

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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(OFFICIAL REPORT) FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, 16 th March, 1973

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W.R.LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. F.G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon.

P.G.MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. A. MORRISON and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Chambel for Tuesday, 6th March, 1973, are before you for confirmation. If there are no corrections to be made, the Minutes will be confirmed. (Pause.) The Minutes are hereby confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of-

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$587,894 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary

Estimates 1972-73 No. 34, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution along with two others of which notice has already been given in all their stages at this sitting. The appropriate letter has been sent seeking the consent of Your Honour, the Speaker, and the approval of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in this regard. Copies of the Resolution have been duly circulated to hon. members.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mrs. EASTMOND and Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of -

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$590,760 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73, No. 36, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I am seeking permission to deal with this Resolution in all of its stages at this sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology, I beg to give notice of -

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$12,000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1972-73, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1972-73 No. 35, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf, I beg to give notice of -

A Bill to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement between certain Caribbean Territories for the establishment of a Council of Legal Education.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the

Agreement between certain Caribbean Territories for the establishment of a Council of Legal Education be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

ORAL REPLIES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 69 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that there be an instruction to deal with the three Money Resolutions of which notice has been given today.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

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 of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73 No. 34

A Resolution for the Sum of \$587,894 was catted.

Head 4 - Auditor General.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 4 - Auditor General - \$300, the note, as far as I can see, is fairly explicit, but I will give some additional information at this stage. The position is that the need for this supplementary provision under this Head has resulted from a higher consumption of electricity than was anticipated. The matter was investigated, and it was discovered that one of the former meters which was in use was defective. It had been installed since 1958 and had long passed its guaranteed life and had to be replaced.

I beg to move that Head 4 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House speaks about what is set out in the Note to this Resolution on this Item, but this problem also occurs in homes of several people all over the country and they have been complaining about it. It is not good enough merely to set out that a meter was found to be defective and had to be replaced. Let the Hon. Minister tell this Honourable Committee what adjustments have been made, and what steps have been taken to put the matter right. Since it was found that more electricity than usual was being used, can the Minister tell us what steps were taken in the matter?

Now, the meter, as far as I know, is the property of the Barbados Light and Power Company. If it is in the interest of the Company to keep a defective meter installed in a Government Building, I do not see why Government should agree to pay excess charges. I should like the Hon. Leader of the House to tell us what steps the Government has taken or intends to take in this matter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has answered his own question. The meter has been replaced because of the high consumption of current.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have not answered my own question. I have asked the Leader of the House a question. 12.10 p.m.

I have asked what the Government is doing about the defective meter and I have been told that I have given my own answers. This is the attitude with which the Opposition is treated in this House constantly. First of all the papers never arrived until yesterday after 12 o'clock although the Prime Minister said that they should have been prepared since last week, and now I am told that I have given my own answer and assisted the Committee. I want to know what the Government intends to do. Are we only to say

"Aye" to the sum of \$300 and let it die at that? I always hear about the Government looking after people, but here they cannot look after themselves.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

As a result of the discovery of the defective meter, the bill was readjusted, but the amount still could not meet the request for the financial year. The matter was taken up with Light and Power, but the Government did not accept the total bill because we could come to the House.

The question that Head 4 - Auditor General - stand part, was put resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 33 - Waterworks Department - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, under Head 33 - Waterworks Department, there are Items 35, 36, 38 and 40. Before I deal with the details of the Waterworks Department, I should just like to make a general appeal to the public that although the situation with water in Barbados is not critical, yet at the same time with the drought and the low rainfalls which we have had over the past two years, more conservation and less wastage must take place, because due to the low levels in the reservoirs at Golden Ridge at this time of the year, we have had to shut off the supply to St. Andrew at night so that the Bowmanston pumps can pump direct to the reservoir. There is a tank which we have at a standpost in St. Simons which fills up at night, but with the supply shut off this tank has been useless, and consequently there has been some problem in St. Andrew.

A recent leak detection survey however has enabled us to tighten up the system and with a little improvement in the rainfall, we are now leaving the supply open again at night. Generally the low levels in wells at Bowmanston, Sweet Vale 1 and 2 and Applewaite, all stream water wells, are caused by the need to reduce more pumping. This was caused, as I said, over the past two years. You will find that the rainfall in Barbados has not been as good as previously. Yet I think, Sir, the Waterworks Department is pumping enough water into the areas mentioned to satisfy reasonable domestic requirements. We are pumping 23.6 million gallons of water per day, which is nearly 100 gallons per person, man, woman, and child in this population, and there is ample evidence in existence that water is being used illegally for irrigation and otherwise in spite of appeals from me as Minister and from the Waterworks Department.

We have included in our plans provision to pump sheet water back up at Bowmanston, but we are wondering when will this high consumption level off, and there is a danger too that with continual low rainfall the sheet water wells will fail and become contaminated with salt water, and consequently again on the floor of the House, in spite of my Ministry's endeavour to see to it that every citizen has this vital commodity, I am making an urgent plea because the Minister is not an African rain-maker or magician; I cannot make rain. I can pray to Almighty God for it and hope he answers my prayer, but I am not a magician to do a dance and get rain falling; so I am making an urgent and serious plea to all users of water in this country - and it is not an alarmist plea - to conserve and save and not to use water illegally.

To deal with the items specifically, Mr. Chairman, for maintenance of vehicles we require \$10,000. Of the vehicles in the Waterworks Department, seven are over 10 years old, fifteen are over five years, twelve are over two years and eighteen are under two years, making a total of 52. We are endeavouring to equip these vehicles too with some means of communications under our Development Plan whereby we can both obviate the necessity for the drivers to have to come from St. Lucy to town and back to St. Peter, and that make it easier for the workers and to answer all more promptly. You will find from the a of these vehicles that the expenses would naturilly go up. In 1971-72 we spent a figure of 37,887.41. The allocation in the 1972-73 budget was only \$35,000, so that with the increasing cost of parts, lubricants and other motor vehicle accessories, I think the House will agree that : we had a total request of \$45,000 from Parliament, that is not an unreasonable request, nor does it show any wastage of taxpayers'r money.

Under item 36 we require a supplement of \$5,700 for office expenses. I think this House will appreciate that we have endeavoured to improve the billing in the department by computer c sting. I readily concede that prior to this the situation in the Waterworks Department was chaotic and we have had technical assistance in this field to help us to bring up-to-date the outstanding bills, some of which

have not been paid for ten and fifteen years. Consideration still was not given to this unforeseen expenditure when the Estimates were made up, and the allocation of \$7,440 did not take into account the payment for the new fixed rate bills for use by computer costing, and I think you know that from the 1st January this year we have been endeavouring to send out bills much more promptly and much more up-to-date.

Under Item 38 - Travelling, the supplementary required is \$10,000. This is due mainly to an increase in the number of officers who are required to travel. In addition, the removal of the officers to the Pine also contributes to increased costs. Expenses are approximately \$4,000 monthly. The additions to the travelling schedule are eleven tap repairers, 3 service inspectors, 7 meter readers, 14 district workmen and 14 district foremen. Twenty-six of the fore-going receive motor cycle travelling rates, which as you know are going up from 1st April, but still it has led to this request to Parliament for this supplementary amount of \$10,000.

Under Item 40 - Plumbing, the amount of \$700,000 voted has been spent and commitments unpaid amount to \$234,675 so far. This is mainly due to plumbing in developments and putting water in developments which falls under this Head. Work continues on major developments which is costly, and installation of domestic services where we put in approximately 300 services a month, repairs and replacement of services. Materials, freight and labour are involved in this expenditure. The expenditure is considered to be 80% recoverable and these funds are urgently needed. 12.20 p.m.

I think I have given the Hon. House as much information as is necessary to show a justification for the request of the grant of taxpayers' money to keep this vital service running. I beg to move that Head 33 stand part.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister has been at pains to give us the sort of detailed information which he tried to give because "he had been somewhat anticipating the Opposition in this matter. However, Sir, whilst there may be a few avenues which need some sort of tightening up; with respect to the Waterworks Department, I believe that one thing which is very necessary for the foremen who are employed on the various routes is that they should be a little more vigilant, and if that is so I believe that your production costs can be considerably reduced. I think the time has come as well when the tap repairers who are posted in the several districts, and who reside in the country districts, carry out the services as required. I think that the present method of telephoning the office at early hours of the morning and perhaps at some other time should be changed, I do not think it is so much in keeping with present day standards. I believe that we have got to give some sort of consideration whereby these officers can be kept in daily contact with head office, either by some system of telecommunications or by a walkie-talkie set, but some means must be devised with a view to bringing these people into immediate contact so that they can be sent from one job to the other and so on.

Evidence of this is given, Mr. Chairman, in the bold number of services that have been laid and applications that are outstanding, and from one thing to another to which I believe the Minister made some sort of reference, and if we are installing water services at several homes not so speedily as the

Minister would have us believe, because we still feel that enough is not being done for the training of plumbers and for the full utilisation of the services of those who are presently in our midst. I believe that since we are spending so much money on our Waterworks Department in an effort to bring it up-to-date and to carry the services to the people, that there should be a greater emphasis on training and that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic should be turning out plumbers in great numbers to cope with the demands made on this Department. We believe that much more could be done, the attaching of services to homes could be speeded up if the Waterworks Department had a greater source upon which to draw. What I know has been happening in the case of the Waterworks Department - it has happened to many another industry in Barbados - is that in the absence of a coordinated training scheme you will find that the small plumbing business will take in a recruit and after he has spent six or eight weeks there he is drafted into the Waterworks Department or is absorbed by some other like business till eventually he finds himself placed in the Waterworks Department, so it would mean that the small plumbing business is really acting quite unfairly as the training ground. The time has definitely come when if the various Government Departments are to be able to rely on -skilled staff as we have seen and we are seeing now, that there must be some scheme of training from which people with the necessary skills can be drawn upon from time to time to expedite the work with the type of precision, and what you might find is that the long term maintenance costs might be considerably reduced if this is adhered to.

I do not think there is any other point I want to discuss under this Item, except the question of the maintenance of vehicles. I do not know to what length the Minister went in explaining the cost of maintenance of vehicles, but I believe that the Minister would not be in a position to say all that he knows - that is the way I want to put it - that really goes wrong. However, in view of the fact that he knows that something is wrong, I would like to see some tightening up of the screws so as to reduce the maintenance costs of these vehicles.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, if I heard the hon. member for St. Peter correctly, I believe he was making some criticism of the inadequate facilities for the training of plumbers in this country, and he thought that the Polytechnic should be making more provision for training. Just for the purposes of the record I would like to state that the Government is in fact very conscious of the need to have persons in training in this particular skill, and at 1st January, 1973 - I am sorry that the hon. member will not be interested in these figures - there were 61 persons in training at the Polytechnic in the field of training. (Mr. FORDE How many women?) We will deal with that under the appropriate Resolution. I think that this is an indication that in fact attention is being paid to the training needs in this area.

Mr, HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, with a view to elucidating a point, can the Minister tell us how many first year and how many second year students are included in this number? That is important.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I can supply the information. There were 21 persons in the first year programme and 11 persons in the second year programme. In addition there were 29 persons pursuing part time evening studies. 12.30 p.m.

Mr. HOPPIN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. member for St. Peter for accepting that the Resolution was well presented. I should just like to assure him that there is no backlog of services in the Waterworks Department. We are almost up-to-date in dealing with the requests made to the Department. There is no longer the backlog that used to exist several years ago. We have already installed pipe water in 65% of the houses in Barbados, and, with the 300-a-month rate of installing water, it seems that, before the end of the 70's, there is no reason why every home that desires water should not have pipe water installed.

We have over fifteen apprentices at the Waterworks Department. We are encouraging youngsters to come and learn a trade, and we are working in close co-operation, with the Polytechnic. We try to give the practical aspect of the theoretical training which the Polytechnic offers. We have about thirty-five plumbers and 15 apprentices; so that, even in the field of education, the Waterworks Department is making a vital contribution,

I should like to tell the hon. member for St. Peter that we have installed 20 Communication Sets in our vehicles, which would enable us to answer calls much more readily. I should also like the members, of the public to inform the Waterworks Department of leakages or burst pipes whether on their premises or on the highways and so on. A former colleague of mine was well noted for locking off pipes when he passed and saw them leaking, and that is commendable. As a matter of fact, if he saw a man using his water hose illegally, he was tempted to take it away from him. I have no intention of doing that, but at the same time such public spiritedness on the part of a Minister to perform functions not normally associated with him is something that the public should try to emulate.

The question that Head 33 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 35 - Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, I wish to point out that the amounts provided in the Estimates proved inadequate in respect of the three Items in the Schedule Item 13 - Part-time Staff; Item 23 - Maintenance of Equipment, and Item 24 - Hotel Training. As far as Item 13 is concerned, it has been found necessary, consequent upon the merger of the Technical Institute and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, to provide additional part-time teaching inasmuch as some of the established posts at the Technical Institute were abolished and the members of the staff who held posts at the Technical Institute were appointed to comparable posts then vacant on the establishment of the Polytechnic.

The merger of the Technical Institute into the Polytechnic required, however, an expansion of the establishment of the Polytechnic, and it was found necessary to use part-time instructors not only to make good the deficiency, but also to operate in those areas in which it is necessary to provide additional instruction. These areas are in the fields of plumbing, and the sum of \$2,280

is required for part-time instruction in this field. For masonry and tiling the sum of \$2,240 is required. In auto-body repair, the sum of \$3,312 is required. In general studies \$3,072 is required, making a total sum of \$10,904 for part-time instruction.

As far as the maintenance of equipment is concerned, the sum of \$3,000 provided in the Estimates has proved inadequate, and it is necessary for certain essential equipment to be serviced. These include a transformer, an electronic machine, a dynoscope and a diesel injector. In addition, there are some 40 sewing machines which call for regular maintenance. The sum of \$1,500, including the sum of \$200 to settle outstanding claims, is required to supplement this particular Item.

So far as Hotel Training is concerned, the sum of \$10,000 is now required to pay salaries and meet other expenditures, the details of which are as follows:

The salary for the Bar Instructor 1,120.00

Instructor for the

Cooks/Maids Course 1,480.00

the Stenographer 400.00

Senior Clerical

Officer 300.00

Casual staff 666.40

The amount for foodstuffs 4,500.00

Incidental Expenses 500.00 Outstanding Claims and other

incidental expenses 1,000.00

This will give you an approximate sum of \$10,000.

Mr. Chairman, these are merely requests for supplementary provision. The principle of these votes has already been established. If there is any additional information which any member wishes to have, and I have it at my disposal, I will be willing to give it to him.

I beg to move that Head 35 stand part. Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the question of part-time staff at the Polytechnic, I think this matter should be engaging the attention of the Government much more seriously than it would appear to be doing at the present moment. 12.40 p.m.

Now we have seen that the Technical Institute which is staffed reasonably well has been merged into the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, because the Technical Institute in itself was a polytechnic. However the time has come when the Government must search wider afield - unless the Minister has it

to tell us to what end they have been pursuing this course -to see what Barbadians in the first place have acquired skills that could be made available at the teaching level at the Polytechnic, and see if something cannot be done to encourage these people to come and serve us.

I understand there are cases - I do not know if applications have reached the Minister - where Barbadians abroad have written to the Ministry of Education for information, and months passed by and they got no reply. These are people who are looking for work and would be glad to come home, but they get no reply to their requests for the type of information they seek so as to enable them to set about making a decision as to whether or not there is something sufficiently encouraging for them to come home. If the Minister is aware of this, I should like him to do all in his power as from now to see to it that when persons abroad seek information about the Polytechnic or the Ministry of Education as a whole, that the information is made available to them as quickly as possible, because when a person is seeking a job he does not want to go on seeking forever and the first job that comes along he will hold, and in such a case you will find that Barbados might lose a good opportunity to get a Barbadian who would be an asset because he was not able to come back home. We would like to know that the Minister looks into this aspect of things.

Now there is the question of maintenance of equipment. The Minister mentioned that there are some faulty sewing machines that are in constant need of maintenance and the like. It would be of interest for the Minister to know that some of the women who are trained in the operation of these sewing machines at the Polytechnic are absorbed in these industrial estates, but despite the fact that they have had some sort of basic training, you find that employers take them over for another period of training. I have known of a case where after having been trained at the Polytechnic and worked, a woman had to undergo six weeks' training in a factory, but when she left that job at the factory and went to another factory in similar type of work, operating the same type of machines, she was also told at the second factory that she had to undergo a period of training. Now I feel that if the Polytechnic is giving these people (Hon. F. G. SMITH: They want to exploit her, that is all!)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like all hon. members to adhere to Standing Order No. 33(6).

Mr. HINDS:

If the polytechnic is really and truly training these people, I feel they ought to be issued with certificates by which they should be able to demand their pay, because what kind of training could you have at the polytechnic, then six weeks work with one manufacturer, and then you work for another eighteen weeks, and then you go to another manufacture doing the same type of work and are told for the second time that you have got to undergo another period of training? (Hon. F. G. SMITH They do not want to pay a trained person.) My argument is that the moment they leave the polytechnic fitted to take their rightful place in industry, they should be given some sort of protection. They should not be thrown to the wolves. I would like to know that something is done in this particular respect. It is not fair or reasonable to the employees to have to undergo training with each employer.

Now there is one other point. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us what effect the siting of the polytechnic is having on the wear and tear of certain pieces of equipment, because all of us know where the polytechnic is located at present and we fear that the wear and tear is expected to be heavier at this particular site than if it were located elsewhere. We would like to hear what the Minister has to say

in this respect.

Here again the question of training of women is one which has got to be looked into very carefully, because as we know amongst the women folk there is a greater working force, numerically speaking, than amongst the male, and I believe that this is one of the reasons why employers find themselves in a position to take advantage of these because of the numbers upon which they can draw, and we have got to see what can be done in this matter.

Now hotel training is a matter which has got to be looked at in its broadest sense. Exactly how far does the hotel training go at the polytechnic? 12,50 p.m.

I believe that we have all reached the point where we are satisfied that we have turned out enough domestic servants up to the present, and we are to hope that the type of hotel training that is given at the Polytechnic goes beyond this. If the type of hotel training at the Polytechnic goes beyond this, this is where the Government must be ultra cautious. I know for certain that the Sandy Lane Hotel on the West Coast is presently considering sending abroad a worker for hotel training. That worker is not a Barbadian and there are Barbadians who have been working there much longer than this particular worker. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Is he the husband of a Bajan woman?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to ask the hon. member once again to observe the Standing Orders because he is causing the Reporters no end of trouble.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I was just enquiring if this was the husband of a Barbadian woman.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, whenever you have to speak to the Minister who has just sat down for not observing the rules and I am standing and addressing the Chair it would appear as if you are referring to me. When you go to read the reports, unless you make it quite clear to which member you are referring, it would appear as if you are addressing me. If you are addressing the Minister of Communications and Works or the member for St. Michael South Central and you refer to him in this way it would be for my protection.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Again this is how we interpret the English language. When you are addressing the Chair I could not be making those remarks about you.

Mr. HINDS; Mr. Chairman, do not let us get into any argument about this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am not prepared to argue.

Mr. HINDS:

It would be much better in future when any member is addressing the Chair and you have to address the hon. member for St. Michael South Central or any other hon. member if you would refer to them by

their constituencies.

The case to which I refer is a case where a young man stowed away into Barbados so to speak, picked up a job at Sandy Lane and he is now being considered to be sent abroad for hotel training, and this as I say over the heads of Barbadian nationals who have served and are still serving the hotel, and I would like the Government to look into this. If anybody is to go abroad for hotel training a Barbadian should be considered first, and if no Barbadian is found to be fit to undergo this training or is not likely to benefit from this type of training abroad, then we can give consideration to a St. Lucian, Vincentian or anybody else from any other part of the world. I can assure the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that the person referred to is not the husband of any Barbadian national, he just happened to be a stowaway. He is a squatter in Barbados. I believe I have already covered enough ground under this Head.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, to stow away is to enter a country illegally, so the hon. member should not be telling this to the House of Assembly, he should notify the Police. Do not let us bring these illegal things in here.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman, I have already told the Police.

Mr. WALCOTT:

So why did you bring it here?

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member wants me to carry it to his house.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I do not want the hon. member to bring it to my house, because if we had laws in here that prevented people who went to prison from becoming members of the House the hon. member would not be in here. Do not let us get on with these things, he is dealing with the right person now. I am not one of those people who have to make friends with people, and I will call a spade a spade. If a person enters the country illegally it is a matter for the Police Department, there is no point bringing it in here and asking us to become Policemen. If the man is already engaged in employment, that is one matter, but if you go and ask all the people in Barbados who are employing people who are non-nationals you would be surprised at the answers you would get, which would tell you how many non-nationals are employed. Ask how many Ministers or members of Parliament have St. Lucians employed in their kitchens at home and then come back to the House of Assembly and say who is employing whom. Start with these things at home. This House itself employs non-nationals. What I am saying is, and I am going to say it bluntly, is that I do not think that the Polytechnic is doing the job that we would like done.

I do not believe that enough people are being trained for the jobs that we would like to see trained people in. You cannot have a half University, the hon. member spoke about domestics but I would not use any insulting language, if you call the names of the people in the lower echelons domestics, there are more of these who have to be trained in hotels than those at management level, but somebody in Barbados had the idea that there are more management people to be trained than there are these people to be trained, and therefore you will have some hifalutin name calling it a Polytechnic when you intend

to train hundreds of people to do the main jobs, and those are the people you have to train. If you are not training more people to take up jobs in Barbados but you are going to spend a lot of money training people who may be looking for jobs as Managers or in the higher echelons you have to make up your mind who you want to train. I am satisfied that you require training for carpenters and masons moreso than for supervisors. 1.00 p.m.

You require more masons, carpenters, steel-benders, and so on, and these people must be trained because there are a lot of jobs to be done. For every 100 jobs you are going to get for the kind of people who need training, you will need two or three as supervisors and so on. I am satisfied that some of the people who work in the foundry and in the construction field need more training. I agree with the hon. member that there should be some sort of liaison between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education in order to arrive at a proper solution in this matter.

Mr. Chairman, we are spending a lot of money in order to provide jobs for people. I do not agree with the present system that is being pursued. You are spending money at the Polytechnic, and you are spending money in industrial development. About four weeks ago an employer was telling me that he could not pay a worker more than \$20 a week, and if he were asked to pay \$30 a week he would go to Taiwan. I told him that if he wanted to operate like the people in Taiwan, then everybody would have to be paid similar wages as in Taiwan. The members of Parliament and the Ministers would have to receive the salaries paid in Taiwan.

The Manager of the Plant would live at Atlantic Shores in a big house for which he would want one hundred and something dollars when it was sold. He would be paid a salary in American currency which would be twice as much as the Eastern Caribbean currency, and then he would ask a worker to accept \$20 a week! It is time that we reach a stage of proper understanding. On the one hand, you have the Polytechnic in which you are training people, and on the other hand, you have the labour in-take that is supposed to absorb some of the people who have been trained. I think the time will come very soon when the Government will have to lay down the minimum wage rate which should be paid to the workers in certain industries based on what is happening in the community.

Mr. Chairman, I do not see how we are going to operate in this community when we have trained a labour force, and then people from abroad who are coming here to absorb them in industries are telling us that they have no intention of paying the workers what other people in the community are paying them. I am satisfied that this is one of the gaps that we have to fill in sooner or later. It is better that we fill in the gaps sooner than later, because I am satisfied that the children who will soon be leaving the Comprehensive Schools and so on - regardless of what the Professors talk about their attitude to work - cannot be expected to work under the same conditions as some of their ignorant forefathers who could not spell Ada backwards. If you believe so, then you are living in a fool's paradise. You have to pay for the consequences of education, and the consequences of education imply that you have to treat people who have been educated and trained in a different manner from those who are uneducated.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this Resolution, I should like to draw to the attention of the appropriate Minister the difficulties which parents are experiencing in getting their children admitted to the Polytechnic. It is true that the standard for admission is the School Leaving Certificate. In case a child did not receive the School Leaving Certificate, he would have to sit the entrance examination. Those are

the qualifications, as far as I am aware, which will admit a child to the Polytechnic.

Now, there are very few children who, when they do not have the School Leaving Certificate, can pass the entrance examination; consequently, they are not admitted to the Polytechnic. As you are aware, Sir, several years ago an apprentice could be trained by workmen. In those days we did not have the present system whereby contractors carried out 99% of the building in this country, and a boy was given the opportunity to go along with a workman and be trained. In these days when a child does not qualify to enter the Polytechnic, he is not given the opportunity, as an apprentice, to learn a trade.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. The Apprenticeship Act is still on the Statute Book and is still administered.

There are still apprentices in training, but the hon. member is suggesting that this training is not available. The Act is still on the Statute Book, and persons are still being trained as apprentices in March, 1973.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his information. I will continue to say that, even with the bursaries, you also have to pass an examination in order to enter the Polytechnic. 1.10 p.m.

With the bursaries, I repeat, you also have to pass the examination. Now we have got several workmen in this Island who have been trained in the past and I am not ashamed to say that some of them only had third or fourth standard education but have become first class artisans in this country without having to pass any entrance examination. The time has come when a boy who has the aptitude to learn a trade should be given the opportunity, and therefore I would suggest that something be done to assist those children who would learn a trade but cannot pass the entrance examination for the Polytechnic or for a bursary. It is our duty to see that that type of child be given the opportunity also. When the boys become qualified and leave the Polytechnic, they do not want to handle the tools, and therefore we have got to train the type of person who is willing to work with tools as soon as he becomes qualified. Failing to do so, we are going to find ourselves without artisans in this country. Right now there is a shortage of artisans, and this hardship can only be alleviated if we do something to help those children who did not pass the examination at the Polytechnic and become qualified for a bursary. I am appealing to the Minister to give this matter his careful attention. Daily, parents are complaining to me. I tell them about the bursaries and about the Polytechnic and they say that the child has not passed the entrance examination to the Polytechnic nor is given a bursary, and therefore I would ask the Minister to look into this matter and do all that he possibly can to see that boys are trained to become qualified artisans. I repeat, if we look around the country today we will see that it is those boys who did not have to sit an entrance examination who are pulling their weight as artisans, and therefore it is our duty to assist children who cannot pass the entrance examination.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware it is very seldom that I have ever agreed with the hon. member for St. Philip South. On this occasion I must hold my head in sorrow and shame to think that the hon. member can condemn his own Government when last year around this very time when I argued in Committee about the question of bursaries and that the sum being paid was not sufficient to encourage people to

become apprentices the hon. member for St. Philip South was one who voted against my speech in this House, but in less than a year he has come back to admit that the question of...

Mr. WEEKES:

On a point of order, I have not condemned my Government. I have brought the matter to the attention of the Government.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has drawn the matter to the attention of the Government in the same way that I drew it to the attention of the Government last year when he disagreed with me, and he himself has now admitted that the Government has failed to heed the warning that people who did not pass the School Leaving Certificate were not given any training in the trades which we so badly need in this country and he now cannot take it and has left the Chamber.

Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with the Polytechnic now and I am very serious about this. There are at least two Government Ministers to whom I have shown correspondence from persons who would like to come back to Barbados in the garment industry and who would require at least 500 persons to start with, but we are in what we call a cat and dog race at this point of time, and I would like the hon. member to take a serious look at this situation that everybody who opens an industry in Barbados wants personnel who have got experience or have been trained. I agree with the hon. member for St. Philip South that it is not the person who has passed the School Leaving Certificate or who can pass the examination to get into the Polytechnic who is going to come out and work with his hands. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture admitted in this House nearly two years ago that as soon as a person gets a certificate, he is an expert; so he does not want to do an ordinary job. This is something that worries a lot of people in this country. I would ask the Hon. Minister to look at the Polytechnic more carefully. If the Polytechnic says it can only accommodate persons who have passed their School Leaving Certificate, the Minister should not be ashamed to come to this House and ask for a sum of money to establish another Department which would accommodate and train personnel who have not passed the School Leaving Certificate because you must understand that we are still in a Barbadian society, and as long as a person has passed a School Leaving Certificate and is being trained, he is coming out as a supervisor.

I was at a seminar a few weeks ago and I heard a businessman in Bridgetown say that there was one of these persons who had just left school and was coming out of training and had applied for a job as a manager. This is something we have got to watch. We are in a sad state when it comes to artisans in this country. You cannot get carpenters, masons, plumbers or electricians nowadays, and I believe that the Polytechnic should be training persons who have got an interest. If it means that the Polytechnic has got to operate on an evening class basis for persons who have got an interest and want to be registered irrespective of whether they have got a School Leaving Certificate or not or whether they had passed the entrance examination, there should be some sort of training provided for those persons who can then come out with a certificate of proficiency. I am not asking you to grant them the London Chamber of Commerce Certificate or the City and Guilds; all I am asking is that the Polytechnic creates its own certificate - a certificate of proficiency. If it cannot be done by the Polytechnic then the Government has got to face the fact and provide more trade schools in this country. 1.20 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Philip South spoke about apprenticeships and bursaries, and I have said in this Committee already that the system of apprenticeships and bursaries is so regulated that persons are

not going to find favour with it. The sum being paid to persons involved in my opinion is too small. I know of a boy who came to me and said he wanted to get into the engineering field. I telephoned one of the establishments in this country and spoke with the manager who said he would be glad to take him but because of an agreement he could only take those who came from the Polytechnic, and in my opinion this is hampering people who cannot get into the Polytechnic and who want to be trained in these various fields. We have to do something about it, because the number of artisans in Barbados is decreasing year after year with no great influx to make any dent on the need which is required, and I believe the Minister of Education should make a note of this.

On the training at the Polytechnic I would suggest that the Minister adopts the system used in Britain and in other developed countries where people who are trained at the Polytechnic are released to go into the various industries for at least one or two days per week to do an average day's work. It all adds up to a certificate of proficiency; that is, you have to have a greater liaison between the Ministry of Trade and the IDC so that when they are approving industries to come into Barbados they can let these people know that we have a certain number of trained people to fill the jobs and they should be able to tell them what wages they should pay these people per week. I believe this could be brought home to the people in the business, that the Polytechnic is there to provide personnel and that they can be supplied without this question of experience that you see daily in advertisements in the newspaper for jobs. All it means is that persons are going to join one organisation and then leave and go into a new organisation thereby causing a disruption of work without any benefit to the community.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I just wish to reply to some of the points made during this debate, and I would like first of all as succinctly and as clearly as I can to state some facts and make a few comments.

First of all, I would like to thank the hon. members who have spoken on this particular request for supplementary provision for the points they have made, whether they have been constructive or destructive, or whether they have been made through lack of knowledge and appreciation for exactly what is going on. The first point I wish to make is that at this particular time in our history there are more persons being trained than were ever trained in this country. There are more training opportunities available now than ever were available in the country. The Polytechnic - and I make no apologies for its name - provides programmes which are aimed to train persons at the level of craftsman over a two year period. It is to produce the craftsmen and the artisans which this country requires for its continued development. At 1st January, 1973, there were some 1,284 persons enrolled at the Polytechnic.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, I wonder if the Hon. Minister would break down that number in the various trades and tell us what percentage of the unemployed or school leavers that is.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Was that a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. BOLDEN:

A point of explanation. Could the Hon. Minister explain to the Committee what trades are represented and what percentage of the school leavers they represent.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member wishes that information there is an established means in this House for eliciting that type of information.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, I have heard the hon. members on that side say that they have 18 and we have six, but this is an escape route which every person on that side adopts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, just let me finish and you will understand what I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You will sit.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will hear the point of elucidation.

Mr. BOLDEN:

As you will recall, Sir, I asked a question about Cable and Wireless and was promised something by the Minister of Communications and Works and I have not got it. I asked another question about the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited and the Hon. Minister has not yet given me the necessary information.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, in the building trades there are some 173 students enrolled, electrical installation 109, refrigeration 68, radio and television 55, engineering trades 361, sewing machine operation 31, commercial studies - most of them women, for the benefit of the hon. member for Christ Church West who is their champion - 328, technical studies 65, and building and engineering drawing 94.

The point I wish to make on the provision of artisans in this country is that the same avenues which were available for training these artisans before are still there. However, those persons who were supposed to be very skillful and so on, nothing has been done by this Government to remove the opportunities they had for training. What we have done is to provide opportunities whereby some additional people, about 1,000 more persons, can in a formal situation undergo training. The programme at the Polytechnic is supposed to include both theoretical and practical training; the guide lines that have been laid down call for 50% theoretical training and 50% practical training.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, I wonder if the Minister would tell us what aspect of the building trades the 173 people are involved in. 1.30 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the trades in the Building Construction Division cover carpentry, masonry, plumbing, tiling, steel-bending, electrical installation, and so on. If the member wishes specific information he should ask for it. He now leaves the Chamber. He accused one of our members of leaving the Chamber and he has also left.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to refer specifically to some of the points raised in this debate. On the question of the provision of staff, I want to make it quite clear that we can make the provision for technical and vocational education at whatever level we wish to make it. At the same time it must be realised that, because of the attraction in industry and other considerations as well as the fact that this tends to be an area in which there is a world-wide shortage of very skilled and competent people who are willing to devote their time to the instruction of the young in these particular areas, it is not an easy matter to get staff to work in these fields.

Now, there are a number of Barbadians who have returned from overseas and are employed in technical and vocational education in this country. I cannot speak on a general statement. If the hon. member for St. Peter has specific cases in which somebody has written to the Ministry of Education and for a year or more has not received the necessary information, then I will be prepared to take the cases up to ensure that the appropriate information goes out to the person that is making the inquiry. I can give the hon. member the assurance that, if he draws the names of the persons who are seeking information to my attention, I will certainly try and ensure that the reply goes out. I wish to point out that persons have sought information; they have been given information; the process has been put into operation, they have been appointed by the Public Service Commission, and are now teaching at the Polytechnic.

As far as the training in the hotel industry is concerned, I would like to say that I am not aware of any non-Barbadian whom the Sandy Lane Hotel is proposing to send abroad for training. I am not vouchsafed with any information concerning the Overseas Training Programme of any hotel in this country. I cannot agree with the hon. member for St. Peter that we have produced enough cooks and persons operating at that level in the hotel industry. This is a continuing process; it is not a process which is satisfied by one short training method; we have to provide for the expanding industry as well as replacements in the industry; hence, it is necessary to maintain the Training Programme.

The hon. member for St. Peter, of course, would wish to know that training for the hotel industry does not begin and end with training at the craft level. There is a Middle-Management Training Programme conducted by the Hotel School in order to provide the needs of the industry for personnel at the middle-management level. There are two levels of training available in the Hotel School: (1) At the craft level for the cooks, the room maids, the receptionists and other personnel; and (2) The middle-management level for the supervisory personnel who will work in the various departments or sub-departments in the hotel. Now, at the top management level, through our Programme of National Development Scholarships and other Programmes of assistance to students, persons go abroad for training at the top level in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and I believe that some of our students have been trained in Switzerland.

As far as the persons who have gone through the programme of training at the Polytechnic and have gone to work in the garment industry are concerned, I would need something more specific in order that

my Ministry may be able to make an inquiry. On the basis of the information given to this House by the hon. member for St. Peter, it would be difficult for me to say that the training at the Polytechnic is inadequate. In fact, the hon. member did not say that, although by implication or inference this is one conclusion that might be drawn. If somebody is trained in the procedures for the garment industry; he leaves the polytechnic and goes into a garment factory to work and is put through a training programme; he works in that factory, and then he leaves and goes to another factory and the Manager tells him that he has to go through another training programme and they do that on a third occasion - I want to make it quite clear that this is a hypothetical situation on which I am talking, because I have no evidence that this is actually happening - one could also draw the conclusion that it may have nothing at all to do with the training given in the Polytechnic. It may have something to do with the wage bill and with the need of the Managers to get cheap labour.

What I wish to point out is that there is a Sub-Committee of the Advisory Board for the Polytechnic operating in the field of garment studies, and these include people from the garment industry. It is the function of the Advisory Board and the Administration of the Polytechnic to keep the programme of that institution constantly under review in order to ensure that the needs of the industry are being met through the Training Programme in the Polytechnic.

I may also add a further note of caution that the Polytechnic cannot, in all cases, or may be in most cases, produce people who are tailor-made for the particular requirements for each employer. Training in the Polytechnic or any other technical or vocational institution does not do away with the requirement of industry to provide its own in-service training programme and induction into the particular procedures necessary for the prosecution of the aims of that particular trade or industry. 1.40 p.m.

The hon. member for St. Peter raised the question about the effect which the location of the Polytechnic might have on the equipment in that institution. I really cannot give a specific answer to that. I can however make the general point that an institution located as the Polytechnic is located or indeed any private residence located near the sea where salt spray may have an effect on the equipment and furnishings and so on in such a place, either a residence or a work place, would expect a slightly higher rate of deterioration and so on of the equipment than if it were located elsewhere. I am certain the hon. member for St. Peter who like me is a fellow resident of St. James, although he lives on the sea coast while I am on the humble side, knows about deterioration and the wear and tear which comes as a result of sea spray and so on. That is why we have temporarily located the Polytechnic at that site, and we have been in discussion with overseas agencies, in particular the Inter-American Development Bank for a loan to facilitate the establishment of the Polytechnic on a permanent site, and we have been evaluating a number of sites, and I hope we can have a favourable out-turn on this particular matter. I should like to assure the hon. member that the site at the Harbour is not intended as a permanent site for the Polytechnic. We are proposing to locate the Polytechnic elsewhere in the country in order that it may continue to render an improved service to the people of this country.

Mr. Chairman, as far as the requirements for additional masons, carpenters and so on are concerned, I believe I have given some figures on this matter. There are currently 85 persons in carpentry, 61 in plumbing and 27 in masonry at the Polytechnic and these are being trained over a two year programme. We are constantly evaluating the training needs of this country and to this end I requested and now have the services of an expert through the good offices of the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom Government, and he is currently engaged in my Ministry on an exercise of evaluating

the whole technical vocational training programme in order to come up with recommendations. Within the last week, a meeting took place. among certain interested persons on the requirements for accelerated training programmes for artisans in this country. We are going to seek out specific information in this regard in order that we can more realistically plan for the training of artisans. But I make it quite clear that the terms of reference of the Polytechnic include the provision of courses ranging from as little as one week up to a period of two years. Within the institution therefore, the facilities exist for meeting the training requirements of this country so long as the specific needs are pointed out to us.

As far as the admission requirements of the Polytechnic are concerned, I am grateful to hon. members for drawing difficulties to my attention, and I must make it clear that if one is talking about training of craftsmen, one has got to set standards for admission. There are standards for admission for one to become a craftsman or a skilled worker. There are qualifications for entering the legal profession; there are qualifications for entering most professions, and so long as you have an institution which has the capacity for less than 1,000 students and there are 4,000 or 3,000 persons seeking admission into that institution, standards will have to be laid down for admission.

Now a variety of requirements are there for admission to the Polytechnic including the School Leaving Certificate, and if one does not have that certificate, the institution itself sets an admission test in order to determine the suitability of the person to benefit from the two year programme which is put on by the institution. I do not know of any other means whereby one can sort out or choose the number of persons who should go into this institution except on some selective basis. So long as you have fewer training places available than there are persons desiring to make use of those places, so long must one have these admission procedures, and the only solution to that is through the provision of additional training places, and that is precisely the programme which the Government is embarking upon.

I have said on a number of occasions that the Polytechnic as it stands is only the first institution, of its type in this country and that we are proposing to establish other branches at other levels of courses taking in a much broader span of students in the north and in the south of the Country; so that we want to spread the opportunities for training as widely as possible: I may point out that training is also available under the adult education programme where in the industrial arts centres at the secondary schools people can go in and get pre-vocational training in a number of areas. All I wish to point out Mr. Chairman therefore is that there are the opportunities. There are skilled craftsmen in the country today who are saying that they cannot get apprentices. This is nothing at all to do with the apprentice scheme. They cannot get apprentices simply because for one reason or another people do not want to become apprenticed in certain areas. We have a preponderance of people seeking to go into training in electronics. They want to do refrigeration, air-conditioning, electrical installation, radio and television servicing and even computer programming, and you will find that masonry, tiling and carpentry are the areas they are not opting for first. What we are trying to do, Mr. Chairman, is to revamp the whole vocational, technical and prevocational education programme in this country in order to orientate and motivate young people in order that they can realise that it is not only the persons working in so-called white collar areas that can make a contribution to this country, but all of the jobs in this country have to be done and it takes persons with a variety of skills, or a variety of persons in order to make a contribution towards the development of this country.

As I said, we have the manpower now to carry out this evaluation and I hope in due course to come to

this Chamber with proposals for revamping and redevelopment of the technical and vocational training.
1.50 p.m.

This includes a national industrial training programme. All of these areas are being evaluated, and I wish to make it clear again that as far as the training under the Apprenticeship Act is concerned, I agree with the hon. member for St. Joseph when he said that the payments under this Act are low. This is a fact and this is one of the areas which is now being examined by the expert in this particular field. I wish to make it clear that no training opportunities have been removed and that it is not impossible for anyone wishing to become a competent craftsman in any area to get that training if the person is so interested. I believe that I have dealt with the points made in this debate, and I would wish to point out to the member for St. Joseph who said that the Polytechnic should offer its own certificate that the Polytechnic offers its own certificate. It awards its certificate to those persons who successfully complete its programmes and this is separate and apart from any overseas award which those persons may obtain.

Mr. Chairman, I would point out that if additional information is needed and is asked for in the appropriate way I will be happy to reply. There is only one outstanding question that I have on the Order Paper of this House in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy, and I expect that that will be offered in a very short time. If he wants the answer now he can get it, but I have no questions on the Order Paper from the hon. member for St. Joseph.

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

Head 40 - Welfare Department - was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 stand part.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, before you put the question on this part of the resolution I want to make a comment on this section. This Head deals with the Welfare Department, and there are three areas which are of particular importance to me, on the question of welfare grants, old age pensions and educational assistance.

I think I would like to point out first that it would seem to me that from the manner in which the system is operated for granting welfare and educational assistance some kind of guidance is needed, and some defined criteria should be laid down. I know of situations where people have applied for grants who are really in need of welfare and the Welfare Officers have turned down their applications, while at the same time they have given grants to people who are not really in need.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The time is now 2.00 p.m.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The time being 2.00 p.m., this House automatically stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. 2.00 p.m.

On resumption:-

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair. QUESTION TIME

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Before you take the question, Sir, there is one point I want to draw to your attention. If you look at the Order Paper, on page 5, you will see that questions marked with an asterisk are for oral reply. Question No. 11 standing in my name was marked for oral reply and now it has come back indicating a written reply. I would like to have the matter investigated.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Clerk has informed me that you brought it to his attention and that at the next printing of the Order Paper it will be corrected. It was supposed to have an asterisk and one will be affixed on the next printing of the Order Paper.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to lay the reply to Question No. 69.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, we are now in Question Time to deal with a question asked by the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Leader of the House asked that the reply to Question No. 69 be laid.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

This cannot be fair, because I rose on a point of order when he was speaking and therefore he cannot go ahead to discuss anything.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Your point of order was heard and dealt with.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

No, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Are you arguing with me? I am in the Chair and what I say goes. Your point of order was made after the Leader of the House made his remarks; I am very precise on this point and there can be no change.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to argue with you, but if that is your ruling I will abide by it. I know that I got up on a point of order and indicated that the microphone was not working and therefore I could not speak. At that point the Leader of the House got up and asked to lay the question, while I was waiting for the person operating the microphones to turn on the microphone for my use.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I will say now that you have put it in your way to suit your point, but definitely I said that the Leader of the House caught my eye first and that he had the right to speak, and he spoke and asked that the reply to the question be laid. That will be laid, the reply to Question No. 69.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I want to get this quite clear. I would like to know whether a member is entitled to have a microphone to use, because I waited until the microphone was available, no member can deny that, the microphone was then turned on and I began to speak. While I was waiting the Leader of the House got back up - I was on a point of order - and began to speak, so it is not a question of which member caught your eye first. If I rise on a point of order he cannot continue with anything else at that stage.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Before you proceed further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works rose before I did. I gave notice that oral reply to Question No. 69 was ready, and I asked the Minister of Communications to give way and the hon. member for the City got up and you allowed me to continue. The hon. member then stood up while you were speaking, and even when you tried to rule he was still standing. The fact is that what is before us is the reply to Question No. 69 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter who was not in his place at the time. If he wants an oral reply there is no harm in giving it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Is the Hon. Minister withdrawing to give an oral reply?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am just trying to give the sequence of what went on. The reply was laid, and that is that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, this is exactly what I was dealing with. The Hon. Leader of the House said he asked the Minister of Communications to give way and I rose on a point of order. While I was on a point of order, how could any Minister make a speech at that time ? 2.50 p.m.

The Leader of the House admits that he asked the Minister of Communications and Works to give way. When he got up to speak, I rose on a point of order. I indicated that I could not be heard because the microphone was not turned on. How could the Minister ask that something be laid while I was on my feet, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I have made my ruling on that matter already, and I am concluding it now that the reply to Question No. 69 be laid.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I say something on that ruling? I wish to make a comment on that ruling. This is a matter of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

No matter of privilege!

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am seeking the leave of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Are you moving a substantive motion?

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am asking the leave of the House to make a reply in respect of your ruling and the present situation. This is not just a simple ruling, and it involves a lot. This involves the members who are entitled to ask questions and what happens to their questions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

When the Leader of the House intimated that the reply to Question No. 69 was ready, the member who tabled the question was not in his seat. The Leader of the House then asked that the reply be laid. After he had finished, the member for the City rose on a point of order and also complained that the microphones were not turned on. The Leader of the House had already made the request that the Reply to Question No. 69 be laid. It has been laid, and that is my final ruling on the matter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard the Leader of the House say that he and the member for the City rose almost simultaneously. He got up to ask that the Reply be laid, and the hon. member for the City got up on a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I never said that we both rose simultaneously. I rose after the Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must get our procedures straight. Before a Reply can be laid in this House, the question must first be called. That question has never been called in this House. If the member asking the question is not in his seat, then the decision is taken to lay the Reply on the Table. That has not been done in this matter. If the Government came down with a Reply already printed to be laid, then it is irregular. That is why I am saying that the ruling involves the fundamental rights of members of this House so far as laying a Reply on the Table is concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, any ruling you are going to give in this matter has to be in conformity with the Standing Orders. You cannot lay a Reply to a question unless the question has been called. The question has not been called by the Clerk; it has not been dealt with by the Deputy Speaker and, therefore, it

could not be properly before the House. All of this argument about laying the Reply is irrelevant. It must follow the proper procedure. As I have said before, the Government is taking things roughshod through the House. There will be a lot of breaking up, if the Government does not follow the Rules of the House. Let the Leader of the House get up now and explain the matter. The question has not yet been called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 64 asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A point has just been made for Your Honour's decision. Your Honour may very well think it is a valid point that a question must be called before it can be dealt with. I am not offering any opinion one way or the other, Sir, but I am offering the opinion that out of the blue no Minister can rise, at this stage, and say he is going to lay a Reply. I understood he said something about the Leader of the Opposition. I know that he likes to call my name; I loom large in his eyes. Before he deals with my matter, I should like to have a look at the Order Paper to see whether the Reply is one that can be laid.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, notice of this Reply was given on the 6th March, 1973; the member was not in the House; the question was called, and I am now asking leave to lay the Reply. (Asides.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

My ruling is that a point has just been made rather clear, and I intend to accept it. With regard to Question No. 69, which was the first question mentioned, I would ask the Leader of the House to give the Oral Reply. With regard to Question No. 64, which has been asked by the member for St. Thomas who is now present, if the Minister of Communications and Works intends to give the Reply, he will have to give the Oral Reply as requested. I think that clears the air as regards both questions. I am ready to hear the Oral Reply with regard to Question No. 69, as first mentioned.

Question No. 69 was called.

REVISION OF THE LAWS OF BARBADOS

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker,

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister: 1. What portion of the work of revising the Laws of Barbados has been attempted? What portion has been completed, if any? 2. Is it a fact that much of the work which has already been revised cannot now be accounted for? In other words, is believed to have been stolen, misplaced or to have mysteriously disappeared? 3. If the answer to No.

2 above is in the negative, would the Minister state exactly where is the completed work? If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state what action has been taken, i.e., whether or not the assistance of police forces, both at home and abroad, has been enlisted in an effort at recovery or

detection? 4. What is the total sum spent on the Law Revision exercise to date? 5. If there is reason to believe that portion of the work already revised will have to be gone over a second time, what is the estimated cost of this portion of the work? 6. Is revision of the Laws of Barbados still being proceeded with or has the work been halted?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is as follows

(1) All of the Statutes of Barbados are being revised. The Revision has reached a stage where, with the exception of about six (6) Statutes, Proofs of the Revised Laws have been made by the Printers and Publishers in the United Kingdom and returned to the Law Revision Commissioners in Barbados for correction before final printing of the Volumes.

(2) No, Sir.

(3) The work so far completed is now in the possession of the Law Revision Commissioners or the Printers and Publishers as the case may be.

(4) The total sum spent on the Law Revision Exercise to date is \$205,368.00.

(5) In view of the answer to (2), this question does not arise.

(6) The Revision of the Laws of Barbados is still being proceeded with.

3 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister tell us what portion of the work has been in the hands of members of a Committee at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not in a position to give the hon. member that information.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, would the Minister tell us what is the nearest date it is expected that the revised laws would be made available firstly to this House and secondly to the Country ?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

It is hoped that the new edition of the Laws will be ready for publication during the current year, hopefully by August.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister tell us if all of the work that has been revised so far can be accounted for by the revising officers and/or the printers?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems I would have to repeat that the law revision exercise has now reached a stage where, with the exception of about six statutes, proofs of the Revised Laws have been made by the Printers and Publishers in the United Kingdom and returned. Proof reading of most of the material has been completed, but there are still corrections to be made. The professor in question, one of the Law Revision Commissioners, has stated that the proofs would be completed and returned to the Printers and Publishers by the end of February for final printing in the Revised Version. In addition to the publication, it is necessary to enact a Miscellaneous Provisions Act to tidy the minor amendments and mistakes which appeared in the old Revised Edition and which have been corrected in this revision. I am giving as much information as I can. Eyre & Spottiswoode who is the firm who were awarded the contract for the printing and publishing of the laws have promised to deliver the volumes as soon as possible after they have received all the material from the Law Commissioners. It is therefore hoped that the new edition of the laws will be ready for publication during the current year, hopefully by about August this year.

I can give a break-down of how the \$205,368 was spent: Eyre & Spottiswoode, Publishers and Printers, \$159,340; Law Revision Commissioners \$24,000; W. K. Fergusson, Esq., who was incidentally one of the Law Revision Commissioners on the last occasion when the laws were revised in 1944 along with Sir Clyde Archer, and who has been assigned to assist the Law Revision Commissioners, \$10,800; Clerical Assistance and incidental expenses \$ 11,228, making a total of \$205,368 so far.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in view of the fact that this question was asked on January 23....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I bring to the hon. member's attention that under Standing Order No. 16(2) we have already had three supplementaries asked?

Mr. BOLDEN:

With all due respect to Your Honour, if I may read Standing Order No. 16 (2)(a), it says "After an oral answer has been given, supplementary questions may be put for the purpose of elucidating the answer, but no member may ask more than three supplementary questions following an answer."

I have not asked any as yet; so rule.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member would give way.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I do agree with the hon. member. I have noted the names of those who have asked questions, but I do feel that there should be some correction to this Standing Order. I think it is the intention that only three supplementaries should be asked, but in view....(Asides) Are you contradicting what I am saying? I think I have a privilege as Deputy Speaker; I did not appoint myself nor did I ask anybody to appoint me. I am saying that I see the hon. member's point and I quite agree, but I think this is one of the loose gaps that occurred in revising the Standing Orders, because it was intended to limit the number of supplementary questions. Be that as it may, the hon. member is entitled to ask his question.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I should like to speak on behalf of all members on this side, and I say that on seeing this Standing Order my recollection is the same as yours, that the intention was that no more than three supplementary questions should be asked, but it has come out in this form, "no member may ask more than three". I remember Sir Theodore Brancker originally suggested it and I am sure that in the drafting it was no more than three, but it has come out that no member may ask more than three. I would have to accept Your Honour's ruling.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I would like to confirm that. I too was under the impression that not more than three supplementary questions should be asked, and I was a member of the Committee and attended all the meetings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I hear the hon. member for St. Joseph?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In view of the fact that this question was asked on 23rd January, 1973, and in view of the fact that the answer was given today, 16th March, and the Hon. Leader of the House has said that the Commissioners had said that the proofs would have been returned at the end of February, is the Hon. Minister able to tell us whether or not those proofs had been returned at the end of February, 1973, or does he mean February of another year? 3.10 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would like to draw to the attention of members Standing Order 16(4), and I perceive by the clock opposite me that Question Time....(Mr. ADAMS Is almost expired)..... My eyes read the time to be 3.15. I do not wear glasses, but 3.15 is what I see.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I move under Standing Order 16(4)(b) that the time be extended?

Mr. FORDE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The question is that Question Time be extended.

A voice: Divide.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, if you read 16(4), it says

"Questions to Ministers shall be taken at 2.45 p.m. and shall not continue after 3.15 p.m. unless there are -

(a) questions which have not been answered because of the absence of the Minister to whom they were addressed;".....that does not apply in this case,.....or

(b) questions to be asked with the permission of the Speaker under provisions of Standing Order 15(1)."

Standing Order 15(1) states: "A question shall not be asked without notice unless the Speaker is of opinion that it is of an urgent character, or to the arrangement of public business, and the member has obtained the permission of the Speaker to ask it." None of these apply in this case so it cannot be extended.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, this is a typical lawyer's trick.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

There are no lawyers in here.

Mr. BOLDEN:

That is absolutely true, Sir. May I carry on my point of order? If the hon. member will read on what is written there and do not leave out part of it he will see what I mean.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Standing Order 15(1) only deals with matters of urgent public importance. There are only two conditions under which you can extend Question Time and in this case neither one can apply. The Minister is present first of all, and secondly it does not fall under 15(1), therefore it cannot be extended.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

A Division has been called for.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have to ask for a suspension of this Order and then an extension.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, may I beg to withdraw that motion and move that Standing Order 16 be suspended?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

We are not carrying on just to suit the hon. member for St. Joseph or the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. A Division has been called for and that will be done. Will the House give the hon. member for St. Joseph the pleasure of withdrawing? It has been agreed upon. Question Time is now ended and it is Private Members' Time.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Sir, there must be a seconder to any motion, it cannot be withdrawn like that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The mover of the motion has agreed. It is now Private Members' Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS:

I beg to move that Item No. 5 be the first Item, but I do not see the hon. member for St. Michael West in his place. Perhaps his understudy would indicate whether he would make his speech for him. I beg to move that Item No. 5 be the first Order of the Day.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT UPON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN BARBADOS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. member who was speaking on the last occasion when this matter was dealt with I do not now see in his place. Is there any other hon. member who wishes to make a contribution?

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the time has come for me to say my piece and I will tell it just as it should be told. Mr. Speaker, as a woman I think it is regrettable that a man had to bring such a resolution as the one now before the House which was brought by the hon. member for Christ Church West.

Several people all over the world may be wondering why this resolution was introduced in this Hon. House by the men. Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I tell the world that this is how the women of Barbados do their business, I think that the world will understand what happens. If we women are fighting for equality we first have to be equal among ourselves. As an hon. member of this House and as a woman, several people have been judging me thinking that I know or should have known of the resolution, and that I should have been the one to have brought it. Also, that I did not perform my duty and this is why it was taken up by the hon. member for Christ Church West. I want it known that I was never consulted on such a resolution, I was not in the beginning and I do not intend to be in the end unless the women's organisations ask me to be in it.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, if the hon. member needs my assurance I can assure her that I did not consult either with any other hon. member of this House nor indeed with any of the women's organisations about this. 3.20 p.m.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I am not here to judge, to accuse, or to say who was consulted, but I know what has been happening. It is my prerogative now to say what I want to say. I want to say that, as long as I am a female member in this House, no male member is going to bring any resolution to this Honourable House relating to women in Barbados unless I am consulted on the matter. It seems as though they have a certain set of people in Barbados who can think only of themselves. I was elected by the people of the North East constituency to represent that class, and if the others do not want me that is too bad for them. Why did they not realise that from 1971 they had a Government, and we are the Government. I want to tell certain women that I do not belong to the Opposition; I belong to the Democratic Labour Party Government, and, if I were not a woman who could have worked to get where I am, the Prime Minister would not have come to me to ask me to join his Party or to take representation. That has pleased the people in the North East constituency, and they have elected me to be a member of this Honourable House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the women have done themselves an injustice, whether they went to the Opposition or not. I am telling you that they will not get a hearing until they know how to approach this Government in the right manner. The Opposition is not ruling this Country. We are ruling this country. It does not matter who I am, who I was, or who I may be, the fact remains that I am an hon. member on the Government's side. I have quite a bit to tell the hon. member and some of the women who think that they can take the reins of Government in their hands. If they want equality, let them know how to treat their women first. I am very ashamed of them.

Mr.. Deputy Speaker, one would well have imagined that these women would have taken the chance, since the Prime Minister and the people in the North East constituency have chosen to elect a female member to this House, that woman would listen to them, hear what they had to say, and take the matter to the Government to see what the Government could do for them. I am not aware that these women want a Committee to be formed. I am not aware of the Resolutions about foreign. husbands and so on. As a woman, I know that Women should have certain rights. If women are doing the same type of work as men, then they should be equally paid. I am afraid, Mr, Deputy Speaker, that we women are not thinking about uplifting the standards in Barbados. I can think of a number of things that they should think about. Why are they only thinking about foreign husbands? Why do they not think about the children's rights? Look how many injustices are done, but it has taken me to go into the Ministry to amend the laws or to make new laws for children and young people. Why cannot the women look at other things?

Now, if they want to look at women's rights and equality, the Prime Minister gave them a challenge. This was the challenge.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The hon. member has just said that it has taken her to go into the Ministry and to amend certain laws. If she would indicate what those laws are, I would be grateful.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I stated them just now. I do not have to repeat them, because you should have been listening. (Asides.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order!

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I read a challenge that was given by the Prime Minister? He said

"I hope that the Organisation (NOW)".....

He was speaking to the one which embraces all other women's organisations.

".....will be able to make significant progress in involving its members in uplifting the status of all women in Barbados, particularly to join me in the fight to eliminate the practice of women being used as beasts of burden in agriculture, and being relegated to the most menial tasks in commerce and industry."

He suggested that they exposed exploration of shop attendants wherever they had seen it, and to organise and boycott shops and factories which paid low wages.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I cannot see any evidence of this as yet. I wonder why these women should ask the Government to set up a Committee? What is wrong with them that they cannot get together and do certain things? Have they shown us what they can do? These women think that they are more politicians than we are. They know more than we do; they are shouting with loud voices; they have so much hatred in their hearts for others. Why do they not open their hearts and think about love and of the things that should be done for the country? Why cannot they do things to uplift the poor people? Are these women looking after the people they should really look after?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I challenge them to go into the by-ways and hedges, to go into the constituencies and see how poor people have to live; I challenge them to go to the Land Ships and the poorer class people; I ask them to go to the poor people's fairs, but most important of all I ask them to go into some of these poor people's homes and see the position. If they want to know about women's rights and status, why do they not get on platforms and preach to the poor women and tell them what they can do to uplift themselves? How many women in Barbados fight to promote their men-folk? They fight to promote themselves. How many of them think that a man should be look up to, or should be graced in his job? They want to pull him down to pieces.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a lot that I can say in this Honourable House, but my heart grieves for my women-folk to think that they can be so stupid as to ignore the Government. The Opposition said this morning that we have 18. We do not have to say that we have 18, because there is evidence to show that we have 18 seats. The part that amuses me is that the hon. member for Christ Church West, such a brilliant and intelligent lawyer in his field, says that he is fighting for women's rights. Mr. Deputy Speaker, how can a man fight for women's rights? A woman has to fight for her own rights or she is not a woman. Are you going to tell me that a man can come into this House and fight for a woman's rights? Never.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am here as a woman. Some of them got in front of my car and told me that I am first a woman. Let them go to my husband and find out if I am really a woman. (Asides.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order! Order!

(Mr. MOTTLEY:

"That will be heresay evidence.")

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I am hearing asides.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot has been said on this issue. A lot of people have thrown all sorts of remarks at me and my family, but these things do not worry me. I want to say this Admonish them not to judge. Demand that we make no wicked accusation of others. Do not look for the worst in others. 3.30 p.m.

Do not look for the worst in others. They are judging me; tell them to go ahead. What I would like is for them to have guts enough to invite me to have a talk with or listen to them, but they do not want anybody from the Government. Why don't they invite persons like the hon. member for St. Michael North Central or the hon. member for St. Michael South West who have worked in the Ministry of Home Affairs? I think they are afraid of what the hon. member would tell them. They do not want to know the facts; they do not want to know what we are doing; they want to know what the Opposition can do for them. I want to tell them that you cannot do anything for us, and by us I mean the women. We have to do things for ourselves and we have not started anything yet. I am sure that these women have now set themselves a few years back, because when the hon. member was introducing this Resolution, they should have come out in the press and declared that they had nothing to do with it whatsoever. But now they have come out in the press and asked to see the Prime Minister. It is too bad and too sad. I should have worn a black dress today instead of red because I would be mourning for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do hope and pray that someone will lead them because when they talk about foreign wives and Barbadian husbands, it has taken foreign wives to show Barbadian women what to do, because I am invited to attend functions, and when I would think that I would be taken and shown to my seat, I am just left in the corridor to fadge for myself, but it took the foreign wife of a Barbadian husband to show me properly to my seat on another occasion. It took a club formed with foreign and Barbadian members to invite me to a morning circule or tea, whatever you may call it, and treat me with the respect and dignity that is given to me. How many other Barbadian clubs have done this? Only the Democratic League of Women to which I belong has done this, but the other societies, the "So-crats" or whatever you may call them are saying that they have no uses for us. These societies or clubs have no right getting any help from the Government, because they do not know how to associate themselves with a proper Government and with the lower class of" people. As long as I am here representing the people of the North East constituency, I have to give account to them, and they have not asked for such a Resolution. As a matter of fact, they have not been consulted. The other constituencies have not been consulted either, and when we in this House pass a Resolution, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it must be one to meet the needs of all the people, not just a few.

I want to say again that it is for us women to examine ourselves. I hope that the women in these hifalutin societies will examine themselves thorough, for it appears to me that the most we have would be a bundle of deceitful people. They wear masks for every situation. One of them had the gall recently to bring up the issue of foreign husbands in Church. This issue is brought up all over the place, and I wonder why they cannot be more tactful about the issues they want to discuss, instead of coming out blatantly and openly and making accusations before they face the truth. I want to tell them not to worry to call me at 6 o'clock in the morning telling me what is happening with their club, what constitution they want to change and what they want to do with this person and the other person. I am not in that. I am not here for just a select few; I am here for the majority. I wish that some of the women could go to the small churches in some of the areas and kneel at the altar and realise that the day has come for them to know Christ, and know that the poor people of this country need to have something done for them, instead of their looking for foreign husbands. When they are talking about husbands, they should talk about things relating to Barbados and the things that can really help this country. When you talk about the Country, you have to start from the bottom because we still have a lot of poor people at the bottom. Some of the clubs give the poor people something to eat or clothes, but how many of the members give counselling to them, talk to them and try to uplift them to their own standards? Equality? How can we ever be equal? I cannot be equal with them because they do not want me to be equal with them. Let us get our house in order first before we talk about being equal with the men, because the men have it on us. They may talk and they may quarrel, but whenever they are finished they are still together, but not the women.

I would be glad if the women would get the Time Magazine of February 1973 because they would see what tough opposition the Equal Rights Bill is having in the United States of America. There is a section here.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I remind the hon. member that if she reads from it she will have to make it a document of the House?

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There is a section here in which Guy Hamilton says "women are put on this earth to minister to the needs of miserable men." There is another section which says "We do not want to turn our daughters into tigers and our sons into pansies."

I wonder if these women have really thought seriously about equal rights? The laws in Barbados as they now stand really protect the women, but if the women want total equality, then the men will have to take their names. I would not want a man to take my maiden name; I like having my husband's name. Secondly, in divorce proceedings we are so well off with alimony if we are divorced. If the laws do not protect us and we have equal rights, look how many of us will have to look for work to be equal to the man. They are talking now with a loud voice, but how many of them will get up off their sit-downs? Let them get all their facts together.

I really think that women have set themselves back in Barbados about ten years. They were making progress and it seems to have gone to their heads. They now think they can take over, but I would challenge any women in 1976 to come into the North East constituency and compete with me in my constituency, and then we will know what is really happening. They are talking about politics, but how

many of them can face the electorate? They are afraid to do this. Why are they afraid? They do not want any hard work. They say that the Government must make laws to put them in jobs and in top positions. If a manager knows that you are worthwhile and can do your work real good, you will be put in a top position. 3.40 p.m.

I can speak about matters like this because I started at the bottom, and when I started they laughed at me. I went to a secondary school, I went to St. Michael's Girls' School and the Queen's College girls did not want to speak to me, so I know the snobbishness that goes on. I married a poor man and at that time I did not have any friends, so I do not want any friends now; right now I am over here with 17 men. What I would like to know from the members opposite is if they believe so much in equality of the sexes why did they run only one woman in the last election; they should have run 12 or 14 women then. Now a man comes in here to tell me they were seeking for the rights of women, damn it to hell!

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand there is

parliamentary language and unparliamentary language.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I was just about to draw it to the hon. member's attention. I know you are waxing wrath but you can use suitable words.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very sorry. To continue. There is a Business and Professional Women's Club in Barbados, to which I do not belong - I am a member of the Soroptomists' Club - but the Business and Professional Women's Club met and passed a number of resolutions, and many people thought I knew all there was to know about these resolutions. I was out of the island last year on Government business and I was very ill when I returned, but with all those things taken into consideration, none of those clubs has any use for me because when they were asked to make the Prime Minister's wife and myself honorary members of their club they said they could not do it. This was told to me by more than one of their members, which means that they have no use for me, so why when they are writing their articles saying all kinds of things and naming me, should I get into their business? They say I should come into this House and fight for women's rights, but how can I do that until they have told me what they want?

I will end on this note, that no hon. member from the Opposition can come in this House and tell me he is fighting for equal rights when I, as a woman, on this side know what I want and what I should have.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, obviously I cannot speak with the same feeling and the same eloquence as the former speaker, however I would like to speak just briefly on this particular resolution and to address myself to the terms of that resolution. The resolution is requesting the appointment of a National Commission to inquire into and report upon the status of women in Barbados.

When we are considering requests for the establishment of Commissions to inquire into specific

matters, it is normally the case that there is some grave disability or some grave discrimination or some particular injury which some persons in the community are suffering. There can be no doubt at all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we look throughout the history, that it is an incontrovertable fact that women have been discriminated against throughout history, and in a number of areas, socially, educationally, politically and in their family relationships. There can be no doubt about this at all, that any community of persons, any State, is judged in terms of its enlightenment when it can be said that they treat their womenfolk in a particularly kind of manner. Societies have been judged on the level of their enlightenment and forward look in terms of the way in which they treat their womenfolk and in terms of the provisions they have made for advancing the cause of equality among the sexes.

In this country there can be no doubt at all that successive Governments, and particularly since 1961, have provided social, political and economic advances which have opened up opportunities not only for the population in general but for the women in particular. All of the great social measures passed by the Government since 1961 have led to advances from which the women of this country have benefited. If we take the area of education, because in other areas if women do not have the access to education - and education has been one of the major factors for the advancement of people in this country - there have been opportunities opened for women, wider access to education, and this in turn has enabled them through improved educational opportunities to fit themselves for better positions in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one therefore has got to ask what is the motivation for bringing this particular measure at this time. There is no difference on that side and on this side on the need for continued evolution of this country in its social affairs for advancement for its people. One has therefore got to question the motives behind this resolution being brought here at this particular time.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, I have already assured this hon. House of my conviction and commitment to this cause. He is entitled to question the motivation, but the difference is that we want a revolution and he wants an evolution in relation to women's rights.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must point out that in this day and age - and I will agree with the hon. member who has spoken before me, not on his point of explanation but with a previous speaker - that one has got to question this especially in view of the fact that the hon. member for Christ Church West said he had not consulted with any women's organisation. Indeed in bringing such a serious matter before this House without any consultation with the very women on whose behalf he is bringing this particular motion, I will really have to question the motivation because if he was working in the interest of these women I would assume that on as weighty a matter as calling for a Commission to inquire into the rights of women in this country he would have consulted with the National Organisation of Women. 3.50 p.m.

He has taken up the cudgel for the women in this country who say that they themselves are fighting for equality. I am certain that they would not necessarily require the member for Christ Church West to put forward a Resolution such as this on their behalf. If they are suffering from any major disability, we would assume that the disability would be presented to the Government in a particular manner if it is a measure calling for action on the part of the Government to put the disability right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if this consultation has not gone on, I would like to say quite bluntly it is my

opinion that the hon. member, while being an unrepentant defender of women's rights, we cannot get away from the fact, and it is my belief, that there are some very loud political overtones in the bringing of this Resolution at this particular time. I am not questioning the member's right to speak on behalf of women because, as I have said, there can be no doubt whatsoever that throughout the ages women have been discriminated against. There is a political flavour in this Resolution and no Government, which has done so much for the advancement of the people in this country, including the women who have benefited from the social measures that have been introduced, can allow any such measure to be passed in this House in the manner in which this Resolution has been brought before this House.

The members of this Government are going to vote against this Resolution, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to make it quite clear that it is not because we do not believe that the women have played an important part in the development of this country and that they have an important part to play in the future development of the country. The women are an important sector of the Country, and they must be given every opportunity in order to make their contribution towards the advancement of the Country. At this particular time, there is no major disability which prevents the women from making the type of contribution to the problems affecting this country which require the establishment of a Commission to go into the status of women.

The point I am making quite clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that it is not necessary, at this stage, to establish a Commission to enquire into the status of women in order to liberate the woman power or the forces for development which reside in the women of this country in order for them to make a contribution. There are many areas in this country crying out for attention and consideration in which women can play an important part, and there is nothing affecting their status at this particular time which would prevent them from making that type of contribution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to make it clear that the Government supports the quest of women to participate as fully as possible in the development of this country and in the social amelioration of conditions in the Country. Indeed, it was for this reason that in this current year, 1972-73, the Government of this Country, through my Ministry, made a contribution, approved by this Honourable Chamber, of \$2,000 to the Women's Organisations in this country. (Asides.) It can be seen under Subventions, Item 29, Community Development. An amount of \$2,000 was provided in order to assist Women's Organisations to achieve their legitimate aspirations. This has nothing to do with other contributions which may be made to organisations like the Young Women's Christian Association, or the Girls' Industrial Union, and so on. There can be no question, therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Government supports the aspirations of women in this country to make a contribution as fully, effectively and efficiently as possible within the terms of the National Development and the resources available to the Government.

However, what the Government cannot support is, first of all, the manner in which this particular Resolution has reached the Floor of this House.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Do hon. members understand that any member of this House can bring before this House, according to the Standing Orders of this House, any Resolution he wants to, including legislation. Why must I consult with any member over there to bring what I want into this House? All of that is a lot of nonsense.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That point is well made.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was not questioning the fact that it was in order for the Resolution to be here. Of course, it is in order; it has been accepted by the Speaker, and it is on the Order Paper. We are now properly debating it. The point I am making is that this Resolution, which has been brought for purely political purposes, will for political purposes be opposed by this Government.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, Sir. For the ninth time I assure this Honourable House why I brought this Resolution. If the Government are so narrow that their political blindness would let them forget women's rights, they can do so. Have they not heard about Canada appointing a

National Commission moved by a member of the Opposition?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

No point! Will the hon. member continue with the debate?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I am continuing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but the fact that the hon. member is jumping up so often indicates that - not that I doubted it - the Resolution was brought for political motives.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The hon. member seems to have lost sight of what we are in here. We are all politicians.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I hear your point of order?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Yes, Sir. I should like to remind the hon. member that there was a man called Sydney Alleyne who moved a Resolution in the D.L.P. to move the country into Independence, and that was a political motive.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I do not deem that a point of order. The Hon. Minister may continue his debate.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am agreeing that it has been brought for political motives, and I am not saying that it should not have been brought for political motives. All I am saying is that we are going to treat this Resolution at the same level at which it has been brought. The hon. member has admitted that there was no consultation with Women's Organisations on this particular matter directly affecting the status of women. I would really want to question then the - I do not want to use the word "arrogance" - at a time when we are talking about the equality of women. 4 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, would the hon. member understand that I have a constituency in which most of the women voted for me? I do not represent them. Would the hon. member believe that some of the women in his constituency believe in me more than in him and therefore I must represent them?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

No point of order. That is a mere point of elucidation.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very fundamental point I am making because it is going right down to the nitty-gritty of this business of equality of women

in this country. When the hon. member for Christ Church West can bring so important a Resolution before this Chamber calling for a Commission to enquire into the status of women and can state that the women's organisations in this country have not been consulted on that matter, I think it shows a certain measure of contempt for the women in this country in as much as they have not been consulted.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, the hon. member says that one has got to consult the people. Did the Government consult the taxpayers of this country when they brought the land tax?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order. I cannot entertain that. Let the Hon. Minister continue his debate.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of elucidation, I would not have it said in the records that I show contempt for women. I show the greatest respect for women in bringing the Resolution. If the hon. member and the Government are so slow that they do not do anything about it.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I remind the hon. member that he has his right of final reply?

Mr. FORDE:

I have a right to elucidate too, Sir. Exactly a similar debate took place in England on the 13th and 14th of February.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES rose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

There are two hon. members on their feet.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

It is no point of order that the hon. member is making. What has happened in England is not a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I have ruled it is a point of elucidation.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

It is not even a point of elucidation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Let the Minister of Education continue.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me again underline the point. I would have thought that we have now passed the time when men in this country would take up the cudgels for women without in fact showing the established women's organisations in this country the courtesy of consulting them on a matter so fundamentally concerned with their rights.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, the hon. member began by saying that he agreed with the last hon. member. She has taken to task the women's organisations. The hon. member would recognise that there is no duty.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

There are two hon. members on their feet.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

I understand that the Hon. Minister of Education has the floor.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see you in the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I hope that is no reflexion by the hon. member who is on the floor.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

No reflection on you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Thank you.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I will not be very much longer on this particular Resolution. I merely wish to underline the point that if we are speaking about equality of women, long gone is the time when men can get up and without consulting the organised women's organisations in this country claim to speak on behalf of the women, and for their own purposes bring Resolutions here from purely political motivations. As I have made it clear already, Mr. Speaker, we on this side have no opposition, we are not against the

advancement of women, we are for the advancement of women, we have taken measures to ensure that women are able to play as full a part as possible; it is not in this society nor is it in any other society where disabilities do not exist, but at this particular time in 1973 in Barbados there is no reason why a commission should be established to enquire into the status of women. This is not to say that there are not certain areas in which developments can take place, but these do not require the establishment of a commission brought for motives which have nothing at all to do with the status of women before this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I reaffirm again the commitment of the Government to the advancement of women and the cause of women and the contribution they have made and can continue to make in even greater measure towards the development of this Country, but for the reasons I have outlined, we on this side will find it impossible to support this Resolution. I thank, you Sir.

Mr. MORRISON:

Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this Resolution I must make two things clear. First I have nothing against women. As a matter of fact I have had some very cordial relations with women and I recognise the value of women in the society. I appreciate their rights and privileges, and secondly anything I say about women is purely confined to my relations with them and what obtains in every society. I do not intend to draw myself into any controversy over the rights of women as such, but I would like to explain a few things to this Chamber. First of all I would like to remind hon. members of a quotation from the poet Ovid in his Metamorphosis when he said "Thus you make honey not for yourselves, O bees!" This quotation should be very relevant to all members in this Honourable Chamber and also to members of the general public of Barbados. It is within my knowledge from what I have read over the years that from time immemorial all the laws that have been passed were very much in favour of women. Furthermore I make bold to say that nothing this House can do could tell a woman anything more about her rights because women have had a built-in instinct from creation; they know their way around men and they usually have their say when the time comes. Women are the only people I know who can fight their rights at any time, any place in any part of the world. As a matter of fact, women are the bosses right now throughout the whole world, and nothing we can do in this Chamber can take away or add to the instinctive rights which they have enjoyed throughout the history of mankind. 4.10 p.m.

Women have been always able to get the best of men. Men are only men when they are walking about, but at home they become like boys and children.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I hope the hon. member is speaking only for himself.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What point of order is this? Let the hon. member proceed. That was a very fraudulent point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have ruled.

Mr. MORRISON:

I go further, Mr. Speaker, many a man has been unfaired and sacked at the hands of people with wives. I do not have to quote instances, but the whole world knows that if a wife does not like what is going on, or if she does not like you, you cannot go back to that particular house. This is basic Barbadian thinking, as well as that all over the world. If the wife does not like you, you cannot come back. We have it also in the home where the wife's relations can come to the house but the husband's relations cannot. Many a man who is married might have to think twice about bringing his relatives to his house, but the wife can bring her relatives whenever she likes, so as far as I am concerned the wives have always had it how they want it.

I go even further and I quote from St. Paul when he said that wives should obey their husbands, and he went further to say that a wife has no right to speak in her husband's company. I am not agreeing with that because we have come a long way since those times and women have really shown by their aptitude and by their reserve that they can compete with men in every field of activity and be just as good as men in their chosen fields. Women have done these things, but I do not see why we should fill up the law books with legislation supporting women when women are very able to take care of themselves moreso than the men in our communtiy. As a matter of fact, we have emerging in the world today the career type of woman who works for her own money and the man still has to support the home. The women buy what they want with their money, so because of the emancipation of women they do not need anyone to fight their battles for them, they can fight their battles better than men can, and I would agree with the member for St. Michael North East that the need for women's rights should come from the women themselves.

I am not against their rights, I feel they should indulge in what they want, but I should like to see the women of Barbados, not the elite, the labourers, the maids and those who walk the streets involved in this exercise, not these so-called big names as associations to which my poor people do not belong. I should like that anything which breathes of more freedoms and more rights for women should include those people who work hard, who work as labourers, maids and servants in the houses of people. They are the ones who should be consulted also; we should not pass legislation because a few people in the society feel that they would like to have as much rights as their husbands, but legislation must not be narrow, it must be broadly based, and I am sure that many poor folk in this country have had to be contented with what they have, the respect of their husbands, because there is nowhere else to turn, and they have behaved as true wives in this community and deserve some kind of recognition. They deserve to have rights also, and we do not know how they feel about what is being done as regards the women. We should know from them what is their outlook and what they think about any proposals affecting women, because they are in the majority. Since they are in the majority, it is they who should have an opportunity to say what is right for women. If you had to take a census of their opinions I am sure it might be in direct contradiction to what is being asked for them, because they might be content to raise a family, have a few chickens and a pig in the backyard and be happy in the knowledge that they serve their men-folk.

We do not know what seems to be the projection of a small part of our community by these associations to which a lot of the poor people do not belong. We do not have any way of knowing the opinion which the poor people of Barbados have expressed as regards women's rights, and until we know these things, Mr. Speaker, we cannot set up a Commission to look into women's rights, because we must know what the people want before any Commission is set up so that when we make a move we

will know that we are making a move in the right direction all to the dignity and glory of the women who are the sources of all of us and who we will continue to serve.

Mr. WALCOTT rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I know that when Private Members' Business came to an end the hon. member was speaking, but I would like to get from the Clerk how many more minutes the hon. member had remaining. 4.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is allowed to speak for the balance of the time.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, in a debate like this, I feel that every hon. member should be welcomed to express his views on the matter. After looking at this Resolution, I do not think the hon. member, who has brought it, has produced any evidence to show that we must pass a Resolution requesting the Government to appoint a Commission to enquire into and report upon the status of women in Barbados. I believe that all of the women in Barbados are women. There is nothing wrong with the status of women in Barbados. There is no question about that, because women have the right to vote. This is a fundamental question we are dealing with when we are dealing with the status of women. Women can vote in Barbados at the age of 18, but they cannot vote at the age of 18 even in the United Kingdom, in the United States of America, or in some of the big industrial countries where they are now working without brassieres. They can vote in Barbados. They have elected us to this Chamber, so when you begin to talk about the rights of women, right here in Barbados we have set the lead for women. The women here do not have to walk down the streets barefooted; they do not have to take off their brassieres or the tops in order to get the right to vote. They did not have to walk naked in order to get the right to vote. They did not have to go before the racehorses, as was done in England, in order to get the right to vote.

This House of Assembly gave women the right to vote in 1951. Twenty-two years ago women were given the same rights as men. Today, after 22 years, a member is coming here to tell me about the status of women! Women have helped to change this society and make it what it is; therefore, we do not need anybody to come today to tell us about women's status. We have given the women the right to be equal with men. A woman can be appointed to any position in this Parliament. This House is open; we have a lady member of this Chamber elected by the people in Barbados. We do not have any laws in Barbados to prescribe that a woman shall not be a member of this Assembly.

Now, if the hon. member has a few old women who have passed the stage of finding something useful to do with their time and they have overtime on their hands, then let them find some other useful occupation rather than looking for some of these old-fashioned organisations where they pick up the names in England; When they were young women they should have been in active society doing something for the emancipation of women, but they want to sit back now and ride in some old-fashioned chariot with old wheels. What are the women in Barbados expecting now? Do they want us to take away these rights? These rights have been given to them by the people of Barbados.

Let us examine what area is which we should have a Commission of Inquiry. Some of the women have been lucky enough to get husbands. If they marry to the wrong husbands or not Barbadian husbands,

nobody told them who they should marry or who they should not marry. That is a private matter and they should keep it to themselves. If you marry a poor man, you must work for him and support him. If you marry a rich man you should praise God, and if you marry the right man you should praise him. What is the point in saying that some Barbadian women have married foreign husbands and they cannot bring their foreign husbands to Barbados. When a woman marries a man he is not a foreign husband; he is not foreign to her. If he is foreign to her it would be a very strange affair. It is her husband and she can support him.

You are now asking us to say that some women are discriminated against in Barbados when they marry foreign men. When a man marries a woman in Barbados he is compelled by law to support her whether she is good, bad, or indifferent. Are you discriminating against the woman because the law makes the man support the woman? I have never heard such nonsense in my life. We are discriminating against women, because we say a man should support his wife. That is all that is happening now when people say that women do not have equal rights with men. The Barbadian men must support these women for all time. If we decide to change things and say that a woman must support a man and give her equal rights, the women in Barbados would say that they are not talking about that.

The hon. member, who introduced this Resolution, knows that an International Resolution has to be so wide in character that you could not think of taking one to the United Nations and think of excluding Barbados, New Zealand or Australia. We know that there are some International Instruments that are not applicable everywhere, despite the fact that an International Instrument has been passed. When you talk about the freedom of an individual, a woman is free to marry whoever she pleases. There is no law in Barbados that precludes a woman from marrying a Jamaican, Australian and so on. There is no law in Barbados that says a woman cannot marry to any of these people. I do not think the hon. member could mean that.

As a lawyer, the hon. member knows that, when he goes to the court with a divorce case, he sees to it that he gets judgment against the husband to collect the fees. He does not tell the woman: "If you want to free yourself from this wicked man you should leave him." One of the legal theories that they have enunciated about a man supporting his wife for all times is that it is his responsibility. Do not call it any joint responsibility, because a man and a woman usually agree to do this thing. Later on they decide that they cannot live together. When a man goes to court and divorces his wife, he has to pay for it. If she divorces him, he has to pay for it. He has to pay her costs for getting rid of him. You cannot say that is equal rights.

The hon. member for Christ Church West has brought this Resolution, and I am really wondering whether he has brought it, knowing that there are more women than men in Barbados, to get some publicity. If you do something for women you must get some sort of publicity. I challenge the hon. member, from a statutory point of view, to show anything that this Legislature, or this Government, has done that discriminates against women.

Now the hon. member for the City, and those of you who are big churchmen indulging in this sanctimonious bowing down in church, should go and tell the Bishop about the women. Why do you not tell the Bishop to ordain the women and make them Priests? All of these years all of you have been bowing down before the Bishop. Why do you not tell him to make the women equal and let them go into the pulpit and preach? You will not do that, but you will go and take their money from them, because

you believe that if you give the Priest the money you will go to heaven and you can buy your way to paradise. 4.30 p.m.

You get these things but you are afraid to challenge the Church because you believe it is too sacred to challenge, but you come into the Legislature where there is no discrimination against women. A woman can walk in here and she does not have to say anything at all as long as the people of Barbados are willing to elect her. We have no discrimination to say that the Speaker must be a man.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation, if the hon. member wants to know, I have already said in my speech - he probably was not listening to all of it - that I am against discrimination in the Church and I have spoken out against it.

Mr. WALCOTT:

If you are against discrimination in the Church, you should withdraw from the Church as a mark of protest. (Mr. FORDE It will be corrected.) You cannot correct it by coming in here with this. The status of women is not going to correct it. What you have to do is this! Watch the women whom you can appeal to and ask them when is the last time they did any social work among the poor. I do not want to say anything more about women because there are some women who when they have lost in other fields of endeavour sometimes have to look for some abstract areas in which to operate rather than in some practical fields of work. One can give some help to the real hard working women in this community who do social work among the poor young women and give them some guidance; but I challenge the hon. member to name one area in Barbados, not two, in which he can say these are the laws that you must enquire into. The hon. member was a member of a Board and it was quite easy for the hon. member to say that instead of appointing him they should appoint his wife; or instead of his running for the House of Assembly he should run his wife. (Mr. FORDE Next time!) Not next time. Are you going to wait until next time? Are you Sparrow? There won't be a next time; it is this time. Three coins in a fountain. If you believe in all this equality, you are a busy man, so give your wife a chance. I have heard the hon. member say he is too busy in the Courts, he is making too much money. Charity begins at home, so if you really want to show this, start off.

Mr. FORDE:

If the hon. member wants me to discuss the Resolution in terms of my home and my family, I will do so; but I discussed the Resolution on principle and wish he would stick to it.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I am discussing it, on the basis of women. I am only challenging the hon. member to identify an area. I am identifying areas where I can show that if the hon. member is so magnanimous so far as women are concerned, he is a member of a political party, and I want to know how many women they ran. Not even a half? Not even an old-fashioned one?

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order.....

Mr. WALCOTT:

I withdraw, they ran one. We ran one and they ran one too. We ran a white man and they ran one too.

Whatever the monkey do, I do too. We ran a white man in one area and they put a white man in the same area. (Asides) We ran a white one and they ran a water-washed one.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order! Would the hon. member please confine himself to the debate?

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, you must look to the left also.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member must ignore the asides.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I shall do so, Sir. I want the hon. member to identify an area of discrimination against women in which you can say that if you set up an enquiry; this is what I want you to investigate. You cannot set up a national commission on the status of women.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, for the benefit of the hon. member, if he would read the Resolution he would understand the areas in which I have shown I want investigation. The hon. member obviously has not read the Resolution properly.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Point made.

Mr. FORDE:

And if he has read it he does not understand it.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I have been around too long to worry about the insults that people try to make.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That has nothing to do with the Resolution.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I know it has nothing to do with the Resolution, but I want the hon. member to know that if I do not understand now, at one time he thought I understood so good that he thought I should be a Prime Minister. Do you remember?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member deal with the Resolution.

Mr. FORDE rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what is the hon. member about to rise?

Mr. FORDE:

I was going to rise to explain to the hon. member that I commiserate with him that my prophesy never came true.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Wouldn't it be better to keep your point until the reply.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I am going to clip out the leading article that you wrote, it is a long one, and send it to you. I did not ask you to write it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member must get back to the Resolution.

Mr. WALCOTT:

The Resolution reads as follows -

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House requests the Government to appoint without delay a National Commission to inquire into and report upon the status of women in Barbados, and to recommend what steps ought to be taken by this House and the Government to prevent any form....." You should be telling the House what to do. You do not ask somebody to tell us what to do. You have to tell the people what you want them to do. If you are going to set up a Commission of Enquiry, you have to give the Commission directions...."to prevent any form of discrimination against women on the grounds of sex...."

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has two more minutes to complete his speech.

Mr. WALCOTT:

".....and to ensure and maintain for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Barbadian society."

What can you identify there? That is a vague, abstract statement. You are talking about all abstractions.

".....to prevent any form of discrimination against women on the grounds of sex and to ensure and maintain for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Barbadian society; and in particular, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, to enquire into and report on:

(a) The citizenship and immigration laws, policies and practices so far as they affect women;"

We have dealt with that in a Bill that was thrown out, so that should be expunged from this Resolution. I am not telling the Speaker what to do, but we dealt with a Bill to amend the immigration laws already, so you cannot come back now and pass a Resolution that is going to reflect on something that the House has already dealt with.

What are the immigration policies that affect women? That you tell a woman not to wear clothes. There is no immigration policy in Barbados about women. You do not stop people from going out, or you do not say you can go out but cannot come back in, or you must go out and come in for six years.

(b) "The position of women in the civil and criminal laws, and specifically the laws governing matrimonial property, marriage and divorce;"

You want a Commission of Enquiry to deal with the law, but all you have to do is to bring in an amendment to the Act. 4.40 p.m.

If you are a lawyer and do not know the laws you can amend in Barbados that is not my fault.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The time for Private Members's Business has now expired, and the hon. member for St. Michael West cannot speak further on this resolution. When the sitting was suspended the Committee was dealing with three Money Resolutions, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-3 NO. 34

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

When the sitting was suspended the hon. member for St. Lucy was speaking on Head 40 - Welfare Department. He may continue.

Mr. GREAVES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was speaking on the lack of criteria to be used in determining beneficiaries for welfare grants and educational assistance, and I was on the point that there did not seem to be any clear guidelines as to how these grants should be given out. As a matter of fact, I recited an instance where I knew of grants which were refused to people who were in need but at the same time grants were given to people who were clearly not in need of this kind of assistance. I think therefore that it is important that we set out guidelines in order to make sure that the system which we have is not abused. I think it is extremely important. Evidence from other countries suggests that this is an area where abuse can take place, and I believe that we should pay very special attention to this.

One of the things which comes to my memory is the provision made for the training of Welfare Officers, the people who work in the various districts throughout the country. Some of the Welfare Officers whom I know are operating the scheme, I am sure do not seem to be au fait with all the points which should be brought to bear and the judgement which they should exercise in administering the system. I feel that every effort should be made to develop the kind of Welfare Officer who is au fait with the system, who knows the background of how to apply the kind of information which is given in order to make a proper decision. There have been numerous complaints about the way in which the system has been administered.

As far as educational assistance is concerned, again the same criticism has been levelled and can be levelled at the manner in which educational assistance is given out or refused.

On the question of old age pensions, Mr. Chairman, there has also been some complaint about the difficulty which sometimes is experienced in getting the old age pensions, particularly for people who are unable to travel, and I was thinking that some scheme should be worked out where a person who is incapacitated

could get his pension posted to him. As a matter of fact, I would think that we should be directing our attention towards posting old age pension grants to people rather than having them going to the various Post Offices to collect their pensions. All of these therefore are efforts which we should be directing towards alleviating the difficulties which these people face, and I hope that the Minister would give some consideration to these.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, in dealing with Head 40 - Welfare Department, Item 25 - Old Age Pensions, I would like you to know that when it comes to these matters dealing with old age pensioners, these are very near and dear to my heart. When I first entered this House of Assembly I tabled a resolution requesting the Government to pay old age pensioners by cheque at their homes. The resolution was unanimously carried by this House approximately eleven years ago, but it seems to me that it was pigeon-holed somewhere in some Ministry. After I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health I tried to get the file and we dealt with all aspects of the matter, but before we could complete the same I was transferred to another Ministry.

I want to draw to the attention of the House that some of these old people have to travel three and four miles to receive their pensions, and on numerous occasions, some of them have become ill and had to receive first aid treatment. In other cases, children have to call at these centres for the old age pensions and sometimes the children spend part of the money, while at other times people rob them, meet them on the road and take away a part of the money or all, and you will know that these children miss going to school on those days because they have to queue up at the various Post Offices to receive the pensions for these old people. In other cases, old age pensioners have to pay others to call for their pensions. I have known people who call for approximately twenty-five old age pensions and receive payment for taking these pensions to the old people. The time has come when the resolution which was passed in this House should be dealt with and the wishes of this House carried out. Approximately three years ago we started to pay pensioners from the Provident Fund. 4.50 p.m.

I cannot understand why it is that the very old people who have to travel to the Post Offices to receive their pensions are receiving pensions from the Provident Fund Office, the Labour Department, by cheque.

Now, this Resolution. was passed 10 years ago. Three years ago, approximately, the old people started to receive pensions from the Provident Fund, and there was no dissatisfaction. The people received their pensions by cheques. I am surprised to see that up to the present time, nothing has been done to ensure that the old people receive their pensions at home. When you consider that there are about six thousand to seven thousand people who are being paid pensions from the Provident Fund by cheques, you will get an idea of the situation. There is no problem with a cheque in these days. The shopkeepers are willing to

change these cheques for the old people. We, Sir, should do all we possibly can to alleviate such hardships.

When we consider that, say, Mr. X has to travel to the Post Office for his pension and the same Mr. X receives a pension from the Provident Fund by a cheque, then it seems to me that something is wrong somewhere. Why is it that we cannot introduce a system whereby these old people can receive their pensions at home? Regardless of the number of Paying Officers you set up that is not going to solve the problem. The problem can be solved only by introducing a new system whereby the old people can receive their money at home.

Mr. Chairman, since this Resolution was passed in this House over eleven years ago and it met with the wishes of hon. members, then it seems to me that something is radically wrong with the machinery of the Civil Service, if those who are in charge cannot find a solution to this important matter. We are here to represent the people, and it is our duty to do everything possible to alleviate this hardship. I can only appeal to the Hon. Minister, now that he is in the Ministry of Health, to call on the civil servants for this particular file. I implore him to do his utmost to assist these poor people by paying them their pensions at their homes.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the question of Welfare Grants is one which calls for very careful consideration. I think I am right in saying that the present calculations are made with the old 1969 concept before the minds of those charged with this responsibility and, as a result, you will find that in the year 1973 there are numerous people who are receiving a mere pittance of \$1.25 a week as a Welfare Grant. I do not want to say, Mr. Chairman, exactly how scandalous this is. Every hon. member knows it, but I am particularly concerned to find that, in the Parish of St. Peter, which I represent, of an average of 400 people receiving these Welfare Grants, the percentage of people who now receive

as little as \$1.00 a week is high. In other Parishes some people receive \$1.25 a week. What is \$1.00 a week to anybody in the year 1973? Of the 400 in St. Peter some of them receive \$1.50, some \$2.00, but it comes to a halt when some of them reach \$3.00 a week. Of the 400, the number receiving \$3.00 a week as a Welfare Grant is shocking.

I must ask whether it is a case where proper representation has not been made on behalf of these poor people, or whether it is that the Committee responsible for administering the Welfare Grants have a spite against the people of St. Peter. I do not believe so, Sir, but it is a shocking affair. After all, this Welfare Grant arises out of the taxpayers' money. We know that several people are unemployed. There are some destitute cases; there are cases resulting from such incidences as fire and so on that create charges on the sums granted from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, what we are saying is that to offer these people \$1 or \$1.25 a week today is giving them nothing. We will have to raise the minimum payment to something above \$1.00, \$1.25, or \$1.50. I, perhaps, might not be in a position to say what it should be, because the way I feel might have no bearing upon the Committee. What I am satisfied about is that every hon. member of this Committee must agree that anything like the figures I have mentioned have absolutely no relation to the high cost of living, when it is remembered that money has little or no purchasing power today as compared with the year 1969. 5 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that the notes to the Addendum are incorrectly numbered, and there would have to be some further consideration in this particular respect. There are some cases where we are satisfied and the hon. member for St. Lucy brought out one aspect of it - that people are finding it difficult to get grants. We agree that the welfare officers have got to carry out their investigations, but I am to say that some of these officers are not doing justice to their jobs, and when I say to their jobs, I mean to the people who cause them to be employed as welfare officers. They are definitely not taking the welfare of these people into consideration. People have got to walk seven and eight times to find an officer, and then he gets into his car and tells you he cannot see you today, you have to see him after 5 o'clock although some woman might have left the children in the morning and borrowed a bus fare to journey to the office or residence of the officer as the case may be. It may be a case where we do not have enough of these welfare officers to look after the immediate needs of these people; but I am satisfied that some of these people are made to suffer just a bit too much. When these officers investigate the cases, if they do that in its entirety, recommendations are made on these people's behalf to give them a pittance. I should certainly like to know that these officers are committed to regular conferences; discussions held amongst them, and that they be advised about the feelings of this House, because we vote this money and, each and every one of us have our hearts exactly where these poor people are, and we want to see that justice is done to each and every one.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps we will be told that in 1969 there were 8,700 of these pensions, and today we must see that the number has grown. This is what we must expect. Nobody has anything to say against this. Our view is that the number is too restricted. The number of people who are suffering and in need is far greater than what is reflected in these figures. One would notice that it is not a case where the welfare officers go out to look after the people's welfare; we do not have that type of officer now. It is a case where people who are suffering have got to go and look for the welfare officer. It should not be so. The welfare officers should be equipped with maps with villages and areas marked out and with the number of houses in a particular avenue, and be responsible for making periodic checks on these houses and poor people to look after them. I feel that we need a definite increase in the number of these officers so as to help relieve the suffering, and in increasing the number, by all means, Mr. Chairman, increase the amount of the welfare grant now made to those people.

Now if I may say a few words on the question of old age pensions, perhaps it is hardly necessary for me to say that it is shocking to find that in this year of our Lord an old age pensioner is still receiving \$5.00. We are asked however to make provision for something like 15,967 of these pensioners on the register as at the end of January, 1973. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would really like the Minister to carry out a re-examination of the numbers on the register at each of the paying stations, the numbers at the St. Michael, Eagle Hall, Welches and other offices, and I am sure that the Minister will admit that there are less than 14,000 on the register. If there are less than 14,000 on the register, how can the Minister account for requesting money for the payment of 15,967? I am sure I am right in saying that there are less than 14,000, and I would like to see the Minister look into this matter as quickly as possible. On the question of old age pensions, we have heard from time to time that consideration was being given to raising the means test where people would be able to qualify under much easier circumstances. 5.10 p.m.

It is very necessary, Mr. Chairman, because it is time that we take our census figures for people over 68 and examine them to know the state of their health. It is not a case where everybody has been fortunate enough to have had children going abroad to send back a dollar or two from which they would

be able to buy a plot of land and put a small house on it, but the income of these poor people has been such from year to year that they have lived almost on starvation wages and were very lucky to reach the age of 68, but because they may be getting a little \$10 per week or that the land they occupy could bring them \$520 a year they are denied the \$5 per week.

I feel the time has come when we have got to do something, not promise to review the situation. Mr. Chairman, I cannot say they should get \$8 or \$10 per week, but I would like to know that they have something in their hands with which to purchase some of the bare necessities. They would not be able to purchase everything with it, but in any case; an attempt should be made where those persons who have been denied this because they now have a little \$10 per week property should get a pension, because as I say the health of some of these people is very poor. They need the pension to buy medicines to keep up their state of health.

On the question of these textbooks,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

According to Standing Order 66(8) the time of 15 minutes has expired.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a brief statement on these old age pensions. I think the time has come when this means test should be abolished; I do not see any logic in its retention. This was done in 1937 because the economy of Barbados at that time was what it was. You must accept the responsibility or the cause of the old age pension and allow persons who have reached the stage - if they want to draw it, because there are going to be people who are over 68 who are not going to draw old age pensions because the circumstances in which they find themselves would place them above that - but when they reach the age of 68 they should be able to draw a pension without having to go through this means test. I hope that when I reach 68 I would not have to look to Government for an old age pension.

You should exclude those persons who are drawing other pensions, but this idea of telling an old woman who owns a small house that she is not eligible is not right. One of my constituents told me that a man went to her house, her grand daughter had left a television set with her, and some of the people next door told her to hide the television set because if the man saw the television set she would not get a pension. There is this old system that if you live in a house and the value of that exceeds the amount of the means test that will exclude you from getting a pension, but nobody can scrape off the paint from your house and sell it or eat it, so you cannot assume that the only persons who must be eligible for old age pensions are such destitutes or people who never made any attempt to be worthwhile citizens. But if you are a worthwhile citizen or if your son or grandson gives you something by the week you should tell lies and say he does not give you anything so that you can get an old age pension. I think that if you have to give \$5 a week to any person you should do this and remove the means test. If you remove the means test your costs will go up because more people will be eligible, but you would take away this inherited influence and the bureaucratic method that you have of having Old Age Pension Committees all around the island - I think some of them get some fees for attending meetings - and therefore you would remove that because it becomes unnecessary, and if the people can satisfy an agency that they are 68 and want to draw pensions, unless they are drawing pensions otherwise, they should get them.

Those persons who are drawing pensions from the Public Treasury exceeding certain amounts should

be excluded. In my organisation we give people pensions as soon as they retire; they do not have to be 68. I have to go and see a man tomorrow who lost his legs working in a sugar factory and he cannot work anymore, and we give him a pension. I do not see if an organisation like ours can give people pensions without any consideration that the Government cannot do the same. We will take into consideration if the man is already getting a pension and the amount of pension he should get. Perhaps it is that some people in the Departments do not take the trouble to investigate the people who are eligible. If you have people reaching old age there is going to be a certain number of people who will be eligible and you should exclude by perscription people who are already drawing pensions, but this idea of the means test is a bother to people. They go around investigating, looking at the old houses to see the value of them, and if they see a good strong house they are inviting the occupant to bring somebody in so that she can rent out part of the house. We should not slavishly copy the English system for giving this type' of assistance, and I hope that the Government is as anxious as we are to remove this means test. The quicker the means test is removed the quicker we will be able to examine how much further we can go. 5.20 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I thought the Minister wanted to make an explanation about something that was said. I should like to speak on the question of old age pensions. For a very long time we on this side of the House, long before 1969 when I became a member of this Chamber, have been asking the Government for an increase in the amount payable to old age pensioners weekly. In addition we have been asking, as the hon. member for St. Michael West has just said, for the removal of the means test and the reduction of the age at which people can receive pensions from 68 to 65.

Now, dealing first with the question of the means test, one thing that strikes me is that with the new system of land taxation - at this stage I am not seeking to criticise that - I believe that for certain purposes the value of the land would be taken into consideration as income. I should like to find out from the Minister, when he replies, if the value of the land would be calculated, even though the owner had been relieved from paying the taxes as an old age pensioner. If this is so, not by design on the part of the Government but in keeping with the operation of the law, then I would ask the Minister to have this matter investigated with a view to removing any hardship that may be caused.

Sir, we on this side of the House feel that the means test should be removed. We feel that persons should qualify for pensions having reached the age of 65 and not 68 as at present exists. If such persons are not receiving incomes from any other source, then they should be entitled to receive old age pensions. With regard to the question of people receiving old age pensions at the age of 68, anyone who looks around will observe that civil servants can retire at 50, 55 or 60; some of them can retire with the permission of the Governor-General or the requisite authority at 50, and most of those people have been drawing handsome salaries. Even Parliamentarians in this House - those of us who conspire to loose their seats at the age of 50 - can receive a pension. Politicians can receive their pensions at the age of 50, and civil servants can also receive their pensions at the age of 50. On the other hand, the people in our society who receive old age pension at the age of 68 are, invariably, people from a low walk of life, working-class people, who, perhaps, may have left school at the age of 14 and worked for 54 years under the present system. That would be equal to the entire life-span of the civil servant who wanted to retire at the age of 55. I suggest to the Government that not only should the pensions be increased, but the age at which pensions can be drawn should be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, not so long ago, I think it was earlier in this session, shortly after the General Elections, we on this side of the House advocated that the pensions should be increased to \$15.00 a week and the Government opposed it. Later the Minister of Communications and Works made a speech in this House to the effect that the country could not afford it. It could not afford to look after the citizens who had given the better years of their lives to the development of this country so that the people who now enjoy certain privileges such as the Ministers, for instance, and all members of Parliament - because of the strength of the economy as the Economist may say - would be able to enjoy them comfortably. Those people gave their lives, their sweat and their tears in the development of this country, and we said that they should receive \$15.00 a week as old age pensions. The Minister of Communications and Works said that the economy could not afford it....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, Sir. I at no time said so. I said that if the economy could afford it, they would get it. If it could not afford it, then they would not get it. I still maintain that the level of pensions must depend on the ability of the economy to pay. The hon. member must quote me correctly. I am not the Minister of Finance. I am going to deal with your Manifesto just now.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Sir, I well remember the Minister of Communications and Works stating emphatically that the economy of this country could not afford to pay old age pensioners \$15.00 a week.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

It cannot.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Sir, he says that it cannot, but he just got up and tried to deny it. Why does he seek to contradict me? In 1971 in the Budget Debate the Minister of Finance, in his prepared speech that was brought to the House, had something printed in it promising that old age pensioners would receive an increase shortly and that the matter was being investigated. 5.30 p.m,

Let me make myself quite clear. In 1971 the Minister of Finance in his budget speech which was prepared and circulated to the House then had to stick in an addendum saying that old age pensioners would be considered soon. In 1972 nothing was said about it in the budget even though we on this side of the House advocated it, and the Leader of the Opposition in his reply spoke about it, and from the Estimates as laid now, it would seem that there is no indication on the part of the Government to increase old age pensioners for the year 1972-73. I am not one of those persons who happen to have the confidence of the Minister of Finance. I do not know if the Minister of Finance intends to bring down a supplementary estimate during the year. If this happens, you can rest assured that it will have the support of the members on this side of the House provided the sum to be granted to the old age pensioners is a sum not less than \$15 a week.

Now, Sir, when you look at the cost of living index between 1966 and now, and when you look at the two salary increases which the general civil service of this country received on the basis that the cost of living has been going up because goods are costing more, you find that these old age pensioners still receive \$5.00, and I believe it was increased to \$5.00 as a result of a Resolution brought to this Chamber by the hon. member for St. James. Let me say this; if the salaries of the civil servants were increased

because of the cost of living, these old age pensioners have to buy the same goods if not at the supermarket, at a store, and at the same price which those who got the increase of salaries are paying, and therefore we urge upon the Government, even though they have not made provision for it in the Estimates for 1973-74, to seriously consider an increase in old age pension to a figure of not less than \$15 per week, and also to reduce the age at which people can get pension from 68 to 65 years.

Mr. Chairman, this is a socialist government; let us see the Government put its socialist principles into practice. I do not want to talk about the \$1.25 I see them giving out weekly to people. Much has been said and a lot of people have been maligned up and down this Country for giving out national assistance, but one would have thought that with the coming of this Government the millenium would have arrived and all public assistance would have ceased, and that the poor people of this country who are in need and suffering would receive proper pensions so that they could live a proper life when the weeks came. I represent an area which is perhaps one of the most depressed areas in Barbados. The Minister said it is backward, but it is backward because of the low standard of housing and the fact that the Minister has refused to provide proper housing accommodation for people in the city of Bridgetown. (A VOICE: The city father.) There has been no city father. This Government has been in power for twelve years and I only regret I was not here when we had to debate the National Housing Authority because I would have indicated to the Government its failure to do anything or to give any sort of benefit to the people in the city. Once again I implore you on behalf of the Opposition to consider old age pensioners even if you have to come with a supplementary estimate. You should also consider removing the means test and reducing the age to 65 years. This is one measure that will receive the blessing and support of members on this side of the House, and I look forward to the Government bringing this down in this financial year, even although it is not in the Estimates.

Hon. R G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long, but all these latter-day socialists are only adhoc foolers of the people. They went to a country in an election just a few months ago. This is what they had in their Manifesto on the old

"No just society can neglect its old people. Because of the mass emigration of Barbadians in the 1950's and 1960's many of our old people are now without the care and company of their children. The Party proposes:

To provide physical facilities for proper geriatric treatment for old and sick."

This Government has a home in the Pine; we support district hospitals.

"To provide health visitors and social counselling for old people."

That is going to give them food.

"To raise the level of assistance to old people through an increase in old age pensions and the providing of free medical services."

Where is the removal of the means test in this? Where is the reduction of the age to 65 years? What are you clapping at? Where in your Manifesto have you said....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of explanation, the hon. member should know that for years one of the things we have been calling for in Barbados, even when he was a member of this party, was a reduction of the age from 68 to 65 years.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

That is a point of explanation? That is a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member was making an explanation to a part of his speech that was not understood, and I must decide whether it is a point of explanation. No hon. member on either side of this Chamber will decide that for the Chair.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

As I was saying, you have these adhoc socialists who think they can make political capital out of speeches. When you went to the country in 1971 and you put forward this document to the people, no wonder they did not believe you because they discovered that there were a bunch of hypocrites running. 5.40 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member cannot impute to any hon. member in this House hypocrisy, and I must ask the hon. member to withdraw it. It means that when we went to the country we were a bunch of hypocrites. The hon. member must withdraw his remarks, Mr. Chairman, and I will ask you to rule on that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I see nothing to withdraw. When we went to the polls none of us was an hon. member.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Sir, when we went to the people we were a bunch of crooks then, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The hon. members over there want me to lose my 15 minutes. If I get the assurance that the interruptions are going to be deducted, then I will sit down.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am on a point of order, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

As soon as I get an assurance that these interruptions - I have had about four - will be deducted I will sit down but not otherwise.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will both hon. members kindly sit.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, nowhere in the Manifesto of the

Barbados Labour Party is any suggestion of reduction of the age to 65. It is such a vital principle that if they can feel as strongly as they try to pretend to feel today they could have stated it, because it is a fundamental change in the existing conditions of old age pensions. This is ad hocism socialism because they can fool people, and I will deal with the hon. member's \$15 per week old age pensions, which is hypocritical. It is not fair to try and fool old people that you asked for \$15 when you know they cannot get \$15 with the economy of Barbados as it is.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Sir, he has accused me of being hypocritical by mentioning the \$15. Is that not imputing improper motives to me, Sir?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I used "hypocritical" in the pure Greek sense of the word; he is interpreting it in the wrong sense.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Oh no, Sir. Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Both hon. members Will sit. I will kindly ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I withdraw it, Sir, but what I am saying is that I do not want the people of this country to be fooled. They are being fooled. He would give the old age pensioners \$15 per week, but when you impose tax to give them even \$3 more they run around the country telling people the Government is fleecing them and breaking their backs, as if suddenly money comes from trees. At the moment, looking at the Estimates, we are giving in old age pensions \$3.5 million with a supplementary for approximately \$30 million. Multiply that three times, you will have to look for at least \$11- to \$12 million in order to increase it to \$15. How are you going to get \$11 million more without the imposition of more taxation? Do you want to run into Independence Square and the Fairchild Street Market to tell the people now that this Government is killing them? That is why I am saying it is not fair to the people to tell them that you asked for \$15.

If you look at the Estimates, in Welfare Grants, this Government spends nearly \$800,000, \$3.5 million in old age pensions apart from Government pensions; we maintain the District Hospitals for the poor people of this country; the Ministry of Housing repairs houses for old age pensioners; the Government has allowed them to travel on buses free, which is costing the Transport Board \$100,000 a year.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Sir, when the Minister says that they travel on buses free, does this include all

buses?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

We are coming to that. We had a meeting, and we are coming down to the House for approximately \$150,000 as a subsidy to the private concessionaires. Can any Government do more for its old people? We have a Home in the Pine for them, we maintain District Hospitals, we introduced a Provident Fund for the sugar workers.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Sir, can the Minister say how many people are at the Home in the Pine?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am only endeavouring to give to the public of Barbados a realistic approach of this Government's socialist philosophy in action, We have relieved them from land tax, we are letting them travel on buses free, maintaining Districts Hospitals. (Mr. MOTTLEY Almshouses!) That your father used to maintain; they were not almshouses in our time, they were almshouses when your father had them, but the Government calls them District Hospitals now.

I could not get on the floor of the House, Mr. Chairman, as a responsible parliamentarian - and I must pay tribute to the hon. member for St. Peter who has at least shown a more statesmanlike approach to this question - and try to fool the people like this. When I asked the hon. member for St. Peter how much more he would say old age pensioners should get he was honest enough to say he could not say what figure, whether it should be \$8 or \$10, but the junior inexperienced member for the City threw out the figure of \$15. I would not encourage old people of this country to think that the economy of this country could stand \$15, because it cannot, and I would not build their hopes up to the point where I would tell them foolishness that I asked for \$15 and a wicked Democratic Labour Party Government did not give them. It is not fair to old people.

Mr. MOTTLEY :

On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I have never said anything about any wicked Democratic Labour Party Government not giving them \$15. If his conscience is bothering him let him express it now,

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

What he will do is to hold a meeting in Fairchild Street or Oistinsand tell the poor people who cannot really understand what politics is all about that the Labour Party asked for \$15 but the Government did not give them anything. The member for St. Peter was honest enough when I asked him in an Aside how much he would say, he said a little more but he could not give a figure. That is a member who at least appreciates that with the present economy of Barbados, with sugar dropping, with more than \$13 million in taxation, with \$30 per month for every single Government pensioner in this country, with increases

due to come for parliamentarians, Ministers, everybody in this community, this country cannot stand an increase in old age pensions.....(Asides).

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like all hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6). I am not going to tolerate this type of behaviour across the floor.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I will keep quiet, but I do not like hypocrisy. I am in politics because I can make a contribution and I talk straight from my heart to people. If they are foolish I tell them so, but I do not get up and make capital out of their misfortunes. The hon. member for the City is one who makes capital out of people's misfortunes, whether it is a question of somebody dying at the hospital or else.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I object to the remark that I make capital out of people's misfortunes. It is imputing improper motives to me and I am objecting very strongly, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will ask the hon. member to withdraw those remarks.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I withdraw those remarks, but I do not like these things, and everybody knows that the poor people have suffered a lot, they have been deluded and fooled by politicians telling them what they know is not realistically possible. That is what is happening in this country, and that is why I say the Barbadians showed good sense when they elected only six of you, God help them if they had ever made the mistake of giving you 12, 18 or enough to form a government. You have completely misled them; you are a bunch of ad hoc socialists who have never had a conviction since you were born, but as situations arise you then come in here preaching socialism. 5.50 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Sir. The Minister cannot impute to people that they are completely lacking in convictions. He said that none of the hon. members on this side of the House has ever had any convictions since they were born.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Both hon. members will sit. In accordance with Standing Order 66(8), the time has expired.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that...

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I rose on a point of order, Sir, and I think that the Chair should with respect, rule on the point of order. I stood up on a point of order before you adverted to Standing Order 66(8). If a

member takes a point of order, with respect to you, Sir, I do not believe it is fair just to ignore the point of order. If the ruling is against me I will accept it, but I must hear your ruling, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I heard absolutely no point of order. I saw two hon. members on their feet; I asked both of them to sit, and the time has expired.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the hon. member, who has just left the Chamber, spoke about the ad hoc socialist, because there is none other who fills that position better than the hon. member himself. He is a man who was elected by the working-class people in this country and could not stand the pressures to represent them. He ran off to another country. He is now talking about a realistic approach to Government's policy.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is that the instant order of the day on which the hon member is now addressing this House?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We are under Head 40 -Old Age Pensions and Educational Assistance - and, therefore, the Chair must decide what latitude should be given to any hon. member on any Head.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, not only are the old people feeling the brunt and burden pf the lashes of the present Government. When the Hon. Minister talks about ad hoc politicians, he is the very man who said on the television that we need a new brand of politicians. He is the very man who reads the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party and says what we would do for the old-age people. He said that we did not say that we would remove the means test. Now, let us compare the two Parties. The Prime Minister came to this House with a Budget Speech; he forgot the old age pensioners in the prepared speech, and he had to put in an addendum. He never told the people that the land tax would have risen to what it is today.

I think the hon. member for St. Michael West said earlier today that he wants the means test removed. He said that, because a man lives in a pretty-looking house, he cannot get up on mornings and scrape off some of the paint. It reminds me of some of the fishermen who live in St. James. Because a man lives on the West Coast, it does not mean that he can take some of the sand and pay Government the taxes that have been levied on him. They did not put that in their Manifesto, so it works both ways.

When the hon. member says that we must not fool the people that the Government can raise old age pensions to any reasonable height, it is true that if the cost of living is rising in every aspect that one can think of --the land tax has gone up and that adds to the cost of living. The Hon. Minister has said that water rates are going up and that adds to the cost of living; the old age pensions remain at a fixed rate, then it is no use saying that this is a realistic approach on the part of the Government. The Government must admit that they must find a way out of this situation. It is no use saying that members of the Opposition are making capital out of people's sadness or of their destitute position. The members of the Opposition are telling the Government that in the same way they can increase taxation and increase incomes, then they must find a way to relieve the plight of the old age pensioners. It is no use talking

about somebody capitalising on people's misfortunes and then running out of the Chamber.

Mr. Chairman, it is all well and good to say that you are defending the Government, but you have to defend it realistically. You cannot keep the old age pensions at \$5.00 a week when you have a Minister of Trade who is placing a burden on the very old people. They cannot buy salt fish; they cannot buy chickens, because the man, who now sits in Cabinet with the Ministers, has stopped the farmers in Barbados from selling chickens at a realistic price. They have imported chickens and stored them at the B.M.C. at \$1.40 per pound f.o.b. (Asides.). The relevance is that the old people cannot buy any of those things with \$5.00 a week. If the old people have to buy the imported chickens out of \$5.00 a week, then you know that they will die. The Government are prepared for this, Mr. Chairman, and they have everything worked out. If the old people are not careful all of them will be buried shortly.

Mr. Chairman, Note 13 states:

"The current provision was based on 170 burials at \$80.00 per coffin, and \$14.00 per grave, but owing to an increase in the number of burials during the year, it is now evident that the amount provided was under-estimated."

Let the Hon. Minister come back in here and tell us that it is not the policy of the Government to get rid of the old people. The Government will provide money to bury them, but they will not increase the money to give them sustenance. The Hon. Minister of Health came into this Chamber a few weeks ago and said that the burial rate is going up so high that he wanted more money to provide for the crematorium. When you are talking about a realistic Government policy, you must let the country know that the realistic policy of the Democratic Labour Party is to starve the old people, provide money to bury them and get rid of them quickly, That is the position, Mr. Chairman. I do not want the Minister to talk, to fume at his mouth, and then to run outside with the impression that he has made good points. What we are trying to do is to reduce the expenditure in burials and to keep the poor unfortunate ones alive a little longer. The Government have reversed the policy. They are keeping old age pensions static; increasing the cost of living by importing high-priced stuff, and providing more money to bury you when you starve to death. That is the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. When they talk about our keeping meetings in the Market Square and Oistins, that is what we are going to tell the people. This is evidence of how the Government are providing for the people in this community.

Let me deal with another point, Mr. Chairman. The increase in respect of benefits to secondary schools. The members on this side have been arguing for a long time about the standardisation of text books in this country. We have argued that the Government should institute a policy of lend-lease of textbooks. If you have to make grants to people going to secondary schools, then there should be some system whereby books given to children in a particular form must be returned at the end of the relevant period for re-issue to other children.

I know of a case, Mr. Chairman, where you get a list of books for a particular form, and by the next term the form is not using the same books. This may be due to the change in the examination system abroad, but there should be some system instituted whereby the Government can have a repeat use of the books. When it comes to the question of uniforms, I should like to know the reason for the frequent changes of the uniforms. 6 p.m.

I would have thought that schools would change uniforms very seldom. Maybe the children have outgrown them and the note is badly written or whatever the case might be, but it would seem to me that this is something that the Government should investigate and cut down this cost if there is a frequent change in the uniform and textbooks.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think one should restate once and for all so that there can be no misunderstanding of the point that so far as the Opposition and the Barbados Labour Party are concerned, we have always made it quite clear that we have been committed to the just society, the just society for the old, for the young, the weak, the disabled, for men who cannot manage it and also for the women, particularly the old women. I do not believe in people coming in here and merely mouthing words about being ad hoc socialists, new socialist or anything of the sort, because, Mr. Chairman, it is not only in the field of welfare but in other aspect of the running of the affairs of this country that there is more pragmatism on the Government side than any commitment to any philosophy. I have heard the leader of that party say that he runs his country with a mixture of pragmatism and commitment to socialism preached at the London University School of Economics some years ago by Laski; so that when I hear members on the other side believing that they are the first and only socialists in this country, it makes me laugh. We ask them frequently about things like nationalisation and they have no reply except the hon. member who has just come out last week and said that we are now picking up policies, but he is not going to be committed to these policies because we have brought them here.

There is no doubt at all in my mind that our party made our position clear that we are committed to raising the benefit being given to old age pensioners, and the Government has gone through the whole financial year without raising that benefit. The hon. member for St. Michael West talks some sense, and I have praised him when he talks sense, but when he talks nonsense,

I also disagree with him, when he says that the means test should be removed. The fact that he has said it and it was not in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto does not make the DLP's Manifesto any better or anything of the sort. It is a point that has come from him just as we have made points in here on matters. There is nothing to the effect in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto that Ministers will get increased salaries, yet we understand that they will be coming down with a vote for increased salaries, and what I understand hon. members here to be saying is that if the cost of living is continually spiralling, then there is a case for an increase in old age pensions and it must be a realistic amount.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this is not a new point made by the party. During the reply to the budget debate, the Leader of the Opposition commended to the Government taking the old age pensioners and putting them on to national assistance, because he pointed out that the national insurance fund was sufficiently established to carry the remaining old age pensioners, and in due course these persons would be going off in any event by dying out, and every new person coming on who has paid national insurance contributions would be given an old age benefit in due course under that scheme. It is not only a question of us coming in here and making suggestions without giving alternative measures that the Government should investigate. The Country must understand that we are not the Government, and we cannot introduce positive legislation. Even when we introduce normal Resolutions, the Government will vote against it for purely political reasons without consideration of the merit of those Resolutions. That is what the Country must understand, but we will not shirk in our duty where we see a need from saying that there is a need and there is a need now, not the next ten years to improve the lot of old age

pensioners, and I would hope that we increase the amount we give to them before we increase the amount we give to ourselves in any vote in here for Ministers' salaries.

I should like to make the position absolutely clear so that the country will know that this is no question of vote catching; it is a question of consideration for the people concerned. I am not imputing to any hon. member that he does not have any concern for old age pensioners; maybe it slipped his attention, but if the suggestion has come from us, take it in the spirit in which it is intended and try to look after the people as they deserve to be looked after.

I would like to talk a bit under Item 27. I am aware that the Minister of Education has now set up a National Curriculum Development Committee and in due course I am sure there will be a set curriculum in most of the comprehensive schools and in the primary schools of this Island, but certainly I think we must move fast in standardising the textbooks in the country. It is a definite fact that almost every member of this House pulls his pocket to assist children from time to time outside of the welfare grants that are being made in order to help them buy books and in some cases uniform. I would like to throw out a suggestion to the Minister. Expand the school meals service to deal with those children at secondary schools who cannot afford proper lunches, including the private secondary schools.

There are some who although they are getting small assistance they are really not benefiting properly. You can probably have a means test at that stage in the secondary schools because I do not expect the child of a well-off person has the same entitlement as the child of a person who really needs it, and fit this in a proper development. This has not been done. There are many children going to the comprehensive schools that are also badly off when it comes to getting proper feeding. Those are the same children, some of whom are moving out of the primary schools into secondary education and they have just come from getting free school meals into the position where they are no longer getting those meals, although they have been fortunate to get an opportunity to go on to higher education. This is one idea the Government could work on and see how much it

would cost the nation. Cost it out properly, get assistance from external agencies as you have been getting for the feeding programme and assist the people in getting some better standard of living.

Mr. Chairman, I hate to see that we have to have a vote for burials. Unfortunately we have to bury our dead people, because as there is life so there is death; but I would consider that where people need most attention is when they are alive and particularly when they are poor and old. That is a segment of the community that we very often forget, and I would strongly like to see under this head a family grant. When we spoke in our manifesto about a minimum standard of living, it was misinterpreted in this country, but you have heard about a minimum wage, and certainly a minimum standard of living means a belt below which you cannot go, should not and must not go. It was misrepresented at that time by the people who were hypocritical. They were then a bunch of hypocrites. That is not unparliamentary, Sir. The position is that we were saying that there must be a minimum standard below which no man should be allowed to exist in this country, and just as the member for St. Michael West called for minimum wage legislation, there must be a minimum family grant in this country and nobody in Barbados should be allowed to go below what is called the poverty belt, and if you have to make us pay to help them, I consider that equalisation, a legitimate cause, and I hope the Government will take the idea. It comes from the Opposition, but do not feel that you have to vote against it. We want to see a poverty family grant and family income. Tell the wizard Minister of Finance to think about that. Or are you going to

come and tell us that it is brought by a member of the Opposition, so it has political content and we do not want it? That is the trouble with some politicians. They do not understand the righteousness of a situation; they only see the personalities involved.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to advert to Item 27 under Head 40 - Educational Assistance. There has been a suggestion made that there should be a standardising of textbooks and that textbooks should be made available for loan to students and when these students leave school the books should be made available for others to use. This principle is already accepted by the Government and indeed under Head 104, Item 24 - Textbooks and Equipment - this is included in the note for the establishment of a textbook loan scheme. 6.10 p.m.

I have not been able to work out the full details of that particular scheme and hence it has not yet come into operation, but recently I set up the National Curriculum Council and one of the responsibilities of this Council is to look at the whole question of the curriculum and the textbooks to be used in that curriculum, and then once they have decided upon the text-books which should be used I think we will move towards the whole question of standardisation in text-books. This applies to the Government system; we have not in any way tried to lay down the text-books for the private independent schools, but this is a matter which I would like to assure members we are actively considering, the whole question of the text-books used and the cost of these text-books, and possible measures of standardisation in order that the country as a whole can get better and longer use of the text-books that may be available. I merely wished to make that point of explanation of the present position. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, it is often deemed that a Ministry is continuous but Ministers come and Ministers go, they do not go on for ever. I have only been in the Ministry from 1st November, 1972 and therefore I will have to be given adequate time to address myself to the various problems confronting the Ministry which I would like to point out have not arisen since my entry into the Ministry but might have been existing there long before. It is rather interesting to hear this afternoon an hon. member of this House talking about a resolution which was passed eleven years ago and not being implemented, and I shudder to think what the very member might have been doing when he was in the very Ministry for at least five years.

Mr. WEEKES:

On a point of order, Sir, I said that the file was pigeon-holed, and secondly, when I first entered that Ministry it took approximately four years before that file could have been found. Thirdly, as soon as the file was found I started to work on it, and fourthly, I was transferred from the Ministry before I had completed the job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order, point of explanation.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I am very glad to hear the explanation of the hon. member, but I suppose one should be careful where one is throwing one's stones. I would like to point out that I am as concerned about the old people in this country as any other person in the community. However, there are serious limitations and encumbrances

which bear on the operations of the Ministry of Health and I do not want you to believe for one moment that these have now commenced. They might have been there for many years, it might be truly argued that the Government has inherited some of these problems, and while we may get here and talk in terms of what improvement should or should not be made, we have to accept that any plans or suggestions put forward must be evaluated, and then they must also be evaluated within the circumstances and conditions pertaining in Barbados. It is very well to talk about what goes on in other countries and maybe aspire to what goes on in other countries, but whenever we are finished we have to cut our suit to suit the cloth we have in this country.

The country now has great expenditure in many Items of Government, and while it may be nice to talk in terms of \$15 per week for old age pensioners, this cannot be brought about overnight as if you were waving a wand, it is something that will have to be gone into, and it is something that even if we do accept it will have to be achieved step by step. I accept without any need to urge me to do so that the time has come for a review of pensions with the objective of increasing them. I accept that the Welfare Grants given in the past were too low, and again I would like to point out that they have been too low for a very long time and I will have to say that it is left right now to the present administration in the Ministry to do something about these Welfare Grants. What I might like to do about the Welfare Grants may not necessarily be achieved because there are serious limitations and encumbrances with which this Ministry has to go about its work. I would like to assure hon. members that already we are reviewing the question of increased pensions, and why this has not been included in the Estimates is that the analysis has not been completed, but I would like to say definitely, that when I say that in a short space of time we will see the results of this analysis, I want you to take that as being true and affirmative and not as an excuse to shelve the question before us.

We are examining the whole question of social welfare within the Ministry, since I assumed the Ministry of Health, and I believe that with the support which I obtained from my Parliamentary Secretary that in the very near future, maybe within less than three months, we will be able to come to this Hon. Chamber with a plan for the improvement and necessary changes within the welfare system.....(Asides) I would like to point out just for the record that my Parliamentary Secretary happens to be a member of the female sex. We would expect that within three months we will be able to come to this House with new plans for a reorganisation of the Social Welfare Department, of the pensions and of the welfare grants being given.

As hon. members very well know, a Minister might like to do many things, but very often the things he wants get done have to depend on the cooperation of and execution by members of his staff, and these things take time because the staff is not only concerned with welfare grants, the staff of the Ministry of Health has many other things to which to devote its attention, and all these things have to be seen and taken in their stride. I would like to point out that while we are concerned here with the question of improving the system as it now exists, or removing some of the problems in the present system, on 23rd November last year a letter was sent out by my Ministry to each representative in this Hon. Chamber, and so far we have had only two replies. We felt very strongly that in our review of this system, we would have to get information from the various constituencies, and one of the persons who would be capable of assisting us in getting this information we believe would be the representative of each constituency. so far only two have found it convenient or considered it important to reply to our letter, and with this type of cooperation, it makes the task of the Ministry of Health much more difficult and takes much longer to achieve much of the good which we hear this afternoon being advocated in this

Chamber. I would like to appeal again on this occasion to the hon. members to assist us by supplying us with the information sought in the letter of 23rd November, 1972 from the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

On the question of the removal of the means test, we have already considered that, but unfortunately at this stage we cannot jump and remove it overnight. When we think about the question of reducing the age qualification, we have already pointed out that the age of 60 would be a reasonable age to make the age of qualification at which people would get old age pensions, but again this means that a large number of people will be brought into the ambit of old age pensions, and because of the large increase in old age pensioners the charge on the Government will be monumental, and this brings up the question of taxation. If people are prepared to pay more tax to pay this money to the old age pensioners, both the amount that they now draw and the increase in the number of old age pensioners, that will be well and good, but along the lines we have seen in the past people do not like to pay taxes and a Government has to be very careful when it is budgeting for its money. You have to know in what areas you can increase taxation without bringing about an undue outcry, and in other areas where you can go slowly or avoid completely, and when one looks at the whole context of the economy of Barbados we believe right now that it is under severe strain, and many of the ideals which politicians or even the people themselves would like to achieve cannot be achieved within the present context of the economy of Barbados. 6.20 p.m.

However, I would like to believe that as the economy of Barbados improves, many of the ideal things which we seek would be implemented at some stage in the near future, at least, before the death of many of those people who think that the Government is conspiring to hasten them to their graves.

Now, a lot has been said about the Welfare Grant being paid to school children. We will have to admit that there is room for improvement. We have analysed it, and we have found that a lot more can be done to assist children going to school. I should like to point out, ad nauseam, that these things take time. These things depend not only upon the Minister of Health and his Parliamentary Secretary, but on a number of factors which are brought to bear not only on the Ministry of Health but on each and every Ministry which seeks to get a share of the money available to Government to be spent.

In the circumstances, when we think of Welfare Grants or other Grants, we must realise that the human factor plays a very important part. The hon. member for St. Lucy has pointed out that some people who really deserve Welfare Grants do not get them and other people who do not deserve them are getting them. This is nothing new, because it is something which I observed when I was a District Medical Officer in the Parish of St. Lucy. I knew that many of the people who came to me for medical attention were capable of paying for themselves, while other people who required medical attention and could not afford to pay for it did not get any assistance.

It must be remembered that in the Barbadian society, very often what happens in the society at large, can be brought into certain institutions, and you will find little jealousies making things very difficult. As a matter of fact, very often they reduce the quantum of good and the quality of good that one sets out to give the people. You may find that a Public Assistant Officer may have his whims and fancies about certain people and he may give them an unfavourable assessment which would preclude them from getting what they are entitled to. It is known that this sort of thing occurs in many spheres of the Barbadian society. This is something which we hope to improve, not by imposing laws, but we hope that

the people who are responsible for the administration of the Welfare Grants will become more concerned about the community and more responsive to the need and problems facing the old people in this country, or the underprivileged people of this Country. Unless we get this change in attitude, we will find this problem recurring over and over again.

Mr. Chairman, we can come here and increase the Welfare Grants from \$1.25 to \$3.00, \$5.00 or more, but in practice you will find that some of the people who should get it are not going to get it, and others who are getting it should not be getting it, because the administration of the matter will be left in the hands of other people apart from the Minister. It will be very onerous for a Minister to get up and go around to ensure that everybody who qualifies for old age pension is getting it. I do not think the Minister would be able to do it. As a matter of fact, the number of Public Assistant Officers and other officials who have to serve this section of the Ministry are doing more work than one Minister would be able to do. We will get, these problems, and we can only appeal to the people who are responsible for the administration of the service to adopt the correct attitude in dealing with the people who have to come to get these Social Welfare Grants.

With regard to the question of paying pensions by cheques, or by Money Orders, this matter is under review. There are a lot of problems involved in this matter, because we have to be satisfied with the identification of the people who are supposed to get the money. The Ministry is thinking in terms of getting the Chief Registration Officer to register these people and give them an Identification Card, if they do not have one already, because we believe that the Identification Card will facilitate the introduction of a system of issuing payments by cheque or by Money Order.

Apart from that, even with the present set up, you will find that there are people in Barbados who prey on the old people. In some of the District Hospitals in Barbados, there are many old people who draw pensions from the Welfare Department and from the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund, and people only come to visit them at the time they should receive this money. Some people come and collect the money from them; they promise to bury them when they die, and they do not see them again until the next occasion for collecting money.

Now, with regard to the question of attitudes, the attitude of some people at the official level seems to be the attitude of the society as a whole. They do not seem to have enough regard for the unfortunate people at that age in our society, and you will have to do a lot to change this attitude in the population at large. Some people in Barbados seem to think that when people get old they should be pushed aside; they should not be given due consideration; they should not be rewarded for the contributions which they have made in the past, and they should be pushed aside until they die. Relatives do it; friends do it; and other members of the community do it. This is an unfortunate situation in this country. I do not think that you can legislate for this type of thing that is existing in Barbados. You will have to go about with a system of education or motivation in order to get the Barbadian community more concerned with giving proper amenities, more care, and more individual concern and help to these people who have made their contribution when they were younger, and now that they have reached the age of 65 or 68 they should not be pushed aside and treated with contempt. I do not think that this is fair, and I hope that the Ministry will be able to do a lot by way of correcting this unfortunate attitude in our midst.

I do not want to prolong this debate any longer. The hon. member for St. Peter asked me about the numbers, and I should like to give them to him -

St. Michael (Welches) 1,115

Eagle Hall 1,221

St. James 941

St. Peter 613

St. Lucy 540

St. Andrew 479

St. Joseph ,. .. 549

St. George 1,014

St. John 614

St. Philip 1,089

Christ Church 1,202

St. Thomas 654

This is the information which I have available as to the number of people who go to the various Centres for their Welfare Grants. However, I would like to assure hon. members that the Government is well aware of the problems facing the people in that age group, and the whole system of grants and their administration is under review. I hope that in the very near future we will be able to come to this House with some sort of improvement, depending on whether or not the economy of this country can support \$15.00 a week. I am not here to say whether we can give \$15.00 a week or what we can give. What I can assure the Hon. House about is that, when we come back here with this matter, we will have tentative proposals for an increase in the old age pensions, an increase in the Social Welfare Grants, and better plans for the organisation and administration of the system.

The question that Head 40 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.30 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73 No. 35

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for the sum of \$12,000 is to supplement Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Part II - Capital, Item 12, Caribbean Meteorological Institute.

The position is clearly set out in the Addendum. The Caribbean Meteorological Institute was set up in Barbados under the United Nations Development Project to provide training in meteorology. The project commenced in 1967 and ceased to be operated by the U.N.D.P. on 22nd August, 1972. The Caribbean Governments which form the Caribbean Meteorological Council contributed to the upkeep of the Institute. This Government's contribution was the provision of certain works services, staff, housing, upkeep of buildings, wages to local persons, other than professional staff. During the last financial year 1971-72 an amount of \$52,000 was provided to meet these costs. Since the project was due to come to an end in August 1972, only a reduced amount of \$21,200 was included in this year's Estimates.

The Caribbean Meteorological Council took over responsibility for the Caribbean Institute with effect from 23rd August, 1972, but the Council which also receives contributions from member territories did not make provision for the financing of the take over during the period 23rd August, 1972, to 31st December, 1972, and the Council therefore requested the Barbados Government through its Minister who attended these conferences, the Minister of Agriculture, to seek permission to have this supplementary of \$12,000 in order to meet the cost to the end of December, 1972. That is the position briefly, Sir. I think the note is fairly explicit, but if there are any further questions I would be pleased to try and answer them.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that,

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, every time I rise on one of these supplementaries, I am going to constantly repeat and join with the Hon. Prime Minister and say that this Chamber is being treated daily with less and less respect. Here is a Resolution seeking \$12,000 out of the taxpayers of this country. The Caribbean, Meteorological Institute is situated in Barbados, and when notices like these come to members at a very late hour and permission is sought to deal with them in all their stages, it is impossible for any justice to be done by members of this Chamber whether it be members of the Opposition or Government back bencher.

If one reads paragraph two of the Addendum, it says "Under this item, an amount of \$21,200 was provided to meet certain 'works services provision'...." What do those words in inverted commas mean? What are they doing with the \$12,000 of the taxpayers of Barbados' money? The Hon. Leader of the House would always say that the Addendum is explanatory. The notes which he reads from his file are never explanatory in my opinion. You, Mr. Chairman, I believe, are wondering what it means as well as I am wondering. How can one contribute to a debate with an Addendum like this? My immediate feeling is to ask to reduce the amount by \$1.00 and argue for the whole night.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I did explain it, if the hon. member would remember. I said from my personal notes that the Government's contribution was the provision of certain works services, staff housing, upkeep of buildings, wages to local persons other than professional staff.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that you understand my position. I do not believe the Leader of the House understands what I am talking about. I still say that my immediate thought is to vote "no" and let us argue about it; but if we are going to provide money for Met Services, I would like very much to see a bit more work being evident in Barbados coming out of the Institute. I believe the people in this Country would like to see some long range forecasting. Wherever there is an institute of this nature, there is always a page setting out in the daily newspaper or there is always somewhere where you can get long range forecasting to know what is happening. This comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. As the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has said, the rainfall in the past two years has not been at the level that it has been before. There is now concerted action by practically every farmer to go into irrigation, but those who cannot go into irrigation have got to depend on the forecast for planning.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that you live in a country district and you know that around July and August of last year quite a number of farmers planted seedlings which never germinated because there was a lack of rain which was expected at that time of the year. I would like to see the Institute publish well in advance some sort of long range weather forecast for the various areas of the Island. As I said before, the so-called forecasting which is done in Barbados and read over the radio on mornings might as well not be read. It is frustrating to hear "no rain recorded at Seawell last night". Now Seawell is in Christ Church, but across in St. Philip had half an inch and down through Bagatelle sweep which is called the Buckeley Valley had 11/2 inches. Next day you hear "cloudy with occasional showers", but the sun shines the whole day.

You have this Caribbean Meteorological Institute at Seawell and I have been hearing that the fellows are learning, Mr. Chairman, but it seems they have been learning for a very long time. If we are going to provide money for the Meteorological Institute, I want to see something realistic. I want to see them forecast that you are likely to have rain in the month of October, or that you are likely to have rain towards the end of next month. The cost of living is rising and unless we increase our agricultural products we are going to be in a worse state. The Minister responsible for this is not here and I do not even see the junior Minister in his seat, but I would like to see something done positively from the Meteorological Institute in relation to agriculture in this country.

The question that the Resolution do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.40 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1972-73 No. 36

A resolution for the sum of \$590,760 was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, Item 92 -Medical Supplies. The sum of \$491,437 was paid from the current provision in respect of goods ordered from overseas in 1971-72, owing to the long period between the placing of the order and the arrival in the Island. I want to make my first statement here. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has paid bills for medical supplies that were ordered but never reached the hospital. I believe that the Hospital Director would have at some time or other given instructions on matters such as these, but I am sure that there has been sufficient stir concerning what I have just said about payment for medical supplies which never reached the hospital that the Minister ought to be in a position to tell us something about the situation as it exists at the present. After all, Sir, we have hundreds of poor people who have got to dig deeply into their pockets to provide the money which is spent to pay for these medical supplies, if this is the case.

There is to my mind a need for a greater checking system, better security application to this method of ordering in the purchasing system at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is not an easy matter, I must agree, placing an order for these numerous items, because medical supplies cover a very vast area, but I am sure that something ought to be done about this. On this same Item you will find that there are lots of people who are still suffering through having to wait for long periods at the Hospital Dispensary to get medicine, and supplies generally, that have been ordered for them. One would have thought that the various cries and appeals that have gone out from this House on matters such as this would have by this time brought the necessary correction to the situation, but it still obtains and it obtains for the most part due to the fact that there is still a shortage of dispensing staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and you will find that if this is the case one can measure, judging from the number of people to whom these druggists have got to cater, the amount of disappointment, the inconvenience that many people are put to in the overall exercise.

The question of Furniture and Equipment, Item 93. We appreciate the fact that it is difficult to estimate with any degree of certainty what would be required for replacements in this particular respect in the case of an institution such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but undoubtedly we have our Resident Engineer and we must have our maintenance staff. We have our skilled technicians who must service the equipment there and keep check to see that we do not wait until a unit is no longer of use before a replacement or something of the sort is sought.

Mr. Chairman, when we look at the note to Item 95 it shows us that somebody somewhere is coming to his or her senses in the administration of the affairs of this institution, because this note tells us that tighter budgetary controls have been exercised under this Item in order to limit the rising rate of expenditure, but it has been observed that prices are steadily rising. At 31st October, 1972 the balance available under this vote was only \$4,000 out of a provision of \$90,000-

Surely there ought to be a better explanation. Telling us that tighter budgetary controls have been exercised is not good enough, what was taking place that caused this tightening up? Somebody had been lax at some point, somewhere, what caused the tightening up of these budgetary controls? Why is it that we are not seeing or hearing that they are applying tighter budgetary controls over everything that

pertains to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? All of these other Items require equally as much control as the Laundry and Cleaning. We appreciate the fact that there is a steady rise in the cost of detergents and other fuels and things connected with the laundry, but there has been more that brought about the situation of the application of the tighter controls.

This Item of Passage of Officers. I am somewhat sick when I see this Item 101 for the payment of \$25,000. 6.50 p.m.

A lot of money has been used for paying the passages of officers. That money could have been saved, and the country could have been better off, because the spending of the money was of no good purpose to the Institution. I have brought cases before this Honourable House to show where some of the money had been spent to demoralise the whole Institution, so to speak. We hope that this will be the last amount of money the Government will be spending by way of plane fares or passages for certain people who have been attached to that Institution. We know that a lot could have been saved if sufficient attention had been paid to what had been taking place there.

Mr. Chairman, it is known that when the Government decides to pay the last plane fare for some of these officers, they go away leaving dirty linen, dirty pillow cases and so on in the quarters which they had occupied. That sort of thing has been done by some of these people who have been brought to Barbados and placed over the heads of Barbadians who could have done the work at the Institution and saved the Government a lot of money.

With regard to the question of Maintenance of Building and Plant, there is still the wicked system of taking the maintenance staff at the Institution and making them do capital works. You are paying these people the regular maintenance wage instead of the wages the people who are doing capital works should receive. Something is wrong about this, and it is not fair. The situation now exists where these people are afraid to withhold their services,

because they have to support their families and they have a lot of responsibilities resting on their shoulders. They have to put up with a lot of things that should not be done to them. We are asking the Government to see to it that the maintenance staff at the Hospital will no longer be taken to do capital work, because it is not fair to these people.

So far as the question of Surgical and Medical Equipment is concerned, it is common knowledge that the Hospital equipment is used for unauthorised purposes. In other words, there is up to the present moment no rule laid down to indicate when equipment at the Hospital should be used by Mr. X or Mrs. B as the case may be. There has been evidence, time and time again, that pieces of the Hospital's equipment have been borrowed never to be returned. Is it fair, Mr. Chairman, to have the taxpayers foot that type of bill? The people who borrow the Hospital's equipment never to return it, are some of the people in their private practice who are sucking the blood out of the poor people who require their services from time to time. That is the case. It is not fair, and we are asking the Government to look into these matters.

I do not propose to say any more under this Head, Sir, because I know the time will come when you and I will be having several clashes on certain matters. I think I have said enough under this Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The question is, "That Head 38 stand part."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, how is it that you have not waited to see whether the Minister is going to reply? I appreciate that you have to put the question, but when you started to put the question I had not yet touched my chair. I am not telling the Chair how it should do its business, but you should pause to see whether a Minister is going to reply.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I think that some of us are warming up for the debates next week; so we are getting in some good.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I should like to draw to the attention of the House that the time being two minutes after seven, if there will be no further argument, I will put the question. If you will be able to finish within 10 minutes' time then I will adhere to it.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, some of us are getting a warm up for next week's debates, and we are getting a good work out this afternoon. There are a number of points which have been raised about the Hospital. I do not intend to go into them, but I should like to assure the hon. member that I am taking a serious look not only at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but at all the various Departments that come under my Ministry. I find this is necessary because of problems which have been confronting the Ministry for a very long time. I believe that my knowledge as a Doctor, and knowledge accumulated otherwise, will be of great use in looking at the problems at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Many of the things the hon. member suggested should be done, we are already acting upon them together with several other things. I believe that a lot of the things we have done will be brought out next week. I am not anticipating anything, but I believe that certain things will come out next week.

I should like to assure the hon. member that I share much of his concern for many of the things which have been going on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I should also like to point out that we find that year after year we get a rehash of things which have taken place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Mental Hospital, and other Departments of Health. Unless there is going to be new material introduced into these debates, I do not see much advantage in repeating what has been said over the years. I think we have reached a serious point now where we have to start doing something about these problems. I do not think it is sufficient to come here and repeat year after year, or occasion after occasion, all of the problems, the difficulties, the misunderstandings or the sabotage that go on in these Departments. I think that with the support of hon. members in this House and the support of right-thinking people in the society, we should start looking for solutions to these problems.

The question that Head 38 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, 7 p.m.

Head 39 - Mental Hospital - was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 39 - Mental Hospital - stand part.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that this can be done inside the ten minutes.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

The moment of interruption is now reached and this sitting now stands suspended until 8.00 p.m.

On Resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

When the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it automatically reverts.

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

Head 39 - Mental Hospital - was called.

The question that Head 39 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Resolution was passed.

On the motion of Hon. C.E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE NURSES AND MIDWIVES (REGISTRATION) ACT, 1973.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and Welfare to move the second reading of a Bill to repeal the Midwives and Nurses Registration Act, 1932.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill before us represents another step in the policy of the Government in upgrading the health legislation. The present Act which regulates the conditions under which midwives and nurses are registered has been in existence since 1932 and has undergone several amendments particularly with regard to the constitution of the Council as a result of the development of nursing service and nursing education institutions. Although the existing Act can be considered to be relatively new, the General Nursing Council of Barbados has described it as the oldest of its kind in the Commonwealth Caribbean, and has suggested that various amendments should be consolidated into a new Act to reflect the present standard of nursing and to embrace other types of nursing education not covered by the existing Act.

This new Act before us sets about to accomplish this. In this new Act we find that not only the nurses are to be registered, but the mid wives and the nursing assistants, and in addition to this, we are making provision in this Act for the conduction of examinations, the setting up of a Council of Nursing Administration and the Nursing Profession, and to empower the Council to make regulations under this Act.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps there is little that could be said against the introduction of a Bill of this nature. Every one no doubt must welcome any effort at giving at least the appearance of upgrading the nursing profession and making provision for giving some sort of status to the midwives and the nursing assistants and the like, but Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is perhaps one thing for which we cannot legislate. We have got to try as best we can to bring about whatever changes we might find necessary to perfect the profession and do whatever we can generally for those whose cause may appear to us to be as dedicated as what the nursing profession calls for. What we cannot legislate for is to put a mind into people. Merely giving a nursing aid, a nurse or a midwife a status as this Bill seeks to do and place them on a register is not all. Nurses and all that are called upon to minister to the sick have got to realise that sick people are human beings, and until that becomes part and parcel of those who are engaged even in the remotest manner in the profession, we have done absolutely nothing whatsoever.

We believe, Sir, that there are several avenues which lay open bare to us, and this Bill seems perhaps to cover in some respects some of what we might term as deficiencies in the past. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have amongst us, and it is becoming more and more so a problem for us, that the more we train some people, the less they seem to feel that they have a right to see to, minister to or even go near the less fortunate people who find themselves in the various institutions requiring the type of care that we pay these people to give. Generally speaking, when we pass this Bill it is only part of the way we are really going. I do not see that we have today the type of dedication as evident as one would wish to see it in the nursing profession as we saw in years past when people got little or nothing for what they did. The

midwives of the past ministered to the poor mother under circumstances which are too grievous for you and I to think of in terms of today and what is happening. 8.10 p.m.

As unskilled as some of them were in those days, nevertheless, they carried to their tasks that motherly touch and bearing that was so helpful to the mother-to-be in those hours of travail and trying. The type of counselling that was given to young persons is no longer available to them despite the fact that we have our Nursing Council with the type of expertise that we seek to portray, despite the fact that we spend millions on our health services and what not. Are we really and truly getting the best out of it all? How do you mean are we getting the best out of it all? Do we see the poor and suffering are getting better treatment than was meted out to them in the past? I am urging that Government upon the passing of this Bill should see to it that the Nursing Council and all the various bodies that might have some bearing on the nursing profession and the functioning and operation of the nursing profession generally, not setting about to put into effect disciplinary measures, because we have seen too much of a hoax too often when the occasion comes for such action to be taken. The people who should be punished are seldom ever punished, but nevertheless the sufferers have died leaving behind the burden for the taxpayers to carry.

We are hoping and praying that nurses, midwives, nurses' aides and assistants set about to respect the uniforms they will be wearing in the future. If they do this, I believe they will find in the long run that much of the respect which the profession has lost in most recent years can be regained, and I am urging this upon the members of the profession generally. I hope that no obstacles whatsoever will be put in the way of those persons who seek to register from time to time, and I hope that the avenues for training will be broadened generally and that due recognition will be given to those persons upon achieving a measure of efficiency which will bring credit to the profession as a whole, and in achieving this measure of efficiency we hope it will go a long way in bringing about relief to the suffering that we have in our midst from time to time.

I feel that the Bill is sufficiently far reaching, and what we do not like so much in a matter of this sort is that in our view Government should have taken steps to familiarise all practising nurses, midwives, nursing assistants and all who would become eligible for registration when this Bill is passed with the conditions which are to be enacted in this Bill. That is one of the things we do not like that is taking place in this country. It is all right for us to hear that the Nursing Council want this or that, but we have heard much in earlier debates about these various organisations, how they function, at what level they function in our society, but we know that the people to whom this Bill really means most know little or nothing about its existence or about the possibility of it coming about. We find that the Government is ready to get through with its passage but we still do not feel it is too late, and even if it is passed here tonight, as we believe it will be, there is still to my mind the opportunity for certain sections of the Bill to be publicised. The Government Information Office should be issuing notices from time to time informing people, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the various District Hospitals, copies could be posted, at the St. Joseph Hospital as well and all these institutions where nurses function, there should have been posted certain pertinent points of this Bill that would affect people. Had that been done, we do not say that these people would have been able perhaps to do something to avert any situation, but nevertheless, they would have had the opportunity at least of knowing what is coming about, and this is something that we urge upon the Government to give consideration to when measures of this sort are to be brought before this Hon. House.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill poses the same problems which were posed in the Bill dealing with the dental profession, in that the draftsman believes that the only person who can be registered as a nurse is a person of the female sex. 8.20 p.m.

The only person who can be registered as an aide or an assistant will be of the female sex. I would ask the Hon. Minister of Health to look at the Bill carefully, because I am aware that there are several male persons in our community today who started training as nurses at the old Barbados General Hospital and have now graduated into the higher realms of the profession. As this Bill stands it, in my opinion, prohibits the registration of any male personnel who may want to be trained as nurses, assistants or aides. The Interpretation Act of this country provides for the male to include the female as well, and I had hoped that the Draftsman, or the Minister of Health, would have seen this in view of the fact that we brought it to the attention of the House at the time when we were dealing with the Dental Registration Bill.

Another point that worries me considerably, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the fact that this Bill imposes certain obligations upon midwives to call on medical practitioners in certain cases. Now, we are all aware that it is rather difficult for anybody to get hold of a medical practitioner nowadays after five or six o'clock in the evening. Unless the Hon. Minister is going to tell this House what provisions are going to be made for the midwife to call upon a medical practitioner, or to call for the ambulance, as the Act envisages, then the midwife is going to find herself with a serious problem.

I would suggest to the Hon. Minister of Health that he gives immediate consideration to the question of setting up Emergency Medical Services in the respective Districts, or at the District Hospitals, with attendant medical practitioners on a 24-hour basis. In the absence of this, all the legislation we make with respect to midwives and what they shall do will not be effective.

There is no doubt about it that Barbadians are becoming very sophisticated. On Sunday, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was in the company of some ladies. One of them is expecting a baby in another two or three months. She said that she was trying to get an appointment with a gynaecologist and she has not succeeded in doing so for the last three months. She has decided that when the time comes whatever is to happen will happen.

Now, Clause 19 (1) of the Bill says that "a midwife shall....." I am not going to deal with this matter now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I will deal with it in Committee Stage. I am merely saying, at this stage, that the implications are great, and unless we can improve on the medical practitioner's availability, then all of the Acts we pass and the mandatory conditions we imply are not going to assist the community, and these things are going to work untold hardships upon the midwives. These things are going to cause frustration and anxiety on the part of the patients. I would very much like to hear from the Hon. Minister what provisions he is going to make in respect of the medical practitioners vis-a-vis the midwives after we have passed this Act, because I know that there is great concern throughout the country.

I agree with the hon. member for St. Peter that a Bill of this nature should have been circulated and posted in the various Institutions. There is, I understand, a school for training nurses situated in the Spooner's Hill District. A friend of mine always refers to this school as the school of one Dr. Wiggins. I should have thought that this school should be controlled as well. I do not believe in allowing any

private person to open a school and capitalise on the unemployed in this country who are looking to attain professional skills, and at the end of their training they find that their qualifications are not recognised by the proper Institutions of this Country. If you are talking of nurses and midwives, I would have thought that something relating to this school would have been included in this Bill.

For instance, a few weeks ago a young lady told me that she is attending the School of Nursing at Spooners Hill, and she wants to get into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital when she graduates. I asked her what recognition the school had acquired from the Ministry of Education, and she does not know. I want to know whether this school has acquired any recognition. Since we are really regulating the professional avenues in this country, why should we leave out this school?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very serious about this matter. I have been to New York as many times as I have fingers and toes in the last 18 months. I have met numerous West Indians who are in New York attending various schools, but those schools are attached to Hospitals. As I have said earlier in another discussion in this House, we have to give consideration to whether we are prepared to train persons who have not passed their School Leaving Certificate. The Hon. Minister of Education will jump up when I say what I am about to say. Of all the children going to secondary schools nowadays, you are only getting a 30% pass. The teaching in the schools is bad. The Hon. Prime Minister has said that he has given instructions to lower the number of certificates necessary to be admitted into the Government Service to two. Sometimes people join the Government Service on one certificate. I am going to say something now that is going to shock this House. At the St. Michael's Girls' School today there is a Mistress.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

May I interrupt. We are dealing with health and not education. 8.30 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am dealing with the training of personnel. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have to pass through certain training before you can get to the point of being trained as midwives. I am dealing with training from the infant stage, and I am saying that at St. Michael's Girls' School there is a mistress.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member still persisting with education.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am on health, and I am dealing with training.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

At St. Michael's Girls' School?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must be able to trace the development of training from infancy to the professional stage. Let us look at it this way. I am talking about Dr. Wiggins at Spooners Hill training people in nursing, and those are people who cannot get into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because they have not got school leaving certificates at "O" level. I am talking about the question of training before it reaches that stage, and I am saying that at St. Michael's Girls' School there is at least one particular

teacher who goes to the class and set mathematical problems and then cannot work them out. If you are going to get training from the basic stage to this level and if you find that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been advertising in the last month for people to be trained as midwives, it means that the quality of education is such that enough persons with the necessary qualifications are not available to be trained as midwives, and therefore the hospital has got to advertise in a country like ours where unemployment is at such a level that if you had the necessary training, there would be more applicants to be trained as midwives than there are places available.

I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the education from the basic level is bad, and the Minister has got to decide now what steps he is going to take in order to relieve this condition in respect of the number of qualifications necessary before you can be admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for training. As I said, there is a teacher at St. Michael's Girls' School setting mathematical questions on the board and then cannot work them out after. If you want to know the name, I can tell you. The children are complaining that the mistress comes into the form....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Please stick to health. No asides, please.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Health is giving me further information.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

He has the right of final reply.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also want to say that looking at the Bill as a whole, I agree with the regulations which are trying to enforce. We are trying to update the system which has existed, a system in which any woman who believed she knew enough about child birth was called upon to come and deliver somebody. The Minister of Health knows of the number of complications which have arisen because of this situation, but I am as much concerned as the Minister, himself about the system which exists today, and I am concerned about the training which the midwives are getting, because as the member for St. Peter has said, in a time like this it is a little bit of patience, a few kind words and basically the training which helps persons through a difficult period, and I would like to hear what provision the Hon. Minister is making in respect of medical assistance, and also what steps are going to be taken to enforce the registration of schools which profess to train persons in this particular field when in truth and in fact the training is not in conformity with what the Ministry would like to see. I am one who is against the number of institutions which are being set up in this country masquerading as institutions of learning, simply because every Barbadian today is striving for higher education. People are paying fantastic sums, \$300, \$400, \$500, \$600 for courses lasting no longer than three or four months at the end of which they are not fit for employment at any place. There are no repeats, no refund of fees, etc. and this is something which we must look at seriously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, every Bill which comes to this House which involves professional training I believe should have some sort of provision to deal with schools which set themselves up, and until the Government is prepared to do this, we are going to open ourselves to prostitution by get-rich-quick persons who believe they can set up a school and advertise, draw people's money, and what they are

doing is producing in the country unemployables. I personally do not believe that the incidence of unemployment is as high as it appears in this country. What I believe is that there is a great percentage of unemployables, people with half-baked qualifications who are made to believe that they have got a qualification and therefore they cannot start at the bottom, but should be employed among the top echelons in industry, but in truth and in fact, do not have the qualifications. I would like to hear the Hon. Minister on what is going to happen when we pass the Midwives section, and what we are going to do, because the Interpretation Act does not really provide for these cases where the nurses are referred to. The Registration Act provides for the male to mean the female, and I think we should still leave it open so that if there are male personnel who want to be trained as nurses they should be entitled to do so, and this Act should be amended in due course.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise simply to refer to two points made by the hon. member for St. Joseph, and I wish to rebut one comment which he made when he said that teaching in this Country is completely bad. I utterly reject that statement and on behalf of the teachers of this Country I wish to state that there is good teaching taking place in the schools. There may be bad teaching as well, but to come and condemn the whole profession is the type of exaggerated statement that does no good to the Country, no good to the teaching profession, and I am very surprised at the hon. member for St. Joseph who normally makes balanced statements that he should allow himself to be carried away by the hyperbole of his language on this occasion. As Minister of Education I completely reject the statement that teaching in this country is completely bad.

As far as the instance which he drew to the attention that there is a teacher at St. Michael's Girls' School who goes to the class room and sets problems on the black-board or wherever these problems are set and then cannot work out the solutions to these problems is concerned, I myself am not aware of this particular happening at that school and I will myself have this matter investigated to find out if there is any justification for the comment, and if there is, to see what remedial action should be taken thereon.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to point out to the hon. members on the other side that while any Government can make regulations and bring in bills, you cannot legislate for the behaviour of people in some instances. We can improve Bills and do a lot of things; we can improve teaching methods and so, but whenever we are finished the final matter rests in the hands of the individual after she has graduated, because if they do not have the right attitude towards their fellow citizens, you will find that a lot of the teaching and a lot of the laws would look like a waste of time. 8.40 p.m.

I would like to point out also that in the usual manner this Bill has been sent around to the representatives of nurses for their comments and suggestions. In fact, with this in mind, on the recommendation of the local Nursing Council and of other groups concerned with the nursing profession the Government requested Mr. Curran, a Canadian expert on health legislation, to examine the present Midwives and Nurses Registration Act in the light of recent developments, and out of these discussions which he had with these organisations this Bill came about.

As regards the question of male and female, maybe the legal draftsman is giving women their rights. It has been drawn to my attention that it might have been a draftsman giving women their rights who drafted the Bill giving preference to the female. Also clause (2) of the same Bill which is before us states

that a reference in this Act to a female person includes a reference to a male person, so I do not see why there should be any problem with a male person getting registered under this Act.

As regards the midwives, section 19 is quite specific. Section 19(a) states that a midwife shall call a medical practitioner to her assistance; or (b) cause the patient to be conveyed to a hospital, so if the midwife finds she is unable to obtain the services of a medical practitioner for one reason or another she can cause the patient to be conveyed to a hospital, and that conveyance can be an ambulance, taxi or anything else. We did not specify the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we say "a hospital", so this problem of what the midwife will do if she cannot get a doctor already has a solution. I am not trying to refute the hon. member's contention that doctors after a particular hour of the day are not available as one would like them, but I would like to point out that this is an entirely different matter and I do not seek at this Stage to indicate what should or should not be done to make this problem a lesser one within the light of the existing circumstances and conditions in Barbados. I may only point out by the way that in my conversation with some members of the medical profession I have asked them to consider setting up an emergency night service, and I believe some of them have taken rather kindly to this suggestion. How soon that will come about I cannot say.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the hon. member that it is the intention of this Ministry when the Bill has been passed both here and in the Other Place to send copies to institutions and other people in the nursing profession so that they will have it at their disposal. I would also like to point out that we will be moving an amendment to clause 30 - I believe that this amendment has already been circulated - and I would like members if they have not done so before to give some attention to this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Mrs. EASTMOND, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Parts I, II and III of the Bill were called and passed.

Part IV was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part IV stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am a bit confused over the drafting of section 21(3) (b). It says "Notwithstanding subsection (2) a person who -

(a) ; or

(b) is registered, licensed or otherwise entitled to practise as a nursing assistant, a nurse aide or under any other designation, the training for which is in the opinion of the Council equivalent to that of a nursing aide in Barbados, may apply to the Council to be enrolled and the Council may in its absolute discretion require the applicant to submit to examination in such subjects as it considers necessary to establish that she possesses satisfactory training as a nursing assistant."

I cannot understand this at all; this is contradictory however you read it. Why should that person still be liable to sit another examination if she is registered under the same conditions that exist in Barbados? That is highly contradictory, and if I were in that position I would not like to know that I am already licensed or registered with qualifications equivalent to those in Barbados and then have to come back to Barbados and may be liable at the discretion of somebody on a Council to sit another examination. It is always understood in legislation of this type that persons who acquire the qualifications equal to those in the country in which they seek to be registered are admitted without further examination, and I submit that this particular section is an onerous one. I know the Government is going to say they have 18 and they can vote, but I would ask the Minister to consider this not in the light of numbers now but consider it in the light of its relevance to the situation which exists, which the same section sets out, and see that it is certainly not proper to be here. You have to amend it somehow. You are asking a person who is entitled to be registered to sit another examination; there are crackpots who sit on these Boards and decide that if they do not like a person.....

8.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, you may remember that, while dealing with the Medical Practitioners Bill during the last session, a certain doctor came to Barbados and they refused to admit him to work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because he was trained in the United States. They asked him to sit an examination. As I have said, there are quite a number of persons who have been trained in the United States as nursing aides. If you have a Board and the members of that Board decide that they do not like the training done in certain countries, then the Board may embarrass applicants for a job, despite the fact that they have the necessary qualifications. You will not get the number of personnel you need unless something is done about this matter. If you read the Bill carefully, you will see that it is subjecting people to a double examination. I submit that the Hon. Minister should look at it carefully.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I wonder whether the hon. member has given any thought to what obtains in some of the neighbouring countries on the continent. I refer to the North and South American Continents where graduates from outside those countries are called upon by the professional bodies to take examinations, although the training which a foreign medical graduate may have had would be of an equal and sometimes a superior standard. In the United States they have the Education Council for foreign medical graduates, and it holds good for nurses and doctors. They are not obliged to

accept your medical qualifications when you go to the United States. They can ask you to take an examination, if you want to practise there. Why should we, at this stage, want to say that it should not be optional if the Council so desire to ask people to take an examination? I will make allowances for the

fact that there may be abuses here and there. In principle, why are we going to say that we should not be asking people to take an examination to satisfy us of their efficiency or proficiency?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, Clause 21(2) states

"For the purposes of subsection (1) a person is qualified to be enrolled as a nursing assistant who -

(a) has completed a course of training approved by the Council; and

(b) has passed the prescribed examination."

In other words, the Clause is saying that although you have completed the course prescribed by the Council, having passed the prescribed examination, when it comes to registration - this will be dealing with people who are working as nursing aides now, it can affect people who are working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now - the Council can still call on you to sit another examination. As it is set out here, it is certainly not a desirable section.

There is no doubt about it. This is copy drafting. Having copied something from another country's legislation, it was put here without studying what is involved. The Bill goes on to state:

"(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) a person -

(a) prior to the commencement of this Act has been engaged in the practice of nursing under conditions which the Council considers satisfactory to establish her qualifications as a nursing assistant; or

(b) is registered, licensed or otherwise entitled to practise as a nursing assistant, a nurse aide....."

You can still call on them to sit an examination. This is copy drafting and it is bad. They have copied something from a previous Act without looking at the implications of it.

I submit that something has to be done in this matter. I am not going to tell you what should be done to it, but I would know what to do with it. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say that the Council which is in existence in Barbados is setting a prescribed course, you sit an examination, and after this Act is passed the same Council or the Council which is appointed, can call on you to sit another examination.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

In view of the fact that the moment of interruption is nine o'clock, and this matter is developing to be controversial, although the Bill has been agreed to in principle, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill, which we are now considering, has been agreed to in principle so far as the Second Reading is concerned. It appears that it may develop to be controversial and, in view of the time, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing as follows:

AYES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WEEKES; Mrs. EASTMOND, and Mr. MORRISON - 9.

NOES:

Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN - 2. 9 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am to ask if this motion has been put properly before the House. I am sure you could not be on record as having put the motion after the bell was rung.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I put the question that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, the question was put that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended, and after it was put a division was called for. For a division, the bell must be rung and after that, you put the same question and the division is called for.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it does not appear to me as if this House will get any further. My contention is exactly what the hon. member who has just sat down is trying to teach you. What I am saying is that you put the question and a division was called for and the bell was rung. Your bounden duty after the bell was rung was to put the question again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

And that I did. Probably you did not hear.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee.

THE NURSES AND MIDWIVES (REGISTRATION) ACT, 1973

Part IV was called.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I hope that after the interruption the Government will see what I am trying to point out.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

On a point of order, I want to make a point of order under Standing Order No. 30 (6) because we are now in Committee of the whole House. This says

"In a debate on a Bill in Committee of the whole House, no Member may speak more than once on a clause or schedule, and a speech shall not exceed 15 minutes, provided that with leave of the Committee a Member may again be heard on a clause or schedule for a period or periods not exceeding 15 minutes."

If the member desires to speak again, he should seek leave. This is my interpretation and that is what I am urging Your Honour to rule on.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I was speaking when I was interrupted at the moment of interruption, and the Leader of the House asked leave to suspend the Standing Order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

The hon. member for St. Joseph spoke and took his seat on this clause, then the Minister replied when he said that this happened in other countries. The Minister did not rise on a point of order. He replied to the submissions made by the hon. member, and the member has no right to speak again on this clause except with leave of this Committee. It is true that at the time of the interruption by the Leader of the House the hon. member for St. Joseph was speaking, but he was speaking for a second time on the same clause on which he had already spoken, and to which the Minister had replied.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I thank the hon. member for drawing it to my attention, but at that moment I was in doubt with respect to a certain part of the Standing Order, but I realise in going back over Standing Order No. 30 that if a member speaks for only five minutes and sits he at once loses his right to speak again. Before I could

bring this matter to the notice of the hon. member, the moment of interruption came. Since this has happened, he has a right to speak again. That is my ruling.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not desire to speak any more.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I do not mind the hon. member speaking, but it should be with leave of the Committee.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, on what has the Minister risen?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

On a point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

He did not say so. You are not a mind reader. Mr. Chairman, all I would like to hear from the Minister is an idea of what the prescribed fee for nursing assistants is likely to be. If the Minister cannot give us an idea now as to what the fee is likely to be, we are not going to be able to support this Bill. We have seen too much of this already, and we cannot go on blindly supporting the principle of a Bill then to find that when the whip is put on people, blame is attached to the Opposition as having supported the Bill in the House of Assembly, and it is for this reason that we would like to know. Whilst we agree with the registration of these nurses, midwives and nursing assistants, surely the Minister must have in mind what the prescribed fee is likely to be. 9.10 p.m.

The question that Part IV stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mrs. EASTMOND, Mr. MORRISON and Mr. WEEKES - 8

NOES:

Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN - 2. Clause 30 was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that clause 30 be amended, and that the new clause 30 as circulated be substituted.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the amendments as circulated be made to clause 30.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that clause 30 as amended stand part.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, they have to move that Part V stand part. If you put clause 30 as amended, clause 30 is part of Part V and you cannot come back to put Part V, you have to put that Part V as amended with clause 30 stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is absolutely correct. I beg to move that Part V as amended stand part.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the question of examinations. I believe that in our present nursing setup there are some people who have taken examinations from time to time and who have found themselves having to sit over such examinations. There are cases I believe I can point to where people have been known to go to the examination room to take the examination, the persons who sat on their right and on their left have got their results and the papers for them cannot be found. That is what has been going on here, and there are cases where some of these people have been trying for as much as three years to trace the whereabouts of their examination papers and no trace can be found of them.

I am speaking about the Government institutions, persons working at the District Hospitals. What is going to be the position when this Bill comes into effect with these people who are seeking registration? It has been established that they have taken the examination and through no fault of their own the examination papers cannot be brought to light. What is going to be the position of those persons who have been trying for as long as I have said, almost three years, to trace their papers to know what their true position is? And even when it has been suggested that they take the examination over again and they have willingly submitted themselves to sit the examination - which is unfair in my view - no effort is really made on the part of those in authority to bring the matter to finality. 9.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that not one of us in this Honourable Chamber would like to know that we have taken an examination and the results are not forthcoming, whether good or bad. One likes to know what has been one's measure of success in any examination. That is the purpose of taking the examination. We can only, at this stage, express our disgust at this type of behaviour on the part of those

responsible for conducting these examinations. The invigilators must be charged with some sort of neglect, although we must say that at no time has it been established that the persons who took the examination did not hand over their papers to the invigilator. It must be accepted, for all practical purposes, that the examination was taken in all good faith, in all honesty, and so on. People take these examinations because they want to be in the stream for promotion, and they want to earn more money. This is now the day of reckoning, Mr. Chairman, with the coming into force of this Bill. What will be the position of those people? Are you going to wait until the eve of the coming into force of this Bill to call on these people to sit an examination again overnight? So long as it has been established that all of those persons took the examination at a time when it was convenient to themselves, it showed that they made an effort to prepare themselves for consideration when the time for promotion came. The time has now come, and we are asking that the Government accord them the necessary registration to which they are entitled upon the assumption that they have passed the examination.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a matter that took place yesterday. After certain people had received results of the examination, the others endeavoured to find out what had happened to their papers. Everybody took the examination at the same Institution, but nobody appears to know what has gone wrong with the papers. In the light of the work these people have done and the anxiety they have suffered as a result of the inability to find their papers, together with the fact that they have given service equal to the others, I feel that they are entitled to registration and equal status with all of those who sat the examination with them and got the results that they had passed. I hope that the Minister will take this into consideration when the time comes to give these people what is their due.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I move that Section 24(1) (a) be amended to read "is convicted of an offence outside Barbados which if committed in Barbados would be punishable on indictment; or"

This is another case of incorrect copying of legislation from another country without the draftsman fully realising what is happening. I want to see whether the Government will oppose this amendment.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is absolutely correct. The word should be "if" instead of "is". I just want to point out that, in typographical errors of this nature, when the Attorney-General is asked to give his Certificate before the assent of the Governor-General is required, these matters are corrected at that stage. If the errors are spotted here they should be corrected here. I understand that the correction has been circulated already.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, let me get something straight. After the Dental Registration Bill left the Committee of this House the Government has tampered with it. If this Bill is passed by a Committee of this House, no Attorney-General has any authority to amend anything passed by this House. It is not a question of when any Certificate is given. Everything has to be corrected in this House. If it is passed in this House in this form, then you cannot correct anything in it outside, because it would not be the Bill as passed by this House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member does not seem to understand the

procedure. After this Bill has passed both Houses of Parliament, it is sent to the Attorney-General for a Certificate to indicate that it is in order for the assent of the Governor-General. The Attorney-General goes through the entire Bill and, if there are any typographical errors, those errors are corrected and the Bill is sent to the Governor-General for his assent. That is the point I am making. I believe that any changes to be made should be made here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The question is that ...

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister will reply to the question raised about the people who took the examination? That is a very important matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is a motion before the House.

Mr. HINDS:

All right, put the motion.

The question that the word complained of be deleted, and the word "if" substituted therefor was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 9.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to draw to the attention of the Committee that there are certain corrections which have been circulated, and I intend to move at the end that the corrections be inserted in their respective places. I will move that the entire list be incorporated as circulated.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, if there are corrections to the Bill, as soon as the Bill is introduced the Corrigenda is put first. If it is not put then, it has got to be incorporated in Committee stage. As I have said before, procedure in this House is falling apart. It is not a question of saying that the Corrigenda has been circulated; it has to form part of the Bill and be incorporated by vote of the Committee, and unless it is done it does not form part of the records.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not rising to make any speech; it is just for our own betterment I believe you will appreciate. This Bill is supposed to have been published in the Official Gazette of the 12th March and I would like to see a copy of the Official Gazette to see if it has been published, because I have been trying to get an Official Gazette of the 12th March, and I think I am right in saying that an Official Gazette for 12th March was not published. The same thing applies to the Official Gazette for 15th March which was not published up to 11.10 a.m. on the 16th March. That is the kind of thing we are having in here and I am urging on this Honourable House not to proceed with the passing of this Bill until we are satisfied that it did appear in the Official Gazette of 12th March which was published on that date.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I will support the hon. member for St. Peter. This is why I moved the correction of the Section, because if the Bill is alleged to have been published and the Corrigenda has not been moved into the Bill at the beginning, it does not form part, and the Leader of the House should know this. It is no use getting up at this point and saying that this was circulated. This should have been incorporated before we proceeded with the Bill in Committee, but that has not been done. There is no record to show that this has been done; so now that we have finished and have not corrected the Bill, we cannot incorporate this after; so the procedure has got to be right.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, as long as the House is in Committee, we can have these corrections done.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, the Hon. Leader of the House is wrong. He would have to ask for a recommittal of the various sections of the Bill in order to get them in now. If this has not been done at the beginning, you have to recommit those parts in order to get the corrections in. This is now procedural. This is very complicated. When you ask for the first reading of a Bill, that is the time the Bill is printed and published. If the Official Gazette in which the Bill is alleged to have been published has never been published, then the Bill has no right before the House. Over and above that, if the Corrigenda has been circulated and has not been introduced into the Bill and the various parts have been passed, then the Corrigenda does not form part of the Bill, and what has been passed is what is in the present Bill before us. You therefore cannot correct this unless (a) you go back and recommit the various parts of the Bill and (b) you explain away the non-publication of the Gazette which allows for notification to the Country that the Bill is going to be passed.

I will go further and say that these Bills have not even been reaching members of the Opposition. We have not been getting papers until long after the time. It happened tonight and I drew it to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition that in order to reduce a Resolution you have to give 24 hours' notice. Resolutions which were circulated came into my office at 12.20 p.m. yesterday, and therefore if I wanted

to reduce any item on the Resolution, it would not have been in conformity with the Standing Orders because the Resolutions were delivered well after the 24 hour period required in the Standing Orders. As I said, the Government is riding rough shod through the whole procedure, and this is what has happened. I made this specific point of correcting this one section to point out what is happening. I should have waited until you had passed it, but I did not, and this is something that has got to be corrected.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part IV be recommitted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am asking if this Bill is properly before the House, it having appeared in the Official Gazette on the 12th March that did not appear. This does not say that it appeared in the Official Gazette of the 12th March; the Official Gazette of 12th March could have appeared on the 13th or 14th for that

matter, but this says that it appeared in the Official Gazette on the 12th March, and on the 12th March there was no Official Gazette. This could not be properly before this House; so I do not see how we can proceed with the Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I have checked with the Clerk as to whether the Bill has been duly advertised in the Official Gazette, and I have been told that it did appear on the 12th March. It probably reached the hands of members the next day, but there was a Gazette on the 12th March. I am repeating what I was told. I have tried to check this. Just as the member is saying that there was no Official Gazette, what proof does he have on that? Can he prove a negative? The hon. member is saying that there was no Official Gazette on 12th March. I suppose the hon. member would have to ask for the Official Gazette of 12th March to be produced. I have not got a copy handy.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not here making fun. I have given the Leader of the House more assistance than he seems to appreciate. I told him further that we have the Appropriation Bill appearing in the Official Gazette on the 15th March, and that up to 11.10 a.m. today the Official Gazette which is supposed to have appeared on 12th March has not appeared. In other words, I did not reject in respect of the Gazette of 15th March. I went further to see if I could have got one that was supposed to have appeared on 15th March. 9.40 p.m.

I understand from the Clerk that he went to the Government Printery and he saw the form for the Official Gazette was being set up, I believe on the stone, but if I set up all the forms in the world and keep them on the stone in my plant I have not published anything, and the law requires the publication of the Official Gazette, not the setting up and keeping on a stone. I believe that the Leader of the House knows how to appreciate the niceties of language, so when the Clerk tells him this and that he understands what the Clerk means and he should not try to make hon. members look foolish. I am saying here that I carried out a check and on the 12th March.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member for ten minutes is trying to say I am misleading somebody. I merely repeated what the Clerk told me. What we have to do is to suspend the sitting for fifteen minutes and check on the Official Gazette.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Leader of the House understands what I am saying. This Order Paper says that this Bill first appeared in the Official Gazette on the 12th March. That is not true, because you did not have an Official Gazette coming out on the 12th March; it was in preparation. If you go up to the Government Printery now you will see that they keep a standing form to put in the necessary changes from day to day, but that does not mean that they published the Gazette on the 12th March. This is the House of Assembly we are dealing with, the highest court in the land, and it is not good enough.

The Clerk has carried out his functions, that is, the Bill having been tabled and given its first reading here, it is the Clerk's duty to get it to the Government Printery as soon as possible so that it will appear in the next Gazette. The Clerk has performed his functions, he has done what was expected of him. He

having gone there for it to appear on the 12th, he goes ahead and prepares his work and the Government Printery undertakes to print this, but we have discovered that all this has not been fulfilled. This is serious business we are dealing with.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I must support the hon. member on this because I said in this House that due to the lateness of papers arriving to members of the Opposition - at least I can say that in my case - we cannot make any great contributions to debates, and I suggested that at the same time the Bills were introduced we should be given copies. I was told that it is only on the introduction of a Bill which is the first reading can authority be given for the printing of the various Bills or resolutions and the publication thereof. This is what the situation has come to at this point, that Bills are prepared but really not published.

I have to support the hon. member for St. Peter that we have found ourselves in this serious situation which makes the whole Chamber look like nonsense, and if we keep on eroding the rules and regulations of the House we will soon become a joke Parliament. We have now to recommit Part IV and I am bound to be able to talk on Part IV again, and I am saying now that I am going to lobby the members of the Senate to send back the Bill. Part IV is not correct, it is copied legislation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, from what I have been trying to check, I think we are still checking, but it is rather late and in order to be doubly sure of what the hon. member has raised - and it is a very important matter - although the printing of the Official Gazette has actually taken place, the hon. member is saying that copies are not available. In fairness to the hon. members we have to move that further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I do not want you to second anything, man.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House is taking this as a joke, but I will tell him like the former Minister of Communications and Works that I did not come in here in a boxcart. One thing I say is when senility steps into, old age it is time people go home and take their beds. I still praise God that I have my wits and senses, and unless you bring yourself to your senses in this House you and I will clash. I have respected you, Mr. Leader of the House, from 1947-48 when I first knew you. I taught you agriculture when you were the first Minister of Agriculture in the Barbados Labour

Party Government, and I respected you, but you are going one bit too far now and I am warning you now unless you come to your senses you and I are going to clash in this House even if I have to go out. Get it straight, that numbers do not mean power, common sense nor sanity, and this is the people's Parliament. If you drink and do not understand when you come in here to be careful when you are talking to me.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I would like the hon. member to withdraw what he just said. I simply said I did not need him to second anything I moved.

Mr. BOLDEN:

And I do not need you to move anything because you do not understand what is going on in this House. You have passed the age of reasoning and understanding, and I want you to understand that when I get up in the House I am not making any jokes. I can walk out of here tomorrow and be as comfortable as I am now. Get it straight.

The question that further consideration of this Bill be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. Chairman left the Chair and Mr.

DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 20th March at 10.30 a.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 9.50 p.m.