no great secret from the Labour Party, it is from the country - but we do not want to excite the country to make them think there is a great oil find and that that is the end of the oil problem, but we should tell them what is at stake. By discussion in the community we can prevent problems from occurring in the future. I hope Government will take these words to heart, and I would wish that soon we shall see some concrete proposals for buying people into the ownership of oil and petroleum in general in Barbados.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, my purpose in speaking is not to indulge in discussing the political aspects of the Bill before us, but maybe, in a way to provide some information. A lot has been said here this afternoon about mining operations in Barbados, and I think we on this side are very happy to see that this Bill will be getting the support of the Opposition and that no undue frustration will be given to it.

There are a few things which should be pointed out. In seeking to amend this Act a few points have to be explained, and I think I will begin with the term "pooling area". A lot has been said about how this term came to be introduced in the present Act, and I believe that those members who spoke are well aware of the meaning, but I would like to point out that "pooling area" is a term in usage in North America, and particularly in the United States, in areas where there are extensive reservoirs of petroleum. The term was applied to offset the problem created by having wells in an amassed position. "Pooling area" is not synonymous with "drainage area". The peculiar geological position of Barbados makes it necessary at this stage if the drilling for oil is to be successful to make an alteration in the Act and to replace "pooling area" by "drainage area". A lot has been gained from the geological studies of the world, especially in those areas where oil exists, and to do this it is very easy to predict those areas in which oil can be found. Finding oil in Barbados is not to be unexpected, oil has been found in nearly every country of the world, but usually it has been a question of the quantity. Oil and gas have been found in every well which has been dug in Barbados so far, whether by Gulf Oil or by General Crude, but they have not been found in commercial quantities.

The seismographic surveys of Barbados indicate that oil is to be found in a particular section of Barbados referred to as the St. George Valley. These surveys also indicate that the petroleum does not exist in one expansive reserve but more likely in a number of reserves, and therefore it has become necessary to reduce the wells to one in five acres. It is quite likely there could be reserves of oil lying between the spaces of the wells, and to make sure that we are not overlooking these reservoirs it is now necessary to reduce it to one to five from one to one hundred. It is known also that in some countries the spacing of oil wells is in the order of 150 ft. apart, and the area drained by a well is supposed to be in a radius of 300 ft. using the well as the centre of the circle. The surveys so far in Barbados have not indicated the total reserves in the island because sufficient work has not been done, however it is expected that when more work has been done we will be able to quantify in detail the extent of the

reserves. Due to the fact that we do not know the extent of the total reserves in Barbados, it is difficult at this moment to say how long these reserves will last. So far about 60,000 barrels of oil have been claimed in Barbados from the oil producing wells, and about 30,000 barrels have been sold to Mobil at a price of \$4.50 U.S. per barrel, and out of this Government gets 12 1/2% and 25% is paid to the people who own the land. On the real figures this means today that we are getting about \$1,500 per day added to the financial resources of the country.

It is also likely, bearing in mind the pressures being exercised by the Arabs in the Middle East, that the price of oil will go up, therefore we may find that the price asked in Barbados for a barrel of oil will be increased. This increase will also mean that Government will be able to obtain more money and will be able to pay more money to the people who own the land. It is expected that within the next two years about 25 wells will be dug and the production from this will be in the vicinity of one million barrels. The cost of drilling a well has already been stated by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, \$100,000 to \$150,000 U.S. One would have to consider very closely offshore drilling in Barbados in the very near future, and I understand that General Crude has plans for embarking on offshore drilling in Barbados. 7.30 p.m.

I would also like to point out that offshore drilling is a much more costly affair than drilling on land, and many adjustments would have to be made before the Government approved in detail any plans for offshore drilling in this country. As Minister of Health, I would be concerned with any possible pollution in this country from oil. I believe that other Ministries would have interests in this matter depending upon the type of responsibility which the other Ministries would have.

I have been told that offshore drilling is unlikely to take place in Barbados before 1975. Another matter of interest is the composition of the locally produced oil. It is very low in sulphur content and this would make it good oil. Unfortunately, it is stated that the gasoline content of the oil would be about 15% and the gasoline would be of a lower octane type and of a very poor quality. The composition of oil varies widely from place to place, and you will find that the oil found in the hills of California is different from the oil found in the pitch lakes in Trinidad.

At present one would like to know what is the likely impact to be obtained from local oil consumed in Barbados. It is felt that the production of oil in Barbados may not necessarily mean that there will be a reduction in the price of oil to the consumer for some time. We will have to wait until we have found enough oil in Barbados to be able to bring about any meaningful reduction in the cost of oil to consumers in this country. I believe that the present supply of oil from the Barbadian wells can be used to offset the 12 1/2% cut back which we are now experiencing. It is felt that the oil we have will last another 100 days, if there is no further cut back.

We are aware of what has happened within the last few weeks regarding gasoline coming to this country. The Arabs will be reducing their production by another 5% beginning in January, and therefore any production of oil in this country will be of use to Barbados. It will help us to weather the storm. It has already been pointed out that the shortage of oil abroad will affect countries like Barbados more than it will affect Britain and other highly developed countries who have the necessary finance and alternative means of looking for oil. We have to pay due regard to General Crude for coming to assist us by exploring the possibilities of producing oil in this country.

Now, people will be concerned about the oil industry in this country. A member of my Party has expressed his concern not only in this Chamber but outside about the likely effect of oil upon the buildings and the people of this country. It is known that there will be noise in the drilling for oil, but when a well starts to produce oil these noisy operations will cease. If a well does not produce oil and it is sealed, the noise in that area will cease. When we equate the conditions of having an oil industry in Barbados against the noise which it will cause to some people in the country, we will have to cast our vote in favour of the development of the oil industry and ask those people who have to put up with this inconvenience to bear with it and to give them some palatable compensation for such inconvenience.

I should also like to point out that when an oil well is producing oil the land which will be tied up is in the vicinity of 50 acres, and all the other land which had been restricted to oil drilling and is not producing oil will be released again to be used for other purposes. One of the potential disadvantages in the oil industry comes from spillage due to not following the necessary operational principles as laid down. In Barbados where the winds are very high in the first part of the year, we will find that the wind will blow oil over a wide area. The spillage of oil will affect agricultural land making it non-productive, and we will have to endeavour to reduce any potential hazard of this nature.

When one examines the history of oil exploration and production, one has to think of fires at oil wells. Special precautions and regulations will have to be enforced to make sure that this hazard does not occur in this country. The production of petroleum in Barbados will bring before our mind the question of setting up an oil refinery here. The oil refinery used by Mobil Oil at the moment is not the one we are thinking of nowadays. This is described in scientific literature as a straight distilling unit. It is a system where the oil is specially prepared in Venezuela and then brought here for distillation. If we are thinking in terms of setting up an oil refinery, then the Government will have to go into this matter very carefully before it decides to follow the operation now obtaining at Mobil Oil.

It has been pointed out that they want to set up an oil refinery in this country, and the Government will have to give this matter very careful attention. We would have to consider whether the production of

2,000 barrels of oil per day will be worthwhile; if we have to depend on oil produced in other countries, and so on. A lot more can be said on this matter, but I do not think it is necessary at this moment to say them. As a member of the Cabinet Committee set up to monitor the position, I should like to inform this House that we have been studying the overtures made by the Government of Trinidad in relation to meeting the needs of this country. 7.40p.m.

I would like to point out that we in Barbados have not been importing crude oil from Trinidad. Our crude oil comes from Venezuela. On the other hand we have been importing aviation spirits and kerosene from Trinidad and what the Trinidad Government so far has indicated is that it will ensure that the oil companies operating in Trinidad will maintain these supplies to us at the level at which they were before the 12 1/2% cut was announced.

They have also been seeking information relative to our needs arising out of the 12 1/2% per cent cut back. This information has been passed on to the Trinidad Government. Our Minister of Trade is now in Guyana along with other Ministers from the CARIFTA countries discussing the problems arising out of this energy crisis. The answers to this we are still awaiting.

Sir, we still have to wait to find from the Trinidad Government in what way they will be able to assist us in offsetting any problems created by the 12 1/2 per cent cut back. I would like to point out that the production of oil in Barbados could offset that although the supply is only for 100 days. If we can increase our supplies next year to 1,000 barrels a day we may be able to offset not only the 12 1/2 per cent cut back, but the full cut back announced by the Arab countries.

There is a lot being said about West Indian integration and West Indian unity. I would point out that very often the people who shout from platforms, when it comes to the hard problems of co-operation and running to meet the needs of, and giving assistance to member countries, talk differently. That more than any other is the main problem that prevents West Indian people from coming together. They shout from platforms, but when it comes to the real problem of rendering assistance and showing this measure of goodwill, that is not readily forthcoming, not as readily as the mouthing would indicate.

I would like to assure members of this Chamber that the Cabinet is monitoring the situation from day to day. We are not sitting back waiting for something to happen. We have facts and we have information submitted to us by Mobil and other oil companies. I know from the debate in this Chamber that the Opposition has been given one set of figures and the Government another, and I think that this has been maliciously done to let us come here and cut one another's throats.

That, sir, is why I did not participate in the last debate because I realised that both sides had got different information from the same source. I think that the Government should start training people on whom they can depend; but the training of people in the oil industry is not something that can be done overnight. This will take time.

I would like to state that the Ministry of Education has already started in that direction, but in the interim we find that we are handicapped, and we find very often that we have to rely on information supplied to us although we may have reasons to believe that this information is not accurate. We have been scrutinising the information supplied to us by Mobil and other people in the industry which we are looking at very carefully, and we are also looking at the possibility of getting comparable information from other sources which are experienced in dealing with oil monopoly companies, which experience has been more meaningful than in Barbados.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure the Honourable House that we in the Cabinet are doing all within our limits, and we admit that we have limits, to ensure that we do not find any undermining of the country from these sources.

I know that it goes further than gasoline going into your car. Your productivity is affected and your money generating potential is reduced. This leads to retrenchment and we cannot sit back and look forward to retrenching people in this country. It cannot do the country any good. We are working day and night seeking to adopt worthwhile procedures to ensure that our economy does not come to a standstill.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BILL TO AMEND THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT, 1951

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose doing one more item under Government Business and then moving the adjournment until next week. This item is a Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill would amend the Public Utilities Act, of 1951 to restrict appeals against decisions of the Board to questions of law and to provide for the increase in membership of the Board and related matters. The position is that there are certain amendments which have been decided on in respect of legislation affecting this Act, and among the decisions arrived at were that membership of the Board should be increased from three to five, that a quorum should be three and that the tenure of office of the Board should be for a period not exceeding three years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment. Provision is also made for certain agreements relating to appointment of staff of Statutory Boards. Provision is also made for the appointment of two investigators and power is given to the Board to retain counsel. 7.50 p.m.

It is further agreed that the appropriate amendment should be made to the Public Utilities Act 1951 (Act 1953-31) for restricting appeals against decisions of the Board on questions of law.

So these are all amendments which are proposed to this Bill, Sir, and the object is to bring the Bill more in line with legislation made in recent years and to have the standard of efficiency raised in the administration of the Public Utilities Board. For this purpose we have brought this Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act and to bring it in line with present day legislation in this respect.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, the first comment to be made about this Bill is that it is a pity that in considering these amendments the legislation dealing with the Public Utilities Act 1951 should be in one Act instead of two Acts as this House is being asked to consider it today. That may be a satisfactory point as it is, but certainly in terms of legal draftsmanship and legal tidiness it would have been happier if this Act had contained all the amendments which the House is being asked to consider at the same time in relation to this bit of legislation.

Let me say that for a very long time, particularly since the telephone rate case some three years ago, we have been urging an amendment to the Act in order to ensure that the Public Utilities Board is properly staffed. In the United States of America the Public Utilities Board acts, among other things, as

the watch dog of the public. Now I believe, as one who has appeared on behalf of this Board on previous occasions and has advised the Board on many occasions, that it is difficult for the Board as it is constituted, to perform the function of watch dog of the public adequately. It has never been properly staffed. It has never had an accountant who could keep and look after the accounts of the Public Utilities Board, it is lacking in engineering expertise, it is lacking in expertise in transport economics in general and it has not got the facilities within the country readily to call on for this type of expertise, and if the Government is now making these amendments it is doing the correct thing and it is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I would have hoped that we would have had a more comprehensive look at the Act. I am not satisfied that we are in a position to examine adequately the type of technical and service agreements that are current between, for instance, our local telephone company and its parent, the Continental Telephone Company. I am not satisfied, that with the new arrangements that are going to be made, that we are looking at the holding Company's position satisfactorily or that we have the know-how or the expertise to look at these satisfactorily, and I would hope that the Government would not put behind it completely the idea suggested by the hon. Attorney General, the member for St. Michael South Central, that a comprehensive review of this legislation be called for.

Hon. members will recall the sterling performance by Senator St. John when he appeared on behalf of the rate payers objecting to the telephone increases, and indeed, his cross-examination in that case was not only an epic of legal performance but a very good performance of the representation of the public in this country, and I hoped that the Government with the history of that rate case behind it would be in a better position to update the legislation as well as update the staff as it is doing now to the Public Utilities Board.

I am a bit concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the provision in this case which would only give right of appeal to the High Court on a point of law. Obviously if the Government has seen this necessary it must be dissatisfied with the review procedure which has been so far adopted by the High Court in relation to these cases, and if it is so dissatisfied they should be candid about this because it is seeking to take away the review on questions of fact, and unless the Public Utilities Board has before it all the facilities and all the technical expertise to give a fair decision, not only to the protagonists before it but fair to the public as a whole, it seems to me that it would be a pity if in one breath the Government - the Attorney General - as the watchdog of the public is going to deny himself the right of appeal on a point of fact when it - he - may be dissatisfied on the finding of fact, or it may not be enough to support a finding that has been arrived at in law. 8.00 p.m.

Let us be candid, this must work both ways. It is not only the right of appeal of the protagonists or the principles of the persons involved which are being taken away, it is the right of every telephone user and

every electric user who is being deprived of a review of the factual situation. Perhaps the Government knows better than I do, but I do not know any circumstances existing which would justify the Government in denying the right of appeal of a review on questions of fact. I believe that the legislation calls for much more rigid procedure for the Board itself. For instance, nowhere in the legislation or indeed in the subsidiary legislation is there laid down any procedure for the Board. The Board is managed so far under the guidance of the counsel who appear before it to appeal with what roughly talks perhaps of natural justice, but it would be tidier if the Government had taken the opportunity to lay down in Statute a proper procedure and if it had gone further and placed an obligation on the Board, particularly where it is seeking a right of review, to give reasons for the decision which the Board has reached. I know that it is an onerous task and not a highly remunerative one for those members of the Board who sit from time to time trying to come to decisions on these points. At times some of their decisions may appear to be acceptable to part of the public at large, or even the Government, based on what facts they have, but in some instances I have had to say how they found a public utility like the Transport Board being penalised because it was a quasi Government Corporation instead of an individual Corporation like the Telephone Company. It was not allowed to create reserves so that it could expand in the future and supply its capital needs from time to time.

We on this side of the House would like to see that instead of just having the Board itself established, that there is some proper system of review. Mr. Speaker, from time to time on this side of the House we have also said that in relation to the existing utility there should be a wider ownership of the shares, and that Government if necessary should have some say in how these public utilities are being run. Certainly, we have said this quite clearly in relation to one of the utilities, the Telephone Company, which we believe is getting more than an adequate return from time to time, without prejudice to any pending cases, on this rate base, and we hope that Government has not turned a deaf ear to this plea on our part. We hope that perhaps now it has the report of the King Commission before it, which has been conveniently leaked out - I am not saying by the Minister - to the Press by somebody who seems to know more about it, that this House will be treated with the courtesy which I believe this House ought to be given, and that that report could be laid on the Table of the House as affecting a most important utility in this country.

Again I want to register my complaint about the system of Government where an important report such as this could not be laid on the Table of the House but could be known to the Press - not that I want to shut out the Press from information and members who are involved in the day to day exercise of Government -but both Government and Opposition should not get the information second hand. I am going to invite the Minister to lay a Green Paper or to state the Cabinet's attitude on this type of report. Certainly the Opposition should not be treated in this off-hand fashion as it is being treated in this matter, and I believe that the Leader of the Opposition must be treated differently.

Mr. Speaker, I want to comment on the position under section 4 of the amending Act very briefly. We are getting a lot of legislation which is passing the burden for making rules on the Judicial Advisory

Council which was established under the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1956. It is all very well for us to pass this type of legislation from time to time but the Judicial Advisory Council is not properly staffed with legal personnel, and I think it is not fair to ask members of the Judicial Advisory Council to have to draft the rules. The hon. member for St. Joseph may not wish to blow his own trumpet, but he has had, along with Mr. Colin Williams, an Attorney-at-law, from time to time to draft rules and place the first draft before the Advisory Council because there is no legal expertise placed before that body. It is not enough to say that the Chief Justice or any of the Judges has to do this, money should be made available to that body to assist it with its statutory duties, and they must have a statutory staff and money to perform the duties. Therefore I am arguing here that there should be some provision made where these rules can be drawn. Since I have been in this House I can cite at least 12 bits of legislation where obligations have been passed to the Judicial Advisory Council and where there are still no rules. Indeed I have asked a question in this House relating to the very constitution itself in which the answer given was that there has been no representation made on this matter so that there are no rules made by the Judicial Advisory Council in relation to the fundamental rights and freedom and that there is no need for it. I do not think you should wait until you have a case pending, that is very unsatisfactory procedure, and I am asking the Minister to see to it that either the Attorney General's Department or some outside legal body be made available to this body so that the relevant rules can be drawn.

There are pending rate cases, I think there is one pending rate case and there will be others pending. With the fuel crisis we can anticipate that there will be a drop in the consumption of electricity, and I will expect that very soon we might well have the Electric Company and the Transport Authorities bringing rate cases under this amending legislation, and if they want to appeal on points of law the procedure which they should follow should be quite clearly laid down.

Finally, I would like to say that the last amendment made to this Act was done by one of the Judges just about two days before a sitting. This is not satisfactory and I will ask the Minister if he thinks the idea is worthwhile - and I believe and contend it is worthwhile - to make a note on this point and to see that some provision can be made to improve this situation which occurs as a result of this omission in amending subsidiary Acts which we pass in this Hon. House. 8.10 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I shall not be very long. I just want to take up the hon. member for Christ Church West on one or two points. When I was the Attorney-General and we had to appear in a rating case involving the Telephone Company, I think he made me a promise that he would supply me with a new Public Utilities Act. However, it was a promise which he has never kept.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, I promised him that I would make the books available, and I think that the books are in

the Attorney-General's Department at the moment.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I will take his word for that. With regard to the Judicial Advisory Council, it is composed of lawyers with the Chief Justice as the Chairman; the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, who is a draftsman, Judges of the Supreme Court, Solicitors and members of the Bar. If the hon. member for Christ Church West is telling me that they still need legal expertise to draft legislation, then I do not know from where he can get that. I do not think he is suggesting that they should be paid for this work. He cannot suggest that a Judicial Advisory Council do not have qualified men among them. I do not think it is fair for him to suggest that the failure to draft Rules is due to the fact that there is no legal expertise to be found.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I said that the Judicial Advisory Council is not adequately staffed to do the job, and not that it is not composed of people legally trained.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, that is not an unsurmountable problem. They must have a secretary, and I do not know of any representation being made for the improvement of the staff. Is that the reason why the Judicial Advisory Council has failed to draft Rules? There must be somebody to take the minutes at meetings, since the Council is required by the Act to report to the Attorney General. The question of staff is a very poor excuse for the failure to carry out a request of Parliament.

With reference to Section 4, I think the hon. member will agree that when a case goes before a jury they are all laymen. When an appeal goes before a Judge he is provided with the evidence and very often he is not in a position to see the demeanour of the witnesses giving the evidence. I have been before a Judge in a High Court in a case involving the Telephone Company, and the Judge was not in a position to see the demeanour of the witnesses who had given the evidence. This is common judicial practice.

Sir, you must remember that it is not a criminal case where the freedom of an individual is involved. The hon. member for Christ Church West will understand that the whole question of public utilities is a continental matter and Judges trained in common law are no better off. As a matter of fact, on one occasion a Judge told me that it was the first time he had ever dealt with such a matter, he tried to do a good job, except that on the third day I appeared before him he did not understand what it was all about. He asked me some questions and I told him: "My Lord, if after three days you are now saying that you do not know what it is all about, then I have wasted three days." We are not taking away anything from

the judiciary. All we are saying is that since the Commission, or the Utility Board, will be seeing the witnesses and the Judge does not, and since evidence is given before the Board and the Board will make its findings, then.....(Asides.)

Mr. Speaker, I take it that any lawyer who was restricted on a question of law could still base the grounds of his appeal so that he could bring certain facts before the Court. I am sure that a shrewd lawyer would be able to put his fact before the Court and argue his appeal successfully. The hon. member for Christ Church West knows that although you restrict argument to a question of law that you cannot argue the law in vacuo. You must be astute and you must know what you are doing in a particular case.

Mr. Speaker, I share the view of the hon. member for Christ Church West that further amendments to this piece of legislation are necessary, and I feel that we must have a comprehensive look at the Public Utilities law in Barbados. This law was drafted in 1951 or 1953, and since then there has been a change in the concept of public utilities. I have made it clear to the Government that this is merely a temporary amendment and that further amendments are necessary. I know that the Ministry is studying the matter in detail.

Mr. Speaker, I can remember that Mr. Jones from the Inter-American Development Bank was here and he looked at a matter in relation to Messrs. Cable & Wireless, The Telephone Company and other public utilities apart from the existing public utilities, and in my Ministry I have submitted draft legislation to deal with the Telephone Company, Messrs. Cable & Wireless and other public utilities. Although this temporary amendment does not meet with my desire in toto, I will agree with it. We will have to get our financial experts to give us some idea of what happens before we start with this matter. If the Board is given proper staff it would be in a much better position, investment-wise, to know when people are watering down shares to make the consumer pay, and so on. I would ask the members of the Opposition to support this amendment although it does not embrace everything. It will take a detailed updating in order to meet the new changes which have taken place. 8.20 p.m.

As a matter of fact, in America they are called Public Service Commissions and they are heavily staffed. They have the right of appeal to the Supreme Court too. They are very well staffed with engineers, telephone people and electricity people, and they have the right to investigate. We in Barbados have become so sophisticated that I wonder how the Board here can operate with three honourable men who have no expertise and staff without expertise. If the Telephone Company says that they have to put in a crossbar, the Board has no way of knowing whether it would necessarily mean more expense. Any attempt to increase the staff to give the Board expert knowledge in engineering and other fields should be welcomed by the House.

As Minister of Communications and Works, I can say that in 1973 we will have to come to Parliament with a comprehensive law with more teeth, giving more teeth to the legislation to control public utilities in this country. I share a lot of the views expressed by the hon. member for Christ Church West as a lawyer although I disagree with some of them. His views, generally speaking, on the needs of public utility companies in 1973 are quite right.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I would like to deal with Section 4(b)(3) and the question of The Judicial Advisory Council. I have always said that the Hon. Minister who has just sat down sometimes takes leave of his senses.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no need to be personal.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am not being personal, Sir. He was Attorney General and he now seeks to accuse the Judicial Advisory Council of not carrying out its functions. I am a member of that Council and I will defend it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, the hon. member for Christ Church West said that there were several laws which the Judicial Advisory Council did not draft. I am repeating what the hon. member said.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The Judicial Advisory Council has been asking the Government for the last four years, since I have been a member, for staff to carry out this work. The Government has constantly replied but they have not up to this day supplied this staff. It is staff for the Chief Justice, a person who has to act from time to time as Governor-General and who has to sit in the Court of First Instance, and in appeals. It is also staff for the legal draughtsman who has to draft legislation for this Chamber. What time would he have to draft legislation for the Judicial Council?

One of our judges last week had thirteen judgements to prepare. Some judges have to sit in divisional courts, in appeal courts and they have to hear cases at first instance. They have to sit in the Assize Court also.

The Government does not pay any member of the Bar Association. The Judicial Advisory Council has asked for a permanent draughtsman to be attached to that body. The Secretary is the Registrar of the Courts. He does the secretarial work;. We have asked over and over again. Why does, not the Hon. Minister get up and make a public statement that the Government will supply a draughtsman for this body? Under the Constitution certain rules must be drafted. -Ask him what has been done with drafting the Rules. It has always been his practice to say that the Government is not wrong, it is someone else. When members of the Bar Association said that they would draft outdated legislation, members of this Chamber said that they did not want anyone outside.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

This is the second reading of the Bill which deals with the principles of the Bill. You are now dealing with details of the Bill.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am telling this Chamber that we of the Judicial Advisory Council are doing as much as we can, but the Government has refused to give a competent draughtsman to the Council so that rules can be drafted, if they do not put someone to do it, you will not get it done. There are tenancies now which cannot increase rents, neither can they put off their tenants. They are in that position because no rules have been drawn up. The Minister does not understand what is going on, and it is stupidity trying to talk to someone who does not know what is going on.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 4 was catted.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that it seems that the Government is not prepared to attach a qualified draughtsman to the Judicial Advisory Council so that the necessary rules which should be drawn up can be drawn up to put legislation in a proper position in a proper sense.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the Government cannot do it because we do not have the necessary draughtsmen. If the Judicial Advisory Council gives instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel that something has to be drafted he has the necessary staff in his office which is not always drafting legislation for Parliament. If the Judicial Advisory Council was serious they could get legislation drafted which they wanted drafted. 8.30p.m.

But I can tell you now that the Government has not got any excess of draftsmen, because this is a specialists field.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Minister must not try to fool people. If the Government has not got draftsmen, how then can they get rules drawn? What foolishness is the Hon. Minister telling us? What is he trying to fool us with? The Attorney General has three or four draftsmen in the office.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Joseph should not talk when he does not know the facts. He is talking about getting draftsmen - a draftsman - to do what? The work load of the Judicial Advisory Council would not justify getting anybody. I know it does not justify it, and he knows it too, but he is only talking for the sake of saying something. During the 365 days in a year there is not enough work

for a draftsman to do for this Judicial Advisory Council. In the past, rules have been drawn, and if the Judicial Advisory Council make the decision to have the rules drawn.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister must not mislead this House. The only rules that have been drawn since 1956 were the Magistrate's Court Rules. Those are about the only rules that have been drawn in this Island since 1956. Check it and see.....

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, we are not drafting the Judicial Advisory Council Act. What is this stupidity which is being heard here today? We are amending the Public Utilities Act, and the hon. member for St. Joseph has come in here and is asking us to waste public funds to attach a public officer under this Act. Clause 4 of this Act states that the Judicial Advisory Council established under the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, may make rules, and you are over there talking nonsense. You are not really any lawyer. What lawyer are you? You.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am objecting to the hon. member talking about "you are no lawyer." I object to that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

As far as I know by what we did in this Legislature there are no lawyers now. There are Attorneys-at-Law. Anyhow, in here the hon. member is a legislator now.

Mr. WALCOTT:

We are talking about law, Mr. Chairman. We are amending the Public Utilities Act, and I want to say that there are lawyers and lawyers. Some lawyers can go to court and you can carry them anywhere. Some, if you want to go to jail, you carry them to defend you.

The hon. member is asking this Honourable House - all right; he is a legislator now. Right. You are not a lawyer. We are amending a specific Act. We are amending the Public Utilities Act, 1951. That is all we are doing here. This is legislation now that we are dealing with. All we are talking about here under this Act, it makes provision for the Judicial Advisory Council to make rules. The Judicial Advisory Council is established to make rules under this Public Utilities Act to the Public Utilities

Board. They will not have jurisdiction under this Act to do anything for anybody else, and he is saying to this House, that in passing this Act the Minister must say that you must appoint an officer under this Act. Isn't this foolishness? There would not be enough work for the Judicial Advisory Council to give this man to do. You do not have to be a lawyer, you do not have to be a Judge to see that. Nonsense! This is merely a case of administration. If you put this in a fool's hands you will be throwing away public funds. We must pay a man, put him to sit down as a sinecure, and do nothing more.

This Act says that the Judicial Advisory Council established under the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1956 may make rules regulating the practice, procedure and hearing of appeals under this Act. From what the hon. member for St. Joseph is suggesting, it only shows that if you had all of the kwyers like him, what would happen. Every lawyer cannot be a Judge, and that is why some of you are afraid to go into the court. That is why when some of you go into the court the Chief Justice has to chase you all out, because you go into the court with foolishness. Some of you cannot practise in court and want to come in here and practise in here.

He knows very well - he sees that the Bar Association's members do not get paid. No wonder the hon. member for Christ Church West is called on to defend some of these cases for the Public Utilities Board, because the hon. member can represent somebody, but as far as the hon. member for St. Joseph goes, they would bring a lawyer from Australia before they would appoint him. That is why when people have important cases in court they engage people like the hon. member for Christ Church West and Jack Dear, and all such fellows and give them the cases, but what would they give you? They will give you the bag to hold.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to Section 4. Before I discuss the provisions of Section 4, anyhow, I must say that the hon. member for St. Michael West enjoys himself on matters he really does not understand. What Section 4 is seeking to do is to place on the Judicial Advisory Council the obligation to make rules regulating to practice, procedure and hearing of appeals, and if there was one thing which should be discussed under this section, it is whether the Council is so constituted that it can carry out those duties. 8.40 p.m.

As I understand it, what the hon. member for St. Joseph was saying was that at present it is not adequately staffed. I think this point was made also in the second reading speech and I am not going over the arguments or replies given by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. I would like to suggest to the Government, however, that they have part of the remedy in their hands. A few weeks ago this Parliament passed a supplementary resolution, as well as a Civil Establishment Order, for a Senior Legal Draftsman who would be attached to the Law Revision Committee, and certainly one of the duties which should be laid down with the recruitment of such a person is that part of his functions will be to

ensure that he drafts all the rules which are necessary according to the instructions received from the Judicial Advisory Council. I am asking the Minister to have a look at this official and place as one of the primary duties he must do, this exact function.

The hon. member for St. Joseph is quite right when he says it is unrealistic to expect that the Judicial Advisory Council can do it. It seems to me that the staff should be people to whom they can refer and I cannot see a Judge doing part of the research which has to be done as a part-time duty, and I would ask that some consideration be given to this.

The question that Clause 4 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 5 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday next, 18th December at 12.00 noon.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 8.45 p.m.