THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th March, 1973.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.30 a.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (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); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. A. MORRISON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.) (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:
The Minutes of this Chamber for Tuesday, 13th March, 1973, are before you for confirmation, and if there are no corrections, or alterations, the Minutes will be confirmed.

There being none, the Minutes are hereby confirmed.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following-

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations 1973.

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

Report on the audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, 1 beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Offences against the Person Act, 1868.

BILLS READ A FIRST T1ME

On the motion of Hon. C. E. Talma, seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, a Bill to amend the Offences against the Person Act, 1868, was read a first time.

Mr. SPRINGER entered the Chamber and took his seat.

STATEMENT FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, at the last sitting of this Chamber on Friday, the hon. member for St. Joseph stated inter alia that he had requested certain information from Government Ministers during the debate on the Estimates last year and that that information had not been forthcoming. In particular, he stated that he had requested information on the charges for electricity supplied at the National Stadium and that the Minister responsible had not supplied that information.

I wish in order to set the records straight to state that a statement relating to the cost of electricity supplied at the National Stadium was laid by me on the 18th July, 1972, in this Chamber.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS and Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took their seats.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 74, asked by the hon. and learned member for St. Joseph, is ready.

Mr. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, two meetings ago I indicated that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 64, asked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, was ready.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I rise on what 1 presume may be considered a point of order. I personally would be very grateful and so would the Clerks of the House if when a motion is being seconded, that someone would say he is seconding the motion. There is a general reluctance in Barbados to stand when the National Anthem is being played. When a person who is entitled to some kind of recognition, let us say the Governor General or the Prime Minister enters a room on a particular occasion, people tend to haunch their shoulders and be reluctant to stand up.

When a motion is being seconded, I think the member should rise in his place so that the Clerk would know who has seconded the motion, and he should say "I second the motion". I hope that during the course of this debate that there will be no repetition of that kind of indiscipline that I have experienced during my twenty-two years in this Chamber off and on. There is also a reluctance in Barbados to look people in the face when you are speaking to them. I would be grateful if they would look at the Speaker or the Chairman of Committees and address the Chair when they are speaking because nerves are going to be frayed during the course of the next five days, and if we have a certain amount of discipline and decorum during the conduct of these debates, I think we will get through a lot more quickly. I personally on this side do not accept somebody sitting in his place and nodding his head as being the seconder of any kind of motion, and when the Speaker puts the question "those in favour should say "Aye", members should not be ashamed to say that they are in favour of a motion and if they are against it, they should so indicate by the negative expression.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not a point of order, what is a point of Order?

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what is the hon. member now rising?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, you seem to have entertained some doubt as to whether that was a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I was simply drawing to your attention that a point of order must be made succinctly and left there. It must not be made the pretext of a speech. You have made your point of order.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this sitting as has been stated on numerous occasions by the Prime Minister since a week or so ago, has been set down to consider the Annual Estimates for 1973-74. 10.40 a.m.

I take it that all hon. members have received their copies and have come prepared to consider the Annual Estimates, the Appropriation Bill and the appropriate resolution as has been the custom in the past. The question of the suspension of Standing Orders does not necessarily arise, but now I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 21, 44 and 49 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. As the Clerk informs me, those are the new Standing Orders which have to be suspended in order to enable the Government to proceed with Government Business and to suspend Private Members' Business and Question Time at the appropriate time as laid down in the revised Standing Orders.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, this is the first time, as far as I know, that Standing Orders have been suspended in the new dispensation, and I would be very glad if hon. members could have just a brief opportunity to see which Standing Orders would be suspended. No notice has been given to the Opposition.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
Notice is not necessary.

Mr. ADAMS:
I am not suggesting this, but I am just asking before Your Honour puts the question that hon. members have a chance to see the several Standing Orders. One may wonder why Standing Order 21 is suspended; what is the point of suspending Standing Order 21?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Is the hon. member finished?

Mr. ADAMS:
One may also wonder what is the point of suspending Standing Order 44 which states "No bill shall be read a second time until it has been printed and circulated to Members and has been published in the Official Gazette." Is it intended that some Bill is going to be offered to the House in the course of this sitting which has not been printed, published or circulated to hon. members? What is the point of suspending an Order dealing with the second reading of Bills? Also, what is the point of suspending Standing Order 49, because as I see it, the procedure on the Appropriation Bill is already a special procedure - procedure in Committee of Supply - and it is unnecessary in my suggestion to suspend Standing Order 49.

I do not know if the Hon. Mover of the motion would like to justify the suspension of any given Standing Order. Even the question of 9 o'clock, I do not think we can meet past 10 o'clock. For a long time there has been a formula that you just call out certain numbers, and I do not believe the Leader of the House really knows which Standing Orders he is suspending.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Is the Hon. Leader of the House offering a reply?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, we have looked at the matter more thoroughly and on this occasion it may not be necessary to suspend Standing Orders 44 and 49, so therefore I am moving that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20 and 21 be suspended during the consideration of the Annual Estimates, I beg leave to withdraw the previous motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:
There being no dissenting voices, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20 and 21 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting and for the duration of the consideration of the Estimates.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 10.50 a.m.

Rt. Han. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, I apologise for the delay. I have detected some faulty arithmetic in the Appropriation Bill, and I am having it checked.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister explained, we arc checking certain Items in the Appropriation Bill in relation to the figures.

I beg to move that Item No. 3 be the next Order of the Day. It is to move the resumption of consideration of a Bill to repeal the Midwives and Nurses Registration Act, 1932 and make new provision for the registration of nurses and midwives and for the enrolment of nursing assistants and for connected purposes. We want to deal with this Bill in order to complete what we attempted to do on the last occasion on Friday, 16th March, 1973.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER:
Item No. 3 is now the instant Order of the day.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES (REGISTRATION) ACT, 1973

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, 1 beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume in Committee on this Bill.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, has the Bill been given a Second Reading?

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.

Resumption of Part 1 V was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, the last time we were dealing with this Bill we were considering the recommittal of Part 1V with the object of facilitating the corrigenda which had, unfortunately, been neglected at the beginning of the Bill. I will now take this opportunity to ensure that the corrections, as circulated to hon. members, are moved into the Bill at this stage.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I think that, when further consideration of this Bill was postponed on the last occasion, it was due to the fact that it had been drawn to the attention of the Committee that the Bill was not properly before the House. I think that before we can take another step in this respect, we should satisfy ourselves that what was then pointed out to be wrong had been corrected, or some attempt to disprove that it was wrong. It is high time that you stop Ministers, members of the Opposition, and everybody else from making a mockery of this Parliament.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
I have here a copy of the Official Gazette of the 12th March, 1973, together with a Bill to repeal the Nurses and Midwives Registration Act, 1932-1 and to make new provision for the registration of midwives and for the enrolment of nursing assistants and for connected purposes. If it is your desire to see the documents, I will make them documents of the House. 11 a.m.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Minister has produced a copy of the Official Gazette which is now in your hands. My contention is that the Order Paper specifically states that this Bill appeared in the Official Gazette on 12th March, 1973, and I am saying that there was no Official Gazette published in Barbados on 12th March, and I am willing to go on oath in this respect.

Mr. WALCOTT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

The point I want to make is that we must not encourage people in the Printery or in any other part of the Service to be corrupt, and I maintain that there was no Official Gazette for 12th March published on the 12th March.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, there is a well known legal principle that an official document is presumed to be published on the date that appears on the face of it. In the absence of any evidence that the document

was not published on 12th March, this House will have to take notice of the fact that it was published on 12th March. This is a simple legal principle, so as far as this House is concerned, the Official Gazette had been published on 12th March.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Point well taken.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I ask for leave that the following corrections be made as follows -

Page 16 Clause 21(3) (b) Line 1. Delete the word "is" appearing immediately after the word "which".

Page 18 Clause 24(1) (a), Line 2. Delete the word "is" appearing immediately after the word "which" and substitute the word "if" therefor.

Page 19 Marginal Note for Clause 25 - Delete the word "practise" appearing in Line 2 of the Marginal Note for Clause 25 and substitute the word "practice" therefor.

Page 21 Clause 29 (3) (a) Line 6. Delete the word "affected" and substitute the word "effected" therefor.

I beg to move that Clause 4 as amended stand part.

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 5 as amended stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
I beg to second that.

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

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUS SON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill with amendments in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, seconded by Mrs. EASTMOND, the Bill as amended was read a third time.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, the Bill was passed.

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 1973

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill for expenditure for the financial year, 1973-74, and the purpose for moving the second reading of the Bill is to allow the House to go into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the current year. This is a time at which a fairly exhaustive review of the workings of the various departments of Government is undertaken by the House. It is not the time when the fiscal and economic policies of the Government are necessarily in question, because the debate on the Budget is a more appropriate occasion for an exercise of that kind. I have taken the trouble to circularise members with a copy of the memorandum on the Estimates so that they would be able to review in a comparatively short time without ploughing through the perhaps 150 pages of the Draft Estimates. The figures which have been presented here are for revenue and expenditure. What does emerge however from our presentation this year, is that we have the largest figure of expenditure ever in the history of Barbados, and this is natural because from year to year costs are rising, salaries are rising, revenue is rising and expenditure is rising. We have also the largest figure for estimated revenue, and at the same time we have the largest figure ever demonstrating the gap between estimated expenditure and estimated revenue.

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat

In many respects it is a record-breaking Estimate in that we are spending more money than ever as a Government. The Government is now the largest spender. As a matter of fact, I should like to say that a lot of people in this country seem to regard Government as the last of the big spenders. 11.10 a.m.

Government can only derive its expenditure, the money which it spends, from the people who live in the country and subscribe towards society. In other words, every single living person in Barbados of working age, whether he lives on rents and royalties or whether he actually works for his living, has got to contribute to the public sector, and in the public sector the money contributed by the people of Barbados is redistributed on the basis of maximum social advancement, for welfare services, for

communications and for works. By that I mean the roads, water and all the other services which the community provides collectively for the better enjoyment of living standards by everyone, and we also provide for those members of our society who are living outside of the society but who still have requirements and demands to be fulfilled, and who we hope at some time will return to contribute towards the economic growth of the society itself.

The statutory expenditure this year is of the magnitude of some $55 million, and by statutory expenditure I mean those items which are fixed by law and upon which the House either this year or at some time in the past will have deliberated already, such as the Civil Establishment Orders dealing with salaries. These amounts have been fixed by law and they amount to some $55 million. The total Other Expenditure is of the magnitude of some $88 million. There is a sum of some $43 million under Capital Expenditure which is the highest amount of Capital Expenditure ever to be voted in the history of the island, and this Capital Expenditure will not necessarily be made by contributions, so that the Bill upon which 1 have risen to move the second reading is for a total amount to be appropriated of $131,738,496. The total Current Expenditure as will be seen is estimated at $140,687,591 but the appropriations are for $88 million on Current Account, because the rest is fixed by law and we do not have to appropriate that in the second reading.

If you look at page (viii) in the Draft Estimates, Mr. Speaker, you will see the picture set out a little more clearly. You will see the Total Expenditure of $140,687,591, then you will see Recurrent Expenditure $131,538,520, and then Statutory Expenditure $53,955,989. We arc not voting that amount in the Appropriation Bill because we have already dealt with that. Then you will see Other Expenditure which is $88,233,696 - and I would like the Clerk to correct that now -. the amount printed is $86,731,602 but that is incorrect. It will be set out in the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill. If you go down further at the end of Post Office, which is the last entry, you will see there $88,233,696, and that is the Other Expenditure which has not been fixed by law. On the next page you will see the Schedule containing the Capital Estimates which will be $43,505,800. The total Appropriation Bill is what is set out before members, $131,738,496. The figures do not extend to Recurrent Expenditure under column 2 of page (viii) of the Draft Estimates, so I do not want hon. members to be confused.

We are not entitled to discuss $55 million which has already been appropriated and is not in the Appropriation Bill because that will be reflecting on votes of the House. What we are here to examine is the Other Expenditure, or non-statutory expenditure, and that covers certainly a very wide area, almost every single item of Government expenditure, even although a lot of it has been within statutory expenditure already. There is no restriction on debate within the confines laid down by the Standing Orders of the House. We are not discussing statutory expenditure which has already been dealt with, but the figures are very close together and they tend to confuse hon. members who have not been initiated into the mysteries of the conduct of the Estimates.

Having cleared that, I should go on to just one or two things without in any way detracting from the debate. The Capital Expenditure of $43 million which will come towards the end of the debate contains money for airport development, for the Ministry of Education for its expansion programme, for the Ministry of Communications and Works and also for the Ministry of Housing. They are four binding areas of the economy - agriculture, education, housing and airport development - because the airport development affects tourism. 11.20 a.m.

The amount which we arc spending on Capital at the Airport this year, large as is may seem, is below the estima ted revenue from the Airport this year. 1 have informed the House before, and I will repeat it now, that the Seawell International Airport Development Plan calls for a budget of over $40 million Eastern Caribbean Currency, and a substantial amount of that money will be secured from the Government of Canada, for which I already have an undertaking for a very long-term loan at a very reasonable rate of interest, far more generous than any loan that we have ever secured from any

Government other than the Canadian Government for any project since the beginning of Parliamentary Government in this Country.

On our Capital Programme, we are spending money apart from the welfare aspect on projects which will be generating new income for the Country. I have been through the Development Plans three or four times trying to eliminate those projects which, while they may appear to be spectacular and may be very good window-dressing, do not yield a tangible or assessable economic or social return to the community. I should like to assure hon. members that, if I had not pruned the submissions which had come up from the various Ministries on Capital Account three or four times, the projected Capital Expenditure would have been a lot higher than $431/2 million.

I also wish to say that 1 cannot reduce the projects any further, if we are not to do violence to the level of employment and the fulfilment of the Government's Development Plan, but we shall have to watch our Capital Expenditure very carefully. There are other large-scale projects in the private sector which are likely to be initiated during the current financial year, and we have to look at the absorptive capacity of this Country from the point of view of our man power availability and our sub-professional capability apart from the financial aspect to see whether we can really carry out this Programme without wasting Government money.

I want to make my position clear. I have reduced the Capital Programme to what the Ministries considered the very bone, and when we come to discuss the Capital Estimates, members will see that it is almost impossible to reduce them any further. It is possible that all of these projects will have to be started in the financial year 1973-74, but from the man power point of view, of man-power budgeting and from the absorptive capacity on the several different fronts that I have enumerated just now of this Country to carry out these projects, I am extremely sceptical, in view of our performance last year when we spent $20 million or $23 million, that we can spend $43 million on Capital Projects usefully this year. These are merely estimates.

I am not an actuary, neither am I an engineer. Costs have risen; people have written in for 40% increase in wages, and we would have to apply to last year's figures to get a comparison of what the magnitude of construction and Capital Expenditure is this year as compared with last year. I have not yet done that exercise. I can do it during the course of the week, but I can inform hon. members now that, from what I can see, by the 31st March we would have spent $23 million on Capital Expenditure. If we apply the necessary modifications for the next financial year from the 1st April, we may come out with a figure of $31 million or $32 million. I am still extremely sceptical that we can spend $43 million usefully. You can have dreams of what you want to do; you may even have the money to do it, but if you do not have the foremen, the draughtsmen, the artisans, the engineers and the architects - the unskilled labour you can always find - if you do not have the school teachers, and the accountants to make sure that the money is not wasted, you may find that what I have been saying is important.

If you give me $100 million to spend, as a Prime Minister, I could spend it, but only $14 million of that may be usefully spent. I am very concerned to see that every penny of the money that goes into the capital projects of Barbados is spent in a way in which we can see it. That is why I am not in favour of accepting any aid from the United States of America when most of the money goes to contractors back in the United States, etc. We have to reject a loan of $7 million, because from every $10,000 spent we would only be getting about $2,300 in a house. You could spend money that way, especially if it is

Government's money in the U.S.A. as if it were going out of fashion, but in a small community like this, you have to be very careful. So much for the Capital Estimates. I will deal with them in greater detail, but I want to make my position clear. I am not saying that these projects are not worthy of the support of the House, but what I am saying is that we have to watch expenditure very carefully and I would not be surprised if we do not attain more than 75% of the target. This is my humble opinion, but because some projects have to start late and some may start early, it has been extremely difficult for me to reduce the amount of capital expenditure realistically below the figure which has been projected in the Draft Estimates of Capital Expenditure.

But turning back now to the other expenditure, the Recurrent Expenditure in other words, we will see that there has been a rise of some $33 million between the revised expenditure, not the actual expenditure, because we have not got the out-turn figures for 1972-73 as yet. 11.30 p.m.

I would say that a substantial portion of that increase is due to the recent increase and revision of salaries and wages in the public service. Some of it will come back to the Government in the way or taxation, but we have made some kind of allowance for that. There has been a rise in the non-recurrent expenditure, of course because equipment, furniture and matters of that kind had to be replaced at increased cost and the non-recurrent expenditure is to the magniture of $9 million, but the recurrent expenditure is $131 million, and the total is $140 million, an increase of some $33 million.

I will have a little more to say at a later stage on the question of salaries and wages, but this would not be appropriately dealt with at this stage because I still have my financial statement and budget to deliver, and I will have an occasion within the next few days to discuss the public service generally, not necessarily in a hypercritical way, but I did not say not in a critical way, because I must be critical; but one must never leave people in such a posision that they can never get back to base; you never cut the limb from under them. I have a lot to say because I am a taxpayer. Probably I pay more taxes than anybody else in this House, and therefore I should be entitled to say a lot more than any other member. If you are going to quantify your propensity to talk by the amount you have to contribute, then I should have a lot to say.

I will not say anything more on that subject at this stage, but those members who have read the recent publications from the Carifta Secretariat, will remember that it was pointed out in the most recent publication that every time the West Indian Governments appear to be on the road to increasing savings from the public sector as distinct from private savings, this advance or achievements are swallowed up by the demands of the public service for increased wages, so that public savings never catch up with national goals and targets, and set off a spiral in the private sector which also diminishes the total volume of savings from that source. As far as Barbados is concerned, we are not saving enough money. There is no question about that. The Inter American Development Bank has said so. Dr. Havelock Brewster, Lecturer in Economics at the University of the West Indies said so in no uncertain terms in a publication of December 1972. The Inter American Committee for the Alliance for Progress in their country's review said so, and every outside independent body which has examined the national accounts of Barbados has come to the conclusion that we are spending too much and saving too little, and that includes the Government. In other words, Government should be also borrowing a lot more money they claim than we are borrowing at the moment, and they have actually accused us of kind of monetary conservatism.

When we have to deal with the kind of assaults with which we are confronted every three years from the National Union of Public Workers Organisation and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Association or whatever they are called - they change their name from time to time depending, I suppose, on the complexion of the President - We have to exercise a certain amount of caution in our borrowing, because we may find ourselves if we do not watch out, but not as long as I am Minister of Finance, borrowing from current account which is a disastrous policy to pursue, but if we left it to some of the people we have to deal with, then we would find ourselves in this very unsatisfactory position.

When you sum up the whole situation, we are spending a lot of money, we are paying people bigger salaries, we are paying more wages, we are spending more on education, some $35 million approximately, but we regard education as an investment. I should like to feel comfortable that the teachers are giving us the kind of quality of service and teaching that would justify the expenditure of such a large sum on current account, as $35 million on education, not to speak of course of the $7 million in capital to build new schools and provide promotional opportunities for the same teachers who do not appear to be as dedicated to the upliftment of the intellectual and other standards of society as they should be. I should like to make it clear that I have no objection to spending money and asking people to contribute by way of taxation, provided I am satisfied that you are getting some kind of return on what should be an investment by the community in the future of the country.

1 do not get alarmed by the magnitude of figures because figures are relative things. When I assumed control of the finances of this Country some twelve years ago, we were only spending $24.6 million on current account. When I used to go to elementary school, they said "throw away one" or "throw away three" and then you brought it back in somewhere. You used to put it on the right hand corner of your slate. We have thrown away the $24.6 million now, because this was all that was spent in 1961-62 in Barbados. We have thrown that away now because we are spending $140 million on current account and another $43 million on capital account. Of course we do not intend throwing away any money; I am only speaking in parables to compare the astronomical rise in Government expenditure in a short decade or slightly more as we carried out these exercises. I think probably we are in the last House of Assembly as I look around in which every single member has been to an elementary school. 11.40 a.m.

I do not think that after the next elections you are going to find that every member of the House has been to an elementary school. That must be some kind of indictment on the standard of the people that the people do not want their children to go to elementary schools any more. I will deplore the fact that we will have a House so constituted, but we are spending $35 million on Education and we have to ask ourselves whether we are getting a proper return for that expenditure, especially as far as the people who are teaching in our schools are concerned. I am very serious about this, because I have been dealing with people who teach at every possible level, and when I interview the university lecturers from time to time on various matters concerning finance, I am flabbergasted at their complete ignorance of the realities of life. Maybe the Minister of Education can give us some assurance later on that something is being done about the quality of the people that we are lavishing $35 million on, and I do not mean necessarily that they have to be university graduates, because we see what is happening with the university.

We are spending $35 million on education which is 25% of our total recurrent expenditure, and I have already alluded to the national debt, and I think that something like 7% which under Head 12 is attributed to Charges of Debt is too low for a developing country and I have been fortified recently by the reports to which I have made reference earlier in my discussion. I think that I am the one person who

treats this House with a certain amount of courtesy, perhaps sometimes which I think it does not deserve, because I always make certain basic assumptions, the first and most important being that they have done their homework, and that when I circulate a memorandum with the Estimates I expect them to read it. I also treat them with a greater courtesy, that having assumed that they have read the memorandum on the Estimates I assume that they understand, and with these two basic assumptions I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage to say anything more on this second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Having explained the difference between the money which is already voted, in other words the statutory expenditure, the Capital expenditure and the other or non-statutory expenditure, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, the Appropriation Bill for 1973-74 bears all the features which the Prime Minister has claimed for it in his opening speech. A very great expansion of expenditure and of revenue, but where on the one hand he looks back to the days when the expenditure was $26 million and indicates that the fact that the expenditure is now $140 million is a mark of progress and nothing else, I also say that it is a mark of inflation and waste, but I am not going to anticipate the budget speech either, although I would like to say, having read the Estimates, I have a sneaky feeling in the back of my mind that these Estimates are in themselves anticipating the budget. The figure of $26 million

Or $27 million is very significant, because the Estimates of Revenue contained in the draft circulated and related to this Appropriation Bill have unprecedentedly expected for Barbados an increase in revenue which after all means that a collection in taxation of $27 million is, projected Never in any Estimates that I have been able to find - and I have a fairly substantial collection of them - such a proportionate increase in revenue being placed before hon. members in the House, and the Prime Minister has not dealt with this at all. He has referred to the increase in revenue, he has not for one moment explained what he thinks is going to happen in Barbados next year.

Rt. Hon. E. W, BARROW:
On a point of order, if the hon. member will give way, I explained that the amount of expansion in expenditure was largely due to the revision of salaries and wages in the public sector, and pointed out that some proportion of this will come back in the form of taxation which has been allowed in the Estimates of Revenue, so part of that $27 million is because people will go into higher income tax brackets and it will be reflected in increased revenue. I am not saying all of it, but if people buy more motor cars and refrigerators that may be one way.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Point of elucidation.

Mr. ADAMS:
It well may be that the department which is responsible for computing revenue can compute that import duties are going to go up by more than $6 million next year. It may very well be that that

department can compute this, but I think that the tax-payers of Barbados if they look at Customs and Excise duties in the revenue column, will see that it is projected that they will rise by more than 25% in 1973-74. I think they may well feel that this is an anticipation of taxation increases.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Again, Sir. I must rise on a point of order. The hon. member with that sinister smile on his face knows better because that increase in import duties which will come about will be as a result of the budget in which there will be specific proposals for increases. You could not at this time anticipate what the Minister of Finance will do in the way of increases in import duties. Naturally with a deficit of nearly $20 million some amount of increased taxation is going to come but where it is going to come from I am not in a position to say now, but I should like to assure hon. members that the figure he quoted of $6 million has to come out not in anticipation of my budget, that is a question of the natural growth of the economy, and because we expect over $100 million in building construction to start at the end of this year.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am glad that the Prime Minister has elucidated it and made it clear time he is projecting a 25% increase in revenue without the benefit of additional taxation. He has just said that the projections here are not related to increased taxation. 11.50 a.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would not like the hon. member to go on and to pervert that into something different, that there appears to be no increase in taxation. I say that this increase has nothing to do with increased taxation. Any increased taxation will bring in more revenue on top of that. There is going to be increased taxation, but I am not going to tell you now, or until I am ready, where it is going to come from.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am not suggesting that the Prime Minister has said that there is going to be no increase in taxation, but having had a projection of a 25% increase in collection of taxes, presumably, he is going to burden the poor taxpayers of Barbados even more, as he has said, to cover a deficit of $20 million. Nonetheless, Sir, there is one thing I want to say about whoever is responsible for the Estimates this year. Year after year we have been saying that the Government goes into the Estimates with a projected deficit and it comes out with a projected surplus; takes the credit for good financial management, when in fact what has happened is that consistently, expenditure is over estimated and revenue is under estimated. The Opposition has been saying this, certainly, every year since I have been in the House. I am glad to see that, at least, for the first time, some serious approach to the proper estimation of revenue appears to have been made here. I confidently expect that this time next year when we come again to discuss an Appropriation Bill, we will not be discussing it in terms of revenue coming in running at 20% to 30% - those are the limits within which it was running in the last six years - more than Estimates, and the Government claiming this as sound financial, management, or the buoyancy of the economy, or some other phrase designed to cast credit where no credit is due.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Is the hon. member willing to give way?

Mr. ADAMS:
Yes, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but it is very difficult to sit here and let the record go unchallenged.

Mr. SPEAKER:
No point of order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
That was my preamble, Sir, and I am now coming to the point of order. If the hon. member looks at Roman page viii, is he suggesting that in this year when we are $20,000 out in a $107 million, we inflated expenditure in the Ministry of Finance, meaning me? He says that we deliberately inflate the expenditure, and when the out-turn comes, we take the credit. Now in a $107 million he says that we are $20,000 out this year. Is he still claiming that we have inflated expenditure? The figure on Roman page viii is $107,519,402. The Revised Estimates was $107,519,402. It may happen that ten days from now it may be less than $20,000 out. If you go back and look at the 10-year running figures, you will see that I was $17,000 out of $63 million, and he says that I have inflated the figures of expenditure. What kind of nonsense is this?

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member has just risen four times on points of elucidation, some of them not necessarily arising out of his first speech. I must remind the hon. member that he has a right of reply, and that that right of reply will come in its due place, and that the right of reply must not be given in liberal proportions.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:
No point of order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I am rising on a point of order, and you will not know what it is until I have spoken. I just want to say....

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member is.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I would like a point of elucidation from the Chair. Are you saying that if a member in this House

deliberately misrepresents, distorts and so on, a member who is misrepresented, or whose actions are distorted, has no right to rise on his feet and correct the record? If that is so, then I have no further use in this House of Assembly, because this is not a place for anybody....like me.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I trust that the Hon. Prime Minister is not accusing the Hon. Leader of the Opposition of distorting.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
You have to say what I have said.

Mr. SPEAKER:
There will be no argument.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Then I have no further place in here.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Will the hon. member take his seat. Standing Orders are made to be obeyed by all. Will the hon. member proceed.

Mr. ADAMS:
May I draw Your Honour's attention to Standing Order 32(3), and ask that all the Prime Minister's interruptions be struck from the records since you have ruled them not points of order?

Mr. SPEAKER:
I will not strike them from the records, but I will not encourage any more. This matter is in the discretion of the officer presiding.

Mr. ADAMS:
I thank you, Sir. I think it is time that those sitting down opposite and particularly the Prime Minister, should read the new Standing Orders and find out what a point of order is. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW "I have been in here longer than you.") You have not been in here longer than me, since we have had the new Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Will the hon. member stick to the Second Reading speech.

Mr. ADAMS:
Thank you, Sir. With regard to this $20,000 on Roman page viii, I cannot remember which of the Churchhills' it was, when Chancellor of the Exchequer who, when he got a figure one decimal point out, said he could not understand all of those damn dots. I have only read the Memorandum of Estimates, which is the most recent document to hand, and I believe that it contained more up-to-date information than printed Roman page viii. The Prime Minister speaks of $20,000, but the Memorandum of Estimates, which he invited us not only to read but to understand, I must invite him to understand. The Memorandum of the Estimates says $2 million and not $20,000, and this is more recent than Roman page viii. The person who has to read and understand the Estimates is the Minister of Finance. If you

read the Memorandum on the Estimates the actual current expenditure - this can be checked from Treasury vouchers - to the 31st of January this year is $80,283,000. The Estimated current expenditure for February and March is $25 million, making a total on his own Memorandum of the Estimates, which he has circulated to hon. members to read and understand, $105 million,making the figure which he quotes as $20,000 not $200,000 or $20,000, but $2 million. He will get up and say that I am distorting, when in fact the distortion, if such a word is parliamentary, comes from him.

The Memorandum on the Estimates makes it quite clear. It is more recent than the printed document. It is well known that this document, which is circulated, is intended to be the Bible, so to speak, for pronouncements on the Appropriation Bill. It was so cited by the Prime Minister in the little sarcastic footnote at the end of his speech.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, may I, on a point of explanation, inform the hon. member that the figures with which we are dealing in the Draft Estimates are to the end of the financial year. Naturally, even the hon. member has to get his salary and allowances for the month of March, 1973, and therefore the discrepancy of $2 million would be in respect of expenditure for March, 1973. The way how he pontificates and raises the volume of his voice, and in his glee, he displays his ignorance all the time. Now you can say that I am wrong, but I really cannot resist that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would ask all hon. members to refrain from personal remarks.

Mr. ADAMS:

I do not mind the point of explanation, Sir, and I am sorry if the Prime Minister does not like the way I speak. There are a large number of people who do. Believe me, I do not speak to convert him. I do not speak particularly for his approbation. I have to deal with this in detail, because there are hon. members on that side who cannot, perhaps, understand exactly the way in which the Prime Minister is accusing some members of the House. He must mean somebody in the House when he says that he hopes we have read the Memorandum and understood it.

I am reading a Memorandum which says estimated current expenditure for February and March. The Financial year ends in March. The expenditure to the end of January, is known. It is $80,283 million. The first document to be printed was the Draft Estimates. An estimate was made then of an overall expenditure of $107 million. I do not know when that page was prepared. It was obviously prepared before the duplicated page. The Estimates are now prepared in their most up-to-date form as $105 million. This is misleading the House whether deliberately or otherwise. 12 noon.

The Prime Minister comes with two contradictory documents to the House, claims authority for one, and when I pointed out the other to which he particularly refers us for authority said something different, he quarrels. He has made a mistake perhaps. He has been in office a long time and he is getting tired now. He can only read one thing at a time. (Asides) The Prime Minister is asking me if I want to come over there. What is the Opposition for? I want some day to be Prime Minister of this Country.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is that to do with the second reading of the Appropriation Bill? Let the hon. member continue.

Mr. ADAMS:

It is a noble position to hold and no man seeks to be Leader of a political party unless he is prepared to accept the responsibility involved in leadership. That side is littered with ex-leaders and persons who can be deputy leaders and never rise to any other position.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member get back to the question of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. ADAMS:

I believe that my opportunities of being that are very much greater than those of the hon. member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Irrelevancics are being persisted in.

Mr. ADAMS:

I understood, Sir, that hon. members were to be silent when other hon members are on their feet.

Mr. SPEAKER:

But asides are allowed to be quietly made.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Prime Minister speaks as a taxpayer. All of us are taxpayers and all of us are as interested as he in the avoidance of waste. He is dealing with the Civil Service. He is worrying about the public service, not defalcation because I have not heard any accusation of that, but it's possible unproductiveness for the money it is getting. I am going to suggest that if the Prime Minister is really interested in the taxes he pays, he should look closer home than the public service, and we have recently had a report which will be the subject of private communication. I am not going to deal with that. I think it is time for the army of occupation to be relieved of some of the burden of calumny which it has to carry. I am using the Prime Minister's words. It is time that every mistake of the Government of Barbados, every act of waste, every lack of return for expenditure cease to be put on the public service alone. This is the only country which I know where it seems that for three or four years there is a consistent policy of saying the Minister is not responsible for the misdeeds of his Department because they do things contrary to his orders.

Now during the war, as the Prime Minister will know, Generals admittedly on the losing side were hanged because their subordinates did things contrary to their orders. General Yama Shita specifically forbade certain activities to be carried on in Manila and paid for them on the execution ground in Manila with a rope around his neck although he had forbidden his subordinates to do the things they did. One of the reasons was that it was clearly within his contemplation that they would do the wrong things when he told them not to, and merely telling them not to was not enough; he should have seen they did not do it. That is what I was to the Prime Minister when constantly he gets up in here and says that ministerial responsibility does not demand that a Minister resign or is disciplined for acts of civil servants which he may actively have forbidden them to do. The minister has a duty to administer his department properly. I do not believe that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central would hide behind such a shabby

excuse were mistakes discovered in the administration of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or Ministry of Health, and indeed the hon. member for St. Michael South West did not seek to hide behind this. He accepted his transfer with good grace and has carried his talents to another Ministry where they may well be of greater service. That is the action which we prefer to see when mistakes are made, not sheltering behind civil servants' misdeeds.

The Prime Minister says he probably pays more taxes than anyone else in this Chamber. I do not know about that. I know that when he said that, the hon. member for St. Michael South-East smiled and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central laughed, but that is a domestic matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:
That is not directly germaine to the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. ADAMS:
It was said I think it is time that the hon. member for St. Michael West sat a little further in front of one side or the other. His contributions are sometimes too valuable to be wasted on the back bench.

On revenue and expenditure, my figures which are based upon the notes sent around by the Prime Minister, say that expenditure was over-estimated last year by $2 million and that revenue was under-estimated last year by $15 million. That is in the notes I have. If the Prime Minister wishes to withdraw note 1 and substitute note 2 and give some justification of the mistaken interpretation placed upon the figures earlier, he must give some kind of notice of it. The point I was making which has given rise to this exchange is that constantly revenue is under-estimated and expenditure over-estimated. The margin last year was $17 million; so that the apparent deficit last year of $12 million has once again been converted into a surplus. I cannot see the estimated excess, but it is about $4 million.

I hope that since the words of the Opposition have at long last fallen on open ears, and since the Prime Minister has given the assurance that the increase in estimation of $27 million in revenue is not based upon any anticipated increase in taxation, this new method argued for years by the Opposition will continue to operate, and that we have finally slain once and for all this fancy, false estimation which seeks to give a rosier picture of the financial affairs of this Country at the end of the year than exists at the beginning of the year and finally laid it to rest.

Now I want to go through the Estimates of Revenue because we will have no real chance to deal with them at any other stage. I must confess that I cannot understand and cannot really grasp from previous Estimates what has been the position with the collections of the former Local Government revenues as shown in the Estimates. I think the entire Land Tax is shown as an increase and no figure was shown last year for land tax either. I would be glad if the Prime Minister would explain this. We are not trying to get at the land tax now. We will deal with that when we come to the Valuation Department, but I would like to have some grasp of how can an amount collected as land tax be shown entirely as an increase, because there is also an increase in trade tax of $800,000. What the basis of this is would also be of some interest to hon. members on this side.

I see that now that the hon. member for St. Michael South East is no longer connected with the Hospital Sweepstake Trust that there is yet another increase in the revenue to be derived therefrom, but I would hasten to tell hon. members that they should not connect the two items. We know that he was

well paid and it may very well be that his salary is now available for payment to the Government, but nonetheless, we should congratulate him on his retirement from raising the revenue under that head from a negative quantity, for after all, it would have been shown in any balance sheet as a debit since it has been the subject of an action through the courts, at last to a credit, and a credit all the more remarkable in that I have never seen anybody now for years actually in possession of a West Indian Hospital Sweepstake ticket. 12.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

1 would warn the hon. member to stop making excursions into things which do not concern the Appropriation Bill. I forbid you to continue to deal with the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, is Your honour aware that the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake Bill is referred to in the Schedule?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am so aware, but you cannot debate it in that manner.

Mr. ADAMS:

I will accept Your Honour's ruling, right or wrong. Can I refer to death duties or to the Barbados Turf Club? Can I also refer to the Income Tax Act or the Estate and Succession Duties Act? All these are included in the Schedule, and I know of no way to discuss them except in the Appropriation Bill.

However, Sir, I will return to import duties. I said they were $6 million but now I look at it again it looks more like $61/2 to $7 million. Consumption tax will go up by more than 50%. The Prime Minister may well be right in projecting all these rises, but I would like to know who is going to buy the motor cars and refrigerators to pay all this consumpiton tax next year. I believe it may well bear some relationship to shifts from import duties to consumption tax within the CARIFTA agreement, but there it is. Tax on motor vehicles is going to rise without new taxation by more than half. Does that mean that the Prime Minister expects the number of motor vehicles is going to increase by 50%? He has said this is going to happen without an increase in taxation.

The tax on motor vehicles collected was $2,206,000 in 1972-73; it is projected that a further $1.2 million is going to be collected without any increase in taxation. In other words, that the number of motor cars and buses and so on is going to go up by 60%. I am taking the Prime Minister's words; he has said these are the natural expected increases without an increase in taxation. Mr. Speaker, do you believe that the number of motor cars is going to go up by 60% in Barbados next year? Do you believe that without an increase in taxation there is going to be half as much again collected in motor vehicle licences in Barbados? Does that mean that a lot of motor cars are now being driven without the tax being paid? Anyhow, the Prime Minister has said it, therefore it must be true. If Sparrow says so, it is so. We are going back to Lewis Caroll, if he says it three times, he believes it.

Thank goodness that the increase in beer is only expected to be $50,000. It is true that on the tax on beer only $134,000 was collected, but I am glad to see that. Even gasolene is expected to go up by less than $1 million, but motor vehicles without an increase in taxation is going to the skies. Import duties without an increase in taxation is going to rise by over 25%. Anything is possible, but I will have to sec

the $100 million in new construction next year before I can believe it.

We go on now to the other increases. Income tax is projected to go up by just under $8 million. The estimate shows $10 million but you have to take into account the actual collections during 1972-73. Income tax is estimated to rise then by nearly 25% again without any increase. I daresay that is possible. Stamp duties remain at the same figure, but trade tax goes to $800,000. That is one third as much again. There is a little confusion with that figure because some of that must be land tax, but it is estimated that trade tax is going to go up to $800,000.

We are hearing a great deal of increases from the taxation side, but when we look at Rents and Royalties and Government Commercial undertakings, the Opposition is very grievously concerned that the Government cannot so manage its commercial undertakings and so handle its ownership of property that it cannot increase that on the same scale. Every year we come in here and talk about the Hilton Hotel. It is accepted even though no specific loan was raised to pay for the Hilton, that the Hilton cost upwards to $12 million, and that on any commercial basis you would expect a return in hotel earnings of over $l1/2 million as the Government's share in the gross revenue if the undertaking is showing a true return on its initial investment, but the Hilton Hotel is projected to make only $465,000. At one time, a couple of years ago, it was $711,000. Why is no reference ever made by the Minister of Tourism to the fact that the Hilton Hotel in a matter of two years has so collapsed in commercial terms that the share in the profit available to the Government fell from over $700,000 to just under $500,000 at a time when everything is rising including hotel prices? I do not believe that the hon. member,the Minister for Tourism has ever accused himself of a knowledge of economics, nor has he ever been accused by anybody else of such a knowledge, but I can recall that at budget time last year, privately and publicly, but not in this forum, he had many pronouncements to make about the mistakes which must have existed in the figures given in the preliminary economic survey relating to tourist receipts generally. Why has his voice not been heard when as a matter of fact the receipts at the Hilton Hotel are diminishing every year? Why has his voice not been heard in that aspect? I do not know what share the IDC has received, they arc technically the owners of the freehold to the Hilton, but not a word has been heard from them. The money actually paid in in 1972-73 was $384,000. That meant a loss of nearly 50% in one year, that is last year, which meant that in one year the Hilton had gone down $320,000. 12.20 p.m.

The Estimates have been $500,000. Now, this is a matter of some mystery also to hon. members on this side. Item 23 deals with General Revenue under Licences. I do not understand this by any means and I do not think the House is being treated properly to have merely an amount shown. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central may be able to elucidate this. We have an Item shown in relation to the Barbados Telephone Company. Where is the note in relation to this? Where is this extra $100,000 to come from? There does not appear to be any amendment to revenue. There is merely an entry indicating - Barbados Telephone Company $1,000; increase plus $100,000, and there is no suggestion whatsoever as to where this revenue would come from, or to what it is related. We will ask for some information on that particular point. I will even give way, if any hon. member will attempt to give us some information.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is out of order. No member can rise on a point of elucidation before he has spoken. There is no such thing as a point of information; so carry on.

Mr. ADAMS:

Yes, Sir. Anyway, this is a mysterious $100,000. We will go into the estimated excess of Current Revenue over Current Expenditure in the sum of $19 million. I am glad that the Prime Minister has recognised that this year, since the Estimates are a little more accurate than they have been in the past, that he is faced with a real deficit. I hope that the members of the public are, indeed, fastening their seat belts as to what is going to happen when this $20 million has to be recovered. This year we do not have the Capital Estimates printed on the front cover so that we can see what is happening. The total capital is $43,505,000, and out of that, loans to be raised will have to finance no less than $38 million.

The Prime Minister likes to tell you what the national revenue was in 1961. I wonder if he remembers just as well what the Public Debt was. It was a good deal less than $38 million, but we are now talking about loans to be raised in one year. As to the Canadian External Aid Financial Assistance, I bow to no one, Sir, in my appreciation of the good will which the great dominion of the North has shown towards Barbados in the past and continues to offer to show in the future. The Prime Minister speaks, on the one hand, of $40 million, a substantial amount of which at the Seawell Airport is going to be provided by Canadian External Aid, but when you look at the Capital Estimates, you will see that Canadian External Aid Financial Assistance amounts to $1.2 million. If that is not substantial, I would not like, to see what an unsubstantial amount is. Remarks are made quite easily, but when you get down to figures as to what is actually written it is a different matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of explanation, Sir. I should like to inform the hon. member that the proposed amount for the Airport is $42 million. We are putting in our counterpart funds at this stage because the equipment, navigational aids, and so on, most of it will come from Canada, and the Canadian loan is in the vicinity of $20 million. The parking apron will be done with Caribbean cement and local labour. We have our Canadian component even in this year. It is in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 that the bulk of the Canadian funds will be brought into operation.

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, this is a perfectly adequate explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

That is a licence fee I intend to put on the Telephone Company. We used to get a rebate, but the Supreme Court says that we cannot get it, so we have to get back the money somehow.

Mr. ADAMS:

That is new taxation. This is, again, something that nobody would complain about except the Telephone Company. It should be in the Estimates, and it should be the subject of a note. These matters get thrown away casually like that. To me this would make a headline most days. The fact that the Government is taxing the Telephone Company $100,000 would nuke a good headline, but, maybe, there are other matters to deal with today.

Now, the explanation relating to the Canadian loan is an obviously, accurate, and valid one, but we should not have to ask for that information in here. If $40 million is projected to be spent on the Airport in years one, two, three and four, according to what the Prime Minister has said, this would be a long-term project. This information should have been contained in a public document such as the

Development Plan. The last Development Plan that anybody in Barbados has seen is this one which expired last year.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
If the hon. member will allow me to explain, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member is out of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
He has asked for information.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member is out of order. There is no section dealing with a point of information.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
The hon. member has given way. Do you not want to hear me?

Mr. SPEAKER:
The Hon. Minister has a right of reply.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; If you do not want to hear me, I might as well go out.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I am on my feet; please take your seat. Legitimate information can be given in reply. Points of elucidation arise only out of a speech.

At this stage the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister left his seat.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, is there not a ruling saying that members must not hand about the passage of the Gallery?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Yet some tolerance is allowed in the interpretation of the Rules. I have allowed members on both sides, as you have said, to hang around. Is the hon. member ready to proceed with the Appropriation Bill?

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, I was giving the Prime Minister a chance to explain privately to hon. members.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member knows that he is encouraging a breach of the Standing Orders. All of the information required can be given in his reply.

Mr. ADAMS:
I would have no objection to being interrupted legitimately by a Minister, and at certain times you can

trust the Prime Minister to interrupt you legitimately.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I can only interpret the Standing Orders.

Mr. ADAMS:
Unfortunately, there are numerous Ministers who do not know the meaning of a legitimate interruption; so, perhaps, we should appreciate Your Honour's new strictness and new innovation in this matter. As the Prime Minister has said, the details of the Government's fiscal policy will await television in the fullness of time. 12.30 p.m.

There is a matter which it gives me much pain to have to raise at this stage and which I hoped could have been kept sub rosa and dealt with more privately. In fact there are two matters. Perhaps I think I had better raise these matters when it is moved that this House go into Committee of Supply on the Estimates. I would not want to detain hon. members, but I give notice so that hon. members and Your Honour can be aware that in a few minutes I am going to raise these matters. I am going to raise firstly the subject of a letter which was written by the hon. member for Bridgetown as Secretary of our Parliamentary group to the Leader of the House, and to which he has not yet been afforded an answer, and the second relates to the procedure to be follwed in Committee of Supply which, if necessary, I will raise as a matter of privilege and ask that it be referred on a motion to the Committee on Privileges. I mention these perhaps in the few minutes that remain on the second reading to the Appropriation Bill that something may be done about it. I did not want to raise them here when these should more expeditiously be raised at another stage.

Sir, I am winding up my speech in anticipation of the Prime Minister's reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member has wound up his speech and has taken his seat. The hon. member is therefore out of order.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, I will be a little time on this, I think. Sir, upon this morion I must rise even though it gives me some pain to have to raise it in the House, when I consider it could have been dealt with

privately behind the scenes and when indeed I regret it may have to be dealt with at some other stage. This relates to procedure in Committee of Supply. Now the first point is this.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not clear as to what the hon. member is rising on. Is it a point of order?

Mr. ADAMS:

I am speaking on the motion that the House go into Committee of Supply. Your Honour will understand that if you are going into Committee of Supply you will be able to discuss what happens in Committee. Now the first point is this The Opposition having been forced and bludgeoned into accepting time limits, have accepted a. time limit of five days for discussion in Committee of Supply of the Estimates. Pursuant to this, the Secretary of the Parliamentary Labour Party, that is the hon. member for the City, has written to the Leader of the House suggesting that in Committee of Supply the Opposition indicate which Heads they wish to deal with and what days they will be dealing with them so as to faciliate the Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that is quite out of order. That has absolutely nothing to do with the House going into Committee of Supply at this stage. What happened between a member of your Parliamentary Labour Party and the Leader of the House has nothing to do with this matter, and I am not going to entertain you any further on that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Now the second point is a matter of privilege as well as being related to the motion. There are certain fundamental privileges of Parliamentarians which are claimed every year at the opening of Parliament. They are claimed by you, Sir, from the Governor General representing the Queen. One is the right of free speech. This right has to be read in conjunction with the Standing Orders. We cannot come in here and say what we like, when we like and how we like, but our right to free speech, which is a part of the common law of Parliament and given by the Constitution, of Barbados, is to be limited only by the Standing Orders and by, I submit, correct interpretation of the Standing Orders, and I am submitting that it is a breach of privilege, Sir, for rulings to be given in respect of members' right to speak on the Standing Orders which are in plain contravention of the Orders themselves.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That again I cannot entertain as a breach of privilege, because I cannot sit here and adjudicate upon a ruling given by a brother presiding officer whether that question to be determined comes directly as such, in which case, it would be out of order unless there is a substantive motion of censure, or whether that motion comes in the guise of privilege. I will not sit here and adjudicate upon the Tightness or wrongness as a brother presiding officer.

Mr. ADAMS:

You are not being invited to, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Then there is no breach of privilege, absolutely none.

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, there is a Committee of Privileges of this House and reference to matters of privilege presumably will henceforth be made to the Committee of Privileges and I would not ask one presiding officer to rule further on the rulings of another officer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It will not go to the Committee of Privileges unless in my opinion the motion is in order. I shall allow the hon. member just a little more time to make himself explicit before I explain or give a firm ruling as I indicated I would do if he persists in the line of argument he is on.

Mr. ADAMS:

May I draw your attention to Standing Order No. 76(2), because I cannot move the motion until I haves got your authority. If Your Honour had given a ruling, you might have given a ruling contrary to Standing Orders, because you cannot give a ruling until the question has been raised by question before. Your Honour cannot give any ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER:

A matter of privilege can be raised without notice as it arises.

Mr. ADAMS:

I see here in Standing Order No. 76(2) that "Any member desiring to raise a matter under this Standing Order, shall first obtain leave of the Speaker...."

Anyhow, Sir, I have written to you about this matter. I am giving notice here and now that when we go into Committee of Supply, - I do not know what decision has been taken because I have not been afforded a reply....I have been afforded great courtesy by Your Honour, but I have not actually been afforded a reply 'on the point because I do not believe Your Honour was in a position to reply on the point. As is well known, Your Honour wanted to have a conference of the presiding officers yesterday to discuss it and it could not come off. I do not know who refused to turn up.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Nothing of the sort happened.

Mr. ADAMS:

I can only say what I am told by officers of the House; I do not mean the presiding officers. If nothing of the sort took place, nothing of the sort took place. It is my argument that no meeting took place. Anyhow there it is.

I am giving notice that in Committee of Supply, under some Head where there is more than one item, I am going to rise to speak on more than one item. I am going to rise once, speak and sit down and seek to rise again, because the matter has to be decided free of any difficulties that may have been present on an occasion when a Head contained only one item.

Mr. SPEAKER? If I may interrupt you, your notice is quite ineffectual What happens in Committee of Supply is determined and decided by the Chairman of Committees.

Mr. ADAMS:
I want the Chairman to hear it, because I can say here that his ruling is wrong. I can challenge his ruling here.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member must withdraw those remarks immediately. Let the hon. member withdraw the remarks immediately that the Chairman's ruling was wrong.

Mr. ADAMS:
I am forced to withdraw them.

Mr. SPEAKER:
You are not being forced to withdraw them, you are being told to withdraw them.

Mr. ADAMS:
I do not mean to withdraw them, but I am being forced to withdraw them, I could not with conscience say I believe that the ruling was right. I could not make myself such a fool as in conscience to say that the ruling was right.

I do not know how many hundreds of amendments have been submitted, but if it is preferred that that be done, it has to be done. 12.40 p.m.

I want all the amendments submitted, the couple of hundred amendments which have so far been submitted by members of the Opposition, I want them all circulated to all members in proper form before we discuss the Estimates. If this is what is desired, if it is desired to take on additional staff outside to type out fresh stencils day after day for every specific supplementary estimate that comes in here - because I would give the House a promise that no supplementary estimate will ever pass this House again without every hon. member being apprised of it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Before you put the question, Sir, I think a reply is due. In so far as the communication was sent by the horn member for the City. that matter was only discussed by our Council last night and I could not as Leader of the House....

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member is not called upon to reply to that point which was raised.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I am just saying that I had a reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:
That has been ruled out of order.

The question that Mr. SPEAKER leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to discuss the annual Estimates 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.

DRAFT ESTIMATES 1973-74 Head 1 - Governor-General - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 1, there are some adjustments to be made to the Governor General's salary, but these will have to be done later. I beg to move that the sum of $57,759 under Head 1 - Governor-General - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Do I understand that certain amendments are to be moved but will be done at a later stage? I really do not understand what is meant by what was said.

Rt, Hon. E. W. BARROW:

What I was trying to say was that the Governor-General's salary is regulated by an Act of 1971 (1971-35). Like everyone else drawing money from the Public Treasury, certain adjustments will be made to the Governor-General's salary, but it has to be done by an amendment to the Act itself which will be brought before the House before the end of the month, but that is Statutory Expenditure. I merely mentioned it because members will want to know if the Governor-General will get a salary increase. All these are regulated by special statutory provisions and not the subject of the Appropriation Bill.

The question that the sum of $57,759 under Head 1 -Governor-General - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 2 - Services Commissions - was called. Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $672,524 under Head 2 - Services Commissions - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that one of the things that the Public Service Commission is suffering from is the fact that the Commission is not serviced by the various departments. I feel that the time has come when there has been an expansion of the Public Service to the extent it has now reached, and when we look over the various departments we see that there are numerous acting appointments here and there and that posts have not been filled over long periods, but still you find the Commission not meeting more often than they do at present.

The activities of the Commission cannot be said to be keeping pace with the growth of the Service, and it is tine that this matter should be looked into. The question of whether or not the persons responsible for servicing the Commissions, for making the necessary recommendations or bringing to the notice of the Public Service Commissions the various vacancies in the Service, ought to be looked into if we are to see better results from this Commission as a whole.

At Item 23, there is also the question of loans to public officers, and the note explains that these loans can only be advanced to public officers with the authority of the Cabinet, but I think if one were to hear from certain public officers, one would know that there is still the feeling that it is not done on as broad a basis as one would like to know it is done, and that there are areas of dissatisfaction arising from the administration of this sum, and I would like to know that something is done about this matter.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to Item 24 - Public Service Commission. The note states that this vote is to meet the expenses of recruitment and the cost of disciplinary enquiries involving those officers who fall within the ambit of The Police Service Commission Act, 1961-51 and the regulations made thereunder. 12.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, for some time now I have been particularly worried about disciplinary actions or inquiries which have taken place in relation to public offices. As you are aware, Sir, some time last year or very early this year there was an inquiry into matters which took place involving the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and those inquiries have been kept secret, as far as I am concerned. I cannot see how Parliament is expected to vote money for inquiring into various public Departments, and then inquiries are held and commissions are set out up without any Reports whatsoever being published or even laid on the Table of this Honourable House.

I should like to point out to the Minister responsible that if Parliamentarians have a duty to perform, and if Parliamentarians are required to vote money, particularly where it will be used in respect of disciplinary matters, if reports are made from the general public and a commission of inquiry is set up to go into certain matters, then the results should not be kept private in the relevant Department. If that is done, you will not relieve the fears or quiet the anxiety of members of the general public. If we are required to vote money for such purposes, then, at least, the members of Parliament should have certain rights in respect of the Report.

Mr. Chairman, if you are required to take an oath; if you are bound by the Official Secrets Act, then I do not see why the Government should still persist in keeping certain matters private which are, technically, the business of Parliament.

Mr. ADAMS:

I would like to add, Mr. Chairman, to what has been said about the Services Commission and the lack of facilities afforded for such frequency of meetings as would permit the work to be done in such depth as would put an end to what is complained of by the hon. member for St. Peter.

There are one or two matters which, I believe, to some extent, I cannot speak freely in here, since I am bound by conditions of privacy and secrecy. It is an open secret that many hon. members, and indeed my Party at the last Elections, suggested that the Public Service Commission should have a full-time Chairman. I am not necessarily going so far as to suggest that now, because it might Involve, for proper running and proper administration, some shift back from Establishment towards Services Commission to give any full-time Public Service Commission enough work to do. I think all hon. members can agree that in the last few years, there have been significant shifts of authority and control in one or two areas from the Public Services Commission towards Establishment. I am not suggesting improper shifts, but

there have been shifted from a body, which is essentially part-time with only a small staff, towards officials in a large and well-organised Department of a Ministry.

It may be, Mr. Chairman, that the process has gone too far, and I would very much welcome a word from the Prime Minister on what plans and projections he has been making and What thoughts he has on the future of the Public Services Commission. I cannot even find Where the Item for the payment of members of the Public Service Commission can be found, but it must be buried somewhere in the vote for the Services Commission. I do not know if there is any intention to increase this, since, after all, the salasries of all public servants are going up, and $400 a month is a very small allowance to pay to someone who may have to go once a week and be on call for a considerable number of days a week in connection with duties on the Public Service Commission. I would welcome some reply before the question is put on the several points raised, I myself have every confidence that the Public Service Commission is now seized of its responsibilities to reduce the number of acting appointments, and its responsibilities to introduce certainty at the higher level of activity of public officers. No man can give of his best if he is acting for years and years in his post. I should just like to say that it is not only the Public Service Commission that is involved in these acting appointments.

I do not know if the Minister of Health would like to contribute his thoughts upon why he has so many acting appointments in such a sensitive area as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The most sensitive aspect of that area, too, is at the level of persons who have to deal with the public. All of these are mutters which concern the public, and the officers concerned do not fail to let you know their grievances. They ask you how they can give of their best. Hospital porters and officers of a similar level, if they are not confirmed in their jobs; have to be looking over their shoulders at the possibility of a further non-confirmation. All' of these are matters which I would suggest deserve some canvassing. We have not had many policy statements made on them, so far as I can recall, for a number of years, and at a time like this, we would desire a comment from the Minister responsible and other Ministers who are affected.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to say at this stage, that it is my opinion that the time has come for a review of the functions of the Public Service Commission. If one wants to review that, one has to take a serious look at the Constitution of Barbados, because the Public Service Commission's functions and rote are enshrined in the Constitution of this Country. My Ministry has been concerned with a number of problems facing the Administration and in the Administration Departments under the Ministry, and we find that very often these problems arise from inactivity or lack of sufficient activity on the part of some of these Commissions.

One of the things that have attracted my attention very much is the example or experience of the country of Tasmania where we find that in their Constitution, the role and functions of the Public Service Commission have been detailed to Committees within the various Ministries or Departments. Sometimes I wonder if such a setup could not be introduced in Barbados where recruitment of people, discipline of people, and certain other functions in certain vital Departments, where quick action is necessary, for example, in health. Sometimes we find that quick action is necessary in health. I wonder whether some of these points could not result in a new type of Services Commission and be looked at from the view of delegating the authority, or some other responsibility, to Committees within various Departments. It has been pointed out to me that nothing prevents the Services Commission, at this stage,

from doing that. While this may be so, one also has to admit that it may not be cogent or compulsory upon them to do so, and it may just be a question of whether they feel like doing it or not.

One of the things one has to realise here is that Barbados has changed a lot. It is now an independent country, and too often we find that some of the attitudes and thinking of the people are more suited to the Colonial past than to the demands and requirements of a new and independent country which has to face many Challenges. Many of the challenges which Barbados has to face now as an independent country are not properly negotiated by some of the people who are in a position to negotiate these things. It is my opinion that not only the Government, but everybody in this Country will have to take a look at some of the functions and roles of some of these organisations. 1 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, while the Government may want to do certain things, these thnigs have to be done against a background of what the people in the country as a whole are prepared to support the Government in doing. It may be very well for the Government to think in terms of certain amendments to the Constitution, but we very often find that these things are being interpreted in terms of imposing dictatorship or frustrating the will and desires of people, when in reality, all that Government may be seeking to achieve is to increase the efficiency of administration within some of its departments. I would like to point out that while the time may be ripe for us to take a serious look at the functioning of the Public Service Commission and other Commissions, we have to do this against a background of what the people of Barbados want, and not only just what the Government wants, because the Government cannot afford to expose itself to unnecessary criticism especially in the light of one wanting to say that it is trying to impose a dictatorship or trying to infringe the rights of people, whereas, what the Government in reality may want to set about to do is to increase the efficiency, and by increasing the efficiency, maybe improve administration and decrease the cost to the taxpayers of the country.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I think Mr. Chairman, that some questions were asked. One of the proposals submitted by the adviser on Organisation and Methods was that there should be a Public Service Ministry. Now I am against proliferating the number of Ministries that there are in the Government of Barbados. The total is that we have a total work force in the Legislature of 45 persons, 30 of whom belong to the Government, but there is room for improvement in the administration in so far as the Services Commissions are concerned. The one which has the greatest volume of work is the Public Service Commission, and as the Leader of the Opposition knows, I have had discussions with the Chairman of the Services Commissions and the Chief Personnel Officer with a view to increasing the amount of delegated responsibility which would devolve on the Chairman of each Commission itself. The Chairman is quite willing as far as I can ascertain, to put in a lot more work than one would normally expect from a Chairman, and I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the whole question of the remuneration of the members of the Services Commissions when the work load is increased, needs investigation, and as a matter of fact, is being investigated. The Item which the hon. member has enumerated is Item 21. It is a bit difficult to find it, but it is under Item 21 and I do propose to revise the scale of fees and remuneration paid to the members of the Commission in keeping with the new requirements and the general revisions which have just taken place in the Public Service.

The question that the sum of $672,524 under Head 2 - Services Commissions - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 3 - PARLIAMENT Head 3 - Parliament - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Mr. Chairman, in moving Head 3, I just want to inform hon. members that recommendations from the Debates Committee have come up to me, and recommendations from the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees, and also that we have been looking at the question of remuneration of members of the House and the allowances, and the only reason why we have not done this before is that it was felt by me, and by everybody concerned, that we should deal with the Civil Establishment Orders and the Public Service and then come to deal with the Clerks of Parliament before we should deal with Ministers' salaries and the salaries of Parliamentary Secretaries and so on. I just wanted to give the House the assurance that the matter is under active consideration, and before the end of the month something will be done about that. They are not subject to appropriation, they are not in the Appropriation Bill, but I will come for amendments to the necessary statutory instruments and for supplementary appropriations before 31st March, 1973.

I beg to move that the sum of $257,449 under Head 3 - Parliament - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, my impression is that there are certain amendments which have been filed in respect of Head 3 which have not been circulated.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
According to Standing Order No. 66(3) any Member may move an amendment to reduce by $X the sum to be allocated for any Head of Expenditure in respect of any sub-head or Item therein, but at least twenty-four hours' notice of such amendment shall be given.

Has that notice been given, Mr. Clerk? Mr. CLERK: No.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I therefore cannot entertain the amendment.

Mr. ADAMS:
It is only Parliament, Sir. Now under Item 19 - Member's Library - it really is time that the Library of the House of Assembly be made into a viable institution. Now in fact Parliament has two libraries; the Senate has a small number of books kept under careful lock and key and well preserved against the depredations that have diminished the House of Assembly's books. The House of Assembly has a large number of books, so many indeed that they cannot all be kept on the premises in the present accommodation, and some are kept at the Archives. It has very full references, works of reference, it has Hansard at Westminster, it should have its own debates, its own volumes of Official Gazettes, but I believe that very few of these can be located on the premises at the present time. Books were given to us by the House of Commons some time ago ranging from the Cambridge Modern History to Bradman on Cricket, and they are kept locked up and very wisely if I may say so, Mr. Chairman, because if they were kept in unlocked cupboards I believe they would suffer the same fate as the Laws of Barbados which are raided from time to time, I believe, because I myself have not had to make use of such

services, for the purpose of replenishing the libraries of lawyers and other interested persons.

Now it is a disgrace that we go on any longer without a proper Parliamentary Library. I myself tend to be attached to the idea of having two Libraries, partly because they are there already, the Senate's Library and the House of Assembly's Library, but partly because we are different bodies and to some extent although the Staff may appear to be unified, there are occasions when the Senate is meeting but the House of Assembly's Librarian may very well not be on duty, because he was once the House of Assembly's Librarian and perhaps has never been told that his hours of attendance now include both the House of Assembly's meetings and the Senate's meetings, and it might not be possible for hon. members to get at a Librarian that was kept down here or for us to get at a Librarian that was kept in the Other Place. I believe that a convenient room, the present Library or whichever room is found to be convenient, should be properly laid out with shelf accommodation. This is a very short and simple matter; it does not need much time to decide on how you would lay out a Library and it should be used for the purpose of a Library and a library only; no other activities should be carried on within; we should recover all our books from the Archives and other Departments, and departments of Government which have odd things like copies of subsidiary legislation and Laws of Barbados that they may not require, should be asked to give them up to the House of Assembly that we could put an end to this anomaly by which we cannot get a copy of a law of Barbados when we want it to refer to it in here. 1.10 p.m.

We come in here and amend Acts and if an hon. member calls for the original Act which is being amended he cannot get it. There are certain laws of Barbados which are exceptionally valuable to practitioners and others, and immediately they turn up they seem to disappear. This is not good enough, Sir, a system of signing in a book for volumes borrowed should be instituted at an early stage and the plea of the Librarian should be heard. What is the plea of the Librarian? I have sat on the Debates Committee and have seen letters from the Librarian in which he says he is not a qualified Librarian and has never applied for the post, was appointed in the past without any application and that he cannot do the work. He has made this submission in writing to the relevant bodies and still they force on him some of the duties of the Librarian when he himself has said that under modern conditions he is not qualified to perform the duties. Mind you, Mr. Chairman, I think he is being too modest, because I believe that over the years of contact with libraries he is well qualified to administer one of the simpler forms of library organisation, but he will need the assistance obviously of a trained Librarian down here who will classify, and he will need the assistance of indexers - and Parliament has had Indexers for years and years classifying debates, in one case which was already indexed and in another which was incomplete - Parliament has had these indexers, and these indexers should be turned on to library work as well because it seems they have become permanent officials of the House.

Speaking for myself, one of the indexers is such an ancient monument of the institution of Parliament in Barbados that I think Parliament will be a different place were he not attending either in the Press gallery, the lunch room or at his place of work with the other indexers. I believe that Parliament will change for the worse when we no longer have this particular indexer with us, but the material is there, it is only the will that is lacking. We have the books, we have a Librarian, we have a submission from this Librarian, we have indexers and we have a very adequate staff of secretaries, because we have reporters and secretaries sufficient to staff a Parliament that meets every day although we only meet 40 or 50 times in a yea . All of that is there, but nobody is willing to take the initiative in instituting a proper library scheme for the Parliament of Barbados. It is time that the House makes its wishes known to the Debates Committee who are ultimately the persons responsible in this matter. The Speaker has a small

library committee which I believe advises him on the purchase of books, but who advises on what is to be done with the books after they arc purchased? They lie around in the House of Assembly waiting to be lost, misplaced or strayed, but no proper library scheme has been placed before the Debates Committee, and the Debates Committee has not taken any initiative in this regard.

I would wish also to say something about Item 20 - Refreshments. It is also time this came to a conclusion. Some time ago tenders were invited for the preparation of refreshments. I am not aware that these tenders have ever been placed before the Joint Amenities Committee, I think it is called, of which I am a member. I am told that tenders have been received, but how can we go on on an ad hoc basis when the person supplying the food does not know what his permanent position is. Do hon. members know what the tenders are and what is the position for the future? I do not wish to be critical of the food that is supplied, I think the House of Assembly can do without any more food rows, as the expression goes, and I am very glad to see that with the confidence of an 18-6 majority behind him that the Prime Minister once again finds it possible to enter the dining room to eat with the Opposition, but I do not think that the food as served at present, we are really getting the best possible value for our money. I can give the highest praise to the institution run by the gentleman who supplies us here. He serves very good steak down at his institution, his fish is always well cooked, I often send there for a pork chop, and his desserts are a delight to many, but the highest price of a meal at his restaurant is lower than what I have been informed the House of Assembly pays for the supply of food up here, and I have never yet seen a steak up here and very seldom a pork chop. It is time that the situation is regularised. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Swine fever, you will not see them for a long time.) There are other alternatives to swine fever chops, but at least a steak. We deserve, I think, slightly better food than we are getting, and the gentleman concerned deserves to have his position made clear so he knows what he can rely on from the House of Assembly in future.

I myself am glad that the meetings of the House have gone back to 12 o'clock so that he knows he will always have to supply lunch, because I think it is very unfair to ask a man to stand by to supply lunch to the House of Assembly every week and we meet at 3 o'clock or 2.30, so that he may have laid on the staff or he may have asked them to make ready and there is no meal demand or called for. I think all that is very unfair. If a man is to provide a service he must be given some surety of the regularity of the service which he is called on to provide, since he is only paid ad hoc, he is not paid as far as I know a retainer. All of this should be dealt with at an early stage by the Amenities Committee.

The last Item I would wish to speak on is Item 34 - Portraits and Paintings. The amount of $300 is voted. I cannot move an increase, but what kind of portrait will you buy for $300? It is obvious that at some stage there will have to be a portrait of the Prime Minister in here - I hope very early myself, I would be glad to see it hung there upon the occasion of his retirement next year - but who is going to paint a portrait of the Prime Minister for $300 in this day and age? If the thought is that the House of Assembly should decorate as many Government offices and certainly many of the private commercial undertakings operating in Barbados are decorated with examples of paintings by modern Barbadian and West Indian artists, $300 would not go anywhere at all, it would hardly pay for the cost of painting the catalogues at an art exhibition now far less the buying of one of the paintings, and I think that either you do not make a vote and rely on voluntary contributions of portraits as in the past, or the House of Assembly undertakes to beautify its buildings with a selection of portraits and paintings generally and makes a proper vote for that amount. I do not see why we could not, have it, other Government departments have it and many more members of the public see the House of Assembly than see other

Government departments. The Kings and Queens of England may not be everybody's idea of subjects for artistry today, but looking around the House of Assembly, we have stained glass windows and I would not like to even contemplate how much the installation of leaded stained glass of the type we have in here would cost today. That money was spent and it must have been a comparable amount in the 1860's when those windows were put there; that money was spent perfectly happily by the representatives who sat in the House of Assembly of that day. We have put nothing comparable in it, the only artistic decoration that you find in the House of Assembly at the present time are stained glass windows showing the Kings and Queens of England, and a few portraits of members of the House. Many hon. members may feel that only one of them is truly representative of a modern House of Assembly as constituted today. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Who is that?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

1 would like the hon. member to adhere to Standing Order 33(6). I am not going to tolerate this cross talk. 1.20 p.m.

I have mentioned, partly jocularly, the Prime Minister, but Senator the Honourable Sir Theodore Brancker, President of the Other Place, was a member of this House from 1937 - 1971 - 34 years - longer than that of anybody who is shown there; Sir John Gay Allen and the others who served upwards to 40 years in the House. A portrait of Sir Theodore should hang in the Speaker's Chambers or, indeed, hang in the main part of the House, and the House of Assembly should be glad to vote money for such a purpose. He is as worthy of being commemorated as the others. He is the only man who was ever Speaker of this House and President of the Other Place. In all of Barbados' history, none of the aristocrats who sat in this House and in the Legislative Council ever presided over the affairs of both. That is just a living example of one which I would recommend to members. I think that this particular item should be re-thought.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I only rise to say, Sir, that the amount of $300 can always be supplemented. I do not want to see myself either in oil or in marble for a long time to come. The only other outstanding question seems to be whether Sir Theodore is to hang here or in the Other Place. I do not think that we need resolve that at this juncture, but hang, he must at some time.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I think that hon. members would like to address their minds to the fact that there is a lady member in this Chamber, and it is regrettable to say - I am not at this stage defending the rights of women - that up to the present there is no lavatory accommodation provided for this one lady member of Parliament that we have with us. The sort of haphazard arrangements which is now being brought into play from time to time can create considerable embarrassment to His Honour the Speaker, and it should not be allowed to continue, I would say, for many hours after this debate. The same thing applies to other hon. members. The lavatory accommodation that is provided is not good enough. Large sums of money were spent to provide accommodation which is really sub-standard. I am sure that a close and careful re-examination of these things should be gone into as soon as possible. I am also sure that every hon. member will agree with me that the accommodation is not at all becoming to this Honourable House.

Mr. Chairman, anyone ascending the flight of stairs to come to this Honourable Chamber, immediately

before entering the door, must see what, to my mind, tells them that they arc coming to a Chamber of emptiness. One must see flanking the entrance, right and left empty glass cases. I believe the soon it can be arranged with the Ministry of Communications and Works, or some other Department to have them removed, the better it will be for all concerned. I believe that we should have that part of the hall-way decorated with plants, flowers, notice boards properly placed on the sides of the walls, if necessary, but in any case, those empty show-cases certainly do not compare favourable with what is to be found in this Honourable Chamber. I believe that hon. members would wish to have them removed as soon as possible.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned something with respect to the Library and the Librarian. I can say at this point that, during recent negotiations with the Trade Union that represent members of the staff of Parliament, it was accepted and it was clearly understood by the Librarian that he is not the Librarian of the House as such, but that he is the Librarian of Parliament. I do not want to go into his capability or suitability for this or that post at this point, but I know that as long as our present Librarian remains on the premises, no qualified Librarian from any part of the world is going to be able to come here and to function properly, if he is to function under the administration of our present Librarian. Hon. members can take that for what it is worth; examine it, and see what they can do about it. The whole thing about it is that our Library system is somewhat non-existent. We might even ask ourselves, for what are we paying a Librarian? That is the question we should ask ourselves. It is not altogether the fault of the Librarian, but I believe it is the fault of his employers, so to speak.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are one or two other points which need to be gone into with respect to Parliament. I want to say that the sooner the catering is re-examined the better it will be for all concerned. Definitely, I am of the view that it is presently sub-standard; the service in itself is rotten to say the least, and the sum of money that is paid for it nobody would attempt to suggest that we are getting value for the money. 1.30 p.m.

It is high time that the whole matter is thrown open and let us see what we can do in the future. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we will find that this is a case where the Leader of the House is better in a position to tell hon. members of other things which have transpired with respect to this particular Head, and as the Minister of Finance has said, I believe that when the time comes for discussing the question of salaries and emoluments and what not with respect to the members of staff of Parliament, that it may be better then to say what could be said and what we have discovered in the course of our negotiations with the Trade Union and certain matters relating thereto.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the acquiring of essential books and journals is something that should not be left in the hands of the present Librarian, but is a matter which a Committee ought to go into from time to time. We find that the sum provided therefor is $600. This in itself would tell us exactly what importance we attach to Parliament. Nobody can suggest that $600 is a handsome enough sum for spending in any one year for providing books, journals and periodicals if we really and truly mean to have Parliament functioning and members kept informed of what is happening in other parts of the world. I would say that although it is only $600, it is time that we see that it is spent carefully and that we get better for the money than we have been getting in the past.

Under Item 35 - Parliamentary Printing - I cannot for the life of me see what is the point of including year after year a token provision of $1.00 under this item for Parliamentary Printing. I do not believe that words could describe to Parliament any better than has already been done, because the necessity has already brought it home to members of Parliament the need for embarking upon the project of Parliament having its own printery set up to cater to its needs, but Mr. Chairman, all that will evolve from time to time must depend upon how seriously and earnestly members of Parliament are themselves concerned with the functioning of Parliament and with being provided with the necessary papers and documents. We have had instances, even this morning, where hon. members are just content to come and have something rattled off to them and they accept it. I for my part do not see that I can function under such conditions. I believe that the time will surely come when Parliament will be satisfied beyond a shadow of a doubt that it must set up its own printing department, it must be able to supervise its own printing and not allow itself to continue to be treated as has been demonstrated by what the Prime Minister had to say not many days ago here as to the way some Civil Servants treat Parliament.

We know and it has been established that at the Government Printery the work of Parliament is not given in truth and in fact priority treatment, and we are saying here and now that the reason for that is that they relate the importance of parliamentary printing to the importance they attach to the people for whom they are printing. I say so and I mean it. It is for us then, Mr. Chairman, having the knowledge to act or continue to stew in the rut. I leave that with hon. members for them to treat it in the way they feel it should be treated.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that it is time that hon. members ask themselves a very simple question which is this do the facilities physical and otherwise of this Parliament befit the sovereignty of this independent Country? Very often I get the impression that many of us by our acts omitted or committed are belittling the sovereignty of the people of this Country, and if we behave this way or accept certain conditions of service, then it is not unlikely that people outside will not give us the respect that we say we should get. Quite often in the past I have heard in this Chamber that it seems that people are not respecting the House of Assembly. When one looks at the physical facilities of this Parliament, one gets the impression that they are being overlooked; you get the impression too often that people seem to think that because they were good in the colonial era, they should be even better than good now for the people who now sit in these Chambers.

One of the members who has spoken before me has drawn attention to the lack of appropriate facilities for female members, and it is quite likely that in succeeding years we may see an increase in the number of female representatives sitting in this Chamber. Are we going to sit back and wait until an occasion when we have a majority of females in this Chamber to get something done which suits these people? We have to admit whether we like it or not that there are differences between the male and female sexes which make it necessary that adjustments be made in the accommodation for them.

A lot has been said about the Library facilities, but generally one can say a lot more. Even right now if one looks at the facilities being provided on which to lay your documents, you find that you are pushing your documents on to another person's documents and adding to the confusion when you want to find them. One can pinpoint a number of things which are not suited to a Parliament which we believe the people of Barbados should respect and also visitors coming to this country would want to respect.

I would like to say that only last year I made a point which I feel hon. members should pay some attention to, whether or not it is worthwhile at this stage. We say that it is a waste of money or make excuses that it is not urgent, but at the same time it is worth-while considering whether or not we should not in an independent nation be building a new House of Parliament which would provide the type of facilities which are now lacking and which many of us are deploring the lack of. We may consider that it is too costly, but at the same time, if we are the highest court in the land and treat ourselves this way, it is only natural to expect that people lower down will want to treat us with greater contempt, and to go a step further, the type of treatment that you find up here would not inspire anyone with any personal concepts of decency and good treatment to want to aspire to come here and sit down. 1.40 p.m.

It is not necessary at this stage to take each department singly and criticise it, whether it be the library, the food being offered, the facilities for eating, the latrines or whatever else it may be, I think we have to go a step further than that and address ourselves to the serious question of whether or not we should get away from the idea of trying to carry on this type of situation and set about to improve it to befit a proper House of Parliament suited to the sovereignty of this Country.

One may want to know what we will do with such a building if the time comes for us to vacate it. I am not for one moment saying we can do this next year or the year after, but I think that serious attention should be paid to it because we must have facilities in which we can function properly. During a long debate such as one on the Estimates, many of us do not want to come here and sit on these chairs and get sore on our buttocks or fall asleep on the chairs and then find that we have stiff necks as a result of these necks having to rest on the hard backs of the chairs, and many of us are forced to do that because there are no proper rest rooms to which we can retire and return when we are summoned to the Chamber. Some of us find that when the debate gets too long and boring, we find it easier to take off to our own affairs outside, very often forgetting the affairs of the people of the Country who have elected us here to champion their affairs and to see that the Country is being conducted in a proper way. If the time does come that we find it necessary to move away from here, I get the impression that everything is pointing ultimately in the direction that we have to address ourselves to the thought that we need a new House of Parliament befitting this Independent Country.

A lot of what is in here is tied up with the colonial past, and while it may be good for historians, we want to know if it has any relevance to what is going on in the Country today. It may be nice for some old people who may delight in the fact that they are British, as indicated by a recent exhibition in the Country, but we want to know if this type of situation with a lack of proper decorations has any relevance to the young people of this Country today, and it may be necessary when we move away from here to think in terms of converting this building into a national museum. This is my personal view, and while I may sympathise with the hon. members who have spoken about the lack of facilities as being provided for the members of the House of Assembly, whether male or female, I think we have to go a lot further and address ourselves to the question of whether or not the facilities, physical or otherwise, at this stage befits the sovereignty of an independent country. if we come to the conclusion that there are not befitting the sovereignty of an independent country, then it is incumbent upon us to provide adequate facilities befitting the sovereignty of this Country. I feel very strongly on it and that is why I rose again, having said it last year, to repeat that rather than coming and criticising these facilities one by one we have to address ourselves to giving adequate facilities, and I believe each one of us here has at some time in the past commented on this lack of facilities or inadequate facilities, and I believe that we would welcome better facilities, but the question is whether or not these better facilities can be provided within

this present building as it now stands.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that somewhere in this island there is a beautiful set of plans which were drawn in respect of a Parliament of another country in the Commonwealth. I am not saying that we in this Country should follow those plans explicitly, but certainly they provide the basis for some sort of model which would give us a Parliamentary Chamber which is befitting the duties and the length of time which Parliamentarians have got to spend in carrying out the people's business. What I find is that in this Country it seems to be the practice to do things on an ad hoc basis and spend money indiscriminately without any consideration for what the end result will be. When I first entered this House of Assembly, the House was meeting in the Other Place and I was told that they were renovating this Chamber to make it a Chamber befitting Parliamentarians in Barbados, but when we moved back into this Chamber I was the first person to criticise the shoddy work which was done and the expense which had gone into it to provide a Chamber with plywood facings, the cheapest material available, arborite tops with nails driven into the arborite, and this is the highest court in the land. Look anywhere in any private house, Mr. Chairman, and see if you will see the type of work which now stands before you for the same amount of money which was spent.

The lighting system in here is the worst one could ever ask for. The lights are hung so high that one has constantly to strain one's eyes in order to read what is going on. The Prime Minister spoke about rising prices and about curtailing these rising prices. I know from Minutes which have been sent to me that this Chamber is considering improving the lighting system in this place, and 1 can bet that you are going to give the contract to somebody who is going to spend probably two or three months in here at an exorbitant price to provide the same inadequate lighting which exists in here today, and that is the system that we have been labouring under, spending Government's money and not getting good results.

Look at the air conditioning units in this Chamber and you will find that these units are not appropriate for what we have in here. They have been backed up at my recommendation in order to stop the noise coming into this Chamber, and I can bet you that the price paid for them is sufficient to provide this entire building with a proper air conditioning system, but as long as Government is tied to the yard fowls who must get a job, this is what you will get constantly.

Let me move from the physical structure of the building down to the question of the member's library. I have said before that the Law Revision Commission has been sitting for as long as I have come back to Barbados in the practice of law. When I came home in 1964, I was told not to worry myself about getting a set of laws of Barbados because a new set would have been published the next year. They have not yet been published, but every week you come into Parliament there is always a revision of the laws of Barbados or some Act to revise a particular portion of the law. Look around in Parliament and you will see before the Prime Minister about eight books, before the Minister of Information - I do not know if they are before the Minister of Information or the Minister of Communications and Works, and I would suggest that they are before the Minister of Information and I would wish that he would get up and give me the information - there are only four books. Look at the Leader of the Opposition; he has about nine, but look for the laws of Barbados and you will find that even in Parliament today you cannot get the laws of Barbados and you are expecting parliamentarians to come in here week after week and amend a particular Act of Parliament when the relevant Act is not even available. These are the things you have to look at, whether or not Parliament is providing for its members the service they should be

given, and I say that a lot has got to be done in Parliament. We have to start with the building right through before we really get a Parliament that is befitting an independent country.

Take Item 22 - Amplification System, $1,600. This is something which has been recurring over and over again. I heard about this new sophisticated system which was going to come into the House of Assembly, but what is the sophisticated system? A system that if members want to leave this room and still want to hear what is going on from behind a plywood division they cannot even talk in peace. In any other Parliament the amplification system runs throughout the entire building, and a member is entitled to go into the lunch room, to the rest room or to the lavatory and still hear what is going on, but the moment you pass the door here you are blocked from hearing what is going on in this room. 1.50 p.m.

You talk about an amplification system, and the moment you go out of the door you cannot hear what is going on in the Chamber. You have a vote of $1,600 for amplifying equipment, but a decent amplifier will cost about $2,000. When I talk about going to the toilet, if you meet one of your constituents you will have to take him into a common room in which every member who wants to visit the toilet would have to pass

back and forth. Where is the privacy provided for you in a an Independent Parliament today, and you are still awarding contracts to keep botching up a building? In the long run, you are going to spend as much money as will provide adequate services in an adequate building with the necessary facilities.

We talk about reporting and indexing. I have been in Ghana, and I am thankful to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the trip. You can imagine, Mr. Chairman, that Parliament meets on a Monday and by Tuesday morning the Reports of Parliament are available. People come from as many as five hundred miles to attend Parliament, and it is possible for them to see the next morning what went on in Parliament. I will risk to bet that the debates on the Estimates last year have not yet been published, so that members can refer to what had been said last year and decide what they should say this year. Every year you continue to pass sums of money for reporting, indexing and printing, but to what avail!

Mr. Chairman, any time there is a debate in this Chamber, in which the general public is interested, it will take a long time before we can see the relevant article to know what went on. People are consequently asking what we are doing in Parliament, and they have to say that because there are no publications they can read about certain matters. Mr. Chairman, just imagine that the Land Tax Act has been passed in this House and the Other Place, and Solicitors were unable to get copies of the Act after it was passed into law. The Act was not available, despite the fact that it included a provision whereby land could not be legally registered unless certain provisions of the Act had been complied with. How can you talk about a Parliament and printing, spend money, and time after time people complain and ask parliamentarians what they have been doing?

I firmly suspect that it is appropriate for Government to withhold the printing of certain Acts and speeches, so that the public would believe that the Opposition is not doing its work in Parliament. I say so without hestitation, and I do not care what others say. Anytime you search for the debates on matters which are of importance to the general public, you will find that those debates have not been published. You will go back four or five years, and you will find that those debates have never been published or are not yet ready for publication.

Mr. Chairman, let us go a bit further and talk about travelling. I see that $1,800 is provided for the Clerk of Parliament, Deputy Marshal, etc. I do not want to critcise the sum involved, but, Mr. Chairman. we are now giving, for the first time, travelling to certain officers. I wonder if this sum was inserted in the Estimates merely by picking it out of the clouds. I believe that this should have been a realistic sum. I have often said that I am not against a public officer receiving a respectable sum in respect of travelling, if he has a duty to do. I have been dealing with the travelling of public officers since 1949, and I have always been at war with the Government regarding the way in which they worked out the payment for travelling allowance. They have a fantastic system that for the first 500 miles you will something like 30c a mile, and for every mile thereafter it is reduced to 15c, 12c, and 5c a mile. I would like to know the Economist who worked out this system for the Government. In other words, you are telling me that for the first 500 miles it is equitable to pay me at 30c a mile, but after that the amount is reduced to 4c a mile or some figure which I cannot understand. I am sure that the $1,800 provided in the Estimates was taken from the blue.

It all goes to show the way how Parliament is being treated. You treat the parliamentarians in a lackadaisical manner; you enter a Chamber where you have to push a big door and it slams back with a noise; if you walk out of the Chamber you cannot hear what is going on; you have an amplification system, and, unless the operator looks around quickly and flicks a switch, you will not hear what is being said. I thought when they were talking about a sophisticated system that we would have had a sophisticated system like other Parliaments. I will risk to say that, whenever things boil down, some yard fowl of the D.L.P. has received a drawback for providing these services.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has made points, some of which are worthy of mention, but they always spoil a good debate by reference to yard fowls. As a lawyer, if he had ever looked at the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Regulations, he would have seen that any contract over a certain amount is awarded; a Tenders Committee is established on which no Ministers or members of Government are involved, and that is the procedure. He should check with the Clerk, and he would see that there are procedures laid down in the laws of Barbados for the award of contracts. No Ministers sit on the Tenders Committee and, therefore, cannot award contracts to yard fowls, the basic principle being the lowest tender.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. I have never said that any Minister of the Government has awarded a contract to a yard fowl, so I do not understand what the Hon. Minister is saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Explanation made.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, he is referring to the work done in here, which no Minister of the Government has ever awarded in the House of Assembly.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I again, have to say that I have never said that any Minister of the Government has

ever awarded a contract in respect of the rebuilding of the House of Assembly.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I am not saying that he said it, but he wants the public to get the impression that this Government gives yard fowls work in this Government.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I have never implied that any Minister of the Government has given anybody a contract. If his conscience is worrying him, do not let him accuse me of saying that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is another speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, it is two o'clock. What would my conscience worry me about? I have clean hands, so do not come here talking nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The appropriate Standing Order has been suspended.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Well, I will not be long. As I was saying, he ma kes a good speech, and then he introduces yard fowls to give the public the impression that . . .

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I hope the horn member will give way. Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2 p.m.

On resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply considering the Annual Estimates. To that it now reverts.

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

Head 3 - Parliament - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I am looking you in the eye and I expect you to look me in the eye too.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I never said anything about looking you in the eye; so I do not understand why the hon. member has got up and.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is absolutely no point of order. That is interruption. Would the hon. member please take his seat!

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of elucidation then, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Is the hon. member prepared to give way?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I am not prepared to give way. Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, the hon. member for St. Joseph went off when he attempted to suggest that contracts in this House of Assembly in particular are awarded possibly to yard fowls. Now there is a Debates Committee on which the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for St. Peter sit which awards all contracts for anything done in this House, electrical or otherwise; so he must not give the House the impression that any work done in the House has been done by persons who hold the political convictions of the ruling Party. I just want to say that for the record because you have got to straighten that out. The Government is as concerned as the Opposition about the late publication of debates, and this is one time the Government would have liked the debates to be published, because it would have shown the public that the Opposition did not oppose the Land Tax Act, and now that they are running about the Country telling the people a lot of nonsense, the public if they had the debate could read it. The hon. member for Christ Church West was not in the House if I remember correctly.

Mr, FORDE:
On a point of explanation, the hon. member could be assured that I was ill, otherwise I would have been here and he would have heard from me.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

He was not in the House, so when he was ill he was not ill in the House. No one member of the Opposition opposed the Land Tax Bill on the question of principle, but now they are running from pillar to post because they see it has political overtones trying to fool the poor people that something wicked was passed in the Chamber. We would like that to be published, but you will hear more about that. When it is published the public will see the part that the Opposition played in that particular piece of legislation.

Only a few weeks ago, Mr. Chairman, I suggested in here that members of Parliament should have something on their cars to indicate that they were members of Parliament. I have said before that you do not come in here on a wheel-barrow; people vote for you, and consequently as a result of that statement, you found letters to the paper suggesting that Parliamentarians want something special. This only shows the way in which people treat Parliamentarians. I am not asking to be able to pass out a car; I am not asking for out-riders; I am not asking to break the law or have a precedence; but what people in this Country do not understand is that under the Constitution of Barbados you can have 108,000 aspirants for Parliament. They seem to think that we chose something for ourselves, and when we increase our salaries they think we have it forever and you get colonialists and people criticising Parliament, and the very building in which we stand cannot but make people think that being a parliamentarian is the lowest form of animal life. I can do better than being in Parliament now or any time in my grown life. I am speaking personally now. The little pittance I get in here as a Minister I can work for anywhere; so I want to make my position clear.

There is an impression in this Country that you only go in for politics or join Parliament when you are a near-do-weil, a failure or you cannot do anything to earn an honest living. We as parliamentarians year in year out contribute to the people of any country, not only in Barbados but in the West Indies, thinking that parliamentarians are people who only go in for politics because they cannot make a living elsewhere. That might apply to some, but it does not apply to me, and the sooner we get together and let people know that in democratic countries, being a member of Parliament is an honour, because I personally tell you that for about two minutes when I was first elected in 1956 I almost lost consciousness. When I realised that the people of the country had voted for me, that to me was one of the greatest moments in my whole life, and the sooner we get together and let people know that you do not come in here because you cannot do anything but because people have placed their confidence in you, and that Parliament even if not the highest court is a body to be respected, the better.

Whether we should build a new Parlaiment building or not is a matter of economics, it is a matter of when the Country can stand it. I share the view that in due course a new Parliament building should be built, but if hon. members would look at the Capital Estimates they will see a sum of $800,000 for a new Post Office, which, if I am still Minister of Communications and Works by September, I hope to commence. (Asides) Well, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. I have heard that in this House already. You come into this world with nothing and you take nothing out of it. All I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that if within a period of 18 months to two years which the post office will probably take to build because it is going to be not a prestige building but a functional building, I am Minister of Communications and Works, then we could certainly expand and give to Parliamentarians the accommodation which they so badly need. This whole building as occupied by Parliament is totally and absolutely unsuitable for parliamentary operations. We are pinch-hitting, we

are putting up with inconveniences which the people themselves do not appreciate, and when the time comes, they are going to give you the boot if they want to, therefore I say that if you are running a country then at least parliamentarians are entitled to a building in which there is not only comfort and an ability to do research, but the opportunity to conduct their business in the dignity befitting the representatives of people in a democratic state, and these amenities should be provided.

As I said, we hope to start the new post office and move it out and we hope to expand. If we are not in a position because of the economic situation to build a new parliament building, then at least we should expand the facilities for members; but I appeal to all hon. members here that the time has come when we must let the people know that we as representatives of the people have not chosen something for ourselves. You do not walk up in here; people vote for you and we must make not only journalists who smear, not only the man in he street who is envious, not only the people who grudge you, but the entire population understand what parliament is all about and what it really means in a democratic state. We must join hand in hand; this is no partisan approach; this is vital. If people are not going to continue in this Country to think that we are a bunch of near-do-wells, a bunch of people who could not succeed in any profession, we run for politics because it has sweets and we get perks, as long as people perpetuate that type of thinking, you will get the type of letters you get in the paper, you will get the type of attitudes suggested as you read from day to day. The time has come when we must impress upon them that they too can be parliamentarians if they can persuade a majority of people in any constituency to give them their votes. All of us talk and sneer, but elections are free; anybody can run. Once you can raise S240 you can run. We are not choosing anything for ourselves; it is the people's choice and the voice of the people is the voice of God.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased with the manner in which the hon. member for St. Michael North Central dealt with the facilities for hon. members, but I would like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the hon. member for St. Peter when he put in a plea on my behalf. As the only lady member in this House, I am saying that the facilities are not what they should be, and indeed proper facilities are badly lacking. As a female member of this House, I have often found myself in some tight spots when I have to go into the Speaker's Chambers. (Laughter)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Order!

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I think I had better explain that a bit. The time has come when there should be facilities for female members of the House and in future there may be more female members, and I would hate to think that several female members came to this House and found the same facilities that are now provided. I also agree with the hon. member for St. Joseph who said that the air-conditioning units were not what they should be. Indeed I am sitting right in front of one and every time I sit here I have to have my sweater on. Not only is the room too cold, but the machines make too much noise and very often I cannot hear what is being said on the opposite side. I hope that we all will take note of these things and seek to improve the conditions of this Chamber.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, I am sure that hon. members will agree with the hon. lady member because I came to

this Chamber on 6th July, 1945 for the first time, and I think there has been a general deterioration in the facilities here. It is true that in those days there were no lady members. 3.10 p.m.

On this Head I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, I hope the Government will give consideration to some of the things I raised. I would like to say that the parliamentary provisions that have been made for the Speaker I regard as ridiculously low, and therefore the time has come when these parliamentary emoluments for a person holding that office should be more in keeping with what is going on in 1973. Let us stop this parsimonious business; either you are going to have a man holding an office and he is accorded the dignity that he should have or you are not going to have the office at all. I do not agree with these low salaries that are paid to the people, and I do not see how you can pay a Speaker $9,600 by statute when things are going as they are today.

My other criticism is that I feel it is ridiculous to talk about giving a Speaker $100 a month as a hospitality allowance. I do not see what any man can do in the office of Speaker with a hospitality allowance of $100 a month. The only thing you can expect to get with that is, as I hear the hon. member on my right saying, some see-through run. We have to dignify these offices or abandon them, but if you want them treat them properly. I cannot see how you can have the Speaker in that position, you are not putting him in any better position than the Leader of the Opposition.

Refreshments. Mr. Chairman, if you are going to have refreshments, have refreshments, but if you are not going to have refreshments do not have any, let members buy them, but to take $18,000 and spend for refreshments and to get the kind of nonsense that I see in that dining

room, I feel it is time we do something better than that. Even today was an example. I went to the dining room and there was not even enough seating accommodation for members of Parliament. If any day all of the members of Parliament assemble in the dining room there are not enough seats, and I think that should be improved.

I am at a loss to know what the Parliamentary Association does with $40,000 a year. I want to say something to the people in the Parliamentary Association. It is insulting for members of Parliament to ask other members to put down their names- if they are interested in going anywhere. Something must have gone wrong in the heads of those people who are sitting on the Committee of Management. Do they believe that any self-respecting man is going to beg somebody to send him somewhere? That somebody is going to be touting around the House or asking members to go, and being treated as if they are menial people? This nonsense should be brought to an end, and when they are going to meet and select people they should select parliamentarians on the basis of their own judgement not on the basis of asking people to reduce themselves to the indignity of submitting names. Nobody is looking for a job, and I object to this method. It is time that members for themselves have some better idea of their own self-respect. This is one area where members of the House have to speak for themselves.

I can say these things because I am not afraid of the consequences of anything I say. I am responsible for myself, and I am not looking for a job. I feel the parliamentary salaries that are paid are inadequate, and if you continue to pay these parliamentary salaries to people you are going to continue to have this sort of insulting outlook that people want to attach to parliamentarians. When a man enters Parliament he exposes himself to all the problems of life. He is the person that is open to all the assasin's bullets - although we are not in that unfortunate position - therefore he can be assassinated in character, he can be

assassinated physically, and I do not subscribe to the idea that parliamentary salaries should be looked upon as allowances pure and simple, I feel that some of the members who are in here today would not have been in here if those of us in the early days did not see that parliamentary salaries should be paid. I have had the bitter experience of seeing the professional men 25 years ago not being able to afford to enter public life, and therefore people have made it easy for other people to enter public life today, and those members that I see sitting on the front bench, with few exceptions, could not have been in that position 25 years ago, they would have been on a front bench but in a school room not in Parliament. Therefore, I want to make it quite clear that 1 do not subscribe to this old fashioned, bogus idea that parliamentary salaries should be so parsimonious that the people must be either walking with their shirts out or one foot in their pants and the other one out in order to show that they are very magnanimous and they are charitable. You either are going to have people in Parliament and you are going to pay them or you are not going to have them. I can say that for myself because I do not depend on any parliamentary salary and I can look at any man in his face and tell him so. It does not matter me personally what you pay Parliament. 1 am not asking for any personal income, I pay more money to the Government in income tax than some of the people who sit on the front bench, because I am not begging for any more allowances than anybody else would have, but I have to pay my income tax, it is taken out of my salary.

1 feel parliamentarians should be paid for the duties they have to perform and this should be done without making any issues about it or telling anybody what income they have to receive, but it should be done on a proper basis. I hope I will not have to speak on this again; you are either going to abandon that lunch room or have a decent lunch room for people to go in and not have to be hustling and jostling to sec if you can get a steak of fish or if they can come in and get a drink.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Debates Committee 1 think it is only fair and right for me to say a few words at this stage. The Debates Committee for quite a long time did not really function very effectively, but of late we have had some constructive meetings and we have done some constructive work within recent weeks, and more especially with regard to the sub-committee which was set up - of which the hon. member for St. Peter is a member and myself and a few others - in connection with the regrading and revising of salaries for the staff of Parliament. Our report was sent on to the Debates Committee and the report has been laid here in the House. I think the Prime Minister who is Minister of Finance is looking through this at the moment and the recommendations will be carefully considered by the Prime Minister in so far as the staff of Parliament is concerned. I just want to give that assurance.

With respect to Refreshments, a proper library being set up and a library scheme, these are matters which I think the Debates Committee itself should look into, so there is no point our getting here, whether in opposition or otherwise, and criticising. The fact is, if you are a member of the Debates Committee, no matter on which side you sit, you cannot really be seen to be here criticising yourself. Some of that went on here today, so I think the remedy is in our own hands, and it is a fact that we have started to see that the debates of Parliament and the Minutes are brought up to date, and we have had a fair measure of improvement over the last few months.

As far as the indexing goes, this has been improved on and is almost up to date. I am not saying the work is complete because there is a big backlog, but we are making an effort to get things in order, and it is no point criticising ourselves. The question of refreshments is one for the Amenities Committee. I am afraid there is great room for improvement as far as the refreshments are concerned, but speaking for

myself I do not see that there should be any down-grading as far as refreshments are concerned, I think the standard is very good, but I come to try and get the people's business done so the question of refreshments is a side issue as far as I am concerned. I agree that the time will come in the priorities when a new Parliament building, amenities and facilities for all members of Parliament, including lady members, will have to be looked into, and the hon. member for St. Peter raised a good point when he touched on that. 3.20 p.m.

Generally speaking, the comments are very much in order, but I just want to remind members of the Debates Committee that it is within our grasp to remedy some of these appalling conditions. The Debates Committee has recently granted a contract for the improvement of the lighting system, and the supplementary has been passed here. I suppose that, when we complete the Estimates, there will be ample time for the electrician to proceed with his work. There is a lot of room for improvement, but the Debates Committee must try and meet and do effective work in order to look after the various criticisms which have been mentioned here today.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Leader of the House has cleared up a lot of the points which I wanted to make myself. I am very surprised to see that, in a discussion on the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, we have a kind of latrine lobby in the House. They talk about the standards of the latrines, when it is a simple matter for anybody to make a representation to the Debates Committee that an improvement is desired in the standard of the facilities provided by the House. I know of no occasion in which Parliament has approached the Ministry of Finance for money to carry out improvements to this Chamber, or to the Other Place, or to Parliament Buildings, generally speaking, in which this money has been refused.

It is for the Debates Committee to put their house and this House in order. What has happened is that we have experienced a long period of dereliction on the part of the administration of this House; misappropriation of funds of Parliament voted for carrying out the purposes of Parliament; direct misappropriation to the extent where one of the joint Presidents of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association resigned in protest, and I have never heard anybody say anything about that on the Floor of this House. When they talk about mismanagement, there have been more mismanagement, direct larceny and mis-appropriation right here in the Office of the House of Assembly than in any Government Department with the possible exception of the Treasury. The Treasury is the worst place. With regard to public officers in the Treasury, last night at one thirty-five in the morning I read a report where a public officer already serving a term of imprisonment - a poor sergeant from the Regiment, who has retired and gone to the United States - did not receive his terminal benefits, and the same person's defalcations appeared at the head of the list. All of this kind of venality goes on, and I do not hear any thing about that. I do not hear anything of the stealing that went on. I do not hear anything about the toll that is exacted from members' allowances by officers of the House, and the short payments that are still being made that I have mentioned before. I speak with particular reference to members of the Senate, but I am hearing about toilet bowls and latrines. We have a toilet or latrine lobby now in the House of Assembly.

All of these things should be discussed by the Committee which the House has appointed to deal with matters which affect the domestic administration of the Chamber, and they have nothing to do with the debates on the Appropriation Bill. It should never have been mentioned in here. There is nothing to congratulate anybody on, but it is something of which we ought to be bitterly ashamed that, in

discussing the supplies for the running of the Country and the better government of the Country, we are discussing latrine bowls at this stage.

I beg to move that Head 3 stand part. Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $257,449 under Head 3 - Parliament - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 4 - AUDITOR GENERAL Head 4 - Auditor General - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $32,830 under Head 4 - Auditor General - stand part. I should like to apologise for the lateness, for the first time, in laying the Audited Report of the Auditor General's Department which should have been laid a couple of months ago. One of the officers who assisted me in this exercise in getting the vouchers and receipts was absent on duty leave and, unfortunately, the person who was acting in his place did not take up the matters with the alacrity I would have expected, but the accounts will be brought shortly up to date.

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

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

HEAD 5 - JUDICIARY Head 5 - Judiciary - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I am informed that the salaries and emoluments of the Judges of the Supreme Court have now been settled, I hope, to the satisfaction of all concerned. I will be bringing in a Bill towards the end of this week under the statutory legislation dealing with the Judges salaries. It is not part of the annual appropriations. It is statutory expenditure, and in the same way as that is fixed by law as the Governor-General's emoluments and members of Parliament, we will be introducing that legislation. It is ready; it needs only the approval of Cabinet, and it will be coming at the end of this week.

I beg to move that the sum of $165,724 under Head 5 - Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, under Head 5, Item 25 - Liquor licensing Authority - tor several years I have been wondering what is the necessity for perpetuating the ancient colonial practice of asking persons who apply for liquor licences to appear in the Court yards of this Island once a quarter in order to get on a stand and say "I. take the oath", and then you will hear "granted".

Now, I heard the Hon. Prime Minister say that the court yard seems to be made for certain people in

this community, and I agree with him 100 per cent. There is no doubt about it that the present productivity rate of the Courts in our Island is not sufficient to cope with the number of matters which come before the Courts. I am not saying that the Magistrates are not doing an honest day's work. What I mean is that the present, system in the Courts today is such that there is an accumulation of cases year after year, month after month, and week after week. If you are going to ask the normal Magistrate's Court to deal with indictable matters, then it means that the Magistrate will have to set aside certain days to deal with indictable matters in order to meet the opening of the Assizes. That will take away from the normal time in which the Magistrate will have to deal with the ordinary Magistrate procedure.

In addition to that you have a Liquor Licensing Session: one every three months. Pepple who apply for licences have to conic to Court; they remain in the court yard there are no parking facilities, and in all the courts in this Island the toilet facilities are the worst that anybody can expect, including the Supreme Courts of this Island. When you overload the court with a simple thing like a Liquor Licensing Session, I would suggest to the Government that they amend the relevant Act so that people who apply for liquor licences can fill out the form and affidavit can be appended at the bottom of the form which the person signs before a Justice of the Peace, because you have appointed numerous persons to work in that capacity. When the application comes to the Police they can then put it before the Magistrate for his signature and the licence can be issued, unless there is an objection from somebody. It is only in that case that 1 would say that a person would have to come to court to justify the issuing of a liquor licence. 3.30 p.m.

When the applications come before the police they put them before the Magistrate for signature and the licences are issued unless there is objection from some person. Only in that case would I say a person should have to go to court to justify the issuing of a liquor licence. This is something which I believe a simple amendment to the Act can do, but as it stands now you are voting a sum of money here for persons to go and sit next to the Magistrate and nine times out of ten the minor objections which are raised are disposed of the same day by a little bit of judicial intelligence.

I know of a case last year in which a man applied for a liquor licence in the Hastings district, but because some person who has lived in Hastings for a number of years still believes that Hastings is one of the secluded areas where only the rich and sophisticated must live, a most frivolous objection was brought into court, and all I had to do was to tell the Magistrate that there was the Asta which is a hotel and you have other hotels going up along the coast which accommodate the tourist trade, and nobody can sit down in his house and say he is accustomed to a peaceful residence and there is no question of a guesthouse being put next to him and he did not want every Tom, Dick and Harry to be coming next to him. This is where I say the law can be easily amended, and you would say judicial time because it takes up at least half a day every quarter for people to come to the court yard, there would be no loss of productivity in the nation because the people who have got to go to court and stand up in the yard are often engaged in other employment, and it means a loss of time to go and stand up in the yard to hear their names called, get on the stand, take an oath and them step back outside.

The system of waiting until a man has taken the oath and then paying the money and coming back a week later for the clerk to write up the licence is in my opinion utilising the capacities of the Magistrate's Court as fully as they can be utilised. If a person applies for a licence and files the necessary forms which are overlooked by the police and there are no objections within a given time, he should be made to pay the value of the licence at the time of filing the application and within a given time the

licence should come back to him by post or he should be directed to call at the Police Station, the Licensing Office or wherever it might be and collect his licence without the time being spent in filling up the court yard.

I would like to see this sum removed from the Estimates, or I would like to see the Government take a positive step in amending the Law forthwith so that we do not have to pay these officers this amount to travel down to the Court in the morning and in my opinion seem to be lords over everybody by sitting next to the Magistrate when they have not got any judicial qualifications. I know the system was one in

which you did not have magistrates with legal qualifications and you thought that three heads were better than one, but if you are going to employ magistrates who have got legal qualifications, I feel it is a lowering of the status to put two non-qualified members to sit next to him to determine whether or not a person should be entitled to a liquor licence, and I hope that the Government will do something about it forthwith.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing judicial about judging whether a person is a fit and proper person. There is no special legal training desired, and all of the provisions relating to the granting of liquor licences are controlled by the Liquor Licence Act of 1957. It was originally the Liquor Licence Act of a little greater antiquity than that. It was the Act of 1909 which has been repealed and revised in 1957, and the licensing sessions are normally held only once a year. It is true that in the requirement for a person applying for a renewal of licence it may appear to be unnecessary for that person to actually attend the court, but I think it is necessary to have safeguards in the law, Hastings notwithstanding. The Battle of Hastings was fought and lost nearly 2,000 years ago, and I am not prepared to fight that again, but apparently the hon. member for St. Joseph has won the new Battle of Hastings in 1972. We are not concerned about Hastings. What I am saying is that there are cases in which people who are residents of a district may have a legitimate reason for objecting to the establishment of what was known in ordinary parlance as a rumshop in the middle of a residential district.

There are cases in which people may want to object. I am not saying I am objecting to a rumshop next to me, because as far as I know I may be completely surrounded by rumshops. They do not disturb me but there are other people in Barbados who may for reasons best known to themselves wish to object, and the only proper way to do it is to have a Licensing Court. Whether you have one Justice of the Peace, whether you have a stipendary magistrate and two Justices of the Peace is a matter of opinion. I personally feel that in a matter like that it is better to have a person who is not strictly trained in legal matters, but businessmen with commonsense, ordinary taxpayers and citizens sitting on the Licensing Court so that they can bring a little human discretion to bear on decisions of this nature. I have heard no one complain. The Justices of the Peace who sit in the Licensing Courts once a year are not even paid. If they get anything I understand they only get $3.00 for travelling to a session, and there is a panel of these Justices of the Peace and you cannot really regard what they are paid as compensation for the long hours they have to sit in order to make decisions on these matters. It is true that in most cases the applications are disposed of as a matter of formality, but especially in the case of new licences I would hate to think that the decision as to whether a person should be able to establish a restaurant or a store or a shop would rest on the decision of a single stipendary magistrate who is drawing a salary out of the Treasury every month.

All I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that the hon. member for St. Joseph would have to produce a lot more cogent and impelling arguments to convince me and I am open to being convinced, but at the moment I have heard nothing that he has said that can persuade me that the present system needs amending.

The question of congestion in the court yard is not a situation which has been created by the Liquor Licence Act. Congestion in the court yard is something endemic in this society. Whether there is a liquor licence session going on or not, lawyers keep their clients waiting. They have thirteen and fourteen adjournments in a single case and people have to stand in the court yard from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4.30 in the afternoon when frequently they know the cases are never going to be heard. The call over system never seems to work properly and the wastage of man hours and the sheer economic wastage that goes on in the court yards in this island is something which has to be seen to be believed. On the 15th December in each and every year or on whatever day in December they elect to hold the licensing sessions, I do not think that any great injustice is done either to the economy of the Island or to the people who apply for liquor licences. 3,40 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I will deal with Item 15 - Legal Aid. This point of legal aid has been canvassed year after year in this Chamber, and while credit must be given to the Government for introducing the system of legal aid, I think there are still one or two criticisms that can be made of the system as it exists at present. For the financial year 1970-71 there was a vote of $8,000 of which just over $3,000 was spent; for the year 1971-72 again there was a vote of $8,000; $2,340 being spent in that year; and in this last financial year the vote was reduced to $5,000 and only $2,660 of that amount was spent. It may very well be that there are certain basic problems with the system of legal aid as existing in the Country at present, but I am not going to make any representation on behalf of any professional body as regards the amount of money that is paid, whether it is adequate or not, and whether as a result of the inadequacy of the money the more skilful lawyers tend to avoid putting their names down in the legal aid scheme, bat what I want to advocate to this Committee is an investigation into the categories for which legal aid is at the moment granted.

It may very well be that with the $8,000 provided in 1970-71, most of this money came as revenue collected perhaps from the tax or the licence fee which is collected every year in January, and rather than just have the money lapse and revoted year after year, I would like to urge upon the Government to investigate the possibility of extending the categories of legal aid for the purpose of including affiliation and maintenance married women's applications. I know that under Head 41 which we will deal with later, Item 28, there is a vote of $240 for the assistance of persons who wish to bring affiliation applications or applications under the Married Women's Maintenance and Affiliation Act, but I think that if the Government investigates the position it may in the long run prove more economical to expand the legal aid scheme to affiliation and husband and wife cases, because where the mother or wife is not in a position to bring a case against the putative father or the husband for the maintenance of the illegitimate or legitimate child, it may well be that in the long run Government through its national assistance programme has got to support that child, and therefore when you believe you are making a saving in one respect you are in actual fact spending more money. It may well be that if these mothers or wives are given assistance, then the husbands and the putative fathers may be brought before the courts and made to pay in respect of their children. I would like to urge upon the Government to review the categories for which legal aid is at the moment granted.

One other category which comes to mind is the Landlord and Tenant Act. I know that in 1965 the Tenantry Development Act was passed by the Government but the Landlord and Tenant legislation in this Country is still that which operated in 1897, and basically, it operated then in favour of the landlord. There are very few amendments which have been made to that Act, if any, other than mere consequential amendments, and it still operates in favour of the landlord. I would like to urge upon the Government two thing; one, a review of the Landlord and Tenant legislation, and secondly a system to extend the legal aid categories to include those persons who are in need of legal aid under the Landlord and Tenant Act. I believe it was because the Governnment felt that the tenants were not well protected that they passed the Tenantry Control Bill, but again I urge upon them that an investigation will prove that tenants, sometimes in the majority of cases, are at a tremendous disadvantage to the landlords who because of their wealth can have their lawyers represent them and most tenants appear in court unrepresented. In most of these cases there are technical legal points which can be taken - I hope the Prime Minister can appreciate this - and the tenants because of their lack of finance and not being in a position to have lawyers who can draw these technical points to the attention of the judges they lose. I would like to urge this category also upon the Government.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I want to deal also with legal aid. The hon. member who has just sat down has put, if I may say so, a very modest and mooted case, because I think that the time is here when we should take a look at the entire system of criminal justice in Barbados. I do not think anybody who has heard me in here before will expect that I will invite hon. members to take the sort of look or the advice of a previous member for St. Thomas, that is, to abolish the system of juries and lawyers altogether. He failed to abolish this lawyer, Sir, and I do not imagine that there is anyone who wishes to abolish juries. The standard of advocacy and the standard of the conduct of the criminal trials must in my suggestion be improved in Barbados. The Judges do their best, but I see both on the part of the prosecution - and I am sad to say - sometimes on the part of the defence in criminal trials both before juries and at a lower level, some very low standards not so much of behaviour, although that sometimes leaves much to be desired, but I think it is higher now than it was about 15 years ago, but a low standard of efficiency in criminal trials is very evident.

No Government in my opinion which has any responsibility for the administration of justice, should sit down insensibly to the fact that prosecutions at Assizes in Barbados in serious offences where the public interest demands that the best possible legal talent be brought to bear on the problems of prosecuting is of a very low standard. I am ashamed sometimes to go into court as a defence counsel - I do not do it so much now as I used to - but I am ashamed to go into court and see the utter thorough-going hopelessness of what is against me. I am tired, and I say this without any hypocrisy whatsoever, I am tired of being a

defence counsel seeing a good case against me and being able to demolish it because of incompetence on the part of the prosecuting lawyers. 3.50 p.m.

I am speaking on the item relating to Legal Aid, because no prosecution lawyer can become competent unless he constantly has the competition and the example of someone on the other side who knows what he is about, and who has a proper spirit of dedication to the administration of criminal justice on behalf of the defendant constantly working and keeping a prosecution lawyer on his toes. How can a youngster go in there and prosecute properly at an Assize, if in 10 cases he has no opposition and he only has the prisoner to contend with. The prisoners throw them down, too, Sir. The prisoners do throw down the

prosecuting lawyers sometimes. If he has only a prisoner to contend with, and then he faces someone with fifteen or twenty years' experience at the Bar who knows the ins and outs of the Judge and, perhaps, of every juror, how can the prosecutor in those circumstances do well?

I am urging on the House to support the arguments of the hon. member for Bridgetown, who has made the leading speech on this matter for our side. When we say that the scope of legal aid must be broaden, one reason is to raise the whole standard of the conduct of criminal trials. It will have other effects. No doubt many more lawyers will obtain the very small fee that legal aid pay. I am coming back to that lat;er, Sir. (Mr. WALCOTT: "More people will go to jail, too.") I appreciate that comment because, as he says, you want people to go to jail.

Mr. WALCOTT:
On a point of order. I never suggested that anybody should go to jail. I said that more will go to jail.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I heard absolutely no remarks, because only one hon. member was speaking.

Mr. ADAMS:
He made the remark that more will go to jail, and that is the whole point. As the Chief Justice has said, the interests of Justice are not identical with the interests of the prisoner. Many defence counsel get up and say in the interests of justice such and such a thing should be done. What they really mean is in the interests of their client such and such should be done, but the two are not necessarily identical. This is why I would like to see lawyers in Court more often. I may be old fashioned, Sir, I am told, indeed, I am new fashioned. Since I have come along at the Bar, I believe that the presence of a lawyer on both sides is one of the guarantees against malpractices and tampering. I do not know if this is always so. I see certain hon. members smiling. Certainly, since I have been at the Bar and, certainly, in recent years, I am satisfied that the presence of a lawyer at a jury trial goes somewhere towards a guarantee that the trial is going -to be conducted more decently and with less background operation than otherwise. It is better for the client to pay the lawyer than to seek to pay somebody else.

With regard to Legal Aid, first of all, the fees are too low, and there is no doubt about it. You cannot ask a man to give of his best defending somebody on trial for his life for between $200 and $300 as the maximum. All the leading counsels, whom I know, who appear in this sort of case, never for one minute consider charging less than a four-figure fee for a murder defence. (Asides.) What is shameful about it? The hon. member may have had a strong stomach in his day, and he could go and drink rum when his client was being sentenced to death, but I do not know of any lawyer whose stomach is that strong.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
That is totally untrue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
On what has the hon. member risen? Which hon. member?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
He is saying that I was drinking rum when a client of mine was being sentenced to death. He is referring to me, and there is no doubt about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Are you the only hon. member in here that stands up for the legal profession? No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
All right, you can let him get away with it. I can tell him that if he is referring to me, it is totally untrue and it is a damned lie.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
You will sit.

Mr. ADAMS:
I am glad to have offered the Minister of Communications and Works, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, the opportunity of denying what has been a common rumour for the past 20 years that on one occasion he was in Baxters Road drinking rum when the jury brought in a verdict of murder.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
On a point of order, now! Mr. Chairman, to show what type of mentality he has, he is prepared on the Floor of the House to repeat a rumour which he knows nothing about. If that is the type of Prime Minister you would like to be.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Will both hon. members sit. I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, I want to withdraw any allegation contained in it, but the statement made was that L am glad to give the hon. member an opportunity of denying the rumour that has been current for 20 years that.....and then I went on to say that when the jury was bringing in the verdict he was in a rum shop in Baxters Road. If I withdraw the whole thing.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH; On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has never practised law with me. The last time I practised law in Barbados was in 1958. He came long after me, so he is repeating a rumour that happened, according to him several years ago when he was trying to be a 'Judge' in England. You cannot come in here with rumours, and try to assassinate people's character. I have always had a good reputation at the Bar here, Jamaica. and wherever I have been.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
You have already asked the hon. member to withdraw the remark, and that he is prepared to do. 1 am not prepared to hear any cross-talk in this Chamber relative to people's character. We must get on with the people's business, but anything relative to people's character, I am going to stamp it out completely.

Mr. ADAMS:
That is the whole point. I want to make it clear that 1 am glad he has had a chance to deny it. He, probably, did not know it was in circulation. I am not trying to repeat it, or to suggest that it was true. 1 do not tell him that I meant him in any case, because I never mentioned his name in connection with the

first point of order. (Asides.) I am glad that it has been ventilated, and the rumour is not true.

Sir, what really prompted this is my saying that I do not know of any counsel with experience at the criminal Bar who does not charge a four-figure fee in a murder case, and the hon. member over there shouted "shame". Do not let it be thought that I have come in here to volunteer any abuse of anybody. I believe that a man must be paid for what he can do. It is a big nervous strain to defend in a murder case. I know hon. members whose stomachs go to pieces. A most distinguished Judge will tell you that he will have stomach troubles for a fortnight after a murder case. To offer people $200 or $300 is only to get people who do not know much - (Asides)

This will have to be confirmed, but I believe that, with the retirement of Mr. Hutson Williams and Mr. Sargeant, I am the Senior Counsel at the Outer Bar. Mr. Will Hanschell alone of silks, as far as I know-I do not know if there is anybody senior at the Outer Bar to myself - undertakes these cases. None of the other senior barristers do them. I was doing cases for something like $40 at the last Assiz , Sir. I am prepated to do it bacause I believe the prisoners deserve the benefit of a defence. I believe, for example, that in a case where there is an obvious mistake in the approach to prosecution, it should be exposed by defence counsel, even if it results in one acquittal, but in the long run it will improve the quality of the prosecution for the future.

No lawyer wishes to say that everybody should be acquitted. If everybody was acquitted there would not be any work for lawyers either, because the people would not go to them. If the juries used to let go people, no matter what sort of lawyer they had to defend them, then a good lawyer would not be able to earn a living any more than a bad lawyer. The fee must be increased. You cannot, in my suggestion, ask lawyers to work for this kind of fee. 4 p.m.

I will always do it because I do not feel I am scratching so much at the bar now that I have to catch at a dollar here and a dollar there. I am always prepared to keep my name on that Legal Aid list at whatever fee is voted by Parliament or apportioned by the Chief Justice, but there are many other lawyers who may not be prepared to do it, and I cannot quarrel with them. As I say, Mr. Hanschell and I as far as I know, are the only two barristers of any large number of years' standing who any longer do legal aid cases.

There is another point also about the administration of the scheme which I would be glad if the Minister responsible for the judiciary will deal with. You do sometimes get a situation in which a client retains a lawyer but is unable to pay the whole fee, is able to pay a fee for appearing in one court but not in another. Until comparatively recently, some lawyers, although the fee they would be getting from the Government was so much less than the fee they charged a client, were interested enough in the matter to do the man's work on legal aid. Now in the ordinary way this is very bad business. If you tell a man $1,000 and he says he cannot pay he will have to ask the Government for a lawyer, and the Government says, well you know about the case go and do the case even although it is $120. In the ordinary way, a business man would refuse that because he is underselling himself; but some lawyers have enough interest in a case sometimes to do it under those conditions. Now very recently, I have been made to understand that some edict has gone out that this must not be done, that a man who appeared on a retainer must never be given a further brief from the Government. What is the reason for that? I cannot see it. This is something which I would be glad if the Minister responsible for the judiciary would look into.

The next point is that I want to support to the hilt the arguments of the member for Bridgetown that the ambit of legal aid should be expanded. It should be made wider. The few cases for which it is now available do not by any means cover all that is needed at the Bar at present. All my arguments are supported by the fact that the money is never spent. A bad estimation was made as to the demand for legal aid in the first place. All my arguments are supported by that aspect of it.

Sir, with respect to witnesses expenses and medical witnesses and so on, a very cavalier attitude seems to be adopted towards these. It seems that the police have very grand ideas about bringing witnesses here from abroad. I would seriously recommend to the Government, and I will deal with this again under the Head dealing with police, that they undertake the training of policemen in expert techniques to a much greater extent than they are now doing. Sergeant Weekes, I think, has gone away, but more than that is needed. A forensic science laboratory for the Eastern Caribbean as a whole is needed. Sending to England or to Canada for people is not good enough. If you have a Regional Police Training College, you can have a Regional Forensic Laboratory too, and this would save everybody some money in the long run.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member has spoken for the allotted fifteen minutes.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, I do not want to argue, but we had a long point of order. I am sitting down anyhow, but I am just mentioning that I took note of the time I got up which was 3.50 p.m. and we had a long point of order. I hope that in future points of order will not be taken out, or some attention will be paid by somebody

to the point of order time. I took particular pains to look and see that at ten minutes to four I got up.

The question that the sum of $165,724 under Head 5 - Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD - 6 MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Head 6 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - was called.

Rt, Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, in moving Head 6 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, on page 9 - Item 17 - Entertainment Allowance, delete the words "Resolution No. 40/1969" appearing at the beginning of the item. I am sorry about the delay, but I think there is a change in Items 17 and 18 because there is a taxable house allowance paid to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Solicitor General and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, but the allowance paid to the Director of Public Prosecutions as far as I remember is not the same as that paid to the other two. The travelling allowance is the same. They are paid under the Public Officers Travelling Allowance Act, but the point is that the housing allowance is a pensionable emolument for the Director of Public Prosecutions, but is not in my recollection the same as the housing allowance. It should be $2,400 per annum. 4.10 p.m.

This would have to be subsequently amended because the calculation has not been worked out. I beg to move that the sum of $275,198 under Head 6 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, on the question of the Law Reform Committee at Item 23, the note reads "To meet expenses of the Law Reform Committee. Increase due to cost of Company Law Revision." I am not quite certain which Law Reform Committee this is, whether this is distinct from the Law Revision Committee, whether this is the Committee which was established some time ago by the Minister of Communications and Works when he was then the Attorney General. I know that there was a Committee under the Chairmanship of the member for Christ Church West which investigated and made a report on the revision of the Company Law, but what I would like to find out from the Minister is which Committee this vote is for.

We on this side for quite some time have been asking the Government to establish a permanent Law Revision Committee with some officer from the Ministry of Legal Affairs attached to it who would do the necessary drafting in an effort to bring the very outdated laws up to date. I can think of the divorce and land laws, and years ago when I was a member of the Law Revision Committee, we did a draft of the Evidence Act. This was about two or three years ago and up to now this Act has not reached Parliament. There are other aspects of law reform, one of which I made mention of earlier, the Landlord and Tenant Act, and also the general review of the criminal law in this Country, and I think that the task of the Attorney General's department doing this along with the present number of Bills which conic before the House yearly, may prove too difficult a task for the ordinary draftsmen to keep pace with the work of drafting the present legislation to bring before Parliament and also to undertake the onerous task of reforming the laws of Barbados.

I think we have to distinguish quite clearly the difference between law reform and law revision. Law revision is only a question of bringing the laws that are in force up to date and having them reprinted, and this conies under Item 28. What we are urging on the Government is the establishment of a permanent Law Reform Committee to reform the laws and bring them up to date so that they will be more meaningful to the people of Barbados in an independent country.

Mr. BOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I only want to deal with Item 22 - Crown Cases and Legal Assistance. The note says: "To meet the costs and incidentals in cases in which the Crown is a party, and costs of legal assistance." I wonder if this sum which is being voted is to deal particularly with appeal cases, etc., because I am worried about the cases in which costs are awarded against the Government and the sums are not being paid. I feel it is quite unfair that a , person who is indebted to the Crown by virtue of a fine can be arrested within a stipulated time and be incarcerated or make the payments, but there are numerous cases in which costs are awarded against the Crown and months go by without the money being paid. I would like to hear some officer who is responsible explain what the Government is going to do about this.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, Item 20 - Law Library. I know that under another Head in these Estimates there is

provision for a special vote' dealing with the law reports for the court, but I am glad to see that under this particular Head there is adequate provision being made for the Attorney General's law library. I understand that the Attorney General's work has been doubling recently and that therefore the standard of the library being given to him I would expect would be comparable to that given certainly to the main law library. I think I would be in place to comment here that the Estimates does not seem to look towards this Head, and I trust that we will have all the facilities that the Attorney General makes available to the Judges and to the practitioners who used the court from time to time, if that library is being improved and other libraries are not being kept in as substantial a form.

Under Item 23 I think I may say that the Company Law Committee has finished its work subject of course to the draft being done. That is a substantial amount of work that has to be done, because it is not only a revision of the Companies Act, but it is a revision as well of the registration of Business Claims Act, the Limited Partnership Act, the Partnership Act, the drafting of rules in connection therewith, and I believe that this exercise will be done in conjunction with the CARIFTA project on this matter. I am sure that now the vote has been made that the work of that Committee should be completed very quickly.

I noticed in the Press that the Government is making provision for a Parliamentary Counsel of a reasonably substantially high standing in the Civil Service to deal with law reform in the future, and that his specific duties relate in the first place to keeping up to date the revised laws whenever these revised laws are available. I think that the subject of law reform calls for something else on a much more massive scale in the country. We have from time to time always followed the actual revisions done in England and have used the benefit of their labours regardless of whether or not the laws relate to the social, economic or political position of the country, and I hope that in the coming years the vote under this Head will be much more substantial, because there is a lot of work that has to be done and I do not think we can go on from time to time merely looking at this staff as one for a piece meal committee. For instance, I can think in the whole realm of commercial law, industrial law and matters of trade of the necessity for a substantial updating of the laws. One can think of the field of anti-trust legislation, restrictive trade practices, to mention only two which come to mind, and I think you need someone who is skilled and who is there with a competent staff to do this task, and no matter how many Committees you will set up from time to time unless they have this basic research facility available to them, their labours will be very delayed and probably not as well performed as one would have hoped. 4.20 p.m.

The other item under this Head on which I should like to make some reference is, probably, to ask for some explanation, as another hon. member has done, about the difference of the figures for the revision and the printing of the laws. I was made to understand that the total figure spent, so far, was $205,368. I would like to know what is the estimated total expenditure at the completion of these laws, and how much they would have cost us in all. It is anticipated that the whole vote for the coming financial year will be spent. Has the Government a firm contract with Eyre & Spottiswoode? Can the Government tell us what is the total anticipated expenditure under this item?

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow:

Mr. Chairman, there are a few revisions which I wish to make to Item 17. Entertainment Allowance should be "$2,840" instead of "$3,600"; House Allowance should be "$6,720" instead of "$6,480," and over on the next page the total should be "$275,678" instead of "$275,198".

I beg to move that the sums of $275,678 under Head 6 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister has moved certain amendments and asked that they stand part, but nobody has attempted to answer the several questions, or observations, which have been made under this Head.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I thought the hon. member was just talking, but I did not know that he wanted information, Sir. Can you tell me what were the questions? I think that when you are dealing with the Legal Department, every person who has been called to the Bar gets up and lets people know that he has been called to the Bar, but I did not hear any questions. If you will repeat the particular questions, I will be glad to answer them to the best of my ability. I did not take any note of questions, because I heard a lot of statements.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the points raised. As far as my notes indicate, the hon. member for Christ Church West gave a reply in connection with the point raised about the Law Reform Committee. He explained that he is quite knowledgeable in the matter, and he is a member of the Committee. As far as the amount for the Law Library is concerned, it will be put on a better footing and it will be accessible to all lawyers, I take it. I think the hon. member for the City dealt with the Law Reform Committee, and the hon. member for St. Joseph dealt with Crown cases and legal assistance. They all stressed the point that legal aid should be extended to include certain other cases, and we have made a note of that. The outstanding point was made by the hon. member for St. Joseph in relation to Crown cases, and I should like him to repeat it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Sir, if the hon. member will give way, I will make my position clear. I do not want to appear to be inhospitable or not courteous, etc., but I heard a lot of pronouncements and I did not hear any specific questions. I heard pronouncements and criticisms about what is happening. We have noted them, but I have not heard any specific questions directed to me as the person who introduced the Head of expenditure. I just want to make my position clear that I did not hear any question.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Hon. Prime Minister has sought to make it clear that his attitude is not one of resentment or rudeness. I am sure that I clearly asked what were the circumstances in which members who have succeeded in cases against the Crown and in which costs have been awarded against the Crown find it difficult to collect that money. The Crown has not been paying the costs awarded against it, and I particularly asked if the hon. member would explain the position.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that anybody has succeeded against the Crown. I am not aware that if somebody has succeeded that the money has not been paid, but I am aware that there is a law to the

effect that if anybody owes you money, and you got a judgment of the Court and he did not pay you, that you can levy on his property. The Government has a lot of property - about $50 million.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the Prime Minister, you cannot levy on the Crown property. You are a member of the Government, and you should know that. Look at the Crown Proceedings Act and see the position. Otherwise, I would levy on a police van tomorrow morning. It would be my greatest pleasure to do that, and to have the writ server stick on a notice on the police van. Further than that, I would sell the building in Brittons Hill that has been closed for a very long period.

Rt: Hon. E. W. BARROW I should just like to inform the hon. member that if he goes back and consults the debates of 1952, he will see that I was the person who initiated the Crown Proceedings Act of Barbados, but it did not come until 1955. All I can promise the hon. member, not being aware of these circumstances, is that I will ask the Attorney-General to look into the matter.

The question that the sum of $275,6 78 under Head 6, as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 7 - REGISTRATION OFFICE HEAD 7 - Registration Office - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Under Item 27 -Law Reports -- $10,000 - there should be a Note to Item 27 to read as follows

"27. To purchase the Law Reports Reprints."

I beg to move that the sum of $114,376 under Head 7 - Registration Office - as amended, stand part of the Schedule

Hon. C. E. TALMA. 1 beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, 1 believe that the Registry, by its physical condition, renders it impossible for the staff there to perform as efficiently, perhaps, as they should. 4.30 p.m.

Nevertheless, Sir, I believe I am right in saying that there has been effort on the part of all concerned to do their bit. But one of the things that tends to militate against the peak of efficiency in this department is that there are quite a number of acting appointments and these for too long, and they remain like this for such a period as to create an air of frustration on the part of members of staff. There have been instances where officers have been acting for four or five years, there have been no complaints against them they have functioned faithfully and well, but one finds that when an appointment is made to the particular post in which the particular officer has been acting, the appointment is made by bringing in someone who has not served in the department at all, and the acting officer just remains there. After an officer has been acting for a period of a year or eighteen months, depending on the department he is serving, that should be sufficient to prove that the officer is entitled to be confirmed in his position.

Whilst we must admit that the Head of this department is an officer against whom nothing whatsoever can be said, he performs as efficiently as one would expect, there still is reason, and I support this feeling of reason among the staff from time to time, to believe that their case is not advanced as readily or forcibly as one would have it when it comes to the question of promoting the members of the staff of the Registry, I would hope that what I say here would be taken to drive some sort of fire into the Head of the department to see what can be done in this respect, because after all, people serve and give of their best and they all look forward to promotion when the time comes.

This is one of the departments too, Sir, where I believe sickness, it would appear, has had a greater toll on the production of the department than perhaps any other department in the whole Public Service. Why is this? It interferes with the efficiency of the service that is rendered in some respects. I would like to see that this matter is checked up on not with a view to denying any member of staff any sick or casual leave to which he or she may be entitled, but we must bear in mind that it is a department which comes into immediate contact with members of the public. I have brought to the attention of the House already that persons requiring copies of birth and baptismal certificates still meet a situation where there is a waiting list and you have got to place an order for your birth or baptismal certificate and are told to come back at a date which is more than a week, and in some cases, ten days away from the date on which you placed the order. This is not the case of a department functioning at peak at times, and it may be a case where there could be a reshuffling of staff at peak hours, but something needs to be done to reduce this long waiting for birth and baptismal certificates. If you were to look back at what has been happening in the past three or four years and see the type of demand that is made on the department, you should be able by this time to gauge what personnel would be required for staffing that section of the department and trying to make provision for catering to the needs of the people.

Now Mr. Chairman, the Accounts Section of this department. I have heard the Minister of Finance make mention in Parliament of the Treasury in reference to misappropriations and practices which do not become the service. I am saying, Sir, that the situation in the Accounts Section of the Registration Office invites officers to act improperly. What is needed is not the staffing of this department with a lot of inexperienced juniors, people who are only using the Public Service as a stepping stone to raising enough money to go abroad, but you will find that there is a definite need for the tested and tried servant to be placed in certain key positions as in the place of the accounting departments of the Registry. We need really senior staff for manning this branch of the department generally.

Now I believe that some members may find it possible to laugh at Item 21 - Execution expenses - where there is a provision for $300. It has been $300 for some time now, and I have been made to understand that you cannot find people who are willing to carry out the duties for $300. I gather that two people were employed in the past, but on the occasion when the last capital punishment was executed, they did not have the full complement of staff for putting it into effect mainly because the fees offered were not sufficiently attractive, and if we are providing $300 here now, the time has very well come when, if the job is to be done , then something should be done about this particular item. We cannot make any pronouncements, but there is every indication since we can see what is happening in our midst that there is every likelihood that this item might well be called into question and drawn upon much more readily perhaps than in the past year or two.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Marshals go about in plain clothes and I feel that they should have some means of identification. The time has come when they should have some badge or whatever

is provided, and the sooner this is looked into, the better. I think it may make for a better reception for them because the job they are called upon to do is not always that of the pleasantest nature, and at times they come into contact with people who would really never like to see them at all 4.40 p.m.

It is a question of when a Marshal is in a position to exhibit his authority, it is not the man himself that one has got to respect but it is the question of the authority with which he is armed, and the Marshal should be so equipped as to be able to have himself properly identified with a view to the easier execution of his duty. I do not know if this is true, but I understand that the Records Section of the Registry is to occupy the office formerly used by the Waterworks Department at Coleridge Street. if that is true, I believe it would improve the physical capacity of the present office where staff is concerned, but I hope that this might make for the efficiency and the speed of the work of the department generally.

I do not believe that there is anything anyone would have to say against anything in this Head, but I question Item 20 - Books and Publications. We will see that the Legal Department and now the Registration Office both have votes for the purchase of books for the Law Library, and we believe that we are going to have a swell library as time goes on, but it is a question of what safeguard or protection is given to the volumes with which this library might be filled from time to time. We have seen as in the case with our own library here at the House of Assembly that it is somewhat depleted of many of the volumes that were once there, and we hope that we are not voting money here to equip the law library just as a temporary measure so to speak and that the volumes will disappear immediately they are put there. I hope that this will be looked into most readily.

Mr. Chairman, the question of the law reports. Many of the reports are now not up to date and we are hoping that with the purchase of reports with this sum of $10,000 some assistance will be given to somebody to equip the library in the correct way.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, at Item 27, we on this side of the House welcome the inclusion of $10,000 for the purchase of law reports. It was the suggestion which came from this side of the House last year, and what I would say is that if the suggestion had been acted upon even earlier, perhaps it would have cost the Government less money because they would have been able to get it at pre-publication prices. The Minister of Communications and Works would know that I questioned the amount which was voted in the last Estimates for the Law Library, and I questioned it subsequently as compared with the money voted for the Attorney General's Chambers.

We welcome Item 27 and also the increase that is provided for Books and Publications under Item 20. However, we would have expected that this year we would have heard something about the reorganisation of the Law Library. In the last Estimates it was indicated that at that stage the then holder of the post of Librarian was due to retire in September last year, and we on this side had hoped that the Government would have seized the opportunity to implement the decisions taken at a meeting which was held as long ago as 1964 under the chairmanship of the then Chief Justice, Sir Kenneth Stoby. At that meeting, it was suggested that the post of Law Librarian should be created on the establishment in the Registration Departmetu and that that officer would be responsible for running and operating the Law Library and also that with the Attorney General's approval, he should be responsible for the Law Library at the Attorney General's Office. In addition to this, it was suggested that the person who should be appointed to that post should be someone with some sort of qualification in library sciences, and it

was recommended that a Library Advisory Council be set up to advise the Registrar on the sort of books that were necessary in any given year, so that you would not have an ad hoc ordering of books or a duplication of books or unnecessary buying of books because a new edition may have appeared if that new edition was not really relevant as in the case of many of the criminal law text books.

Mr. Chairman, 1 may draw to the Prime Minister's attention, and perhaps he may use this for the purpose of getting some revenue, the provision under Rule 5 of the Library Rules where anyone desirous of making use of the Law Library must make formal application to the Registrar and on the payment of $5 by such applicant the Registrar is authorised to grant such application. I feel that if the Government is going to provide over $15,000 to purchase books for the Law Library that the legal profession should pay more for the use of those books annually, and I would suggest to the Prime Minister that he may for taxation purposes have a look at this. Also, I seriously urge upon the Government and those responsible for the Registration Office to do something to re-organise the Law Library. It is virtually impossible at the moment, unless you have been practising law for a very long time and you know your way around the Law Library, to find what books you need. 4.50 p.m

There is no catalogue of the books; the shelves are not numbered; there is no index of the books, and there is nothing to indicate where one may go and find a particular volume. It is just from a matter of experience you may know where these books are, and it is, indeed, hard upon the young barristers or young attorneys-at-law, as they will soon be known, to utilise the services of the Law Library. It will also be difficult for the Judge to go to the Law Library and find what books they want, unless they had been in practice and had been using the Law Library for a long time. Therefore, I ask those responsible to give urgent consideration to the reorganisation of the Law Library, and to place in the Registration Office someone who is capable of handling the job.

On previous occasions 1 have had to comment on the physical aspect of the Registration Office. I believe that the Minister of Communications and Works would be au fait with the difficult conditions under which the present civil servants are called upon to work. I hope that the Government will do something which will help to improve the physical conditions of the Registration Department. I believe that some time ago a decision was taken to separate the Supreme Court Registry from the other section of the Registration Office and to have the Supreme Court Registry as a separate Department, and the Registration Department dealing with birth certificates, etc., as a separate entity under a Registrar-General. I believe that the building which houses the Waterworks Department may soon become available, and I would urge upon the Government, if possible, to see whether that building can be used for the purpose of separating the Registration Office from the Supreme Court Registry in an effort to provide more physical space and adequate working conditions for those who work in the Registry.

Mr. FORDE:

1 do not think, Mr. Chairman, that a repetition on some of these Heads would add very much to the debate, but I should like briefly to endorse the remarks made by the hon. member for the City in relation to the need to reorganise the Library of the Supreme Court of Judicature. It must be remembered that the position of the Judiciary in the Country is a very important one in the Constitution and in the life of the nation, and that the tools of the Judiciary, to a large extent, are the books and the Reports which are provided for it.

In addition to this, I am sometimes really astounded at the fact that very valuable, legal periodicals,

and very valuable in terms of money's worth material, are in the Library without getting the full protection which this material deserves. I know the Reece Library, the inside part of this Library, is air conditioned, but the outer part of the Library is not air conditioned. These books are exposed to a considerable amount of dust, and they are hardly kept in a good condition. The Law Attendant tries his best and, indeed, his predecessor in office did try his best to maintain a high standard, but that outer Library needs air conditioning very badly, and I hope that we will see some vote under this Head next year.

The hon. member for the City spoke about reorganisation, and I commend very strongly to the Government the example set both in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia, where the Library for the Supreme Court happens to be very well organised. I think that to call on the services of trained and skilled librarians in the Public Service as a whole and depute someone not as well trained, but an Assistant Librarian, to hold the post of Librarian in the Law Library would be an improvement. In fact, Trinidad is an extremely outstanding model in this field, and I think we should let one of our younger people have a look at the organisation of Trinidad & Tobago in this respect.

Part of the problem in the Registry is the problem of physical accommodation, and I think that point has been made before. What bothers me about the downstairs of the Registration Office is the fact that the security aspect of the matter cannot be properly handled, since the Registry is bursting at its seams. I welcome the vote under Item 26 - Furniture and Equipment. For many years now I believe, the Registry has been calling for additional cabinets to accommodate company files, some of which contains very valuable information and I think it is only now that we are getting a vote under this Head. It is very easy to go into the Registration Office and notice company files and files dealing with trade marks almost exposed for want of space. That is not due to any act of omission or commission on the part of the staff of the Registration Office, but due to the lack of proper facilities being provided for them.

I would hope that the Government would consider the administration of this section of the Registry as one that could pay for itself and, probably, also produce additional revenue. After all, today the Registration Office is responsible for collecting about S3 million of the revenue of this country. Certainly, from the operation of the property transfer tax alone, the estimated revenue is $1.5 million. It seems to me that if one looks at the facilities being provided under headings such as registered designs, trade marks, and companies, that those sections could pay for themselves and administration expenses and, certainly help to subsidise other Departments which are vital but which may not be revenue producers.

On this point, I should like to say that, within my short practice in the Courts, I have known of two officers being sent out for training specifically to do with matters pretaining to trade marks, company law and, I believe, probate and succession matters. One of those Officers has since qualified as a Lawyer and is now a Magistrate, and the other has gone into the administrative stream proper of the Civil Service. They were both knowledgeable people, and I think it is a pity that we have not had the benefit of their services, or there have not been some further steps taken to have people specialised in this branch. Although I know that some people consider the Registration Office as in the administrative stream of things, it yet calls for a degree of specialisation, and I sometimes feel that the Government is not getting the revenue that it should be getting from this Department.

I am sure that the Government would be able to collect more revenue if it had enough officers there

with the expertise in the field of company law administration, trade marks administration, registered designs administration and patent administration. Perhaps that is a point which the Government may note, and during the year use the brains of the two officers, who have been trained, along with the Registrar and his staff, to see how some improvement in this section could be brought about. It is a very important department; I hope that we treat it with the importance it deserves, and I hope that the Minister's plans for expansion across the road in the Synagogue building, I believe, will be hastened up, since they need room there very badly. 5 p.m.

It is difficult for the staff to produce adequately in the cramped conditions that exist. I believe the Minister responsible for Legal Affairs has made a visit and would have seen for himself and does not need me to repeat and hammer home this point, and I think having seen for himself, we should like to see some steps taken later in the Capital Estimates for something for expansion to go ahead rapidly.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to dwell once again on the Law Library, but at the moment in these Estimates I am interested in these books and publications. I do not want to go over again what ground has been covered, but I want to deal with Items 20 and 27, for I take it, if it has not been said already, that Item 27 represents a vote for the reprint of the Law Reports. Now I really agree with what the two hon. members who have spoken have said, but there is something basic about the Barbados Law Library that nobody who has ever been responsible for administering it has really in my opinion understood. The fact is that the Barbados Law Library is really in two sections. A part consists of antiquarian books that nobody will wish to open because they are old; if you open them they will fall apart. The information and material

contained in them is better consulted in the modern reprints, and they have an antiquarian value of their own which should be preserved. That applies to quite a number of books which are now kept in the Chief Justice's ante-Chamber.

I may just mention in passing that some years ago my late father who had also a very large number of antiquarian books which he gave to me in 1966 or so, indicated that he thought their home was ultimately in the Library or the Museum but I do not consider that under present conditions I can give these books, some of which belonged to Sir Conrad Reeves as a student, many of which have Sir Conrad Reeves' signature in them. I do not consider at the present time that I can give these books to the Law Library. I cannot conceive how I would have occasion to open Sir Conrad Reeves' copy of Simon's Law Reports to cite a case in court, but they are there in my Chambers if anybody wishes to come and look at them and I have had them rebound and preserved. I think that the books in the Law Library which are only of antiquarian interest and very occasional legal interest should be segregated from the modern volumes which are needed to be consulted regularly.

Mr. Chairman, it does not seem to me that anybody with a real knowledge of Law Books has ever looked at these books in the Library. You will have many old editions of Archbold contained in Mr. Jubie Reece's papers. Mr. Reece and his father collected every edition of Archbold's Criminal Practice as it came out. The first seven editions are not of any interest to-day to to-day lawyers; they are of antiquarian interest; they are museum pieces and should be preserved because the interest of research sometimes demand that you consult them. All those books are occupying space in the air-conditioned room although they are never taken down from the shelves, but valuable Law Reports which are needed

every day and which I believe should be looked at every twenty years or so and the odd volume replaced, are mouldering outside in the dust to which the hon. member for Christ Church West referred. In odd places in the Law Library you find the most extraordinary reports. There are reports in there that are contained nowhere else in the West Indies - old election cases, O'Malley and Hardcastle cases. Nowhere in the West Indies can these be found complete in good condition except in the Law Library. There is another set which happened also to belong to my late father and which was so lent out that the backs have come off every one. But the Law Library has a complete set. I wonder if the Registrar knows, they are so hidden away. The books need analysing and classifying carefully. The less valuable of the Reece Books need moving from where they are and the more valuable of the Law Reports need to be put in there. This is something that can be done by a porter, not even a librarian, under the direction of somebody in the Crown Law office or the Registry. The Deputy Registrar can say, move this, put them there, move these bring them here. That really needs to be done. There is a lot of good quality shelfing, but the best use is not made of it. The Library needs not a trained Librarian at this stage, but a lawyer with an understanding of books to go through the books and put into the room that is used, the books that need to be used. I am speaking now to lawyers to some extent. When you have the English Reports you do not need to have Cooke's Reports as well, because the English Reports long ago reprinted all that was important in the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries. If you have 16th, 17th and 18th Century law books, you need to put them somewhere very secure, preferably at the Archives to be consulted for research purposes. You should make the Law Library a working Law Library, and I do not believe it would take so much expenditure as hon. members seem to think. It would only take, I think, organisation. It will take a little hard work; go carefully through the shelves.

Just to take another example, Halsbury's Laws of England. There is an incomplete set in the air-conditioned room that belonged to Mr. Reece that was not completed before he died; there is no complete set in there, but there are complete sets outside catching the dust and the humidity and everything else. That needs to be altered if the heritage we already have of a really rich and wonderful collection of law books is to be preserved. I very much hope that the £2,000 which I believe is represented by Item 27 and which will purchase a complete set of the reprints of the Law Reports that are now going around the world will be spent and the books will be brought and put in safe and secure conditions. The judges should have better facilities. One of the judge's chambers has lovely shelves right around it and hardly a book on them. Some of the Law Library books could very well with profit be moved into there for the Judge to consult in his chambers when court is held in there or when he is working privately, and I hope that the necessary authorities are here to take note of what I am suggesting.

There is one other point. I hear a lot of criticism sometimes of the Law Library of Barbados not containing the books which it should contain. I know that the Registrar has always maintained that you only have to come and make representation to him that such and such a book is needed for such and such a purpose and that very morning he will take steps to get it. That is within my knowledge. I do not know if other lawyers have the same experience, but I know there have been occasions when an individual case had points of law that troubled both counsel and the judges and the Registrar went to very great trouble to bring down books from England to assist in a correct decision and in the long run to save a lot of people money, the cost of appeals and so on. I do not think it is fair to say of the Registry that the Law Library does not have the right books. To me that sort of criticism comes from people wh) prefer to criticise than to do something constructive and get the objects of their criticism removed. I am quite sure that within the limits of the vote the Registrar will not hestitate to provide books,

subscriptions to periodicals or whatever is needed with no trouble whatsoever.

The only thing I would say the Registrar can be faulted in is that perhaps he does not go to the Law Library often enough; he does not clear out the old books. There are many books which are superseded. It seem hard for certain people to understand that the Government's money has gone to buy a current law and you cannot throw it away, but current law is printed to be thrown away every year, and the Law Library is filling up with these superseded books in all sorts of unlikely places when the wastepaper basket is the correct place for them. That is the only thing I would find fault with the administration of the Law Library at present.

Finally, the Law Library Rules need revising. The Crown Law Office and the Attorney General's office have a wonderful current Library. No antiquarian books that I know of, but an wonderful current Library carefully built up and maintained by successive Attorneys General, and while I can attack the hon. member for St. Michael South Central for many things, I cannot attack him for what I know to be his careful custody of the books in the Attorney General's Chambers during his tenure of office. The Crown Law Officers do not any longer need the right to borrow books from the Law Library and to have the special facilities which the Law Library Rules still give them. They have in many ways a better Library for modern purposes than the Law Library, and I would suggest that the Law Library's Rules be revised to bring them into line with the new reforms being made to fuse the professions and into line with all the suggestions which have been made in here this afternoon, and which I hope will be acted on by the authorities responsible for the custody of these. 5.10 p.m.

After all, it may be any of us or any of our children who will be only too glad to know that a lawyer had quick access to a book in the Law Library on some particular day when a difficult point of law might have had an unfortunate result for us or for those whom we know.

The question that the sum of $114,316 under Head 7 - Registration Office - as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 8 .- CROWN SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $17,353 under Head 8 - Crown Solicitor's Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, I want to draw something to the attention of the House in connection with the administration of the Crown Solicitor's Office. It is not really anybody to blame, I do not think, because I think the Crown Solicitor was misled. I am not blaming him in the slightest, he himself is giving the aggreive party every assistance, but it deals with a compulsory acquisition matter.

The Government was seeking complusorily to acquire certain lands in Christ Church in connection

with airport extention. A lady wrote firstly through local solicitors and then perhaps when she could not get them to do the dirty work she had in mind, through American attorneys offering as administratrix of an estate certain lands to the Government at a price of $3,000 an acre. It was not revealed to the Crown Solicitor either by the local solicitors or by the American solicitors or by the lady herself that she was not beneficiarily entitled to all the lands, nor was she selling the lands to pay the debts of the estate. There was some commotion, and I would be glad to give the responsible Minister the names of all the parties concerned, because I know on the one hand a law suit is arising out of it and on the other that certain administrative procedures should be purified, I would suggest to the House.

There was no reason for the Crown Solicitor not to accept this very generous offer made to the Government, he was quite unaware that the person concerned was in the position of a trustee of certain of the lands, he was unaware there was a specific devise of certain of the lands. Whether he should have been aware I do not know, that would be a matter for administrative investigation, but as a fact I accept that he was unaware. He has sold the land and the lady has vanished into the United Stares with the funds leaving a highly aggrieved benefikiary in Barbados seeking to get his money.

I think I only have to set out the problem for persons experienced in these matters, such as the Prime Minister, the Minister of Lands, the Leader of the House and the former Attorney General, to bear it in mind in connection with future acquisitions. I am not assigning blame to any official in this matter, I am suggesting that the procedure should be that a superior investigation should be carried out. It is too late to do anything about it now, the Government's money has been paid over and the person is left to his remedy through the law courts if he can be successful with it, but I would very much hope that those responsible for the Department will investigate the matter with an eye to controlling future circumstances of this sort. I only need to say that adjoining lands are being arbitrated, and it is suggested that a fair price would be $5,000 an acre for the adjoining lands, and for hon. members to understand the full extent of the gentleman's complaint, he is complaining not only that his land was sold without his having an opportunity to negotiate for it, but that the price was too low and that the price then paid was taken out of Barbados and is not easily favourable to him if at all.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, i very much deplore that private practice was brought into the House of Assembly. The procedure on acquisition of lands for Government purposes is quite clear, and as far as I can remember every single bit of land for the extension of the runway at Scawell - as the law would say, ex abundante cautila, out of an abundance of caution, was brought into the House of Assembly with a list and description of the parcels acquired under the Land Acquisition Act - and in the particular case which the hon. member mentioned, althought I do not know about the misallocation of funds - although in that particular case the Crown Solicitor would have been quite within his rights to deal with the administratrix of the estate direct and have direct purchase - but out of an abundance of caution I discuss all the acquisitions, and since there are some 38 parcels of land which are small fragments we put all them together. As a matter of fact, there are still some residual portions, some 11 spots, I believe. I know because I know everything that goes on in every single Department for which I am responsible, except when people sign vouchers for the Treasury to which they are not entitled, but I cannot be in the Treasury every day, but when it comes to acquistion of land for runway purposes, and the cost of fire appliances, whether we get the right kind of navigational equipment or the width of the runway, whether the haunching is good, I go up there and I see to it, and I know that we went through all the normal procedures.

If somebody has escaped with the money of the client of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, that is a private matter; that is a matter between solicitor and client and administratrix and beneficiary, that is not a House of Assembly matter. We published that we were buying the land and put him on his guard, and the House approved the acquisition. After we have done that we have complied with the law, it is not for us to go to make sure that the qualified acting administrator or administratrix of somebody's estate pay over the money to the beneficiary, we cannot pay the money directly to the beneficiary, that is against the law. It is just one of these unfortunate things, so I think that my learned friend on the other side should advise his client to pursue the administratrix and pursue his money on the first plane out of Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of explanation, it is perfectly true that I am familiar with the matter professionally as well, but I am not bringing a professional matter in here, what I am suggesting - and I think that the Prime Minister in what he says perhaps has not grasped what I was saying - what 1 was saying is that the procedures be such as to allow just a little more investigation, because the Crown Solicitor himself would have been right, I have no doubt had he known of this that he would have allowed this to happen.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Point of explanation made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The point I was trying to make was that in law you cannot pay the money to a beneficiary. That is what an executor or administratrix is for. The personal representative is the person to whom you pay the money, and this is what we do, you cannot blame the Crown Solicitor for paying the person whom the court says in law he should pay.

The question that the sum of $17,353 under Head 8 - Crown Solicitors's Office - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,636,535 under

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.20 p.m.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (2) VALUATION DIVISION

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $143,911 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
It is 5.20 p.m , Sir, and I wonder whether our amendments have been circulated?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I heard the hon. member ask if his amendments have been circulated. Mr. Speaker ruled earlier today that 24 hours notice should be given for amendments. We are doing the Appropriation Bill in Committee, and there is no question of pricemeal amendments so that you can hold up the Bill for three days and say that 72 hours have passed and we have not given 24 hours notice of the Appropriation Bill. There is no question of any amendment. The amendments we will be dealing with are the amendments that I will introduce in my Head and other Mnistrers will introduce in their Heads. Do not let us have any misunderstanding about that, Sir. There are no amendments.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. How many Speakers are there in this House? I thought you were the Chairman. I cannot dictate to you, Sir, nor would I be so presumptuous. Are you saying that the Government would be able to move amendments and give notice of them in the middle of the Estimates, but the Opposition would not be allowed to do so?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW. Standing Orders say so.

Mr. ADAMS:
Are you saing that Standing Orders say that 24 hours notice mean 24 hours before the Appropriation Bill? It is all very well for people to make suggestions based on.....

(Asides) Does the Prime Minister wish to be characterised as a person who says that 24 hours notice mean 24 hours notice before the Appropriation Bill? Sir, it will be your ruling and the blows will fall on your head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I have ruled already. Mr. ADAMS I did not know that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I asked the Clerk if these amendments were given according to Standing Order 66(3), and the Clerk informed me that at 5.3O p.m. the amendments would be able to be discussed. I then ruled accordingly. (Asides) That is my ruling when someone wants to move in an amendment to Head 3; therefore, I am prepared to hear the amendments.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, you say that we will have to wait until 5.30 to deal with the amendments and you have been so advised by the Clerk. It is a pity that he was not still on probation.

Mr. HINDS:

You are threatening the Clerk.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order. What a thing to say, Sir?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I do not want to say anything more, Sir.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am preparing now to speak without the amendments, Sir. I am prepared to speak without them until whatever time is appropriate and, perhaps, not to move them at all. Sir, I do not want to deal at any length with valuation. I do not believe that in here is the forum to deal with it. I have said a lot of things about valuation both in here and outside, Sir, and it is a political issue. There are just one or two points I wish to make quite clear in connection with the general policy of the Valuation Division. (Asides) Mr. Chairman, I cannot hear myself speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to ask hon. members once again to adhere to Rule 33(6). The noise is giving the reporters and myself some difficulty to hear what is going on.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman,, in 1969 when the Land Valuation Act came before the House, the Opposition did not vote against it. We adjourned its consideration more than once. Why did we not vote against it? We did not vote against it, because nobody in his senses can be against a policy of valuing land. Land has to be valued, one way or the other, and we are in agreement with the fact that land has to be valued in Barbados for taxation purposes. No greater weight should be given to the fact that we did not divide the House in 1969, four years ago, when the Land Valuation Act came before us than that we agreed that land has to be valued in Barbados for taxation purposes. Equally no greater weight should be given to the fact that we did not divide the House on the Land Tax Act than that land, having been valued, has to be taxed. No more or no less than that. Hon. members are very thoroughly aware of that.

Mr. Chairman, there are one or two hon. members who, perhaps - I see them on the extreme right of their Party at the moment: the hon. members for St. Michael South Central and Christ Church North Central - operate at a level that catches at nothing in order to make a point. The members of the Opposition are not against the taxation of land in Barbados. We may be against taxing land too heavily; we may be against unfair and disproportionate taxation as far as the method of the tax is concerned, but just as we are in favour of income tax, customs duties trade tax, and telephone company licences, we also are in favour of a land tax. Money has to be raised to carry on the Government, but do not impute to us on this side either the ignorance of the Valuation Department, the wickedness of the taxation, the unfairness of the disproportionate way in which the tax falls, or anything else. That is for the tax master. The taxing master has it all in his hands. He has to carry the responsibilities for selecting the tax,

imposing it, and collecting it.

Mr. Chairman, 1 do not believe that he wants the approbation or applause from the Opposition to measure how well he does his work. I am ashamed to think that at any stage he suggested it. I do not believe he measures the quality of his work by whether the Opposition approve it or not. 1 believe if we disapprove of something and the Prime Minister believes in it he will go on with it whether we disapprove of it or not, and if we approve it, it will make no difference to him.

There are certain unparliamentary expressions, Sir, which I am prevented form using, which I would apply to any suggestion from anybody on that side that the tax is a good tax because the Opposition approve of it. They will not say that about raising the old age pension, or that women should have the right to have their husbands live here with them. Why should they say that now about tax? They vote us down on the things we want, but they are prepared to say that the Opposition approved of it, so it must be good. Are we the test now by which you measure a tax in Barbados?

Sir, I do not know who is responsible for the rush at the last moment in the Valuation Division. I only know that the Act was passed in 1969; that the whole year of 1972 passed, and it was impossible for any land tax to be collected because the Valuation Division had not completed its work. I do not even believe that at this present time all of the tax bills have been sent out. We had the spectacle of a civil servant, who is a member of the executive of the Democratic Labour Party, going on television with other members of the Democratic Labour Party and announcing that at some time a luxury tax may be placed upon houses.

1 know that there is not a Minister who would have the nerve to go on the T.V. with the Prime Minister and say what taxes were going to be imposed at some future time. That is what we had, dealing with the Valuation Division. I do not believe that one of the Ministers in this House would be so impertinent as that. 5.30 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, since I was in the only discussion I know about this year on valuation, no person on that discussion including myself made any statement to the effect that taxes were going to be imposed on houses, and since I have a transcript of the tape, I know what I am talking about. I think it is quite wicked for the hon, member to come in here and make this statement which he knows to be untrue. I happened to be a part of that discussion where it was pointed out what improved value was and what site value was, and it was possible to include erections, buildings and constructions on land, but no one person on that panel ever said anything to the effect that we were going to tax houses. I want to make that clear.

Mr. ADAMS:

Was the expression not used "might be placed on luxury houses"? Did that not appear in the transcript?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, again if I could bring the television tape in here, he would hear, but explanations were being given to various definitions in the Act, and it was stated what it was possible to do under the Act but it had not been done under this valuation and the only person who can say whether it would ever be

done in any other future valuation is the person who is responsible for the Ministry of Finance which is myself, and this gentleman, I nearly said "person", comes in here and attacks a public officer and attributes to him a statement which he never made.

Mr. ADAMS:

Is the Prime Minister saying, and I ask it again, that the expression "luxury houses" and the possibility of the position of tax on it was never mentioned? Is he saying I am wicked in saying so because it was not so?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would like him to give me a direct quotation and the context, but to string a few words together out of the ether is not doing justice even to himself. I am not saying that words did not appear in parts of the programme about luxury houses, but I am saying that that sentence did not appear in any part of the programme in the way he said. How venal can the hon. member be?

Mr. ADAMS:

I did not hear the expression, Sir. I am sure it was unparliamentary. You can say what you like about me in here you know, Sir! I have my forum for saying things too. The Prime Minister is in a better position to tell the House the context in which the possibility of paying taxes on luxury houses was mentioned than me, because he has a transcript, not me; so do not let him ask me for the words. He has the words; he well knows them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, the hon. member came in here and attributed a statement to a public officer and I said that that statement was not made. Now he is saying I should know what the statement is. Do you want me to leave and go up to C.B.C. and bring down the whole telecine chain and put it on a screen inside here? I am saying that if he is making a statement he should verify it. I am saying it was not made, and everybody here who heard the broadcast knows that the statement was not made in the context in which he said it or together in the way in which he put it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Point made!

Mr. ADAMS:

I wonder what statement the Prime Minister is talking about now because he has elevated the general principles which I was indicating appeared in the speech of a certain person, and he has reduced them to a statement and said it was not made. What statement was not made? The Prime Minister said he has a transcript. Why has he got to speak about bringing the television machines down here? If he has a transcript, let him bring that.

I understand that most of the objections which have been lodged at the Valuation Department relate to the areas of land. How could this miraculous valuation which is the be-all and end-all of valuations for all time in Barbados have made so many mistakes in areas? Even at this stage we have not had an accurate figure given to the House of what is the total valuation of all parcels of land summed and totalled together in Barbados, excluding Government lands. We have been offered a figure of $5 million, but we do not have an exact figure. My impression is that it does not take a computer to tell you that

figure; it takes an adding machine. There are only 44,000 items and I am sure that that number of items gets added over and over every month. We should have an exact figure. 1 do not want to detain the House at length with the land valuation issue. I believe we should deal with other issues in these Estimates. That has been very thoroughly aired, but the Department as such must carry a very heavy load of responsibility for the present worries and torment that are going through people's minds. 1 do not believe the Prime Minister had the best advice. This is the trouble with being advised by your friends. 1 do not believe he came to the correct conclusions based upon the advice which he got in respect of the land valuation. I do not believe he has found the right solutions to the taxation of land in Barbados, and all of us in our hearts know that is true. We know that you should not have to be correcting an imbalance and unfair taxation by the device of relief. You should not have to be correcting something that I hear is to the order of 30% of the whole taxation by the device of relief. That is not what relief is for. You should in the initial stages have come to a proper, balanced and reasonable assessment of what would be a fair land tax in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, if for nothing else this land tax has to be condemned for the fact that people who are already in possession of houses and land, who are already rich enough to build a house, "Who own a hotel, in many cases are having their taxes reduced while poor people are having theirs raised. If for nothing else the whole system of taxation would have to fall by that. I am told that when the taxpayers go in Broad Street they are going to see Banks paying the same or indeed less tax. I do not know if that is a fact, because you cannot know this until the tax bills actually come out. I am told there are incredible situations right here in Broad Street to go no further away, where on one side of the road Harrisons is valued at $90 a square foot, and on the other side of the road the Bank of Nova Scotia is valued at $48 a square foot. When we criticise the system of land taxation and the Valuation Division, that is what we are talking about, and I do not believe that the information of any hon. member not even the Minister of Finance, is complete enough to deal with this in all the depth. I have been passed a note here showing that one person was assessed at $98,200 on a parcel of land and when he carried it to the Valuation Division, they brought it down to $4,900, and yet we would be asked to vote money under this Head as if nothing had happened, and as if Barbados is not indeed undergoing a real taxation crisis at the present time.

Sir, if the amendments are present, I will formally move the first which would be to Item 13 which stands in my name. I would not take the half an hour. I do not believe I have covered 15 minutes, but I would take the 15 minutes and sit down and say nothing more. If it is in order, I will formerly move, but I am not going to claim any of the privileges out of moving it. I am not going to exceed 15 minutes and I am not going to speak again, and I sit down.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I think you will have to rule on these matters because if an hon. member speaks and before he finishes his speech he makes an amendment and then wants to proceed to use his 15 minutes under the Amendment, then you would have some confusion about that matter. However, I do not propose to deal with that as it is Your Honour's prerogative.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order.....

Mr. WALCOTT:

It can't be a point of order when I am making a speech.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, I said that if the amendment is in order, I move it and I am not speaking again.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, what I would like to draw to the Hon. Minister's attention is not so much in connection with the Act, but I was surprised to hear the Leader of the Opposition make the speech he did and he was not so vehement when we passed the last stages of this Bill in the House, because I think it was this year that we passed the Land Tax Act. 5.40 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, I was not in the House when the Land Tax Act was passed, so please do not say I was not vehement or otherwise, I was in St. Vincent.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, what is the hon. member saying? This is something that was passed this year, I am not talking about 1969.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, I was a member of the House in 1969 when the Land Valuation Act was passed and I was a member of the House when the Land Tax Act was passed. I was not here physically in person when the Act was passed, I was professionally engaged in St. Vincent, I was not in the House of Assembly standing up, so I was neither vehement nor anything else.....(Asides),.....I was working in St.

Vincent, I was working for as much money in a day as you work for in a month.

Mr. WALCOTT:
If the hon. member said that he was working for so much money I hope when the Income Tax Commissioner taxes him for working for as much money in a day as another member works for in a month hie does not say that the Income Tax Commissioner is unfair. It comes back to this same land tax business. One hon. member is boasting about his income in one breath and then he speaks about an iniquitous tax system in another. Let us examine this. I hope when we come around to Tyrol Cot we do not hear these things.

I want the Minister to know that from the Opposition benches there was not this vehemence, the hon. member for St. Peter raised a question on this and pointed out that this was likely to have repercussions in so far as the landlords increasing the rents to people, and therefore you would have to make sure that that did not happen. This is one of the things I would like to draw to the Government's attention, that some people have started to use this land tax method, whether they can do it legally or not, but cases have been brought to my attention where tenants on land have been asked to pay rent three times the amount they have been paying before, and this without any question of all the tax they are paying, but the landlords have received a bill and right away they pushed it up. I have been informed that the legal position is that in tenantries they cannot increase the rates of these people. I know of a case where a man was paying $6 a quarter and he was asked to pay $18, three times as much.

I believe if this is multiplied by all the small house spots there are in Barbados you would get an open exploitation of the tax itself. Whether the tax is reasonable or not we do not want to have a system where a man is paying $10 more in tax but collecting $50 and is therefore making a profit on the tax itself and therefore evading the situation. This is one of the consequences we have to look for.

The point that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition raised I do not think he could reasonably raise from the point of view of any problem of it being iniquitous. The hon. member raised the point that some of the taxes have to be adjusted, and I agree. I have had the experience where there are problems over the land in our department. We have had cases where a place is estimated in the conveyance and the Land Valuation Department took the view that an estimation is not a measurement and if you want to protest you would have to get it surveyed. The property of the Barbados Workers' Union in Roebuck Street abuts and bounds on another place, in the conveyance it is stated by estimate, but they do not accept that estimate and they put down a measurement. I do not know if they have measured the land but they have given us one site value as their area and our amount is a different one. 1 feel that in some areas like Roebuck Street if you are called upon to pay for 1,000 square feet and that is not what you have in your conveyance it means that that is a portion of money you have to pay out, but if you want to correct it you have to get a Surveyor.

These are areas in which the system that is being employed would have to be looked at, and I am one of those people who believe that the very administration of a new Act like this is going to reveal things that we have to look at, but I do not think we can say that the system itself is an iniquitous system because we have some of these problems. There are errors I believe that have been made by the computer where the wrong figures have gone in, like we get $90,000 instead of $40,000 which is clearly an error, and 1% of that could not be the same valuation that would make the difference of one half in value. It will have to be an error where a naught is added on and you assess somebody at $10,000 instead of $1,000. I think these are the things that we have to explain to some people who were paying taxes before on properties and not on the areas of land they possessed. Some people do not know the area of land on which their properties stand, and for which they are paying, they just pay for a house spot but they do not know what the house spot is. These are some of the problems we have to circumvent, but I think if it is approached on a political basis this is not the right thing to do. I believe that is what the Opposition is doing. Something has come up and they are not trying really to show a sense of responsibility. They did this at the time of the windfall issue and now they are bellyaching for it. You got a cheap seat but the people are still there, you cannot live unless your basic economic functions are sound, you cannot live on this cheap jibe. This cheap jibe you go on with all the time will pass you by, you cannot make people believe they will have improved standards without paying for them. These cheap jibes, these cheap politics, this cheap getting a seat is going to come back to you like a boomerang. You must realise this. Too many members of the Opposition believe that they are on something that is good, but you are not on anything that is good, people are bold enough to get up and say they want road, water, light and everything up to their door step and you have to pay for these things if you want them

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. chairman, we are dealing with Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (2)Valuation Division - on page 15 of the current Estimates for 1973-74. I have been in here ,22 years and when the Hon. Leader of the Opposition came in, he introduced a new element of course into Parliamentary discussion. I remember when he first came in I said to the late Premier, Dr. Cummins - I cannot remember if it was Dr.

Cummins - but I said to someone, it might have been his immediate predecessor in office, that he has an inexhaustible potential for wrong doing. 5.50 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Inexhaustible intention for wrong doing.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Potential.

Mr. ADAMS:
I am sorry, Sir. Inexhaustible potential for wrong doing - I know the Prime Minister has even accused me of forging the minutes of the Barbados Labour Party in 1952 when he was a member and when I was so far away.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I just want to say that, if Mr. Hoyos related that to you, it is not true. Mr. Hoyos said that they had minutes and that Dr. Cheltenham had written his thesis based on these minutes. 1 said that since we never had any minutes, then his thesis would have to be a false thesis. When Mr. Hoyos was relating things to me, the hon. member's name was never mentioned. He never even received honourable mention. Mr. Hoyos is the only person who could have told you so.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I will bring the minutes in here and show the Prime Minister where he is mentioned in them. The minutes will not be in my handwriting, but in the handwriting of one of his friends.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
They claim that Lorenzo Williams wrote the minutes and it is his handwriting. It is Ronald Mapp's. There are three members here who could tell you that we never had any books, minutes, Secretary, subscription, nothing at all. Where did they come from?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would like to get back to Head 9(2), and forget all about the minutes of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. ADAMS:
If you want to get back to the Head, then let the record be put straight. I have heard the Prime Minister say that they had no minutes in the Barbados Labour Party until he was a member.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; No.

Mr. CHAIRMAN; I now rule that this matter is closed completely. Let us get back to Head 9(2). (Asides) The question .....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I am a Minister and I am replying on Land Valuation.

Mr. BOLDEN On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member sat down.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW. Because the Chairman was ruling. I could not stand up while he was ruling. Let us forget the spurious thesis written on existent minutes. (Asides) That is a subject for another inquiry. What we are doing here is the Head dealing with Valuation. I regret very much the tone adopted by the hon. member. He should be the last to behave in that manner, because he was invited to visit the Valuation Division shortly before we discussed the Land Tax Act. He went along, 1 understand, because I could not attend, and was shown the meticulous, painstaking work which was done. I think that the hon. member will admit that there was nothing political about the organisation of that office.

Now, if it is a crime to belong to a political party in Barbados, particularly the Government Party, then we are all criminals here, if we belong to a political party. The reason why we could not get responsible people to work for the Government of Barbados - people who have their own professions and do not have to work for wages far below what they could work for in private practice - is due to the unwarranted attacks which will be delivered on them purely because of their political affiliation. This is a free democratic society, and I have never attacked anyone on the basis of his political affiliation, but purely on his public actions and the way in which he conducts himself in relation to the working-class people of this Island. I do not want to call names, or to go into cases, but I want to deal with valuation.

Now, the reason why they did not raise any noise before is that they did not see any political

advantage in it. It occured to them that when there were one or two little remonstrations against mistakes, or what people considered to be high valuations and matters of that kind that it was something to hold public meetings on. I went to Seawell Airport - Public Meeting No. 3 - and I will give you an example of valuation now. I am dealing with a protest against valuation. (Asides) I went to Seawell Airport, and I know what was said at the meeting. On my way up around half-past eight they had 7 little boys and three women selling fish. When I came back down they had a crowd of 57 - I counted them. They had a few motor cars.....

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I am dealing with valuation, Sir.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Two of my people in the crowd said that not one person was a taxpayer except.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member has risen on a point of order, and I want to hear the point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:
on a point of order, Sir. The hon. member for St. James also made a count at half-past eight, and he

said that there were 8 little boys; 3 women selling fish and 4 dogs, Sir. I do not know why the Prime Minister has left them out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
When I left out the dogs, Sir, I was not counting the people on the platform. This is a normal issue. We have changed over from an antiquated vestry system of annual rental value to a system which has been adopted in Trinidad and in Jamaica which is based on your ownership of land. There is nobody who has received a demand note from the Collector of Taxes in Barbados who is not the beneficial owner of land. Now, we have a new class. There is no one who has legitimately received a demand notice - (Asides) If they received it and they are not entitled to pay the tax they can say so and let the Department know that they do not own any land. I am saying that only the beneficial owners of the land are responsible for paying the tax.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to correct the Prime Minister on that statement. He said that no person who is not the beneficial owner of land has received a legitimate tax statement.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I have already corrected myself, Sir. I said that there are cases in which the wrong people have received the demand note. I can give you an example.Mr. Horace Barker, who had land behind the Plaza, received one, but his land had been compulsorily acquired by the Government over a year ago. That has happened, but I am pointing out that at their three political meetings they have created a new class of people. You heard of the landless poor, and we now have the landed poor in Barbados.

Usually in Barbados whether you lived in Brooklyn, or in Bank Hall, the fact that you owned a piece of land meant that you had some kind of status; you are a man or woman of substance in the community. Now that the tax bills have gone out you have a new class of people created by the Barbados Labour Party of the landed poor: the people who own land, but are somehow or other poor and unable to do anything. They are poorer than the people living in the almshouse, although they are the beneficial owners of the land on which they live or have rented out.

Now, if the hon. member who has introduced these amendments here is saying -0 at this juncture, may I just say this to the Clerk of the House - I have been in here now 22 years, and this is the first time that I have been showered with confetti in the 22 years I have been in here. I think it is an insult to the members of this House to give them amendments on scraps of paper strewn all over the House like confetti, as though we cannot afford to do things properly. It is more expensive to use the copying machine to produce this scrap of confetti, that I call it than to set out all of the amendments on a sheet of paper. If a member introduces an amendment, he should be treated with the dignity of setting it out on a sheet of paper. Do not shower me with a lot of confetti like that, because I am not interested in seeing it. It must be done in a dignified manner.

Mr. Chairman, the whole purpose of these amendments is to give them time to speak for 15 minutes on each amendment, because they know that they are going to lose all of the amendments. As the Hon.

Leader of the Opposition has said, I do not need the consent or the approbation, or the agreement, of the Opposition for any measure I introduce in this House. 6 p.m.

After a measure has been passed unanimously by the House, I do not have to fall back to the general public to justify the legislation by saying that the,other side agreed. That is only incidental. All I want to know is why all of a sudden now they can see that the legislation was iniquitous as they are saying on public platforms and they did not have the perspicacity at the time when the legislation was introduced, discussed, and debated in the Chamber, to say that it was iniquitous legislation.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the hon. member is accusing hon. members on this side of saying that legislation was iniquitous. I have not heard any member on this side say any legislation was iniquitous. We may have said the tax is iniquitous, but I have not said and I have not heard any hon. member say that the legislation was iniquitous. Land must be taxed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Point made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Admission No. 1. He said land must be taxed. We are getting closer to the truth. Then he is saying that the Chief Valuation Officer is iniquitous. He even referred to his political affiliation; so he meant that when the valuations were being carried out, the staff in the Valuation Office taxed people who belonged to the Barbados Labour Party high, and poor people higher.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I never suggested that nor would I suggest it. You are accusing me of breaking the rules in a very dangerous way.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I thank the hon. member for his admission. I have a direct repetition of what one of his comrades said at Oistins. Let us proceed to point No. 3. He said that the Land Valuation Officer and the staff were not iniquitous and that we did not tax the Labour Party and poor people deliberately. But I know other people who said it. He is specifically denying it. He says tax is iniquitous, so it comes back to me.

Now under the old Vestry system which we know, - you were a Local Government Chairman and you were a councillor and you know the old system - in the Bridgetown City Council, the area in which I pay taxes I had an aunt who left property. She did not leave it to me unfortunately. I was only executor and I had to pay the funeral and testamentary expenses. She used to get tax relief every year. she used to ring up somebody and get tax relief, because she was that kind of person. She did not like to spend too much money on anything. She was a nice old soul in my humble opinion, but she had three properties and she never should have got any relief, and all her properties were corner properties. but the Vestry and the Local Government gave her relief. Then you had all these shops in Baxters Road from the Red Lion all the way down to the John Bull Bar. You know I know my Baxters Road, and when I say from the Red Lion to John Bull I have everything covered, with John Bull on the right and the Red Lion on the left. Everyone of them open 24 hours a day, and 93% of them leaving out Big Drake and Ashton, are conservatives. $500 a year or $10 a week was their assessment and 12% of that is what they were paying

for working 24 hours a day. 1 would sooner go and lean up on a hoc in the Public Works for $40 a week than open a big shop with all these sleepless nights 365 days a year to make $10 profit a week but that is the sytem now that perhaps everybody except the Leader of the Opposition would like to see reintroduced. That is the system that suited the political pundits of the city, because all those people in Baxters Road with the exception of the ones I have mentioned and may be Seymour in between - I mean geographically in between -were part of the organisation for the City Council elections. I really should not mention this. but my aunt with three properties got relief with all her nephews and brother and everybody to give her money if she needed it. You got people going around and saying a person can only make $8.00 a week, that is, annual rental value.

Mr. Chairman, now we can have something which is a yard stick which you can apply indiscriminately and without fear or favour, not to the person, but to the property. It is not in personam,h is in rent as we say in law. It attaches not in gross in personam, it attaches in rem to the property, and you say that is the value of property in this area when you apply all the other factors like frontages and so on; so it is possible in Broad Street on one side to get one valuation for a property and on the other side to get another valuation, because it depends on the kind of frontage that you have and the kind of price you would get for the property. I am not defending valuations in Broad Street. As a matter of fact, it may be of interest to members to know, and the Leader of the Opposition knows because he saw me the day I was rushing to put in my protest, that I personally filed an objection to my valuation on the grounds that it was too low. I am Minister of Finance and I do not know whether I will be successful in my appeal, but I personally consider that my valuation was too low. So mistakes will be made, but the reason why I did it incidentally is because all around me are people whom I feel should pay more, and if they valued them as low as they valued me, I feel that the Government is being deprived of some tax. That is my personal opinion, but I would never object that the tax is too high because I know that nobody can get my property for what they valued it at, and I have a letter right here from a gentleman who was an old West Indies cricketer who said at Kensington that they could not get his property for what they value it at, they would have to be crazy.

The point is that the valuation officers have made some kind of attempt to look through at least 10,000 or 20,000 transfers of property, transfers of land for valuable consideration, and after examining these, with an Australian and a Jamaican, I think the question of anybody in Barbados looking to pick out poor people or looking to pick out members of the Barbados Labour Party, or soak the poor and ease the rich does not arise. We had a gentleman from Australia looking over the whole exercise, Mr. Copes, lent to us by the United Nations Development Programme, and Mr. Chang from Jamaica, highly qualified men, and we looked at all the mistakes that had been made in Jamaica and Trinidad, and we valued every corporeal hereditament in Barbados on the basis of what is set out in the Valuation Act, what a person might reasonably expect to get for his land at the market value at a particular point of time, not ten years from now or ten years back, but at the time when the valuation was made.

Now obviously in introducing a new method of assessment of value of anything, you would have mistakes and errors made not so much in the methodology, but in the actual computation whether they are made by human error or by the computer, and I know of a case which was drawn to the attention of the Minister of Tourism in which a single plot of land less than an acre was valued at $276,000 and it was not in Broad Street; it was in the country, and it was discovered that that had been a slip in the computer and it should have been $27,600, in other words, just over 50 cents a square foot. But does that make the whole system iniquitous? The hon. member for St. Thomas said he knows of a case when

something was supposed to be $98,000 it turned out it was $4,900. If it is $98,000 and $4,900, somebody forgot to divide by two and move the decimal place. 6.10 p.m.

You do that in examinations far less with a mass of computations, so this is the reason why built into the legislation, both in the Land Valuation Act and in the Land Tax Act, there are elaborate devices which take care of every possible contingency, not only the human error but also the miscalculation by machines and the fact that the wrong person may have been designated, as in the case of the gentleman I mentioned behind the Plaza cinema whose land before the 1st April, 1972 had been compulsorily acquired by Government, and there is provision that in a case like that you can write in to the Chief Valuation Officer or the Collector of Taxes whoever is the relevant person and say that you are not the owner of the land because it was compulsorily acquired by Government or was sold to Mr. Browne or to Mr. Smith as the case may be, so to say that there are 30% objections I do not think is an accurate figure. I can get the accurate figure in a moment, but in any normal year under the old system when we did not have so many tax bills to send out, we got a minimum of 5,000 applications for relief on one ground or other, so this is nothing new that people apply for relief. The point is, does the system take into recognition the fact that errors or inequitable circumstances may arise for one reason or the other? Does it make provision for the correction of those errors? The only thing we are left with when we examine that situation is that at one stage of the proceedings people in Barbados were not sufficiently informed of the provisions of the Bill.

Everyone is deemed to know the law. The only kind of law that the people of Barbados really understand is criminal law. They know the law of self defence. They have even extended the law of self defence to the extent that if one woman abuses another she says she will abuse her back in self defence. They know all about larceny, that if somebody takes your goods you can put him in court. They know about assualt and battery, they know that if somebody runs you down with a motor car you can sue him for damages, but when it comes to things like tax law, although the law deems that you know it the minute it is passed, it is not true in any country that people really know the law until they come face to face with the operation of the law, and the operation of the law in this instance is when you receive your tax bill. Naturally, you will get some kind of hue and cry when people see something different from what they were accustomed to seeing before. Everybody in Baxters Road who owns land will probably cry out, but as far as I know, none of the shopkeepers in Baxters Road or very few of them own the land, so they are only going to pay trade tax and they will be assessed by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, but as far as land tax is concerned, a lot of people who were paying $1.50 in taxes on the basis of the annual rental value may now find that they have to pay $15 or $20, but that is one of the concomitants of being a landed proprietor.

You must understand now that land is increasing in value in Barbados at the rate of about 5% per annum, and between 1965 and 1968 it was increasing at the rate of about 12% to 15 % per annum, particularly land in certain areas by the seaside and so on, so if the Government asks you to pay 1% of the increase it means that your land has increased by a net increase in value of 4% and you are asked to pay by way of tax, or if you sold the land in any year you are still 4% better off than you were a year before. What is inequitable about that? As I said, Sir, there are anomalies and all these will be straightened out, but most of the people who were sent demand notices as far as I know have paid their taxes, and I will get the figures by tomorrow of the amount of tax that has been paid in.

Then we come to the question of the member for St. Thomas stating that the tax is iniquitous. The law

is iniquitous, the system of valuation is iniquitous, and now the tax is iniquitous. How is it iniquitous? Has it put a burden on the landed poor as against the landed rich? My answer to that is 'no' for this reason. Firstly, under the Local Government, if there had been a reassessment on an annual rental basis the amount of tax calculated to be collected would be in the vicinity say of $3.6 million or $4 million. A rate of 1% which is a simple rate both to operate administratively and for the taxpayer to understand is going to yield us about the same amount globally that we would have collected under the annual rental value system, not much more, and possibly in this financial year a little less, so the Government has not gone out to grab more taxes, or I as Minister of Finance have not set out to grab more tax as a result of the new system, what I have sought to do is to collect at least the same amount or something closely approximating to the same amount. To go into the precise mathematical formula would have brought us out something like .87936 recurring, but who would have the time to sit down and work that out? It is far better to pay on 1% and be generous in relief which we grant to the people who are not in a position to pay, and that brings me now to this point of whether it is inequitable against the poor.

It is true that there are people who are not in receipt of large incomes, not by definition, who have land in areas where the valuation will be relatively high. I can think readily of people who have land, let us say, in St. James. I tried to make an assessment and between the Miramar and Gibbes beach I do not think that there are 37 small lots on the seaside. Some of it is Government land. I am not claiming to be accurate in my estimation, I am just giving you the kind of impressions which I have from driving around. I see some dilapidated houses down there, but the fact that they are dilapidated would not necessarily mean that the owners are living in those houses, this may be somebody in New York, an eighteenth cousin or something like that, and as the people in the country say, the land was left from seed to seed, but it does not really belong to the fellow who has the chattel house and he does not want to put up anything too elaborate because the cousin may come back from America and give him notice, and all these complications, or he likes being by the sea and he is scotching. But let us say now that that man is even the beneficial owner, and let us say that his land is valued at $5 per square foot because he is living chock-a-block or cheek-by-jowl a big hotel like Miramar. He has the right to lodge an appeal on the grounds that he is living in the place as a domestic residence - and I am paraphrasing here, I am not qouting the Act precisely - and that his land has been assessed on the basis of its potential for hotel development, and it is possible that this may have been done in some cases, but I mentioned before that this is a tax in rem and not in personam, this is a tax on property rather than a tax on the person.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order on this last point, I think perhaps that the Prime Minister - I am sure - in the course of such a carefully reasoned speech, not deliberately, may have misrepresented the case in using the word "appeal" in respect pf the true situation of someone who says that he is living in a domestic residence. He can apply for relief.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I was aware of that when I said "appeal", I meant "apply" in that case for relief. He can apply for relief on the grounds of hardship. There are three or four different methods of objecting, appealing or applying for relief. 6.20 p.m.

He can get off by writing something to the Commissioner of Valuations, or the Tax Collector, and state his case. I particularly said that I am not quoting but paraphrasing what he can do. You can apply for relief on the grounds of hardship to the Relief Court. It is competent for a person who has been

served with a demand note to State that he is using a place solely for domestic purposes and it has been assessed or

valued as if it were for development purposes. The reason why we cannot go around and look at each of the 48,000 landowners and value land on the face of what we see, is that the next day a person may go and sell his spot of land to a big corporation, and we would have to wait for another three years to re-assess them. The next year now, if he had sold the land to a big corporation they would not have the same excuse, because they might have put up a multi-storey hotel on the same site. The position is that we would have based the taxes on the site value.

Now, I want to say that the Valuation Officers have carried out their work. I have not sought by imposing a 1 per cent rate to collect more money, or substantially more money, than I would have collected under the old rental value system. I will probably collect less, so you cannot say that the 1 per cent is iniquitous. Further, 1 per cent is easy not only for administration, but for the people to understand. It may be possible that when we get the increased site value, if the total assessable value of all the property in Barbados which is taxable comes out very high, then we may be able to reduce it to 1/2 per cent. In those circumstances, the people in the middle-income group living in well established houses may find themselves paying more than they are paying now, say, three years from now. On the other hand, people living on spots of land may find themselves paying less than they are now paying. Of course, if we could get a billion dollars we could drop the rate to 1/2 per cent, but that cannot happen until three years have gone by. As far as I am concerned, the tax is a fair tax, and I am satisfied that there is ample provision within the four corners of the three bits of Statutory legislation for all the hardship cases and cases of miscalculation to be corrected and dealt with.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we have all heard what the Minister of Finance had to say. Firstly, we were never given in this Honourable House any indication whatsoever as to what were the site values in any given area in any part of this Island when the Bill was brought before the House. Another point is that all the demand notes that were sent out were dated February 15, and the last day for objection was, I think, last Saturday. Now, there are cases that I know of that whilst the date on the demand note was February 15, the post-mark on the envelope bore no relation to anything near the 15th February. You will find, therefore, that there are some people who have been deprived of much of their time to go into the matter. There can be no doubt that there has been a considerable amount of uneasiness among the people who have to run here and there seeking information as to how they should deal with situations as they crop up from time to time. I should like to know what is the position where those people are concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I asked the Prime Minister in this Chamber something about the market value of land. Is a property assessed at the market value, that is, at the price it would normally fetch if it were offered for sale in the open market? Is that the value attached to it by the Valuation Department? I have asked the Minister of Finance whether he is aware of the upset that it is causing in Solicitors' Offices and in Commercial Banks when property owners are transacting business. Now, if land was valued at $X yesterday and the Valuation Department came along and assessed it at three or four times its valued, but neither the Solicitors nor the Commercial Banks are giving any sort of consideration whatsoever to the valuation that the Valuation Department or the Government are now attaching to land all over this Island. If that is the case what is really the market value?

I do not believe that a Bank would be reluctant to deal with a property owner if he has the real market value of his land, or that a firm of Solicitors in Bridgetown would be reluctant to entertain a property owner if he has the true market value of his property assessed by the Government or otherwise. What we are fearing is that this jacking up of the land price in some areas is not doing the people in this Country any good, and I am sure that property owners will suffer in the long run.

With regard to those people who live along the St. James Coast, the St. Peter Coast, and those areas, what kind of relief is any Board going to give to a landowner who is occupying land on the beach that has been valued at $5 a square foot because he has a small house on it and he says that he is poor? It is not merely a case of getting up in this Chamber and making statements for the sake of saying something. 6.30 p.m.

The Minister of Finance would know that as soon as a person owns land that can be valued at $5.00 per square foot, no Relief Board can or will consider that person for relief. What we are finding is that the tax on that plot of land is so high that the present owner is going to be unable to pay the tax, and in the long run a lot of overseas people who have been trying to become owners of beach lands will now be given an opportunity through all this to buy the land from these poor people who just cannot now pay their taxes. That is the danger in all this. I do not mind what anybody has got to say; it is going to happen unless we can find a means to protect these poor people. I want to say here and now that some of these people find themselves squatting on these land although they are the owners because they are in little shacks on these beach lands. Let us consider the type of sacrifice that the parents and grandparents of some of those who now own the land made, some by going abroad, and the sacrifice which the present owners make from time to time to hold that plot and reside on it. You have come down with the sledge and knocked them overboard and that is the end of it. I would pray to God that the Minister of Finance reconsiders this whole tax structure. Money has got to be found. As has been said from this side of the House, we agree that land tax was low in this Country, but we cannot support the high taxation that has been applied and the manner in which it has been applied. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that there are cases where in the past people have been paying $56 as a tax on house and land, and they have now been presented with a demand note for $ 1,512 for land alone. What do you expect these people to do?

There are many people today who, rather than paying tax, would consider selling their properties and rent for the rest of their lives. I have said and I repeat that no young people in this Country will now have any incentive to become owners of land in Barbados. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Why not?) Mr. Socialist is asking why not! Mr. Chairman, high taxation is depriving them of the initiative to own lands, and 1 can see that in the not too distant future unless something is done, you are going to find that lots of plots that would normally have remained in the hands of some comparatively poor people will have to be sold. Because somebody owns a plot of land that the Government comes along and values at $5 or $6 a square foot does not necessarily make the person wealthy; he is still poor. What I want to say is that some of these people have been content to live on this plot of land wherever it is for many years, and many a day that owner did not know where to turn to get a tea or breakfast, despite the fact that they had land which the Government valued at $5 a square foot. That is evidence of the type of sacrifice that people undergo to become owners of a plot of land in this Country. I share the Prime Minister's view that when a person became the owner of a square foot of land in Barbados in the past, that fellow felt himself a giant; he felt as if he had come of age and was then somebody. But, Mr. Chairman, with the present high tax, that is imposed upon people, what is going to become of these. I would wish and hope

to see that something is done to review the whole situation.

Now we have heard the Minister of Finance say that the opportunity is open to these people to seek relief on the grounds that the land has been assessed for development rather than for private habitation or whatever it is. 1 believe that the Valuation Department has a purpose in carrying out its work, and I warned earlier that many of the errors which the Minister of Finance has admitted have occurred in the system could well have been avoided if at times some attention is paid to what is said from this side of the House. They need not pay attention at all times. There is still a case where a portion of my land is attached to the plot belonging to my neighbour. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; You have piece belonging to the Government.)

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Finance says that I have piece belonging to the Government, let them come down there for it tonight after dark. I would like them to send out their assessment form or whatever it is and the demand note and let me see exactly what is their position. I believe the Minister is poking fun at me when he says I have a piece belonging to the Government. What happened is that the Government has built an out-fall drain through part of my land and now 1 am waiting to see what the position really is.

There is another situation which 1 believe we will deal with when we come to Communications and Works arising out of the same out-fall drain and which 1 believe the Government must attend to quite quickly under the present circumstances, if not they might have to take the matter to court or somewhere to have it remedied; but that is no threat or warning. I am hoping that in the case of those demand notes which were stamped on 15th February and received on the 19th and 20th, five and six days after the 15th, some extension of time will be given to those people so that they can file their objections. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to enter into this debate but there are one or two points which were not raised by hon. members which I think I should raise.

The first point I would wish to make is that there is a great necessity to have appeals which have been lodged and the objections which have been made under the Land Valuation Act as well as under the Land Tax Act heard expeditiously. The system is that most people have been encouraged to pay their land tax with the hope of getting a discount of 1% if they pay within 30 days and a discount of 5% if they pay within 60 days, and to avoid any confrontation that may occur between themselves and the Marshals who might execute against the land under a distress warrant. It seems to me that where the Government is in receipt of revenue some of which it may have to refund ultimately to taxpayers, that it should make sure that the tribunal sit and sit constantly in order to adjudicate on these matters. Under other systems of taxation like the Income Tax Act, if you are in arrears towards Government or you delay in payment you have to pay interest, sometimes calculated from day to day, but where the Government is in receipt of money belonging to you there is no reciprocity of treatment and the Government does not pay you interest on your refund even when they had the use of your money during that period of time. I am not suggesting that the Act should be amended at this stage, but what I am suggesting is that if any hardship should arise it may be alleviated by the expeditious handling of appeals, both the appeals which are brought against site values, excessive valuation for instance, or wrong valuation, and also the appeals which have been made by way of seeking relief under the Act.

There is another point I should like to make, and it is in extenuation of the point made by the hon. member for St. Peter, and that is the necessity to extend the time for the hearing of objections and for the lodging of appeals for relief. The system is new to many people, and indeed many people have been confused by what is a difficult bit of legislation not only difficult to operate, difficult to sell, difficult to stomach but also difficult to understand. I believe under the Interpretation Act there is provision by which the Commissioner of Valuation as well as the Collector of Rates and Taxes may extend time, and I think the Minister himself may have that power if the Act is running in conjunction with the Interpretation Act, and I am strongly urging that perhaps in the first year of the operation of the Act in particular, the administration should show some desire to help people put in objections and assist them in putting in appeals for tax relief.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell the Minister how to run his Department, but I seem to recall in his budget speech that he was aiming after $2 million, and I see in the speech made last year when we were told that at some stage there would be a land valuation, and although the specific amount could not be stated then, I think the figure that was aimed at then was in the region of something like $2 million, and I see now that we are being asked for something like $5 million. It may well be that despite the increase in expenditure called for, that the experience of the Minister will be such that he can afford to be generous and at least not only look at the matter from the point of view of relief but from the point of view of a general reduction in the level of taxation.

I would not like it to be thought that those of us who were not here on the Opposition benches at the time when this measure was being debated ran away from our duty in any way whatsoever. Certainly I do not believe that any member of the Opposition has said that a system of taxation which redresses inequalities and imbalances is a bad system of taxation, but we are entitled to make the point that at no stage as far as I know was an Order laid in the House, not that the Minister had to lay the Order in law, certainly when the Act was being debated, and if it was laid I am sure the point was not taken that it should be 1%.

The other point I am making, in any event the site value would not have been known, the method of site valuation would not have been known to the Opposition. Even now we can only assume that the site value of any land in Barbados is in the region of $500 million, and that therefore the 1% is intended to yield $5 million, but we could not at that stage have had the exact figures, nor would we have had as the Minister would have had detailed information to see where iniquities would have occurred. I should like to say that there are many contradictions. Maybe the system like any system could not be a perfect system but there should be a review as soon as possible of these contradictions which have occurred. I could cite for instance in Christ Church West -- and not the rich part of Christ Church West, the poor part like Brathwaites Gap, Forde's Road or Old Navy Road, for instance - where you have adjoining lands for which one person is paying an average of something like 90% per square foot and the other person is paying at an average of $1.48 per square foot. The same type of use, side by side,

there are not now any mistakes according to land areas, and I have only cited that as one example, but right throughout the island I think you will find that there are instances of these anomalies occurring, and at the earliest possible time when the Chief Valuation Officer is not snowed under with objections and the necessity to rush through this measure, his officers should give some sort of urgent treatment in trying to redress these anomalies which have occurred.

I understand that people who own the agricultural belt feel quite happy about the valuation. I wish the same thing could have been said for some of the people who live on the sea coast - and I am not talking about the rich people on the sea coast, I am referring particularly to some of the people who have lived there traditionally for years - and although I know there are provisions which allow them to be given some relief, I think that most of them have not reacted either out of fear or lack of knowledge by coming forth as they should have to lodge objections in this matter. I believe a Government has a duty to seek out these people as well. I do not think we should merely say to them because they have not made any objections they should pay. I think that when we have the time and there are hard cases - and members of Parliament will bring forward those that come to their attention - but I think where there are such cases that we should give them some assistance in putting in their objections.

One other point I would like to make. I believe that the Development Plan must now be published and passed and must get approval of this House. A system of site valuation if it is brought in - and it is a controversial system of taxation, do not believe this has been accepted the world over without people having objections such as the objections that have been expressed here- but wherever it has been implemented it is usual to know what the Development Plan for the country is, and the Development Plan has usually been approved, and it is quite true that the Development Plan is still a matter within the knowledge of the Government. I do not think that is fair. I think a Minister has to see to it as well that the Development Plan is known and approved and settled by this House, and the Minister responsible for such matters, because then people will understand what really is intended throughout the whole system of taxation.

Mr. Chairman, I would wish that during next year or the coming year when the system is being reviewed that we will have more time to do almost a house-to-house convassing of land areas. This was not done in as thorough a manner as it should have been done now. I believe that one looked at averages rather than particular instances and circumstances, and you could well discover that although you have hotel development going along it may be alongside a highly residential area, and it is unfair that the residential area should carry the same rating in such circumstances as the hotel development which has just impinged itself unless everybody knows that this area has been zoned for this type of development, and I believe that people still do not know in this Country which areas have been zoned and for what. Had they known this a lot of the adverse reaction that has occurred would have been muted. 6.50 p.m

It is not for me to tell the Government how to do their business, but certainly I am concerned in circumstances where you have many people today offering to sell their land or to hawk their land on the market, because they feel that they cannot bear the whip-lash, as the hon. member for St. Peter has said, of this tax. We must encourage Barbadians to own land; we must educate them as to the incidence of land ownership as well, and we must try to make them realise that it is necessary for them to bear some taxation to get the necessities which we ask for from time to time in this House,

Mr. Chairman, Christ Church West is getting some of the biggest tax, or whip-lashes, under this form of taxation, and 1 hope to see the improvement and amenities in keeping with the taxation, particularly in some areas which are paying high rates on site value because we are so near to the coast-line where the amenities have not been kept up to date. I see the hon. member for St. Lucy asking me to say a word for him too, Sir. Some areas of St. Lucy need some assistance, and we all know that that is so.

Sir, regardless of whatever may be the political implications of the Act, I heard the hon. and learned member for St. Michael South Central and the hon. member for St. Michael West say that the Opposition, of course, would want to use it for political purposes. As far as 1 am concerned, obviously the Government and the Opposition have seen the political implications of the Act. The Prime Minister said that we did not vote against it. Obviously, we showed responsibility in accepting a principle of taxation, but we would be equally irresponsible not to protest where the system produced anomalies that are harsh, iniquitous and unfair. It is just that about which we are talking, because we believe that the system can be worked properly with people getting a fair break.

Finally, Sir, a lot of the areas are wrong. Some people have not been putting in objections. They have gone up to the Commissioner, and his staff have tried their best, in such instances, to give amended forms. Let me say that right away. They have been very co-operative to me and to the people I have sent there: my constituents as well as my clients. There are a lot of wrong land areas, and a lot of people who have paid their taxes even now, as the hon. member for St. Michael West has said, do not know their true land area. I would hope that, again, the Government have a duty to people to help them. You cannot tax people completely for their ignorance, and I do not believe that is fair.

Mr. Chairman, I think that within the Valuation Department there should be a proper Public Relations section with one or two officers whose duties are to see that these things are sorted out, and that people are helped in these circumstances. I hope that we will be able to alleviate the heavy burden of taxation which has come about all of a sudden.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand how the hon. member, who has just sat down, can make misrepresentations in such a sanctimonious and Barbadian tone of voice when he said that in my Budget Speech I said that I expected to get $2 million. In the Estimates, which were long before my Budget Speech for 1972-73, which you will find on Roman page xii of the Estimates and which we are just in the process of discussing, you will see under Rates and Taxes Division, 1972-73 Estimates, $3.4 million - (Asides).

Mr. Chairman, I am in Committee, and I am the Minister of Finance. I am entitled to speak, and the Standing Orders say so. I am speaking of the misrepresentations made by the last speaker claiming that in my last Budget Speech I said that I expected to collect $2 million from this tax, when I was at pains to point out that the amount which I expected to collect was, probably, less than the amount which was put in the Estimates. 1 am going to give the figures for the information of the House. In Roman page xii, in columns 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, you will see an amount there of $3.4 million which appeared in the Estimates, and then the Revised Estimates was $4 million. That was long before.....

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way. I will refer the hon. member to the Financial Statement and Budget Proposals for the 6th June, 1972, on page 22, relating to land tax. It states

"The programme of valuation is proceeding satisfactorily, but it is not expected that the Valuation Roll will be ready before the end of August next. I am, therefore, not in a position to levy a rate of tax on land at the present time. I will do this during the passage of the Land Tax Bill in the House. However, from

the very preliminary figures which I have, I estimate that an additional yield from this source in the region of $2 million could be achieved without causing any undue hardship."

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, additional is a different thing from saying that I expected to get $2 million. Do you see how, by leaving out one word, they can cause a big, long, acrimonious debate? Anyhow, I do not want to make any comments. I have worked in the law courts, and that is all I can say. I have had the misfortune of working in the law courts with nearly all of them over there before I left, so I know what to expect, Sir. (Asides.) I do not mean along side of; I mean at the sametime.

Hon. F. G. SMTH. Either with or for.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I merely want to point out that in the Revised Estimates it was $4 million when we had estimated for $3.4 million. Now this has been transferred from page xii to page ix where the new land tax appears under Item 12, under Revenue, as $5 million as against $3.4 million - $1.6 million more is the figure which we put in for this year.

Now, I will just give some figures so that hon. members will have an indication of all the hardships and appeals that they are talking about. The tax collectable is in the vicinity of $4.9 million. The amount of money paid in so far has been $2.4 million. I am giving round figures and allowing for the 10 per cent discount. Now 54 per cent of the tax collectable has been received up to the 16th March, 1973. There have been 1,016 appeals on the grounds that the tax is too high; 1,630 that the person is not correctly named or not the owner, as the hon. member for St. Joseph has pointed out, and 2,130 that the areas are wrongly defined. Most of these are due to the fact that the people did not produce their plots, conveyances, and certified plans at the time when the valuations were being made. That, more or less, brings the picture up-to-date up to the 16th March, and that is different from the impression some members were trying to make that 50 per cent of the people were making appeals.

Mr. Chairman, the largest number of appeals we used to get before would have been 5,000. If we have 54 per cent, and we can call it 50 per cent, and we have 4,700, we can probably expect about 9,000 when all of the returns have been sent in as against 5,000 before. A lot of this is due to the fact that the wrong areas have been defined, and the wrong people have been sent demand notes. 7 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, how many demand notes were sent out?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

38,100.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to take up the Prime Minister on his allegation that land values in Barbados have risen 5 percent per annum. If this is so, then I can say that several of the site valuations are in excess of the estimated rise in value of the very area, because I can tell the Prime Minister now that I have in my possession a demand note which came to me for land which was sold two years ago and the valuation on the site is 100 per cent; so how can the value of land be rising by approximately 5

percent annually and the site value is 100 percent on the sale price? According to what I have been told, the site values have been worked out based on recent sales in the area and things of this nature. How can it be? If you are going to contend that it is rising 5 percent, then the site valuation cannot be 100 percent. This is something which obviously needs correction.

A point I would like to make is that I believe that the taxation of land should be based on the use to which it is put at a given time. If you tell me that the land of a man in St. James is going to be valued at the same price per square foot as land at Sandy Lane, the man who lives on 6,000 square feet and has been there, according to what the Prime Minister has said, because it was left to him by somebody, he has not yet reached the age of retirement where he can have relief as an old age pensioner, he cannot claim relief under any of the other grounds, so he finds himself paying for land at a high price per square foot which land is not being put to the same use as the land Sandy Lane is occupying. But this is an answer to get around what we have been saying. We have constantly called for a system of land use and particularly a capital gains tax, particularly where the land on the west coast is changing hands outside of Barbados at fantastic prices. Otherwise, the system of relief that is going to be employed has got to be such that a man can get adequate relief. Let us take for instance a fisherman in my constituency who has lived relatively close to the seaside whose tax bill may show $180 or $200, but when you begin to calculate the income of that person, when you remember that there are certain times when he cannot go to sea because of a reef in that area when you study his family background and the number of persons he has to maintain, one sees the burden that such a tax would bring to him based on a hotel which occupies a similar area of land in the same area, but puts it to a completely different use, and gets an income far in excess of the fisherman. These are systems which I believe the Minister of Finance would have to devise in order to relieve persons of this nature.

The next point I would like to ask the Minister to consider, and this should be done urgently, is the question of the extension of time for objections because although the demand notes are printed with a specific date, it is known that some demand notes did not arrive within a reasonable time to take into consideration of one month which is noted on the demand note. I have personal experience of one which was dated I think 15th February and arrived on 21st February. These are things that should be looked into. If you are going to hold a person to a month from the date, my belief is that it should be thirty-one days from the date stamp or something like that. I have said in this House before that people living in St. Philip have found that mail posted in Bridgetown take three and four days to arrive. I have had personal instances within the last month of registered letters posted in Bridgetown to offices in Bridgetown took three days to arrive. If this is Bridgetown, one can consider what happens in other districts. One can consider that in a constituency like . St. Joseph, if the mail van arrives late and the letters are not sorted on that day but are sorted the next day, and if a postman is sick and somebody has got to sub for him in a particular area, the date mark on the demand note will not be relevant in relation to the date on which the demand note has been delivered, and I would hope that the Minister of Finance will take quick action in this and at least allow ten or twelve days over the date for lodging of an appeal.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mir. Chairman, the suggestion of the hon. member for St. Joseph that land can be valued according to the use to which it has been put has some merit, but it is a question of how you arrive at that. The problem which would face the Valuation Department if they tried to do that in the first instance would be enormous if they were supposed to value each piece of land according to the use to which it was put whether it be domestic, agricultural, factory, hotel or just an empty piece of land; but as the hon.

member for St. Joseph who seems to have left in a huff for some reason has said, what of the poor fisherman who is living in St. Joseph next to a hotel? It is the other way which is presently being used to arrive at the valuation of his piece of land. He has a small piece of land on which he resides next to a hotel big or small. He is perfectly entitled as has been explained to him time and time again to appeal against the valuation on the grounds that the land has been valued at the same price as the hotel site next door, and he will get a reduced valuation on this basis, but the important thing you must try to understand, and I am beginning to doubt they can, is that this reduced valuation attaches to the present owner.

If the owner then sells that land to the hotel next door or to another person who wants to build a hotel, then the land valuation reverts to the original valuation at which it was assessed in the first instance. If on the other hand he sells that land to another man who is going to use it for a small house as well, the next owner must apply again for the same relief which the first man had. If he sells to the hotel owner, then the valuation is at the original valuation which is the high price, and the hotel owner or whoever is going to construct on it pays the hotel rate valuation which was the one next to which he was originally valued, and therefore the valuation would be paid at the higher rate if it were used for that particular purpose. 7.10 p.m

Therefore the valuation is made at the higher rate if it were used for that particular purpose. This is simply the explanation that I hope will assist the hon. member for St. Joseph to understand a little bit better the matter before us.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, I do not expect the Hon. Minister of Information and defender of the large hotel complexes in Barbados to help me to understand anything. I was born, bred and went to school in Barbados among Barbadians, and the moment I mention a hotel in Barbados it is going to bite him in his head like a bee out of a stinging nest.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order. You will take your seat.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Thank you, Sir.

The question that the sum of $143,911 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (2) Valuation Division - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (3) RATES AND TAXES DIVISION

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow:
Mr. Chairman, there are no amendments to this Head dealing with the Rates and Taxes Division. I beg to move that the sum of $160,396 under Head 9- Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. Talma:

I beg to second that.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, before this Head passes the House I would like to make some comments on it generally. I think the first point which I should like to make relates to what I will call the general attitude of some of the officers who are designated to collect taxes from taxpayers. This matter has been raised, and I remember I got a number of reports from my constituents in St. Lucy relative to the approach which the particular officer or officers who were working in that constituency displayed. You had officers, for example, telling people if they did not like how they were behaving they could go and report them to the Prime Minister, and this kind of nonsense. I feel that the time has come when some firm steps must be taken to make a public example of some people. It is the height of rudeness and the height of nonsense for anybody who is working in the Public Service to attempt to frustrate the efforts of the Government in the collection of taxes. Unlike some of the members on the other side who have spoken, I would agree that there are some valuations in St. Lucy with which we disagree and on which I have asked my constituents to file objections, but people are willing to pay their taxes and it is difficult and frustrating when people go to do this then to meet with this type of attitude.

I reported this matter to the Collector of Taxes, but it seems as if nothing has been done about it, because only as recently as Friday, I received another report to the effect that the officers were going down at 11.30, taking lunch at 12.00, coming back at 2.00 and leaving at 3.00, and as a result one found that there were lots of people who were turned back. This type of situation cannot really assist us in what we are doing, and I think that is a matter which the Prime Minister should look into as quickly as possible. What one has got to take into consideration is that if the time for the rebate expires then people who would normally be entitled to a rebate would not get the rebate because of the fact that some person who either is dissatisfied with the kind of job he is doing or for some other reason does not expedite the collection of taxes. I think that this is something which should be taken into consideration, and I feel that every effort should be made by the Ministry of Finance to staff the offices in the rural areas adequately so that when people leave their homes - we know that in most of these areas transportation to the office of the Collector of Taxes is usually difficult and that after a Certain time it is difficult to get transportation back- and we therefore feel that every effort should be made to make sure that people are attended to when they go to the offices to pay their taxes. I would consider that this is advice which could be taken. It is early for 1974, but at least I think it is something which should be taken into consideration, because every year people will be eligible for getting this kind of rebate.

Another point I wish to make relates to the fact that on the tax bills there is a statement which says that taxes can be paid at any of the sub-offices or at the main office, and again I have had experiences of people who have gone either at the office down by the Lower Green or at other sub-offices on the way and they were turned back and were asked to go to the area where the land is situtated. Again I think that this is a situation which by some adjustment could operate for the benefit and convenience of taxpayers, because I believe that if we are going to collect taxes we should do everything in our power to make sure that there is this ease and convenience for the collection of taxes. I hope therefore that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance will take these points into consideration, because I think it will assist a great deal in expediting the collection of taxes.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I want to urge upon the Minister of Finance to approach the matter of tax collection in

this Country with all the caution that it really deserves. I am asking that he set about to carry out a purging of the tax collection offices, and the best way to do this is by instituting a thorough investigation into the administration of tax collection in this Country. There are quite a number of things that are taking place which I believe the Minister of Finance has never been told. You will find that there are now quite a number of bailiffs who are employed by the Rates and Taxes Division. These bailiffs, as we understand it, are collecting tax arrears or what are supposed to be arrears from about 1959. There is nothing wrong with this, but the amusing thing about this is that much of the taxes that these bailiffs are supposed to be now employed to collect happen to be taxes that have already been paid or debts satisfied. There are cases where these bailiffs are now sent about to collect taxes where judgement had already been entered into the courts of this Island in respect of the same debts, judgement given and the Government auctioneers have instituted sales and that kind of thing. 7.20 p.m.

What is happening is that somebody is getting rich out of all of this, because the bailiffs are not getting all of the money for themselves. You will find that a bailiff is paid $5 to collect arrears in the sum of $3, but when you look up the books you will find that the $3 had been paid, two, three or four years ago. Nevertheless, as long as the bailiff has been given the arrears to collect, he must be paid his $5. The situation is so bad that bailiffs have been known to go to the Tax Office and take the books to their homes to copy out the names of people to whom they should send notices. The bailiff knows that when he has copied out one hundred or two hundred names, it means so many dollars for him. What makes things worst, Sir, is that the Collector of Taxes has also been sending out notices to some people who owe taxes, and when the bailiff goes to some of these people he will find that they have already been sent notices by the Tax Collector. Nevertheless, so long as the bailiff has a name in his book he has to be paid.

Mr. Chairman, what we are saying about this matter is that something is definitely wrong in the State of Denmark. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: "We have nothing to do with the State of Denmark.") Mr. Chairman, these bailiffs have an opportunity to get rich. When taxes are collected by them let us question whether the Tax Collector is getting what is just and due to the Country. Quite recently, an officer from the Inland Revenue Department had to call on the Tax Collector and ask him to use his good offices to restrain some of these bailiffs from harassing some of the people who were involved in tax arrears. Some of these bailiffs are threatening people. That is not good enough, and I am sure that nobody likes this.

I speak now in respect of the Northern Districts. There was a time when a tax collecting office was situated over what was Mrs. Parris Gasolene Station at Speightstown before the fire took place. This is a known fact, and the Minister of Finance should do something about it. People paid their taxes to the official Tax Collector there. It is known that the officer's conduct was such that he could not carry on the job. That is the way I can best put it, but for some reason the officer was given ample opportunity to leave the Country. I do not know whether it was to avoid prosecution or not, but the bailiffs are still now armed with arrears to be collected from some of those people who already have their receipts from that officer. I would like to know what can be done in the circumstances. Things are in a muddle in the Tax Collection Office as far as this matter is concerned, Sir.

In the circumstances, I would urge that a thorough, careful and painstaking investigation be carried out to find out who is benefiting from the bailiffs drawing thousands of dollars when the month comes. It is a fact that these bailiffs are getting fat salaries. Some of them do a little work sometimes, but for the

most part they are loading themselves with names that they have absolutely no right with at all, because in many cases the debt has been satisfied.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that a racket is being run in the Rates and Taxes Division by some person or persons. If we are to levy taxes on the people, high as they are; if we hear the cries of people in every walk of life, and we find ourselves in a position such as this, then we must query whether we are right in having to levy such high taxes, because when the taxes are paid there is no knowing where the money will, eventually, find itself.

You will find, Sir, that there are other situations in the Rates and Taxes Division that are crying out for urgent and immediate remedy. One of these relates to personnel. The cry is for promotion and confirmation in acting appointments after acting for long periods. We feel that if these people have given satisfaction after a long acting period, surely, an attempt should be made to confirm such persons in their acting appointments.

In the parish of St. Philip, the sub-office there is located on the premises of the Collector of Taxes. 7.30 p.m.

Now I believe that there is absolutely nothing against the Collector of Taxes; he is perfectly in order, efficient and is doing his best, but I think the time has come when Government should examine the relocating of the sub-office at St. Philip. It does not always suit hon. members to say all that might have been reported to them from time to time, but I want to say here and now that I have known of absolutely no complaint touching the collector of taxes who is head of the Rates and Taxes Division, but I am still urging for the good of the department that we try and resite the sub-office that is now located at his premises in the parish of St. Philip. I would be reluctant to urge this bearing in mind that it might create a loss of revenue to the officer himself, but we have got to waive these things at times and for the good administration of all that is taking place, the sooner we attend to these matters, the better.

Now you will find in the same Rates and Taxes Division that we have a collector of taxes, but there is an officer within the department who is referred to - and I want the Minister of Finance to hear this - as the other collector. An investigation will reveal all this, but we are not concerned with revealing who he is. There must be a reason for it. I feel, Sir, that we have got to do everything to avoid the feeling of frustration amongst the members of staff in this department as well as in other departments of Government, and the sooner we can attend to this aspect of things in the Rates and Taxes Division, I think the better it will be for all concerned.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I think at this stage the hon. member has spent his time.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, if that is the case, I will now wind up. (Laughter)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Just for the records arising out of what the hon. member said, he said a lot of things which I do not have any proof of and I do not know if he has any proof of. He made some statements about bailiffs and have some figures here on the collections by bailiffs which I thought the hon. member would like to have. During 1971-72 for two months only, that is February and March, bailiffs collected $114,106.50

from 377 persons involving 658 cases. In 1972-73 twelve bailiffs have dealt with 4,570 cases. They are paid $5.00 for each cases, so that the total amount which was paid to bailiffs in 1972-73 up to now is $22,350. The total amount of tax collected by bailiffs up to 9th March is $521,021.76. In other words, there is no duplication of fees paid to bailiffs in respect of cases. They did not collect from the figures which I have a fee more than one time, and they do not collect as far as I can see any additional fees in proportion to the amount of money which they collect. They receive $5.00 for each case and they have collected in this year alone $1/2 million, but they have only been paid $22,500 for their trouble.

The question that the sum of $160,396 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I should just like on a point of privilege to say that according to Standing Order No. 64(5) having started at 10.30 a.m. we go on until 8 o'clock and then we have to conclude the day's proceedings, and we will meet again tomorrow at 12 noon and go on until 9.30 p.m., and the next day at 2 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. and go on until 10.30 p.m. or 11 o'clock, but in no case will we be exceeding the statutory number of hours set out in the Standing Order. Our time terminates tonight at 8 o'clock and I intend going on until then and suspending.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (4) CENTRAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (4) Central Purchasing Department - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $34,914 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (4) Central Purchasing Department - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, we believe that a fair and accurate assessment of the activities of Central Purchasing tells us that this department lacks expertise. We have got to be realistic. We appreciate the fact that the department is staffed by persons who have been more or less drafted into it rather than by persons who have shown up to the present they possessed at any time any particular aptitude for what Central Purchasing really demands. 7.40 p.m.

As a result there is a lack of cooperation coming from many of the departments which Central Purchasing should serve, and I am sure that it will be admitted that Central Purchasing is really not doing one-third of the work that it was established to do initially, mainly because the type of exercise that Central Purchasing really is has proved itself to be much more than some people can cope with. You will find that central purchasing is not merely a matter of attempting to buy in the cheapest market at all times; not at all, what Central Purchasing needs at the moment is in addition to personnel to carry out its purpose, Central Purchasing, must have a bond house for storing and making its deliveries, and it must be in a position to have officers going through all the Estimates in any one year to see the requirements

of the various Government departments. It is then that Central Purchasing would be able to arrive at a figure with respect to any particular item that a particular department is going to use over a three-month or six-month period; and place orders accordingly, but it is the question of the volume of the ordering that tends to regulate prices rather than from this commission merchant to the other commission merchant and fooling oneself you are buying in the cheapest market. That is not the case.

Central Purchasing needs to carry out a considerable amount of research into market values and prices worldwide, or from areas with which we are permitted to trade. What we find is that many Departments now find that having placed an order with Central Purchasing a delay is created at Central Purchasing that by the time the item arrives at the department which placed the order with Central Purchasing it is costing the department very much more than the department had been paying originally. We might be told that costs are rising here and there, labour handling and what not has increased and this in itself would contribute to the cost at which all the merchandise that would be handled through Central Purchasing or through any other Department, but the point is that it is because of all this that Central Purchasing should be so equipped with the requirements of all the Government departments as to be able to face the counter on its own and not remain as it now stands, placing an order, and comparatively small orders, and the present method of splitting the orders between commission merchants for some unknown reason. If you find that the various Government departments require 100 steel cabinets, if you place that order through a commission merchant in Bridgetown you are bound to command a better price for 100 than if you have friends and have to split that order for 100 cabinets between three friends. That is the kind of nonsense that has crept in too early in Central Purchasing, and that is the type of thing that the Minister of Finance must be willing to face up to and try wherever possible to nip it in the bud.

My feeling is that the Minister of Finance is too hard-pressed to look into these various things in these departments that need attention. I hardly think he will agree with me, but Central Purchasing must be a department or an institution that is going to be prepared to carry considerable stock, because the clerks in the various departments, however efficient they may be, the time will come when they will wait until the last envelope has been put into the typewriter then to look to purchase more. That will happen at some time or other, so you will find that Central Purchasing must be so equipped as to cater to the various Government Departments to save them from these embarrassing situations when they crop up from time to time. You will admit that it calls for considerable clarity of vision in all of this. It is not an easy task, I am not suggesting this, the administering of the affairs of Central Purchasing is a job of some magnitude, a tremendous responsibility must be placed on the Chief Supply Officer and on his deputy, and what is more important, the keeping of an inventory of stock to see that your clerical officers, or despatch officers, are as active and as alert as one would expect them to be. 7.50 p.m.

Now, I see that there is an Item here, Item 20, for the purchase of a light truck. I do not see here whether there is any request for either a porter, or a driver, or two drivers. We must ask ourselves from what we know of Central Purchasing at present, what need do they have for a light truck at the moment? To carry around personnel? I hardly think so. We have had instances, Sir, of personnel from Central Purchasing Department journeying 12 miles from Bridgetown to make a purchase of something that could be acquired in Bridgetown at a much cheaper price. I cannot question the reason of those persons for so doing. I do not know whether that was done in order to get travelling allowance, but it did happen, if an item could be bought in the City of Bridgetown at a cheaper price than it could be bought somewhere else, why make that long journey? These are things that we cannot understand.

I believe that Item 18 for $1,560 to meet the cost of operating a light truck must be taken to mean the cost of oil, gasolene, fuel, tyres, and repairs, but it could not, by any stretch of imagination, seek to cater for the wages of the driver, as I have said. If you are going to operate a light truck, you must have at least two porters nowadays. As things are today, no one porter is going to lift up anything. You must have two porters. I believe that we should give some sort of consideration to Items 18 and 20 and see what information can be forthcoming in this respect.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have covered whatever there was to be covered under this Head, except Item 12 where they have their Unestablished Staff. In view of the fact that the Unestablished Staff are being paid at key-scale rates, I do not think the necessity arises for querying this item.

The question that the sum of $34,914 under Head 4 - Central Purchasing Department - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE (5) DATA PROCESSING UNIT

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - (5) Data Processing Unit - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $120,146 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - (5) Data Processing Unit - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I have heard the Prime Minister say, from time to time, that there is not enough productivity in the Public Service generally. I believe that if we were to look at the work that the Data Processing Unit is doing, as rendering assistance to other Departments, it would make us understand that it is bringing a measure of relief to members of staff who spent most of their days and weeks, perhaps, 24 days in the course of a month preparing pay sheets. I understand that the Data Processing Unit is now preparing the pay sheets of most Government departments in a matter of minutes as compared with the former system.

If that is the case, then it should mean that we should see greater performance by those members of the staff who have been relieved from what they would now want to refer to as a back-breaking task in preparing these pay sheets. I refer to places like the Ministry of Communications and Works where you have your weekly rolls with the number of people that department employs, and then your monthly roll and so on. I do not think that we are getting any more production in other avenues, despite the assistance that the Data Processing Unit is now rendering. These things have to be examined to see what relation one bears to the other when it comes to the question of measuring productivity.

Mr. BOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I remember we had a debate in the House regarding the question of the Government purchasing another piece of computer equipment. I should like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister whether or not they have acquired that piece of the computer. Secondly, I remember when the first sum was voted for the purchase of the present one, the Prime Minister said that there

would be a time when it would be utilised by the private sector as well. I should like to know whether it has reached that point and what revenue is being derived from its operation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I shall try to answer both of those questions very quickly. First, on the acquisition of the 1401 that is up at Grazettes, we have now made anew offer for the two converters and the four tape drives that we need very badly. Instead of buying the whole computer - (Asides) The House voted $40,000. I have offered about one-quarter of that sum for the tape drives, which we need very badly, and the two rotary converters. That answers the first part of the question. By tomorrow I will, probably, know whether that offer has been accepted. The rest of the equipment we do not really need.

As far as the private selling time on the computer is concerned, we used to sell a lot of time, but IBM have brought in a third generation computer. 8 p.m.

I have not had any recent information on this since before Christmas, but I personally doubt that much time is being sold right now, but we are charging .....(Asides) We do not have to buy time. If we get the four tape drives from Grazettes we would not need to buy any time. I do not know whether for instance when work on the valuation roll was going on we had to buy time, but I personally doubt it. We would buy time at the time of a break down or something like that, and that is one of the reasons for the back-up. We were selling time at $160 an hour, but I cannot give you the figures right now on how much revenue we made last year, but I doubt they were selling much time now because one or two of the firms like Light and Power Co. and Shipping and Trading have brought in their own computers. The sale of machine time during the period 1st April, 1972 to 28th February, 1973 was $28,991.02; so we did sell a considerable amount of time, and as far as I can remember, the rate was $160 an hour. If we spent $10,000 buying the four tape drives and two converters we have more than made it up by the end of the financial year by the time we sold.

Mr. HINDS:

I thought the tape drives and converters were to be thrown in when you bought the machine.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am only saying now that I do not really need the rest of the machine and we can save $30,000. We only need the tape drives. If they would accept the offer for only the tape drives, I do not need to spend the other $30,000 for the rest of the machine.

The question that the sum of $120,146 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (5) Data Processing Unit - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, 21st March, 1973.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 8.05 p.m.

On Resumption :-

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply discussing the annual Estimates. To that it now reverts.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 10 - ACCOUSTTANT GENERAL

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $242,369 under Head 10 - Accountant General - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 11 - PENSIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment under this Head. Item 10 - Local Government Compensations, after "1959" add the following "Local Government Compensation Act, 1969-47 and Parochial Employees Pension Act, 1944-14." I beg to move that the sum of $2,380,405 under Head 11 - Pensions - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, there are amendments under this Head. Item 72 - Furniture and Equipment (Residences) delete existing note and substitute the following "Purchase of humidifier for the residence of the Counsellor at the Mission in Canada". Item 73 - Motor Vehicles, delete existing note and substitute the following "Replacement of car provided for official use of Field Officer in Britain and of official cars at the Embassy in Washington and at the Consulate General in New York. Provision also included for the purchase of a car for the Embassy at Caracas and a second car to cope with protocolary and other official requirements of the Consul General."

I beg to move that the sum of $3,874,491 under Head 25 - Ministry of External Affairs - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment under this Head. On page 101 insert "Item 61A - Dorcas League". Under column "Other Expenditure" insert the figure "500" and make consequential amendments. I beg to move that the sum of $5,575,608 under Head 38 - Ministry of Health (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (2) HEALTH SERVICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA :

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,264,910 under Head 38 - Ministry of Health (2) Health Services - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (3) MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $85,756 under Head 38 -Ministry of Health (3) Maternity Hospitals - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (4) LAZARETTO

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $30,500 under Head 38 -Ministry of Health (4) Lazaretto - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (5) ST. MICHAEL'S DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $838,024 under Head 38 -Ministry of Health (5) St. Michael's District Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH (6) DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $725,093 under Head 38 -Ministry of Health (6) District Hospitals - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH
(7) DISTRICT MEDICAL SERVICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $172,124 under Head 38 -Ministry of Health (7) District Medical Services -stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH
(8) NATIONAL NUTRITION CENTRE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $67,950 under Head 38 -Ministry of Health (8) National Nutrition Centre - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 31 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,759,312 under Head 31

- Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon.G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 32 - METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $252,696 under Head 32 -Meteorological Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 39 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,289,710 under Head 39

- Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 40 - MENTAL HOSPITAL Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,381,616 under Head 40

- Mental Hospital - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 - WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,032,782 under Head 41

- Welfare Department - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,456,211 under Head 42

- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce -stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, two amendments. On page 73 insert "Item 17A - Architect" and under column "Other Expenditure" insert the figure "11,820" and make consequential amendments. On page 75 - Item 49, Furniture and Equipment - affix an "s" to the word "desk" appearing at the end of the note. I beg to move that the sum of $2,179,389 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (2) PRIMARY, ADULT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,342,209 under Head 36

- Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON. I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (3) SECONDARY EDUCATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, there is a list of amendments under this Head.

Page 77 - Delete the words "COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS" appearing

in bold type and substitute the words "SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Com-

prehensive)"

Delete the words "GRAMMAR SCHOOLS" appearing in bold type and substitute the words "SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Grammar)" Delete the words "INDEPENDENT

SCHOOLS" appearing in bold type and substitute the words "SECONDARY

SCHOOLS (Independent) " Item 4 - Supernumerary Teacher.

Insert the number "4" before the word

"To" in the note to this item.

Item 17 - Industrial Arts Delete the words "at Comprehensive Schools" and insert a "full stop" after the word "Wings."

Item 23 - Communications Delete the words "for Comprehensive Schools" and insert a "full stop" after the word "charges."

Item 25 - Leave Passage.

Delete the words "of Grammar Schools"

and insert a "full stop" after the word

"staff "

Item 26 - Industrial Arts.

Delete the words "at Grammar Schools" and

insert a "full stop" after the word "Wings."

Item 27 - Approved Independent Schools. Delete the words "to approved Independent Schools" and insert a "full stop" after the word "assistance."

I beg to move that the sum of $6,866,698 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (3) "

Secondary Education - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (4) ERDISTON COLLEGE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, one amendment. On page 80, Item 30 - Furniture and Equipment, affix an "s" to the word "desk" insert a "comma" after the word "cabinets" and insert the words "science equipment" in the note to this Item. I beg to move that the sum of $143,624 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (4) Erdiston College - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (5) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Hon.C.E.TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $26,196 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G.G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (6) SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $322,145 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (6) Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (7) HOTEL SCHOOL

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $133,792 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (7) Hotel School - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(8) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND SUBVENTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,698,685 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(9) SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, there is one amendment. On page 86, insert "Item 29 - Motor Vehicles". Insert the figure "3,000" under column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments. Insert note to read as follows 29. To meet the additional cost of vehicles" I beg to move that the sum of $3,250,818 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (9) School Meals Department - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (10) AUDIO VISUAL AIDS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $244,170 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (10) Audio Visual Aids -stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (11) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $104,272 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (11) Industrial Schools - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (12) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $213,253 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (12) Public Library - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (13) DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $30,417 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (13) Department of Archives - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (14) YOUTH AFFAIRS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $54,676 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (14) Youth Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (15) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $174,596 under Head 36 -Ministry of Education (15) Community Development - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (16) SPORT

Hon. C. E. TALMA :
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $298,474 under Head 36'-Ministry of Education (16) Sport - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 26 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. C.E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $303,672 under Head 26 -Ministry of Home Affairs (1) General Administration - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 26 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (2) PROBATION OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $14,794 under Head 26 - Ministry of Home Affairs (2) Probation Office -stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
I beg to second

that.

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

HEAD 26 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(3) ELECTORAL OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $113,874 under Head 26 -

Ministry of Home Affiairs (3) Electoral Office -stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G, G. FERGUSSON:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 27 - POLICE

Hon. C.E.TALMA:
Mr.Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,321,106 under Head 27 - Police - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 28 - FIRE SERVICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $222,710 under Head 28-Fire Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $48,765 under Head 29 -Town and Country Planning Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 30 -PRISONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $117,169 under Head 30 -Prisons - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 13 - CUSTOMS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $257,731 under Head 13 - Customs - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 14 - INLAND REVENUE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $61,812 under Head 14 -Inland Revenue - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15 - STATISTICAL SERVICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $86,430 under Head 15 - Statistical Service - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 - CABINET OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments.

Page 32 - Item 13 - Entertainment Allowance.

Delete the words "in accordance with

Resolution No. 40/1969" appearing in the note.

Item 14 - House Allowance.

Delete the words "in accordance with

Resolution No. 6/1970 " appearing in the note.

Item 19 - Travelling.

Delete the figure "1966" appearing at the end of the note.

I beg to move that the sum of $550,142 under Head 16 - Cabinet Office - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments. On page 33, Item 9 - Special Allowance for the Head of the Civil Service, delete the figure "$130" appearing in the note and substitute the figure "$120". Also on page 33 - Item 14 - Culloden Farm delete the figure "$600" appearing in the third line of the note and substitute "$1,200." I beg to move that the sum of $220,441 under Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 - TRAINING DIVISION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, on page 34, Item 13 - Training Scheme Fund, delete the word "Scheme" appearing in the item. Delete existing note and substitute the following "To be paid into Training Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Training Act, 1972 (1972-25)." I beg to move that the sum of $494,016 under Head 18 - Training Division -as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 46 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,449,289 under Head 46 - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 19 - ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $263,690 under Head 19 -Economic Planning Unit - stand part of the Schedule!.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 20 - CIVIL AVIATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Under Head 20, Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments.

Page 37 - Item 18 - Clothing and Uniforms.

Affix the letter "s" to the end of the word

"uniform" wherever it appears in the note.

Item 21 - Furniture and Equipment. Insert the word "increased" after the word "to" appearing in the second part of the note.

Item 28 - Office Expenses.

Affix the letter "s" to the end of the word

"Windsock" appearing in the note.

I beg to move that the sum of $1,339,174 under Head 20 - Civil Aviation - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 21 - ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,011,916 under Head 21 - Establishments Division - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, it is perhaps more than amusing to find that in the Department entitled Establishments Division the Unestablished Staff is not on the Establishment for periods as long as you find in other

departments that are somewhat detached from the other things. The amount of $10,092 is being

asked for to meet the wages of three maids and one maid/cleaner. 12.10 p.m.

Now, one may be willing to say that 3 maids and one maid/cleaner are not sufficiently worthy of the attention that one would try to give in another department but, in any case, they form part of the entire set up in the same way as you will find the Head, the Chief Establishments Officer. In other words, if the Chief Establishments Officer has a grievance, the same thing can be applied to the maid and maid/cleaner. Since these officers have been acting or doing casual work for some length of time, surely, we should set about to give them exactly what is their due.

You will find that the Establishments Division is employing a considerable amount of temporary staff. In spite of this, you will also find that an officer from one department is seconded to another department for a year or more, in the first instance, and things go on that way for a very long time. It is well known that officers have been acting in certain posts for a very long period, and when the time comes to fill the posts, other officers are brought in and appointed. The serious thing is that those people who have been appointed to fill the posts do not go to work in the department in which the posts exist. They continue to function in one department, despite the fact that they have been appointed to fill a post in another department. These are things that call for a considerable amount of re-examination, if we are to remove completely from the Public Service the various areas of dissatisfaction that now exists amongst temporary and acting staff.

Mr. Chairman, I think we will have to look at the areas in which the Establishments Division is responsible for some of these things. I think that the Organisation and Methods Department should work in close co-operation with the Chief Establishments Officer, because we know the part he has been playing all along in this role. I think that the time has come, when something should be done in this matter. I should like to know what is responsible for this overtime payment of fees. Are we getting the best service from it ? Can these people give of their best doing overtime after they have been working for a whole day? These are things that need examination.

With regard to Item 28 - Office Expenses -the Note says that the increase is due to extension of O and M programme. I do not think that the Organisation and Methods Programme has been as widely publicised and made known to members of the Public Service as it ought to have been. If you should stop a civil servant on his or her way to work tomorrow morning and discuss with him or her what is taking place, you will be surprised to find the number of civil servants who will be hearing about the Organisation and Methods Programme for the first time, and they do not know what is going on. That is not good enough. If a department like this is part and parcel of the Civil Service, then it is the duty of every civil servant to become familiar with every phase of activity that is taking place ill the Department.

Now, the Establishments Division finds itself in a superior position to other Departments that have to pay money for documents copied on the Xerox machine. We believe that if Central Purchasing were carrying on its work effectively, all of these departments who have to rely on this type of service to speed up productivity would get better returns for the money they have to spend in this direction. I believe that if there is closer collaboration between the Establishments Division and Central Purchasing Department, some sort of programmme could be worked out and a lot of money could be saved.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to books and publications, a mere pittance of $240 is voted for subscriptions to journals and the purchase of books. What purpose can such a small sum serve? If we are told that the Organisation and Methods Programme is being expanded, surely, to go hand in hand with the expansion of the Organisation and Methods Programme, there must arise the necessity for an increased number of volumes, and increased number of books, and an increased number of publications to be made available to those who are engaged in this undertaking. There is nothing in these Estimates that bears this out. We are voting the same $240 year after year, and I do not think that they could really be serious in expanding this programme as they claim, when I find that there is no attempt to make more journals and more books available to the persons who are to be engaged in this field. 12.20 p.m.

The question that the sum of $1,011,916 under Head 21 - Establishments Division - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 - DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION

Head 22 - Defence and Security Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $21,426 under Head 22 -Defence and Security Division - stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 23 - REGIMENT Head 23 - Regiment - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $176,275 under Head 23 - Regiment - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 24 - PRINTING OFFICE Head 24 - Printing Office - was celled.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $223,756 under Head 24 - Printing Office - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, it might appear somewhat futile that year after year we come here, we lay to the benefit of Government all the shortcomings of the Government Printery to find that all we say falls more or less on deaf ears. I find myself in a position where I am a member of a Committee that should be looking after the Government Printery, but I want to say that it is all right for us to say that one being a member of a Committee should not come and criticise oneself so to speak, but the administration of the Government Printery rests more or less with a Minister of Government, who in this case happens to be the Leader of the House. It is a fact that the Leader of the House tries as best he can to elicit from the Government Printer what information he can to supply to his Committee in answering questions, but time and time again I have had to point out to the Leader of the House, and I seek to do so now to this Committee, that he has not been getting the best \ advice with respect to the administration and the functioning generally of the Government Printery.

Mr. Chairman, the Government seems to have been bogged down by recommendations of a Committee that had been set up to study the working of that department. We go on time and time again trying to debate all of this, but what we do find is that essential documents like our Independence Constitution are not available. I want to say here and now that people overseas, firms of solicitors in this Country and others have been making several enquiries over and repeatedly to get copies of the Constitution of Barbados since we became independent, and you will find that neither the kiosk in Independence Square nor the Government Printery is in a position to make copies available. Now we have got to ask ourselves this simple question: if we are an independent nation, is it not incumbent upon us to make our Constitution available at least to our nationals most readily? That is not the case, Mr. Chairman, and I personally feel that to describe the absence of copies of our Independence Constitution is the mildest form that one can set about to put it. It is something more than neglect of duty; it is something more than a total disregard for the significance of the type of document that it really is and what it really means to the nation. We might again ask ourselves what excuse does the Government Printery offer for not being able to keep abrest with the demands for this type of document.

The Government Printery from its inception has never been able to set its priorities right. It lack proper guidance from its inception and you will find that for as long as it remains as it does at the moment, we will never get anything better coming out of the Government Printery. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that departments of Government have been given instructions to place their orders for printing with the Government Printery, and I am saying that there are some departments that have been waiting for fully five ' years now to get their orders filled for one item from the Government Printery. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that time and time again a situation is cropping up in the Law Courts and the Magistrates Courts where they cannot get proper receipt books so that when the fathers of children go to pay bastardy arrears for their children, the officers cannot receive the money from these people because they are no receipt books. 12.30 p.m.

This is a case which has already been brought to the attention of this House, and as if to show the total disregard that the Government Printery - and this is the responsiblity of the Leader of the House who is in charge of the Government Printery and is here to hear for himself exactly what is taking place - when you find a situation such as this that the mothers of those children go to the courts to receive the dues to be told that their husbands or the fathers of the children had turned up but the people in the office could

not receive the money because they did not have any receipt books, that shows the total disregard that the Government Printery has for this situation. How best can we describe a situation like this? The mother is sent home to feed the children on nothing, it shows an increase on the welfare vote because the mother has to go to the Welfare Officer to put the case before him. It also means that the poor father or husband who went to the court and could not pay the money, will spend the money because there are so many other demands on his pocket and there is really no commitment on him to put by this money so that he can return with it to the courts on another day. Within another two or three weeks when a receipt book is available and the bailiff turns up, he is now in arrears by two or three weeks through no fault of his own.

These are situations which are cited with a view to giving us an idea of how the Government Printery is functioning. I have been able to point out to the Committee already that whilst the Government Printery is showing such disregard for the demands of the various Government departments, you will still find that the Government Printery finds itself in a position to be printing things for the Lodge School which could easily be handled by any one of the commercial printeries in Bridgetown. That shows that they do not have priorities. We see how they treat Parliament, the highest court in the land, we know how they treat the various Government departments, so what are we going to do? Year after year are we going on voting money for the Government Printery and for paying overtime to the employees at the Government Printery? For what purpose? We are not getting any further. You will hear the Leader of the House tell us that there are many plans for extension and that they are taking in new equipment and doing all sorts of things, but Mr. Chairman, this does not begin to answer any of the problems that now beset the Government Printery, because we are saying that there are others who will take the same equipment and staff and double, and perhaps treble, the production that is now seen coming out of the Government Printery. We are asking the Government not to continue in this way because it is the taxpayers' money. In other words, there is now a backlog of work in the hands of the staff of the Government Printery for Parliament and for various Government departments. The Minister ought to be bold enough to come to Parliament for money, take some of this work out of the hands of the Government Printery and give it out to private enterprise so that the various departments of Government can function efficiently. Let us be prepared to give the Government Printery breathing space to see if it can catch up, and when it is equipped and in its new premises, let us give it a sort of clean slate and see how it can operate.

As the Printery is going on now it will always run into trouble because more and more departments are created in Government. We have heard in these Estimates that the economy of the Country is expanding and that there is a heavier burden on the Government Printery. How can the Government Printery cope with it? It is not fair, we feel that commercial printeries could very well do some of the work, and the sooner this is looked into the better it will be for all concerned.

The maintenance of equipment at the Government Printery is a matter of some very considerable concern. We are voting money for all this, but is the equipment at the Government Printery maintained in a condition that we would wish to have it maintained bearing in mind the sum of money that we spend on it? We are urging Government to examine everything related to the Government Printery. It is a question and one that is very deep rooted where you have people who have come from the bottom of the ranks and they do not see the possibility although they are eminently qualified to fill the post that they are not given the headship of the institution, but people who do not know anything about printing are put in the top positions, and that is the type of thing that causes frustration in these various Government

departments. The filling of these posts with the friends of politicians is not good enough when we are going to pay for it with the taxpayers' money, and that is the thing we are against. The Government Printery is presently competing with the commercial printeries, and I do not think it was ever intended to be doing this.

The question that the sum of $223,756 under Head 24 - Printing Office - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division,

HEAD 33 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments under this Head as follows

Page 68 - Item 48 - Travelling. Insert the word "made" after the word "Regulations" appearing in the note.

Item 51 - Books and Publications. Delete existing note and substitute the following "Provision for subscriptions to bulletins and publications and purchase of books for Reference Library."

Item 53 - Contribution to National Insurance Scheme. Delete the word "Inspection" and substitute the word "Engineer" appearing in the second line of the note.

Page 69 - Item 55 - Communications. Insert the words "To meet the cost of telephones in Government Departments" at the beginning of the note.

Item 58 - Investigations of New Schemes and Surveys. Delete the letter "s" at the end of the word "Investigation" appearing in the item.

Item 62 - Compensation. Delete the word "Government" and substitute the words "the Ministry's" appearing in the note.

Item 64 - Badges and Licence Plates. Insert the words "and cart" after the word "bicycle" appearing in the note.

Item 70 - Maintenance of Government Property other than Buildings. Delete the word "Includes" and substitute the words "Provision for" appearing in the note.

Item 79 - Plant, Tools, Spares and Equipment. Insert the words "and crawler bulldozer" after the word "jacks" appearing in the note.

Item 80 - Government Buildings. Affix an "s" to the word "Governor-General" appearing in the note.

I beg to move that the sum of $9,692,891 under Head 33 - Ministry of Communications and Works - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I believe that if there is a department of Government in which there is a waste of public funds we have it before us in the Ministry of Communications and Works.

12.40 p.m.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that there is a marked notice of the fact that because of the wastage of the funds that we vote for the department - this is what I want to challenge the Minister to deny - the Road Works Programme has suffered because of the fact that the funds were wasted in other respects. The Minister finds himself saddled with people who are supposed to be engineers, and I want to say that they are not road works engineers. I believe they must be sugar factory engineers. One of the things this department is faced with, is that, on almost every job on which the construction engineer and his men work, they had to go back and spend money on it after the job had been completed.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you this. It is on record that when they get an estimate for a job which is going to cost $80,000, by the time that two-thirds of the job is finished it will cost about $160,000 plus. In other words, the estimates that the department have been getting through this construction engineer, I believe that some second standard boy must have provided them. You will find that, after the engineer has completed a job, they then have to go back and do additional work in order to stop the flooding of people's yards. That is where a lot of the money that we have voted for this department has been wasted. It is a terrible state of affairs that has been existing at this department. Why are you allowing this situation to continue month after month and year after year?

Mr. Chairman, another thing that is depriving the department of the full production of its entire staff, from top to bottom, is that you have allowed certain engineers in privileged positions to go and do private work. Mr. Chairman, we are not fools. We know that if an engineer is permitted to do private practice, provided it does not clash with his routine duties in the department, and he is doing a job for the Ministry at Erdiston and a private job at a site in Pine Road, are you going to tell me that he is not going to arrange his visits to Erdiston to coincide with his visits to the site at Pine Road? Are you going to tell me that he will not visit his private construction at the expense of the taxpayers?

Mr. Chairman, we have our supervisors and other people who should be given the same type of consideration, and you are going to get a lot of trouble. At the present moment when some of these people arrive at the Ministry of Communications & Works on mornings they are tired and broken down, because they have Worked during the night and all day and they only come to the Ministry of Communications and Works during the day to waste time.

Now, with all of these building projects that are going on; with all of these people who are empowered to order materials, what proof have you that the materials that are ordered to be sent to Erdiston cannot be channelled all along the Pine Road area to some engineer's private job in Belleville? Who can tell that this sort of thing is not happening, and is completely destroying the progress of the Ministry of Communications and Works?

I do not want to mention the building of the crematorium, because I believe that the Minister will rise and say that, as far as the cremetorium is concerned, where they had estimated to spend, say, $30,000 they have already spent over $135,000 on building the roads and so on, and they have got nowhere whatsoever with the job. I believe that the Minister is as fed up with the situation as some of us in this House who happen to know what is really taking place here.

Now, there are some good architects. I understand that the department has the services of good quantity surveyors, but the question is, can these people really function as efficiently as they would like to function in the light of the present set up?

Now, a lot of time is wasted under the present system by not paying all wages on the various sites where work is being done. Some people are paid on the site, but others have to leave the site and go to headquarters to receive their wages. As you will know, Mr. Chairman, the day on which they have to leave the work site to go to the office for their wages, they will leave the work very early in the morning. As soon as they have been paid; they put the money in their pockets; they come to town; they are offered a drink by some friends, and some of them cannot resist the temptation of stopping and having a few drinks. It often happens that these people do not return to the work site on that particular day. 12.50 p.m.

The Minister ought to be in a position to tell us, because I understand that there are over 2,500 weekly worker, and if you find that the bulk of these people have to leave the work sites and go to the office, it is a full day's work you are losing in each week, and we certainly would not like to see this situation continuing any longer.

Now I believe that these clerks are sent out to the sites to effect payment to workers in the country districts from time to time, and with the present crime wave in our midst we cannot turn our eyes to what might happen, remembering what happened on the Bulkeley Road not so long ago. We should no longer continue to send the clerks out unless they are accompanied by armed policemen because they carry out thousands and thousands of dollars, and just as people waited on the roadway for the people from Bulkeley, they can do the same thing at some time to these clerks, and we do not want to wait until something happens to take action. The time to take corrective measures is now because prevention is better than cure. Nobody is satisfied with the production of these workers that you see along the road side that are called cantonniers who weed and keep the gutters clean. No taxpayer is satisfied with them and we have got to do away with this day's work system. We have got to go back to the job work system and if a worker can perform his task in two hours and go home, let him do that; but for God's sake, do not let us see them standing around. It does not present a good sight to see them loitering about the streets as we now see them doing; it is disgusting behaviour and we would like to see all this corrected.

Mr. Chairman, we have the case of these workers with the asphalt plant and the staff in the work shop. These people were to be given protective clothing and uniforms and some were to get head gear and so on. They have not got last year's and we are going to vote more money for them to get this year's. These people wore their own clothing last year and the time the Government agreed to let them have it, they should have had it. In view of the fact that the people were entitled the whole of the last financial year which is now passing and they went to work in their own clothing, will the Government take the cash money and give it to them in lieu of the clothing which they should have had because they do not want four or six suits now? They have already worn their own clothes and have suffered some sort of loss; what type of compensation is going to be given to these people in the mechanical workshop and the

asphalt plant? I would like to see all this attended to.

Mr. Chairman, the question of the supervisors has got to be re-examined. There still obtains quite regrettably the case where some people cannot be employed for too long under some supervisors unless the supervisor's pay can be supplemented from the pay of the worker under him. The workers, to keep the little job, will turn the back of the hand, but they do not like it, but it is a case where a worker is faced with the situation that if he does not do it, he realises that his wife and four or five children may starve for seven or eight or nine weeks. This can be stamped out. I feel that our supervisors have got to be lectured to and given some sort of teaching to let them depart from this type of behaviour if we are to make any sort of headway in the future.

Now it is known, Mr. Chairman, that the Ministry of Communications is one that comes into contact with the mass of people more readily than most other departments, but you will find that to take up the telephone and attempt to call that department, you have no end of trouble. It is one department with which you cannot communicate. I believe something is wrong with the telephone system there and some measure should be adopted to put this right. If the system that is now employed is old-fashioned, something has got to be done about it, because time and time again if you ask to be put through to a particular extension, you wait for any length of time to find that you are disconnected, and you get fed up trying to communicate with the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Mr. Chairman, I think that these white lines of delineation that you find around curbs and so on are not repainted as readily as they should be, particularly in the country districts and there are other highways in the country from which vehicle drivers could very well benefit by having the guidance of these lines, and I would urge upon Government to either increase the present force for undertaking this type of work, or double it and see that the whole Island is given the assistance of these lines as much as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I must wind up now, but I am sure you will hear me on only one point. I believe that with the volume of money that this department handles and the big work force, this department could well be the first to have what we might call a financial controller. We ought to have a financial controller at the Ministry of Communications and Works if we are to see our accounting sytem go as efficiently as we would wish to have it. 1.00 p.m.

We still believe that there are cases where a worker is sent to work on two or three sites during the course of one week, and you will find that that worker's name is on a pay sheet for two days at one site, for three days at another site, but for a whole week at still another site and all this needs to be investigated. I am not saying that any civil servant is dishonest, but I know that all the workers do not always get what is theirs.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear from the Minister what is the policy in respect of the upkeep of Government buildings. For some time I have been worried about the way the Government has allowed some of its buildings to deteriorate which obviously is a loss of taxpayers' money, and I can call to mind the building at Brittons Hill which used to be a Police Station and which has been closed for a number of years. There does not seem to be any decision as to what to do with the building. The most recent one is the one at Bissex, St. Joseph. The Police left there and went to Horse Hill and nothing has been done

with that building. There is no watchman and as a result of the negligent manner in which the Government has looked after that building I believe that it is not fit and habitable for rats. Windows have been broken, bits and pieces have been carried away, and I believe if Government is going to abandon these places they should have a policy as to what they are likely to do with the buildings, probably offer them for sale and at least recover something out of the sale rather than leaving them there to fall prey to the destructive elements which nowadays seem to be roaming about our Country.

The second point I want to deal with is under Item 71 - Roads. For as many years as most of us can remember the roads in St. Joseph have been a problem. I can say I heard the Hon. Minister of Agriculture admit in this House that he has had to advise the engineers at Highways and Transport on how to rebuild the roads in his constituency, St. Andrew. They have constantly shielded under the exuse that they are waiting on the soil conservation department before they can carry out road rebuilding programmes in St. Joseph and St. Andrew. I have said already that the engineers employed by the Ministry of Communications and Works have accepted the techniques of first standard engineers. They have done nothing whatsoever to alleviate the hardship of the people in those parishes. When the Minister of Agriculture had to tell them they could use marl fill as a temporary measure so that people could use the road rather than have to travel many miles, I believe some engineer in his primary stages would have devised some sort of a system to increase the usability of the roads in St. Andrew and St. Joseph. I am tired hearing year after year the excuse being made that they are waiting on the soil conservation. department.

There is a special bridge being planned and it looks to me as if all the plans for the bridges and roads in

Joseph and St. Andrew are stuck on the drawing boards in the Ministry - and when I say stuck I mean they have been cemented to the drawing boards - and nothing more is done about them. The previous representative for St. Joseph has cried out in the wilderness. For ten years he has been trying to get roads repaired, for ten years we have had a bridge in St. Joseph which has not been repaired, and I think that this is not a situation where anybody can say that due to the soil conditions or the conservation scheme that you can allow roads to remain overgrown, abandoned, all sorts of things and constantly say yo\u are waiting on a plan or something else. I thought that university training was designed to fit trained people to think. I have often said that the technical experts who have never been able to transfer what they learned of the English system to the conditions which exist in our Country, and as long as we continue to employ persons who read from English text-books and can only apply English standards in England and cannot find situations suitable to what is written in text-books, we will always be a second rate nation and we will never get anything done in this community. Not only is it apparent in the Ministry of Communications and Works, it is also apparent in several other Government Departments where you have these experts who can only relate conditions to what is written in text-books.

I would very much like to hear what excuse the Minister of Communications and Works is going to give this year for the condition of the roads, especially in the parish of St. Joseph, and on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture the condition of the roads and bridges in St. Andrew.

Hon. A. DaC EDWARDS:

On a point of order, the Minister of Agriculture has no problem, his problems, in St. Andrew are well taken care of. At least something has been done about the bridge for Belleplaine.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I wonder what has been done.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Equipment has been moved there to begin the construction of the bridge.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, is this a personal debate? I am very serious about roads, and the Ministry has spent a lot of money on roads. I am aware that there is a problem in Barbados because the laws of this Country permit people to put their houses all over the place without any proper regulations, but now we have to deal with reality, and I would like the Minister to state what kind of road policy they have moreso in arranging roads for people who live in tenantries and gaps, on other persons' land, Sobers Land, Alleyne's Land, Adams Land, Walcott's Alley, Sobers Alley, and all these different names, and I would like to be able to get something from the Minister on that, because all of the members here suffer. Those of us in the constituencies in St. Michael especially, I do not know what has descended in this parish, but the roads are very bad, housing is congested, and I would like the Minister to relieve us in stating that it is his policy to do so many roads per annum so that we can be relieved and tell the people what the position is. We are besieged by people who tell you that they are taxpayers, which is true, and doctors refuse to go where some of them live because the motor car springs will be broken, and in some of the places if it rains they cannot get out. One woman told me she has to keep two pairs of shoes, one to wear through the mud when it rains and the other to put on when she gets out. 1.10 p.m.

A woman told me that she has to use two pairs of shoes when it rains: an old pair to walk on the bad road, and another pair to change off when she reaches the main road. I hope that the Minister will be able to adopt a policy so that he can put things in order. I have one or two matters to draw to the Minister's attention. On one occasion he was repairing a road at Fairfield, and I noticed that the road went to a certain distance and stopped. I have never been able to find out why they stopped that road at that point. Maybe, they had a problem with the owners of the land, but I hope that the Minister will do something about the matter.

Another matter that is very disturbing, Mr. Chairman, is this general idea of these high walls. I am wondering if we cannot pass laws making it compulsory for people to pull down the high walls now in existence without paying them for so doing. I believe the time has come when we should pull down a lot of the walls at the corner of Collymore Rock and at the four cross roads where Mr. Bowring used to live. These tall walls, that prevent a driver from seeing the traffic coming in his direction, can be very dangerous to people using the highway. We should not pay anybody for such land. We are not asking them to do the repairs, but we should make it compulsory that these high walls should be pulled down. You should give the owners of the walls a reasonable time to pull them down and if they fail to do so, then the Government should have the walls pulled down. Apart from being unsightly, these walls are dangerous to buses and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I know that there is a move on foot to remove the wall at Bank Hall and to make it easy for traffic to flow from Country Road, but there are high walls in other places in the Island and we should be able to do something about them. In the city itself we have some ancient institutions and we cannot do anything about them. It is a problem to get around them, but I think that, where private

property in other parts of the Island is concerned, we should do something about the matter in the interest of the community. I hope that the Hon. Minister will be able to get the co-operation of the people, because it would make the Island, from a tourist point of view, a better place especially for the people who want to come here and drive around.

Another matter into which I should like the Minister to look is the question of granting a driver's licence to a tourist. Some of these people come here from other countries; they do not know anything about driving under our local conditions, and they are going to cause serious problems with our local people. Yesterday one of them was driving up Broad Street, and although I was driving my car and turning below Nelson to enter the Public Buildings, this stupid man drove his car in the right lane from all the way up by the Royal Bank of Canada. I could not imagine that a man was going to turn there, and that is the problem. As you know, two of them killed themselves quite recently: one in St. Philip driving along Congo Road when he became involved with a telephone pole, and the other one in St. Barnabas. I think that this is a very serious matter. They come here during the crop season; a lot of traffic is on the road, and we have to be very careful that these foreign drivers are acquainted with local conditions. Before a local person can get a driver's licence, he has to go through a long, tedious process, although he knows our roads. Some of the people from overseas do not know our roads. Our roads are narrow, and Barbados is one of the few places where you are allowed to drive on the left side of the road. Some tourists are accustomed to driving on the right hand side of the road, and you will get a lot of problems as a result of this.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister will look into these matters and endeavour to save people from a lot of the trouble and pain that these foreign drivers are likely to inflict upon the community. Unless something is done in this manner, we may reach the stage where we are not going to grant them licences when they are here on short visits. People who are here for two or three weeks should rent a taxi. If you are not able to come on a holiday, then you should stay at home. They come here; they ride motorcycles; they push out their hands and you are not sure where they are going; they stop in the middle of the road to read a map, and so on. They come here for two or three weeks, and they try to save money on the trip by renting vehicles to drive around and cause serious problems in the community.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I feel that when this Head is being dealt with, one can easily be accused of dealing in parish pump politics, but I think it is important that I get in my piece. I will be dealing specifically with my constituency. I will mention this not just because it is the most important one, but because it hinges on the particular point which I want to make. It relates to the corner at Six Men's where that big building projects on to the road. I mention it because I think it is important to get that section of the road widened as much as possible. One would have to travel in that area in order to appreciate the fact that a number of accidents are likely to occur there daily.

On the question of the widening of roads, I should also like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that for some time now we, in St. Lucy, have been asking the Ministry to widen the corner at St. Lucy's Parish Church. My understanding is that the owners of the land on the opposite side of the wall have indicated their willingness to give up part of the land in order to facilitate the widening of this area. I hope that the Ministry will take this into consideration and investigate the matter with a view to getting it done.

So far as the widening of the roads in St. Lucy is concerned, I should also like to draw to the Minister's attention that there has been a considerable amount of complaints about the narrowness of the road, particularly in Crab Hill. As most of you will realise, Crab Hill is an area which is fairly densely populated. When a bus is passing through the most densely populated area of Crab Hill, one finds that a car and a bus find it difficult to pass. 1.20 p.m.

I think that the Ministry should investigate this with a view to having this part of the road widened. I have written to the Ministry and to the Minister about other areas in St. Lucy which we consider to be important. I have by another process in this Chamber - by the process of questions - raised the question of the construction of a bridge in the Pie Corner area to make sure that when the rainy season comes in, the district of Pie Corner is not, as it were, divided into two as happens at present. When the water flows across the road people cannot get from one side to the other.

Another point which I would like to mention is that for some time now we have been asking to get that road into the Grave Yard, and I hope that in another couple of weeks this area will no longer be known as Grave Yard. We are hoping to change that name, but for the purposes of this debate I should like to mention that we have been asking for that road going up to Air View right to the top of Cove Bay Bill to be done, and I sincerely hope that these appeals will not fall on deaf ears. I do not expect we will get all these done in this financial year, but at lease I hope to see some action taken.

I should also like to draw to the attention of the Minister the fact that there is need for increasing the street lighting programme in St. Lucy. One area which comes to mind which is of some concern to me is the area of Harrises. The people in this area have been experiencing a considerable amount of difficulty in getting the lights extended over there, and I am hoping that the Minister could bring his influence to bear on the Light & Power Co. to expedite the extension of the lighting facilities in that area, and when this is done, then I am sure the Minister would not be adverse to putting down some street lights out there. I would hope that in the other areas that we have intimated to him by various pieces of correspondence some favourable consideration would be given to improving the street lighting.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member for St. Peter says, the question of the Ministry of Communications and Works can always evoke quite a deal not only of criticism but quite a bit of information, but once it is clearly understood that a Ministry of this nature is to a large extent a technical Ministry and therefore the Minister has got to rely on his technical advisers however competent or however qualified, then I think that should answer quite a few questions, because the recruitment of engineers or architects or quantity surveyors, the recruitment of all staff is a matter for the Public Service Commission over which the Minister has no control, and once the Commission is satisfied or not satisfied that these persons possess the qualifications, then the Minister even although he does not have to accept the advice on matters which are obviously wrong, to a certain extent in this particular technical field is bound to accept the technical advice of his technical officers.

Another point I should like to make in fairness to the workers themselves is that in my Ministry you have workers who have been working in this area for 15, 20 and 30 years. The nature of their work is humdrum; they work in the sun, the diet they get is not first class or balanced, and who is to say in the absence of complete medical examination that quite a bit of the non-productivity is not so much from a lack of will as from the fact that they have to drink a sweet drink six days a week with a "cutter", go

home and eat some coo-coo with salted fish or pig's tail, and for 15 or 20 years these men have not had the diet which supplies them with the energy which they necessarily must have for this type of work.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, is the Minister not admitting that these people are under-paid?

Hon. F, G. SMITH:

People have been known to be millionaires and died from starvation or found with billions in their pocket when they are picked up on the street; so you do not have to be paid or under-paid. What I am saying is that when you are dealing with persons of this type of occupation which in terms of the Ministry can employ, persons without any technical school or without any education at all, and consequently when they have been working in the sun with just a "cutter" between 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock, I wonder sometimes when I look through the window and see them not working whether it is from a lack of interest or whether physically they just can only do so much because of their experiences in the past. It is just like some agricultural workers too. When you see them aging at 45 years when they should be vigorous, it is purely a question that the nature of their work does impose on them certain physical restrictions. Some may have diabetes and do not know; some may have a heart condition and not know, and unless they are falling down they do not go to a doctor. I am not offering any excuses for their non-productivity. What I am suggesting is that in a Ministry of this nature you have got to understand the type of work they are called upon to do, the uninteresting nature of it, looking at tar and cement all the days of their lives for the last twenty-five years - people with no great education, and we do not know how well or unwell they are. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, I share your view that sometimes I am so frustrated not only with votes being burst, not only with costs escalating, but I must say that the Ministry of Communications and Works in Barbados like Ministries of Communications and Works all over the world is the butt of criticism and laughting stock very often, because you have so many circumstances over which you have absolutely no control. I agree with the hon. member that in my Ministry there is waste; I agree that in my Ministry I am not getting full value for the money the taxpayers are paying, but I cannot stay in the Pine and be supervisor and be engineer; I cannot stay there and see whether they steal cement or blocks. It is not my function. I can only lay down policy and expect, hope and pray that those who are called upon to carry it out are imbued with the same sense of patriotism, the same honesty and integrity which should pervade every type of occupation, that if the money is the taxpayers' and they have a job to collect 60 bags of cement that 60 should go to the site, but whatever it is, you can only do that if the persons working are honest, realise it is the taxpayers' money and do their jobs. I know I am not getting in many areas 100 per cent from the workers that they should give either in honesty, productivity or any other form, and therefore to that extent the hon. member for St. Peter is right that the Ministry in view of the fact that it is the largest spending must by necessity be the largest wasting if the people do not pull their weight.

On the question of privileged persons, it was felt by the Government, and I say quite rightly, that just as doctors at the hospital can do private practice and certain other professional people in Government do it, so should the engineers, and there is one factor I think the hon. member for St. Peter would know and it is that the salary paid to engineers at M. C. W. no self-respecting engineer in Bridgetown would work for, and we have lost quite a few engineers in the Ministry of Communications and Works because the inducements in the private sector are greater than anything you can get in Government. 1.30 p.m.

This was Government's attempt, and an honest attempt, to give them some private practice under

certain specific conditions to try to retain in the Ministry of Communications and Works the engineers and technical persons we have and to stop the flow and to assist them. At one time the Ministry was eight engineers short both for the Capital and Current works programmes and the Government, faced with this problem, faced with the non-conformity and non-production in the planning and the execution stage at the higher levels in the Ministry, felt that this might be a method which could assist us, and we are watching it and we are not only getting engineers but we are trying to retain them when they are here. I think the hon. member for St. Peter will know that if you look at the number of engineers in town who worked with MCW and then were induced to go into private practice, I think you will agree that depending again on the honesty and integrity of the officer, the Government's intention was good and it could work if the officers are honest and are prepared to give Jack his jacket.

The crematorium is another matter. The Government is not satisfied with that and we are having another look at it. This is the truth. A lot of questions were raised in here about it, the cost was escalated beyond what was put up to Government and the Government is having another look at the crematorium and more will be heard of this in due course.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt at this point but when I raised these questions a week ago the Hon. Minister promised that he would have made a statement to the house at this time, not saying that they are dissatisfied and that they would have another look at it and will tell us more about it later. I have observed prior to yesterday that they have all been saying we should wait until the Estimates come and they will give us the figures.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I think the hon. member for St. Joseph is wrong, I made no promise to make any statement, it was the Minister of Health.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The Minister of Health applied for the money and said that the building was done by MCW. The Minister of Communications and Works said that he did not know what experience his engineers had and that he would tell us "what it would cost.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

This is being unfair, the design and planning for the crematorium fall under the Ministry of Health under the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. MCW is building it for the Ministry of Health and any statement to be made in Parliament on the crematorium would be a matter for the Minister of Health, and I think he did promise - and I have every reason to know he did promise - to make a statement on that particular issue. Anyhow, Government is having a second look at this.

On the question of time wasting and payment on sites, I share your view; it is a waste of time. I had to stop it at the Ministry because on Friday mornings I cannot get up the stairs. The Permanent Secretary and my staff have been endeavouring to find ways and means of trying to stop it, but what happens is that certain workers work on two or three sites during the week, the supervisors or checkers or whoever they are do

not send in their names in time, they are put on one pay sheet and they but about looking for their

money. It reaches the point where they say they will go to the head of the spring, and I have stopped everybody except watchmen and certain drivers from getting paid at MCW, because it means that on Friday mornings they leave St. George, St. Andrew or St. Lucy - and they do not work on Saturdays anyhow - so they lose a day and a half. I agree with you, but we are trying to tighten it up and where you get men pushed from one site to the other we are faced with a problem on the paysheet aspect of it which has also contributed to time wasting on sites. It is better for them to be paid on sites because it would be easier for everybody concerned.

On the question of task work I share that view. If you go in at 5 o'clock and the sun is up and you can weed 200 yards, weed that and go home, but it comes back to the same question of who will watch who is working. A fellow may weed the same thing for the whole week, so it comes back to the basic question of supervision. Whether it is task work or a day's work and the supervisor is doing his job, we will get a day's work, but if you get a man to weed from the entrance here to Broad Street and he weeds it for the whole week and he is not supervised, at the end of the week he gets paid for it. It has got to be honesty, and it comes back to the hub of the Ministry which is the quality of the supervisors and the way in which they execute their work. I want to make a statement here, and I want to defy any of you if you ever have to run a Ministry like the Ministry of Communications and Works whether you could run it based on this type of discipline of minor offences.

There is a circular dealing with casual workers. I am all for workers having proper protection in every form, but the engineers cannot discipline people in MCW, they are scared to do it. The supervisors are scared because you have this type of instruction from Establishments. "All minor offences may be adjudicated by the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department within three days of the receipt of the report, and where necessary one of the following penalties imposed;....."

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, for the last five or ten minutes I have been hearing noises coming from the Gallery. If everybody is going to treat Parliament in the way it is being treated, I believe you, Mr. Chairman, must put some stop to this behaviour. We cannot make that sort of noise on this side, and as other hon. members have said, we had to fight everybody to come in here. You will control us from making noises on this side and I think that somebody should control the noises in the Gallery as well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I must thank the hon. member for drawing it to my attention. I would also like the persons in the Gallery to know that they are here on privilege and if any hon. member complains about their behaviour again I will have to do the necessary thing according to the Standing Orders and ask that the Gallery be cleared. I would hate to have to do it, therefore I will ask those privileged persons to be silent.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I was just pointing out to members that I am all for workers getting protection, but where minor offences are concerned, all minor offences should be adjudicated by the Head of Department within three days of the receipt of the report, and where necessary one of the following penalties imposed reprimand or a lay-off for a period not exceeding two days on three-quarter pay. That is only a casual worker. Once the office is there, he draws three-quarter pay, and I have known in the Ministry of some disciplinary actions going on for six or seven months and the people drawing three-quarter pay. A man would be an idiot if he does not get another job, work for full pay and draw three-

quarter pay from the Ministry. Casual workers are often on disciplinary charges drawing three-quarter pay for two and three years, and they laugh at the engineers and the supervisors because whatever happens the supervisor cannot really discipline them. I am all for protecting them and seeing that their records are kept and that they get every penny to which they are entitled, but there comes a point in any organisation whether it is the army, navy, air force, human life or marital affairs where there has to be a certain degree of discipline and it has got to be prompt and fair. If this is not so, you must get the situation in which the engineers and the supervisors become callous and the whole organisation becomes slip shod and is not in a position to work in top gear. If you went into that Ministry with that type of protection and that type of disciplinary procedure, it will be better to get the Union in and tell the Union what he has done and get it done on the spot. When you can go home for two or three months and then come back on the job and laugh at the engineers, who are nine-tenths non-Barbadian, they would have no stake in seeing that this machinery works. The contract will be up one day and they will either renew it or not renew it, so this is the main problem of discipline at that level. 1.40 p.m.

In the Government you can relax and sit back; draw three-quarters of your pay for 9 years, and then you do not know if you are right or wrong. That is the position, Sir. I am in the clear, and I intend to try to make a success in a very difficult Ministry.

Now, on the question of asphalt workers and their clothing, I will look into the matter. I will have to make a decision on that particular point. I do not know whether or not they received their clothing last year, but I will look into the matter. The hon. member says that workers must pay supervisors. Well, this may be so. We have a Personnel Department; I know that things can happen, and I know that this is another breakdown in discipline.

Firstly, the workers and the supervisors come from the same stratum of society; secondly, there are only a few dollars difference between the salaries of the supervisors and that of the workers. The difference in money means a lot of difference in prestige and authority. Some of the workers know that some of the supervisors are stealing, so some of the supervisors cannot speak to the workers. You will get bad eggs in every lot. You say that some supervisors are waiting for the hand to be passed back. That, again, is another instance where you cannot have strict discipline. A man will be able to come to work when he likes, because if I buy rum for you on a Monday morning you will not be able to discipline me. I am giving it as it is, so that you and the public can understand the problems of a Minister of Communications and Works.

Now, if the workers play straight down the line, then they will not have to pay the supervisors, because the Personnel Department is there with a Senior Personnel Officer and Personnel Officers. I have had meetings with the Personnel Officer and the Permanent Secretary, and I have laid down a very good union principle; last come, first to go. As a basic principle, if a man is senior and work will be completed somewhere, apart from the technical aspect that a mason may be the senior man but you want a carpenter to do some work, all things being equal, the man who has been working in the Ministry longest must be sent to another job in preference to a man who came to work at the Ministry after him. That is a basic principle, with modifications, to suit the particular type of construction, whether it is a road or not. A good worker in the Ministry has no fear, and it is not necessary to pay supervisors in order to keep his job. All the time I get people coming to me on the question of being laid off and younger men taken on to do jobs. I know what happens, and I usually send them to the Personnel Officer to settle the matter. Although it is said that Ministers have nothing to do with policy, I say that last

come, first to go, and that senior men must get priority if work is going on. There are periods when people are compulsorily laid off because there is no more money in a vote.

On the question of not being able to communicate with the Ministry, sometimes I wish that was possible in my case. People ring me up and tell me about a burst pipe at twelve o'clock in the day and all hours at night. Some ring me up and tell me about a pothole, and I wish they could not communicate with me. It is not my job to mend pipes. That is a job for the Waterworks Department or somebody else other than a Minister. Sometimes I am told that a casual worker has thrown stuff on a woman's crotons. What am I expected to do? Must I go and take it off? It will be seen that they can communicate with me. (Asides.)

I understand that they are changing the PBX system at the Ministry because it cannot carry the volume of calls to the Department. As you know, there are quite a few engineers, architects, quantity surveyors and so on in that department. I saw the telephone workers up there yesterday, so I hope that in the near future you will be able to communicate with the department easily, despite the fact that we have to watch the question of cost for all of these telephones.

Mr. Chairman, I am endeavouring to name every village. You are now coming to Fitts Village; you are now coming to Regency Park; you are now coming to Graveyard - no, I am changing that name to a name suggested by the hon. member for St. Lucy. We will not have any more Graveyard in St. Lucy.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
On what has the hon. member risen now?

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There is no point of information. The hon. member will sit.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Sir. Since the Hon. Minister says that they are re-naming these villages, I wonder if he intends to get rid of the word "Gap"?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Joseph asked two questions. The building at Brittons Hill is not shut up. The Government, has leased it, pending a final decision, to Mr. Shell Harris to run a school and that; has been going on for years. The problem is that we have plans to put a Post Office there. At one time when Fogarty was talking of putting up a big shopping complex in the Dalkeith House, the Government felt that we could not the Post Office at Brittons Hill and we could rent space in the Dalkeith House to put the Post Office in the Banks shopping complex. I understand that the Ministry is not reliably informed that this shopping-complex idea is falling through, and we will have to look at the Brittons Hill Post Office again. The position is that they were hemming and hawling as to whether they

were going to put the shopping-complex in DaCosta's place, and we would have rented space there since it would have been better to have a Post Office in that shopping complex rather than at Brittons Hill. Now, Mr. Harris has repaired the house at Brittons Hill temporarily at his own expense. As usual, I cannot tell you how much rent he pays, because the Ministry of Lands rents out Government land. I know it is not shut up.

Now, Bissex has been condemned by the engineers as a threat; it has been: offered to the Ministry of Education, and the Minister of Education will tell you what he intends to do with the building. I think he will use it as a Youth Camp or something like that, but he will explain that aspect of the matter. It is condemned for practical purposes. You cannot put anybody to live in there because of the movement of the soil. According to the plans for Education, I think the area will be used for youths to camp when they walk around the country and soon.

With regard to the road building project in St. Joseph and St. Andrew, I have had all the bridges in St. Joseph and St. Andrew tested for strength, weakness, etc. I have a report on all the bridges tested in St. Andrew for strength, what have to be done to them to make them safe, and so on The general policy of roads in St. Andrew is no different from the roads in St. Michael or St. Peter. We have tried to keep the main roads in a good condition. We have had a bad history of slippage, which I believe will continue to eternity, but we cannot embark on any colossal projects merely for the land to go into the sea.

We do not have in my Ministry any engineer who is an expert in drainage. We have mechanical engineers, building engineers, and so on, but there is nobody in my Ministry who can say that he has done two years as a post-graduate in drainage and he is an authority on it. The policy about roads is no different, except that the roads in that area deteriorate faster than roads in the other parishes, because during the heavy rains you will get the bounce and the currents which we do not get in St. Michael or even in St. Peter. Your problem is slightly different, but the road policy is no different. We fix the roads so that people can get from their homes; cars can be used on them, and the tenantries, and so on are on the same basis of priority as anything else.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I, honestly, do not understand the hon. Minister at this point. He says that he has tested the bridges, but I am talking about the road leading from Cane Garden right through St. Joseph which has been broken down for years. The road leading to Dark Hole has also been broken down for years. Over a year ago the Hon. Minister said in this House that there was a report being compiled on the drainage problem. 1.50 p.m.

I want to find out about this. Do not just gloss over it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I agree that if the bridge in St. Andrew on a good road took 21/2 and nearly three years, that this will take longer. We are going through Cane Garden. I know Cane Garden, but I have not treated that with priority because it has not really impeded people from getting to town to do shopping or children getting to school, and it is going to be a colossal and expensive project. I have not forgotten the people. If you look at the Capital Estimates you will see what I have been given to do things in this Country, and I will deal with that when I come to deal with the policy as I am going to do now for the hon. member for St. Michael West. I have one road policy. I am going to serve the greatest number of people within the

limited financial allowances that I have.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, that is a very dangerous statement. That is tantamount to saying that the people in St. Joseph will not be served.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am serving the greatest number, I do not mean numerically in one place. I am dealing with my policy of roads and I was developing it when you got up. Every request for a road, subsidiary, tenantry or private is costed, investigated etc., but I do not just investigate for costing; I want to know how many houses are on that road and possible population, because if forty houses are there no matter whose constituency it is, I prefer to give 40 people the road than to give a road for two houses. Anybody in my Ministry can tell you that I sit down and look at the houses and, possible population apart from costing, and on that basis, apart from the deterioration of the particular road, I draw up my road programme, slipping in one or two for South Central as one would expect. That is the only slight exception to the general principle, but seriously again, this is how I do it.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I have got to challenge the Minister on this again. The Hon. Prime Minister said in this House last year that when it comes to road building etc. only Central Planning can say what roads are to be done. I want to know how the Minister can slip in sideways when other people like us cannot get slipped in.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

You are not a Minister so how are you going to get slipped in? All I am saying is that the general rule is not only costing, but population basis. It is similar to water. Whenever you put down a water main, whatever it costs, you are serving three times the amount of people that you would serve in another area. There are a lot of roads to be done, but I am not putting in roads unless there is water, because I want to give water within a short peirod of time. If there is no possibility of putting in water under three years, the road will be fixed, but if there is possibility of fixing the road within six months or a year, I shift the programme and do the roads that have water mains, and then I switch over and do the next year or subsequently the roads that have just got water. I cannot see that anyone can quarrel with that principle.

Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member for St. Michael West said, this Government should have a clear policy of bringing people from the backwoods. The services are by the side of the road, lights, water and everything, but you get a request to run a road like in Windsor costing over $60,000 over hill, down dale and up valley, and if you do not give them they feel you have ignored them, but right in the front by the main road is nice land, and it would not take two acres and it would be cheaper to bring the people out where the services already are. We have got to make up our minds on this point because if you do not give them the roads up the hills and down dales and valleys, they will feel you are discriminating, when

all it needs is buying two or three acres of land and making nice little villages by the side of the road for the people. This is placing a great strain on the whole plan of Government because I want members to see something very seriously. Look at the Capital Estimates - I am not dealing with them - and you will see the problem of the Minister of Communications and Works, because I am responsible for roads throughout the Island. 1 am allowed for Subsidiary Roads $280,000, Additional Roadworks $200,000, Highway Improvement, with all those bends and crooks and turns, $200,000, Highway Rehabilitation $100,000. These figures contain a 30% to 40% increase in wages for the workers. You cannot quarrel with me because I can only spend the money that the economy can stand. When you total up the requests under each of these Heads, each one exceeds $1 million, but all I have got are the figures I read out.

I agree with the hon. member for St. Michael West that all these big walls like the walls of Jericho should come tumbling down, because if they do, then we can put side walks and extend the roadways. We have to take the little money we have to buy land compulsorily and this can be as much as $5 a square foot in St. James, and I doubt now with the land tax they will give you anything; so you will see that next year it is going to be worse than this year. They did not give you at the best of times, and they will not give the Government now with the land tax. The second state like it is going to be worse than the first.

What I would like to assure the hon. member is that I am going to try to get the laws amended that the plantations must not plant canes or any other crop within a certain distance of the highway either around corners where it may be 40 or 60 feet or along the main roads about 20 or 25 feet so that they would not hang over. This is an amendment that is coming to Parliament, because even although temporarily we cannot do all the highway improvement, I think we can at least see to it that canes are not planted too close either around corners or junctions, but I will do it by law because I find I am not getting the cooperation from the plantation owners voluntarily, and I hope that at least that measure will contribute something to the safety of motorists and pedestrians on these main roads, just like I am going to make all motor cyclists wear crash helments.

Dealing with the question of tourists, I hope the hon. member for St. Michael West will appreciate that tourist licences are revenue earning. I think myself that $5.00 is too cheap and if a person wants to drive in our Country we should get a piece more change, but the result of their having licences as the hon. member for Christ Church West would know is a result of an international convention which says that we must reciprocate with those countries that have signed the convention. Britain signed it on our behalf and we have continued it, and therefore we have got to honour it in the case of those tourists whose countries have subscribed to this international convention. There is not very much we can do about tourist licences because as long as we honour the convention to which Barbados is a party and the tourists come from the countries which have signed it, then we cannot stop, them from driving. I do not know if the hon. member for St. Michael West drove in America, If so, it is a chance you were taking because it is always a hazard. I certainly would not drive in France, Switzerland or anywhere unless I was living there permanently. 2.00 p.m.

This driving of cars is an international habit, especially in the tourist industry, where people rent, cars and go across to Europe, France Switzerland and Rome. This is international, and I think we could probably have better education in this matter.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN

reported progress and asked for lease to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. Speaker, suspended the sitting accordingly.

On Resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it now reverts.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
RESUMPTION OF HEAD 33- MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry that I was not in my place but in the ante-chamber before the Minister had an opportunity to reply. I should like to say it is one of the best jury speeches I have heard made for a long time outside the law courts. The Minister of course is extremely skilled in performing very well on a sticky wicket, and I think it must be admitted that he has a very difficult task because each of the twenty-four hon. members will of course be making a special plea for his particular constituency, and obviously roads, lights and water happen to be the bread and butter of politics, because I believe that they are very important essentials on which a country progresses,

I would like to say that I thank the Minister for the consideration he has shown to my particular area, I do not think he has singled it out in the way that he would be minded to single out St. Michael South Central, but I happen to be fortunate to live in his constituency and may I, as one of his constituents, say that lam very thankful to see that at least the roads in the area in which I live and those in the areas just under where I live - Bannister Land and Carringtons Village - have been fixed and fixed very promptly. I hope that the same progress will be manifested towards the persons I represent, because I realise the Minister can perform well in certain circumstances.

Like the hon. member for St. Joseph, I would like to speak a bit under Maintenance of Government Buildings. I am really sometimes at a loss to understand why some members of the public, not all members of the public, must maltreat property which happens to be their own. Regardless of which Government is in power it is a fact that all the property is held in trust for the people of this Country, and I am sometimes at a loss to wonder whether they calculate the cost to put right some of these buildings,

and I would like particularly to refer to some of the school buildings, and indeed some community centres. It is not only vandalism per se that we sometimes witness, sometimes I think that the Government should take a bit more note of what is happening with buildings. The hon. member for St. Joseph mentioned Bissex, the former District F Police Station, and I am glad to hear that that building is going to be demolished, but I wonder whether the Minister realises that there will be very little work left for the demolition experts, because already large sections of that building have been removed. Certainly it must have had some value at that time.

I am also a bit concerned about some properties that have not been kept up to standard or looked after. I have seen compulsory acquisitions and acquisitions by voluntary agreement with the sellers, and I see the buildings just lie there for a time without any attention being paid to them or being occupied. I can cite one building along the Pine Road, and there is not even a watchman on the site, and I think it is a pity. Sometime under the heading of Lands I will develop this a bit more because I think we should take an assessment of what we have, but I would like to join with the plea made by hon. members to the public as well as to the Ministry that they should be much more careful in looking after public property, and particularly the public should be very conscious that the taxes will continue to go up unless they are conscious of their duty to their own buildings.

Under the heading of traffic signs, Mr. Chairman, I notice that the vote of $125,000 is to establish among other things pedestrian crossings. We are sadly lacking in pedestrian crossings in this Island. I would like to take the highway which leads along the south coast from town to the airport, and particularly that very busy section of Bay Street near Government Headquarters, near the old eye hospital where there is now a bit of a pedestrian crossing, but further up in Hastings, Rockley, Worthing and St. Lawrence we need very badly and very urgently pedestrian crossings. In my mind this must be a high priority, and I would really urge that Government should look at that road very carefully,

I would also like to mention Rendezvous Hill. Some steps have been taken by the Ministry to put up railings at the side of that hill and they are always being knocked down by motorists, but it seems to me that we can widen still further a section of that road and have some sort of sidewalk with a higher form of railing where pedestrians can go without too much trouble to themselves. Again I see that the Civil Service experts are here, and I really think that they could give this priority. One of these days we are going to have a very nasty accident in that particular corner, and I think in this case there is probably no compulsory acquisition because the owners may well be willing to donate them. Certainly the hon. member for Christ Church North Central and myself between us could wring the hands of adjoining owners to see whether they would contribute some land in that area to the Government.

I would also like to make a plea for the Belmont, Pine Road and Pine Hill area. This is the Minister's own constituency and I am sure he is mindful of it, but it is one of the busiest intersections. I have seen His Excellency the Governor-General being chauffeured out from that corner and a collision almost occurred. It badly needs traffic lights, and I hope that the traffic lights which we have heard about are available for that corner. This is an area where I many school children cross; children from St. Winifred's, Springer Memorial and other schools in the area, and sometimes motorists seem to be impatient and would not even show the normal courtesies to ease these children. I know that traffic lights and pedestrian crossing are not the full answer, sometimes you need traffic wardens as well, but I think whenever we get the chance we should emphasise the necessity for the public in, the circumstances that exist today to show some consideration for other people using the road until we get

an improvement in these areas.

The final plea I want to make is In connection with roads. I thank the Minister for giving me Gills Gap which has been a tremendous improvement for the children at the Unique High School, and it is probably one of the best used roads. We qualify on all grounds of priorities, and I am glad to hear him fay down the standards of priorities, criteria and the tests he has for giving tenantry roads and repairing roads, because ? certainly the sections which I represent are extremely overcrowded. Places like September Squire I could mention, and you cannot think of a better place for high priority treatment than Worthing View and Rockley Tenantry Road. I do not know how Iong I may be in here, Mr.

Chairman, nor do you for that matter, but as long as I am here I will continue to sing this one song until I get a little bit of relief. The Minister has promised me some consideration in the coming year, but I hope that that consideration will be positive action and positive consideration and not merely looking at the areas and putting me down a little further.

Mr. Chairman, it is difficult for you to talk about your own constituency. I know it would be ideal to make people move from their normal habitat and bring them out to the roadside, but-things are not like that, and sometimes in the rural areas like Drax Hall and Windsor, those people have suffered long, and if they are not keen on moving, it is because they feel they have their ancestral home there. I would like to see in this Country a few more people who are prepared to make donations of land of the Country. 3.10.p.m.

I think that if you get these things being-done in the new development areas very early, you will get higher standards of road building and greater permanency. Although today the Town and Country Planning Office are laying down a stipulation that developers must put in new roads, they are doing so in such a stingy manner that, within a few years, the burden is thrown back on the Country to repair roads that should have been better built and should have lasted for a longer time. I think that people who are developing must recognise that they can pass on the cost at that stage. They can put in proper-culverts; they could have a proper standard of road building approved and tested by the Chief Technical Director. It should be a road which would last for a reasonable time, and not something which is mediocre at that stage, because, eventually, the costs of repairs will be passed on to this Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, we are not under Capital Estimates, and I do not want to comment too much on priorities. I should like to say that I wish that this particular vote of expenditure was a higher vote. The total xpenditure for this Ministry will be in the region of $8.7 million in a Budget of $140 million. I would have liked to see that we got a bit more consideration here, and I would have liked to see that we had a heavier expenditure, particularly, at this time where you have time to do the work properly. I do not like to see only election lights, or election roads, because that is the time that you get rush work. It is not that the workers cannot produce a higher standard of work, but they cannot get the time within which to work properly, and hence you get the repercussions later. I am asking the Government to spend now rather than spend later and reap later, but if you spend later, you might not only reap badly later, but you might cost us more in time to come.

Hon. L. E SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to address myself to certain remarks which have been made, I believe, by the member for St. Joseph on the question of the old District "F" Police Station commonly known as Bissex. I wish to state that this property has been allocated to the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs. We have examined the building, and we believe that the best use to which it could be put would be the further demolition of what remains of the building and, possibly, use it as an open camp site, maybe, with toilets and other amenities. This particular Station, 1 believe, used to be considered as some sort of punishment when policemen were sent to work there. Some of them used to consider a transfer to this station as a sort of punishment. We do not intend, in any way, to punish the youth of this Country, but we believe it can best be used as an open camp site for the purposes of outdoor life and activities for the youth of this Country.

Chairman, there is nothing at all wrong with members speaking on roads, drainage or any other particular item under this Head. It forms the bread and butter of politics, and in any developing country the provision of these services will rank high in the whole process of the efforts for development. I wish to acknowledge that my colleague, the Minister of Communications and Works, has a very difficult task in reconciling the needs and the requests from the various areas in this Country with the financial provision available.

I, too, would like to state that members on this side of the House certainly appreciate the efforts that are being made by the Ministry of Communications and Works. In spite of whatever criticisms may have been made, the efforts that are being made within all of the constraints that the Ministry has to deal with in order to provide and maintain services in these areas, must be appreciated.

I merely wish to state for the record that there is a pressing need for the development of a proper road system in the Dundo Lane area. I have made representations to the Minister on this matter, and I know that he has it under active consideration. I wish also, for purposes of the record, under Item 77 - Drainage - to repeat what I have said about a particular problem suffered by the people living in Clarke's Avenue, Browne's Avenue and the surrounding areas of Bay Hill when there is a heavy downpour of rain. I have constantly to be on the telephone asking the Fire Services to pump out water in order that those people may have free ingress and egress to those particular areas. I certainly hope that in the very near future, attention will be given to improving the drainage system in these areas.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Minister, in a very loud aside, say that the people in the City of Bridgetown had some roads during the last financial year. I have no intention of speaking on that aspect of the matter, as the hon. member for St. Peter called it "Parish pump politics" when we are dealing with certain things. It seems to me that there are very serious difficulties which the Minister and his Ministry encounter in the operation of the Ministry. I do not think that these difficulties have grown up overnight. In all fairness to the Minister, I think that these difficultues were there before he went to the Ministry, and, during the last three or four years since I have been a member of this House, I have heard various Ministers of Communications and Works complain of these difficulties. What I have not heard, so far, is any attempt, or any suggestion, or any plan, to remedy these difficulties that exist in the Ministry of Communications and Works for such a long time.

Maybe the Minister has some plan to be discussed with his Ministry and the Cabinet. In his reply, he told us of the difficulties; we recognise those difficulties, but he has not told us in what way the

Government intends to tackle those difficulties with which the Ministry of Communications and Works finds itself confronted. I should like to hear from the Minister whether the Government has any plans for tackling these difficulties in an effort to stop the wastage both of man power and the taxpayers' money.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the difficulties encountered in the Ministry, and which I have already enumerated, are difficulties of human nature and character. The Government can only correct them by a higher standard of education; by the Minister himself indicating to the workers that he is interested in their welfare; that he will do his best to see that they get improved conditions of work and so on. It is a question not only of education, but of personal relationship. If I may say so myself, and knowing my own character better than anybody else, my personal feeling is that I have created an atmosphere in the Ministry where the workers are satisfied that.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister admit that one of the major difficulties in the Ministry of Communications and Works is the relationship between the Government and the Trade Union?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order! I should like the hon. member to know that, at this stage, he is also making another speech. 3.20 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of explanation, I thought I had the permission of the House since the hon. member for Bridgetown had a request and there were no objections. I do not want to make another speech. It is a question of human relationship, public relationship and human understanding, and as long as you have to deal with the people that we have got to deal with in the Ministry, and because of the nature of the Ministry, faults will be there for another hundred years. Without any disrespect, the Ministry employs the lowest mentality of the country, people who in many cases even have records for offences against the community, but that Ministry rehabilitates them and gives them an opportunity to make a contribution to the society. Once a Ministry operates in that atmosphere, then the problems will be there because there are problems of human nature, prejudices and human feeling, and the basic desire of all of us regardless of where we are in society is to get away with what we can. Mr. Chairman, if I could earn money without working or get the same money I am getting now, I would not work, because tKat is basic to all of us. I would read, go for a cruise on the Jolly Roger and so on.

The question that the sum of $9,692,891 under Head 33 - Ministry of Communications and Works - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Head 34 - Waterworks Department - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman. I beg to move that the sum of $4,105,558 under Head 34 - Waterworks Department -

stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister would be in a position to tell us at this stage what is Government's definite policy with regard to the use of these meters. There is no point in our having this half-baked approach as we have seen in recent years, and then we find that attempts are made to place these meters at places where it is not worth the while. My view is that there is need for a complete survey of the present water services in the industrial as well as in the resendential areas, and it would mean that some means have got to be found to detect the purpose for which householders are using the supply which is now made available to them, and a decision has got to be reached.

We hear every now and again that the Minister will go on the air to tell the nation as it really is and make a request to people to conserve water and not to use it for this or that purpose, but while the Minister is on the air and on television, more water is being wasted than at any other time. We believe that if a diligent and more careful approach is given to this problem that we could really save a lot of water that is now being wasted, but at the same time, it still brings a measure of grief to the hearts of each and every hon. member of this House to find that in some areas in St. Peter, my own constituency, you still find the motor lorry and the tank and people rushing to get a bucket of water when the motor lorry arrives on the scene. I am going to ask the Minister what is the delay.

There is no doubt that money is made available for the sinking of wells and the provision of the necessary equipment, and we have a very tidy sum in respect of the maintenance of equipment. Exactly what is wrong? All that is necessary for us in Barbados is for us to get the equipment and pump the water out of the belly of the earth. Dr. Alfred Sen is the person who told us this and nobody has been able to dispute it.

We hear every now and again that with the present demand upon the water resources we do not know what our true position is. We need some experts to tell us what is our real supply; let us know it now. We just cannot go on tinkering with a matter of such magnitude, and we would urge upon the Minister that he looks into this matter. After all, the history of these water trucks is not a pleasant one for the parish of St. Peter or any other parish, and the Minister knows very well that it really does not meet the needs of the people; it does not assist the department in any way. I am glad to say that I do not have to cry any longer because some work has been done at; Mount Stepney where a supply of water is now available to people. I am glad to see that has been done because when I first raised this in the House of Assembly, fun was made at me even by my own colleague at the time, the former senior member for St. Peter. However, the people at the Mount are getting a supply of water. In the same way, what is wrong with those areas that are still served by the motor lorry. We still have people who have got to spend as much as $500 to provide themselves with a water service from the main highway to where they live, and you can have in some cases ten or twelve galvanise pipes running into the same roadway leading to these people's houses. If some consideration is given to these people, that would justify the laying of a four inch main in such areas to relieve the people of this heavy expenditure they have got to incur to get a supply of water to their homes.

I know that the Minister is as anxious as any of us to see that piped water is carried to the homes of each and every individual in this Country, but we must bear in mind that where some of these houses are sited would make it impossible perhaps for another fifty years for us to have our water borne system in each and every house. We would have to start from this very hour to educate the people to come from the back of the plantation lands and impress upon the owners of the plantations to make the land available for the tenants. I have in mind an area such as Mangrove in St. Peter and Black Bess where the tenants are suffering in a very considerable manner. We feel that if it can be impressed upon the owners of these estates that they should have the tenants come to a more suitable area in which to live where water and light can be made available to them, it would in the long run be of benefit to the managers of the estates and the tenants alike. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there still is not as speedy an effort as we would like to see in the case of the reinstating of road surfaces where the various utility services are involved because there is still in our view that lack of co-ordination between these utility services. There is not that oneness of planning to reduce the cost that is now involved, and not only this, to minimise the inconvenience of the travelling public.

I believe that this is the time as well that I might state that the Waterworks Department must take into consideration the protection of the lives of the workers who have to carry out these plumbing jobs on the roadway. You will find that four or five workers start to work with a piece of red rag on a stick placed just a few yards ahead of them with a view to giving the sort of warning that a gang of workers is around the corner. This to my mind is not good enough, and the Waterworks Department should have some metal signs that can be posted at a respectable distance away from the site on which these people work at both points on the highway to give a sufficient warning to approaching traffic, because after all, the lives of these people have some value. I think the sooner this can be attended to the better it will be.

I know that we will be told once again that there is now no delay in servicing applications for connections to the premises of householders, but I really wonder if the Minister is getting the best advice when he tells us that there is now no backlog. I do not know if he can mean this. If there is no backlog, what is wrong that people hold receipts for over nine months or a year and still cannot get the service? It could not be spite, I do not think anybody in the Waterworks Department would spite an applicant for water service, I do not want to have this in my mind, but something is wrong and I would urge on the Minister the necessity to have this matter investigated. How does the Waterworks Department find itself having to pay a Commission for collecting arrears of water rates? I know that some hon. members on that side do not always pay their water rates, and what I am saying is that the Waterworks Department has the remedy to get cash for its water. Everybody knows this, I do not have to suggest to the Waterworks Department that if a service is disconnected money to have it reconnected tomorrow is found almost overnight, how is it then that the Waterworks Department finds itself having to pay a Commission?

I agree that in the case of plumbing where you let people pay for the plumbing by instalment, you will find some people not meeting the instalments as quickly and as readily as one would expect, but even then I believe a letter from the office to call some of these people in and put the seriousness of it before them would in itself bring in some sort of revenue and would reduce the idea of having to employ a debt collector. I believe that the Waterworks Department should not find itself in this unfortunate position.

Mr. Chairman, I have time and again brought the plight of people who live in the Zone 1 area and are

not permitted to develop their lands in any respect before this House. Exactly what does Government intend to do on behalf of these people? It is not the people's fault if the area is declared a Zone 1 area, let Government decide to take over the people's land and let them move somewhere else, or relax their restrictions. I found recently at Ashton Hall, St. Peter, permission was refused for people to build a church because it was in the Zone 1 area. Let us examine the application of the church. Nobody is going to live in the church, and if you keep services each night of a week - because I think what they are concerned with is the use of the lavatories of these places - if you are going to use the church 365 nights in a year, and they are not going to use the church 365 nights in a year, how many people out of a congregation of maybe 50 people are going to go to the lavatory? When you refuse permission for a church to be erected it brings people to the point of getting disgusted, it creates frustration and it is definitely a case where Government must decide on either relaxing these stringent measures or make a decision one way or the other. We agree that the water resources must be protected, but we believe that if these resources are re-examined from time to time we must find that ways and means can be found to help these people. 3.40 p.m.

I understand that the church was willing to put in a septic tank but permission has still been refused. This application could not have been reasonably examined. I would like the Minister, who would be responsible for water resources and so on, to take note of this matter and see what can be done to help this church.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the only thing I want to say under the Head of Waterworks, is that there is now provided in these Estimates $1,125,000 in respect of plumbing. Now, I want to query the type of material and/or the workmanship which is being done in respect of plumbing today. I can say with certainty that I know of one installation in which they have already changed the connections, at least, three times in the last five years. One of the workmen has admitted to me that the plumbing material is substandard. I have spoken to the Minister of Communications and Works personally about this matter, and I think they should do something about it. It is no use making an installation and within a year it has broken down.

Mr. Chairman, there are times when you have a burst pipe in the road. Sometimes it takes as many as two or three days before a crew can come out and mend it, and within another three or four months it opens up again. I feel that, if the money was spent on good plumbing material or good workmanship had been done, a lot of money could have been saved. I should like the Minister to tell us what is the reason for having one job repaired again so often after the plumbing has been done by a crew from the Waterworks Department. It is a question of utilising man power, time and materials, which could have been more profitably used otherwise.

Now, I had a startling experience last year when a client brought a bill to me in connection with plumbing work. According to the bill the cost of the material used was 75cents, and the cost of transportation, etc., was something like $15.00. I considered the matter and wondered what is going on. I should like the Hon. Minister to tell us what are the problems involved in this matter.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, before the Minister replies, I wonder whether he could tell us what is the anticipated increase in water rates? I hope that the increase will not be so steep, following on top of the land tax, as

to make living almost a frightening experience. He hinted that there would be some increases, I hope he will be in a position to tell the House what these increases will be and let us make our plea with him now, not to put them up too high. If he must put them up, let us know on what terms he will be dealing with people who cannot afford to pay the increases.

Mr. Chairman, I would not like it to be said that the Opposition did not put in their voice early. I am putting in mine quite early, Sir, so that the Minister will understand that although some of the big hotels and others who have more than domestic supply and use it for commercial purposes - sometimes they do not always pay commercial rates - can probably pay an increase in the rates. There are quite a few small people, however, who are finding it difficult even to pay the cost of installation of pipe water. I think every member of Parliament knows this, and he has had to take money from his pocket, at some stage or other, to help somebody in his constituency and even outside of his constituency to have water istalled in their homes. I wish there was a vote under this Head to give assistance to people in these circumstances, so that it will relieve some of the pressure on hon. members.

Sir, I would not like to see an increase in the rates, unless Parliament has had an opportunity to look at the increase to see how much we are going to get out of it and so on. It should not be a question of "Telling It To The Nation" on the television without giving us a chance to reply and to urge alternatives on the Government. I am really looking forward to a full disclosure from the Minister this afternoon.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I will deal with the last speaker first. I must say that I have noticed a general improvement in his political approach. I suppose that at the end of five years he will, certainly have reached a degree of political maturity which might possibly ensure him of another term in this Honourable House. Be that as it may, on the question of water rates, I cannot tell him much at this point. We are looking into the matter. We find that we cannot use the land tax for the land valuation system in any case, because where the tax deals with landownership, we are dealing with the occupier of a property, and it would not be a proper criteria for any new rates. In any case, there will be an element of Cabinet control, Cabinet approval, apart from what the Minister of Finance has to say.

Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member for Christ Church West will be the first to admit that the rates are abominably low. If you have the occupier of a house, however poor he is, paying $1.25 a quarter for water in this Country - work that out in terms of days and in terms of weeks-you will have to admit, if you have any sense of responsibility, that the figure is abominably low, however poor or destitute that person is to afford water in his premises. What the figure will be I cannot say at the moment. The Cabinet's decision and a lot of other factors will have to be taken into account. On the question of how it will operate, I am not in a position to say now.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, you would not even let me get it out of my mouth before you are

attacking me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
This is the last time. You have had about seven points of order, and I am not prepared to allow that sort of thing to continue.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is nothing in the new Standing Orders which says that I cannot stand on as many points of order as I think possible. If you can quote that portion of the Standing Orders to me, then I will gladly sit down. As a rule, I am always willing to comply with your ruling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Are you now making a speech?

Mr. BOLDEN:
I was talking about the point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am waiting to hear the point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has said that he does not know what the rates will be. All I am saying on this point of order is that I hope he does not behave like the Prime Minister; talk around the Bill; impose a 1% tax, and then come in here and say that the Opposition did not divide the House on the matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order! That is another speech.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, if I rise on a point of order, it is a point of order. If you rule that it is not, then I will accept it is not. But for heaven's sake, do not let the records reflect that I have had two speeches when in truth and in fact I have had only one.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is also another speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I have already indicated to the general public that water rates will have to go up higher. That is clear. I have said it on the 21st March, 1973, and I make no apologies for it. I will say that from here to St. Lucy or anywhere, because I am one Minister who faces my responsibilities. 3.50 p.m.

As I say, I cannot tell you the method of computation because it has not been worked out finally in this case. What I can tell the House is that a new Waterworks Bill is coming to Parliament very shortly because the one under which we operate never conceived the development and the putting in of water

into developments and other matters which obtain now. We have got to get a modern, up-dated Waterworks Act to meet the needs of a modern society.

To deal with the matters which have been raised by the hon. member for St. Peter, I should just like to tell him that the Chief Engineer of the department is trained in hydrology and the estimate given to me is that we can produce 35 million gallons of water per day. Mr. Tulstrom who was the previous hydrologist estimated 29 million gallons a day; but whatever the Minister may be, he is certainly not an African rain maker or an Indian to dance and the rain would fall, and I think hon. members would accept that this question of carrying water by truck is not an annual affair, but if you have been in Barbados, you would realise that for the last few years, apart from the big rains of 1970, we have been having a certain degree of drought. Even this year up to to the end of February we only had 4.53 inches in certain areas and you can see the stress that with the factories working this must place on the water system. I think the hon. member for St. Peter would be the first to admit that in his constituency we have plans for improvement. We are building a reservoir on the hill and we will put up a tank. We are trying to do our best, but rain must fall. You cannot pump it out of the belly of the earth if it has not gone into the belly first; so let us get that straight. Within the limits we will do what we can. Some areas, especially the higher areas are deficient in water because the stream water wells feel the lack of rainfall first and naturally their yield drops. The department hopes to pump water from the low lying sheet water wells back up to Bowmanston in the high level reservoirs.

There was another point raised by the hon. member. There is a misconception that a septic tank takes out bacteria and that effluence from a septic tank is clean. That is not so. A septic tank takes out the solids, but all the bacteria still remain. This whole question of Zone 1 is receiving the Government's attention. The Hon. Minister of Health has put up a paper on that matter and my Minister through the Chief

Engineer of the Waterworks has also put up a paper as to how we can either relax this or what firm decision must be taken. I think that the hon. member for St. Peter should know that the Government is concerned about the restrictions which have been imposed, but I operate on the basis that the health of the total community is more important than the rights of a few individuals however disadvantageous it may be, and therefore the Government can only relax the restriction if it is completely and absolutely certain beyond shadow of doubt, or as lawyers say, if you feel sure that the health of the community will not be in any way affected or that the water will not be contaminated.

I am sure the Minister of Health has put up a very comprehensive paper as has the engineer of the Waterworks Department and they are going to Planning Committee very shortly for an exhaustive study. (Asides) The Church is one foundation. You will appreciate that with 52 Sundays and Fast Days...I knew of a member of a Church in St. Andrew who used to hold a fast whenever he found that the rations were getting short, and he ended up by having three sisters pregnant at the same time. That is by the way.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
On a point of order, is the hon. member attacking one of my constituents?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
That was before you were the representative. What I am saying is that I can see the point, but that may

fall in the category of the Government playing it safe until there is a review of the whole of Zone 1. There are 52 Sundays, the Government is not aware of the number of the congregation nor of the amount of visits that might have to be paid, and it is something where it is better to play safe than sorry. If the water zone restrictions are relaxed, then I am sure that the person who want to set up a church can make a subsequent application.

Now, the other matter raised by the hon. member is coordination. We have endeavoured as far as possible to coordinate the activities between the Ministry of Works and the Waterworks Department. You can take an example of coordination in Beckles Road which I think the hon. member for St. Peter drives on nearly every morning in the course of taking his son to school. You have to give Jack his jacket when he deserves it. There are other areas in which I agree we have not been as strong, but it may be a question of testing to see whether the water is flowing well or there is any choke before we fix back the road, and we are endeavouring as far as possible to do this.

Now on the question of arrears, nobody who pay in for water service now has to wait longer than two months. As a matter of fact, we have written to some people and begged them to come in and pay the money so that we can do the work, but I think two months is the maximum you have to wait which in terms of improvement is not bad. We pay a debt collector to collect plumbing arrears for which under the present Act we have no right to disconnect. If you do not pay in the ordinary way, we can disconnect, but under the present Waterworks Act we have no power according to legal advisers to disconnect lor plumbing. The owners are responsible for plumbing and plumbing repair bills, and so we do not like to cut off from the occupier and penalise the occupier when it is the owner who has to pay eventually. I believe that may be the reason why disconnection is not obtained in order not to inconvenience the occupier who may be paying his water rates promptly.

I think those are the main points and if there is anything any hon. member wants to ask, I will try to give the information.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if the new rates would affect the supply of water that is sold to ships through the Port.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I cannot tell you that, but that will be decided by Cabinet from my recommendations; but the ships should pay more and swimming pools should pay more. They pay 80cents per thousand gallons now for swimming pools and that is non-sensical. Sometimes it costs us more in labour at the harbour to send water to a ship than we get for the water; so everybody will have to pay more, not only the average householder. In my view, this would be reasonable and fair.

The question that the sum of $4,105,558 under Head 34 - Waterworks Department - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

Head 35 - Department of Electrical Engineer - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $112,012 under Head 35 -Department of Electrical Engineer- stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HORDE:

Mr. Chairman, there is only one query we have on this Head and it relates to what steps have been taken to have a total re-examination of some of the fire hazards that exist throughout the Country. In recent times we have had some major fires in Bridgetown and although the report has not yet come to my notice, I believe that lots of people think that the standard of electrical wiring in some of the old establishments in Bridgetown in particular, leaves a lot to be desired. I wonder whether the Minister has had time so far to revise the legislation governing this matter and whether he has made sufficient provision for regular inspection. I believe that the system operates to allow inspection to take place when you are rewiring or putting in a new service, but I am not sure whether the regulations have been updated to deal with biennial inspections, and also to cover improvements in the building code, which in this context would include electrical standards that must obtain in new as well as in existing buildings. 4.00 p.m.

Obviously the building code in this context includes the electrical standards that must obtain in new as well as in existing buildings. I think this is a sufficiently serious matter that the Ministry should be working on and I hope that we will not wait until we have had another fire hazard then to advert to the fact that we are not paying sufficient attention to a matter of this nature.

Mr, HINDS:

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister should rise to tell us what is the true staffing position now with the Government Electrical Department. That is very important because very often applications are made from time to time for the services of the officers of this department and you find that people have got to wait unduly long, and when an officer is then made available to carry our the type of inspection that is requested you will find that he is not fit on arriving at the scene at times because it is a question of officers being overworked in this department. There are no two ways about this, it is a matter of utmost importance and we would like to know that the Minister is doing something about these things.

We have on a previous occasion attempted to bring the Minister's attention to the question of the maintenance of the traffic lights. Nobody can tell us now that these lights are operating as satisfactorily as they used to operate in the days when the police were in control. I can say so. The officers of the Government Electrical Department work from 8.00 to 4.00 and it is not an easy task to find some of them if anything goes wrong with the lights at any particular point after the Government Electrical Inspector's Office is closed. It is not so in the case of the police, and you will find that when the lights at a particular point are not functioning the police are now not as interested, I should say, in taking up duty there as in the days when the police had everything under their own control. There is a lack of liaison somewhere between the Police Department and the Government Electrical Inspection Department in this particular aspect, and it needs a very careful examination if we are not to find ourselves in some difficulty.

I believe that we can do with more traffic lights, and the sooner that we set about installing these at points where demands have proven they are required, we will be doing the traffic system in this Country and the travelling public generally a great good. I think that it is a mistake to allow the system to remain as it is because there is too much inconvenience occasioned as a result of what is presently taking place.

At Item 14 there is expenditure to be incurred in connection with a van for this department. I want to caution the Government to examine the devision with respect to this van and to look about to see wherever possible that the van is used for the purpose for which it is purchased and no other. Often you have the vehicles, the traffic lights at the bottom of Government Hill/Welches junction are out of order, and when you can get hold of an Inspector or some officer to go and effect the necessary repairs the question of transportation is another problem. The van itself is not locked up in a garage where somebody might have the keys, the van is also on duty elsewhere and these are things we want to see stopped. I am urging that we see that a lot of this is stopped, that these people who work with the various Government departments are not given any overtime to drive about their families and friends at the expense of the taxpayers. You and I cannot afford it and it has got to be stopped.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say how I feel about this department. In recent years we have had a hotel burned down, Broad Street burned down, big businesses gone up in smoke, and I have not heard or seen any positive action taken by the Government Electrical Department or the Government as a whole to bring some sort of legislation into this House in order to revamp the Act under which the Government Electrical Inspection Department operates to try and prevent these serious fires. When a big hotel burned down, there were lots of rumours about why it was burned down. The most recent fire was of a business place, a building at the corner of Constitution Road just below the park, and if members of Government had their ears to the ground they would have heard the same rumours I heard.

Mr. Chairman, I asked a question in this House. I would like to see the Government amend the Act so that the Government Electrical Inspector can make ad hoc checks on buildings. There is no doubt about it, people are applying to the Government Electrical Department and the system of application is in my opinion one which leaves a lot of room and latitude for manoeuvring. You have to pay the inspection fee based on the number of points which you have in the building, 4.10 p.m.

If a person is building a large hotel, he can get an inspection form, put down 100 points on it; pay the necessary fee for 100 points; the Government Electrical Inspector comes in and checks 100 points, and he is issued a certificate although the work is not yet completed. Thereafter, the owner, an electrical engineer, or some crack-pot, who only knows how to connect two wires, can go and add a further 100 points in that building. Fire hazards may be created. There is no further check to see that things are correct. There is no system whereby the Government Electrical Engineer can come back and check to see what additional work has been done. The next thing you will hear about is a big fire; insurance money being paid out, and several lives have been lost. This is a very serious matter with which we are dealing.

Mr. Chairman, whenever there is a fire you will hear that the Fire Brigade Department is investigating the matter. The Firemen will investigate; you will never hear what is the outcome of the investigation; and, since I have been around, I have never heard of anybody being charged for larceny. I have never

heard of an Insurance Company refusing to pay because.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am sorry to interrupt; the hon. member. He means charged with "arson".

Mr. BOLDEN:

The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works was at one time the Attorney-General and he could not prosecute anybody for arson. I have never heard of anybody being prosecuted. I have never heard of any Insurance Company saying that it was not going to pay, because suspicion was so high that it looked illegal. What I am worried about is that it can have several repercussions from here. In the first place, it is not the small Barbadian who is going to attempt fire. Let us look at Broad Street. There was a big Commission investigating what took place in Broad Street, and it was said that there was grave suspicion of arson. The site is now up for sale, and I believe the owners of the site have been paid by the Insurance Company. However, when a fire starts in Broad Street and a spark goes through the air and burns somebody's small house in Fontabelle or in Lands End, the poor person might lose his life; he might not have an insurance policy, his family will have to run to the Social Welfare Department for assistance, and in the long run the taxpayers will be paying for the damage done by the buildings which have been burnt down. When you look around at the big businesses which have been burnt down, you will find that in 10 cases to 1 the shareholders live outside of the four corners of Barbados. (Asides) Are you saying that the arsonists are non-Barbadians? Is that what the members on the Government side are suggesting? I am not going to suggest that. The members on this side are all Barbadians. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, would you like to keep order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like the hon. member to continue with his address to the allotted time.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I can continue, if I am not interrupted, Sir. I should like to hear from the Minister what plans the Government has for dealing with these fires. You will have to strengthen the law dealing with electrical inspections; you will have to devise a new system, and I believe that the Inspectors should have the right to enter any building, similar to that of a Sanitary Inspector, to carry out periodical checks. If that is not done, we will continue having these fires and we should do something about the matter. In this respect, Item 11 - Travelling - would have to be increased, if we want the inspectors to do an efficient job. I would, therefore, suggest that their travelling should not be computed on the present Government scale so that we may have some sort of an efficient check on buildings in this community.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long. The points made by the hon. member are well taken. The main point is that I would like the Opposition to help me to get an electrical engineer. We have one who has retired and we still have to use him. Anybody who has retired and has to be brought back can free-wheel. I have not put up a traffic light in the whole country since last year, although there are hundreds of dollars to be spent on traffic lights. I would like the Opposition to get me a first-class electrical engineer and let us move forward. That is my position. I do not recruit staff, but I want an electrical engineer and not a retired person. I am not attacking the retired engineer; he has served his time; he has retired, and I would like to have a good electrical engineer, preferably a Barbadian.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not know to whom the Hon. Minister is referring, when he says that he is not attacking the person. I do not know whether he is referring to me, or a previous speaker, but I am not attacking anybody. All I am asking for is that there should be tighter rules dealing with electrical inspection. To get up in here and say that the Opposition is attacking is only trying to shift the.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I said that I am not attacking the electrical engineer. The hon. member had better listen. I said that I would like an electrical engineer who is not a retired man, who has several years before him and can join with me in planning the future control of things rather than depending on a retired man who is helping us out as the present electrical engineer is doing. There is no doubt that the law dealing with this aspect of it, is outdated. Right now I have before the Attorney-General a law drafted for licensing of electricians. When a man is going to put wire in houses, he must have a minimum standard of qualifications. A lot of trouble starts from there. There are a number of people who can put two wires together; they walk around and put wires in a house - I am not talking about the Light and Power Company that has a scheme - and it causes the electrical inspectors to check the work ten or fifteen times before they can pass it. That has created the delays which exist and the present staff cannot cope with them.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that we have received two applications for the post of electrical engineer. If we can get from there, we will certainly have to update the legislation. The Government and I must be worried about fires; we must have compulsory inspection; we have to see that big buildings are made safe for inspection, and so on. The points raised by the Opposition are well taken, and my Ministry is

already working on some of the things raised here.

Nearly a year ago I asked the electrical engineer to let me have amendments, or suggested amendments, to the whole Act. I have not yet received those amendments, but what can I do? The whole point is to have as the Head of the Department a man who is permanent and not a retired man. When you are operating on the basis of a retired man, you will get delays. I asked for proposals to light up the whole of Bridgetown, and I have not yet received it. Do you want me to do it myself? I am no electrical engineer. If you cannot get the professional staff, then the Ministry must suffer. I have put everything in a nutshell.

All of the points made are taken into consideration by us. We need a modern Act; we need licensed electricians; we need fees and businesses graded to size and so on. Now, an inspector may have to go to St. Lucy to inspect a house 9 times for the same $1.50, but that cannot be right. If you get this sort of situation when the van is out, I will look into the matter. The basic point is that we want an electrical engineer to move on with the future of the country. I am not criticising the present engineer. I am satisfied that he is doing his best, but if I were retired I would go home and cock up my feet and be satisfied with whatever I got.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, when one listens to the Minister of Communications and Works one would be tempted to believe that the Government came into office for the first time in 1971. When we, from time to time in this House, criticise the Government for their attitude, their planning, and particularly their planning for education at higher levels, it can be seen now that we were justified in so doing. No Government or no Minister of Communications and Works, after being in power eleven or thirteen years, should be able to say at this stage there is not a qualified Barbadian electrical engineer to do this job. 4.20 p.m.

If you had proper planning for the last eleven or twelve years you were in Government, you would have been planning ahead to see that when this man goes home and cocks up his feet and you did not want him to come back, you would have had somebody qualified to take the job.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of explanation, the Government of Barbados does not believe in forced labour. There are Barbadians qualified, but we have advertised countless times and have not got applications. The Constitution forbids forced labour, and often some of those we have trained go abroad and pay back the money which they are bonded to do; so what is the Government to do when they advertise?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I do not accept this. This idea of getting up and saying that the ones you have trained go abroad and pay back the money is not satisfactory. Give me the number of persons you trained and bonded who have gone abroad and have not come back. We have been criticising the Government for lack of proper planning. You should be planning ahead for when these people come home. You have national development scholarships. The Minister of Education should be replying and saying how many have gone away under that scheme to do electrical engineering. I would like to hear him on that. (Asides) You did not pass the Head. You passed the Head of Education, but we are dealing with the fact that the Minister of Communications can get up in here after this Government has been in power for eleven years and say that they cannot find a qualified Barbadian to take on the job of electrical engineer, therefore the fault must lie with Government's planning. Do not come and tell us that the man went home and did not come back. Maybe the Government never thought about it until the man was ready to resign knowing the way the Government plans. Let the Minister say how many people have gone away on national development scholarships to become electrical engineers, and who are bonded to come back here. I challenge the Minister of Education to get up and say there are any.

The question that the sum of $112,012 under Head 35 - Department of Electrical Engineer - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - ECCLESIASTICAL Head 37 - Ecclesiastical - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $13,780 under Head 37 - Ecclesiastical - stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, all I would like to say is that the day Thou gavest Lord is ended.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Is the hon. member saying to the Chair that the day is ended?

Mr. BOLDEN:
Yes, Mr. Chairman. The day Thou gavest Lord is ended. Last year I dealt with the question of itinerant, so-called Christian prostitutes - and I have no regret for the words - who descend like vultures upon this community at the time of reaping. A lot of people last year thought I was wrong or thought I did not believe in the Church when I spoke on this Head. I am glad to see that the Advocate has reported that Jamaica has taken a similar stand in respect of these travelling religious salesmen.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
On a point of order, for my own benefit I would like to be made aware of what item the hon. member is speaking on.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I am speaking of Item 9 - Grants-in-aid. Am I wrong, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Let the hon. member carry on.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I do not understand why when they on the other side do not understand, they like to interrupt!

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would also remind the hon. member of Standing Order No. 28 (10).

Mr. BOLDEN:
What I am saying is that Jamaica has taken a similar stand in respect of these travelling religious salesmen.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I cannot understand what this grant-in-aid has to do with travelling salesmen. We do not give any ecclesiastical grants to itinerants.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
That is why I love the Chairman's rulings, because he can always see when ignorance is being perpetuated.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Are you saying that the hon. member is ignorant?

Mr. BOLDEN:

No, Sir, with all due respect to the Chair. I am complimenting the Chair on its ability to recognise in advance any sort of ignorance which might be forthcoming.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, from the hon. member.

Mr. BOLDEN:

What is the hon. member standing on? Mr. Chairman, the Government is so worried about things I am going to say that they would not let me say them in peace.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will kindly ask the hon. member to sit and let me make something clear. If this type of behaviour is persisted in I will ask whichever member it may be to leave the Chamber. I am not going to accept that type of behaviour. Let the hon. member continue.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to hear from the Minister of Home Affairs specifically this afternoon what steps Government has taken in respect of those persons who come here from year to year. I am not saying that the Government should ban any religious denomination from bringing in a guest speaker....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am very serious. The hon. member said he was speaking under Item 9 - Grants-in-aid. Until this moment he has said nothing about grants, and he has merely asked what the Minister of Home Affairs is doing in respect of people who come here, and I submit that what the hon. member is saying is irrelevant under this item or any other item under this Head.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the hon. member who is rising is interrupting this hon. member, if he was aware of the law, the law surely is that grants-in-aid may be given to any Church whatsoever, and the fact that it is not being given to itinerant churchmen at the moment does not mean that in future it might not be given.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, we are dealing with grants-in-aid. There is no policy of this Government to give grants to itinerant ecclesiastical organisations. The hon. member said he was speaking under Grants-in-aid, and I am submitting that what he was saying was irrelevant since it had absolutely nothing to do with Grants-in-aid. 4.30 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, grants-in-aid are given by the Government to every denomination in this Country which chooses to receive them. It is for non-Anglican denominations..... (A sides.)..... Look at the note, Mr. Chairman, let us be sensible. Am I not entitled to say that if there are certain religious denominations in the Country which set out to sponsor religious itinerant salesmen to come into this Country who go on the Garrison and all about and collect tons of money and take it out of this

country? Am I not entitled to challenge the Government on its policy in respect of issuing work permits to these people? The hon. member does not want me to develop my speech because he knows it is going to hurt him. He is a part-time itinerant religious salesman too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I will ask you to withdraw that remark.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I beg to withdraw it.

Mr. FORDE:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member I hope is not denying that he is religious, even although he may only be part-time.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
What I am denying is that I am any part-time itinerant religious salesman. I am cosmopolitan in my religion.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I will rephrase it then, the hon. member is a cosmopolitan religious salesman.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, I object to the words that I am a cosmopolitan religious salesman. I said I am cosmopolitan in my religion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I have already ruled. That matter is closed.

Mr. BOLDEN:
What I would say is that the hon. member does a worthy job in the community in that he goes around singing religious songs. All I am trying to do is to protect his interest, because if the itinerant salesmen come in and carry away all the subscriptions then his body is going to suffer. I am trying to find out if the Government has taken a positive decision on how these persons are going to operate in the Country in the future. Mr. Chairman, if you read the Advocate you would see what a member of the Billy Graham team said after the Jamaican Government refused to give them work permits if they are going to take up collection. He got up and said that if any member was so moved he could send his contributions to the Head Office, but in return for what? At a time like now when the Caribbean is labouring under a financial crisis I hope this Government has taken positive action to stop them taking away the finances from this Country in any form or fashion whatsoever.

The most recent one I have discovered is that they are offering religious records free but you must send U.S. $20 for postage, and that tells you how they are getting around it. This is why I call them itinerant religious salesmen, and I would like to hear how the Minister of Home Affairs is going to deal with this matter.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I notice that the grants-in-aid to religious bodies have been constant for some time now. Obviously, the Government probably has not responded to the requests that have been made of it from time to time by non-denominational bodies for any significant increases. It is true that in 1971-72 the actual expenditure was $3,020, in 1972-73 it has gone up a bit, and then we are keeping the same level this year as we did before. Although it is often thought that some of these churches are rich by normal standards in this Country - and some of them do have substantial assets in kind rather than liquid assets - I think we should recognise that churches are doing a pretty good job in very difficult circumstances.

I would like on this occasion to put in a plea for the demoninational churches in particular. They are not necessarily the classy churches which get all the State recognition on State occasions with the presence of your Head of State, Prime Minister, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Members of Parliament, but they are the ones which are closer to the people. Certainly in many areas of this Country one finds that there are large sections of our country people who look forward not only to religious education but certainly also to sharing some sort of social life in their community which is centred almost exclusively around your churches. I could think of crowded areas like Carringtons Village in the constituency of the Hon. Minister of Health where the churches in that area do a very good job. I could think of areas like Dayrells Road and Brittons Hill where there are numerous denominations, but they do a tremendous amount of work among the young people and they exercise a good influence. As I said before, it is not the formal State Church to which I belong, or indeed the aspiring State Church to which the hon. member for St. Michael South Central belongs that I am referring to on this occasion, and I would like to think that the Government is not scared to recognise that this Head should remain in the Estimates whether under this guise or under some other guise for some time to come.

I know that under another Head there is an estimate for the Salvation Army for some of the things which the Salvation Army runs. I am not talking about that vote which is given for specific purposes, I am talking about the general vote to help some of these churches in general. I could think for instance of the Seventh Day Adventist Church which does a tremendous job in this community. That is a go-ahead organisation, running educational institutions, also at the moment moving into the position where it is providing Old People's Homes, and I would think that they deserve some special consideration. I have pleaded for them for school meals, for instance. If it cannot be given in kind then give them in. cash, if it cannot be given in cash give them in kind, but they do need assistance, and I am not one of those who profess agnosticism or join with the fashionable intellectual snobbery of rejecting Christ, and therefore would not come in here and make people believe that I do not support a grant of ecclesiastical bodies. I feel that in addition to looking after our souls a lot of them look after our minds and bodies, and we could well recognise this role. Next year I should like to see a higher grant, particularly to the smaller churches. I am not talking about the category of churches to which the hon. member for St. Joseph referred, I think he is quite right in saying that Government in laying down criteria for making these grants-in-aid should be careful that the monies they are giving are not used for the purpose of subsidising those persons who come here more for their own self aggrandisement than for preaching the word of our Lord, but certainly I would hope that those who have a very good case get recognition by an increased grant in the future. 4.40 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, if I understood the gravamen of the charge made by the member for Christ Church West correctly, it is that the Government is not steering the right course in respect of the disbursement of

assistance to ecclesiastical bodies and that has always been done in favour of the churches which have been longest established in this Country - I am not using the word "established" in any legal sense, because there are no established churches in this Country now - and that other denominations like the Seventh Day Adventist should receive disbursements from this particular Item. I totally reject any suggestion or statement that the Government is not following the correct course. If any hon. member wishes to make a statement in this House and to advance a certain line of policy and he does not have the information, I am quite willing to supply the information on which the critique of Government's policy can be based.

I should like, for the benefit of the hon. member for Christ Church West, who is normally well balanced in his statements, to state that he is entirely wrong on this occasion. He is making a plea for the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. The gravamen of the statement - it was not a charge - is that I do not consider the vote adequate for the others, and I was not mentioning the Seventh Day Adventist in particular only to say that that is the only case. I am also speaking about the others. If the Minister will recall what I said, I was adverting to the increase in the vote which took place between 1971, 1972 and 1973 and saying that the additional one is being put at the same figure now. If he looks quickly down page 98, he will see that the point I am making has some substance.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I started out by stating that there are numerous requests from denominations which have not been satisfied. I have nowhere on my desk any request from any religious denomination that is unsatisfied. I should be very glad if the hon. member can send to me a request from a religious denomination that has not been satisfied. As the Minister, I am not aware of any such request. (Asides.) I would await it, and I would deal with it in the terms of the amount of money that is provided by this Honourable House. As of this date, there is no outstanding request of which I am aware from any denomination in either of the categories mentioned by the hon. member for Christ Church West which is unsatisfied.

May I point out, Mr. Chairman, that under this Head the Salvation Army receives a grant; the Seventh Day Adventist Church receives a grant; the Pentecostal Church of God; The United Pentecostal Church; The United Holy Church of America; The Episcopal Orthodox; The Christian Missions, South, City and North; St. Theresa African Orthodox; the Methodist Churches; the Nazarene, and even the St. Andrew Pentecostal Church are included.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, that is the whole point I am making. He has so many mouths to be satisfied that he is not satisfying any of them adequately. He has $X to be divided among all of them.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I am not feeding any mouths. This matter is in respect of grants made to these institutions, and I am stating that there is no request from any of these denominations for an increase in grants for them. There has been no request from any Church with which the hon. member may be connected. I am prepared to look at any request, but I want to make a few points in rebuttal. Firstly, that

there is no outstanding requests for an increase in the grants, as the hon. member erroneously stated, because I am not aware of them; secondly,....

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows that there have been requests for grants also in kind, and I make the point that he should satisfy the requests in cash if he cannot satisfy them in kind.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, on the point about the wrong direction in relation to what he calls the small churches, he is of the opinion that the grants go to those churches which are closer to the people. I merely wish to advert slightly to some other matter, Mr. Chairman. It has been drawn to my attention that in one of the older churches in this Country a certain Minister - I am not speaking about the Anglican Church, the Moravian Church or the Roman Catholic Church - I am not referring to my colleague on my right who is not a Minister in that sense - has been comparing or has made a statement that, when schools in this Country charge non-nationals or non-Barbadians additional fees, it is on the same level as apartheid in South Africa. I wish to point out that this Government is not going to tolerate non-nationals in this Country making reprehensible comparisons about practices in this Country and comparing them with policies which are damaging to this Government. I am examing this whole matter a little more carefully, and I may take certain steps afterwards. We are not going to tolerate persons in this Country making that type of comparison and having it broadcast over the Radio Station in this Country. He says that Grammar Schools charge non-nationals additional fees and he equates that with the practice of apartheid in South Africa. I find that reprehensible, and I am examining it very carefully to see what further action should be taken on it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The question is that.....

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to deal with the very last thing that was said. I want the Minister to go on record and say that all the decent priests who go to South Africa, either of British origin or of Commonwealth origin, and fight against apartheid, and are imprisoned and put out of South Africa for their views, are wrong because they are not nationals of South Africa. That is all I will say. I" think it is a disgraceful statement he has just made. I do not agree with the Minister. I do not like anything about that church or any of the Ministers. Obviously, the country from which he comes also charges non-nationals and nationals different fees at schools, but I would not like this House to be

led into any witch-hunt. If a man is a resident of a country and is concerned with its public life, and he expresses opinions which are not the opinions of the Government party, I would not like to see him punished for voicing his opinions. As far as I am concerned, everybody who is lawfully in Barbados has a right to lawful opinion. I do not believe that the Minister of Education would stand up and say that Rev. French, because he was an Englishman, should not say that apartheid was wrong in South Africa. I do not believe he would stand up and say that, but his remarks today is equivalent to saying that. 4.50 p.m.

I much regret such a statement should have been made.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, anyone can say anything he wishes about apartheid in South Africa, but the only point I am making is that if a statement is made that any act on the part of a school of charging higher fees for non-nationals than nationals can be equated to apartheid in South Africa, or to say that it is the same level of discrimination, I find that to be a reprehensible statement. I say further that I am examining the statement and whatever further action may be necessary I will certainly recommend.

The question that the sum of $13,780 under Head 3 7 - Ecclesiastical - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 43 - MNISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR & NATIONAL INSURANCE

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,069,886 under Head 43 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, included in the Auditor General's Report on the Housing Authority are two paragraphs dealing with Public Officers' Housing, and I will deal with both of them. One of them related to the fact that a public officer is not repaying his loan as required by the relevant legislation and statutory rules, and upon further enquiry being made, it was revealed that the official responsible for authorising the necessary deductions from his salary had declined to make the deductions because the public officer concerned had had mental treatment. I am quoting from what I have been told by the responsible authority. (Asides) Sir, I do not want to quote who has told me something, but obviously I have to tell it to the Minister of Housing. I can write it and pass on the paper to him. It was told to me that the public officer concerned had had mental treatment and therefore nobody in his department was going to authorise the stopping of his salary because he had made certain threats.

Now I want the Minister to take careful note of this, and if he cannot reply today, to make enquiries and give a reply at some other time. I will tell the Minister who told me, but this is a communication to me which I believe in a sense is privileged and I do not believe it is for public consumption. I see the other Ministers want to know who it is; I will tell the Minister of Housing and he can tell his colleagues. In these circumstances the man must either be sent to the Mental Hospital, the Permanent Secretary must be sent home, or the money must be paid. There cannot be any other alternatives. If the Minister wants to interrupt me, I will give way.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I really have no right to stand now, but I only rise because I do not quite follow what the hon. member is really saying. I do not quite get the point he is on.

Mr. ADAMS:

A public officer has borrowed money - obviously the Minister has not read the report - from the Public Officers Housing Loans. By law he is required to repay this money by deductions from his salary. No deductions are being made from his salary, the reason being that he has made threats to the Accounting Officers that if any deductions are made from his salary that he will take some kind of revenge on their persons, and I am told that those persons who should authorise the deductions say that he had mental treatment and they were afraid of him. I would like to give the Minister a chance to check up on this. (Asides) Do you mean that the people who are concerned with the administration of the Public Officers' Housing Loans do not know of this? I have never heard anything like that in my life.

I also want to draw the attention of the Minister of Housing to paragraph 28 of the Public Officers' Housing Loans, and I want to read it out in full.

"Evidence was also seen in cases involving the $90,300.00 that the recommendations of the Secretary under reference and the requests to spend the relevant sums were "Approved" during July, 1969, by a person represented in many cases as the "Minister of Housing" and in some cases not so represented, such approval being reflected on the respective documents addressed by the Secretary to the Permanent Secretary."

I would like the Minister to comment on that. It is a most drastic situation where a person not authorised to advance public officers' loans has authorised them and I would very much hope that the Minister can give us some answer in respect of that. There was a total of $91,300.00 relating to the financial year ending 1970 during which no decision relating to the grant of any loan was seen; in other words, this money was advanced apparently without any authority against the signature of a person representing himself to be "the Minister of Housing". I really cannot remember who the Minister of Housing was then, but I am sure it was not the present Minister; he was then Minister of Home Affairs.

Paragraph 31 of the Public Officers' Housing Loans relating to repayment of loans reads:

"The law relating to repayments and interest in this connection provides that "any sum by way of repayment by the public officer in respect of the loan and the interest thereon shall during the time the public officer is in the service of the Crown in this Island, be deducted by the Accountant General from the salary of the public officer and paid over to the Authority." The audit revealed that the appropriate sums in respect of loan and interest were not deducted from the salary of a borrower, a public officer, during the year."

I am informed that the reason given for this was that this borrower had had mental treatment and made threats to the Accounting Officer. 5.00 p.m.

The Minister says from his seat he did not know. I have seen another person saying he did not know, and I regard that as gross, vile incompetence in both of them.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, as regards that section of the Auditor General's report, paragraph 28, which is a document of this House and which was read by the member for St. Thomas relating to approval being given by a person representing himself as the Minister of Housing for loans to be advanced to public

officers, this is indeed as far as I understand, a factual situation. I want to state that I have neither in my public nor private capacity approved the grant of any loans to anybody, either from the Public Officers' Housing Loan Fund or from any other source whatsoever. I want to make that clear at the beginning. I became Minister of Housing in 1971 and I have not approved loans to anybody in respect of housing or for any other purpose.

I want to continue from there. What happened, as I understand from my own investigations, I was not the Minister at the time, it appears that there was no Chairman of the Housing Authority in the month of July 1969 in order to approve advances from the Public Officers' Housing Loans to public officers in respect of housing. From the end of June 1969 the Chairman had tendered his resignation and there was no Chairman during July 1969. It was during that period that someone was approving loans to be advanced to public officers, and according to the Auditor General's report, the person who so approved these loans represented himself as the Minister of Housing. I do not know what happened, I do not have the accounts of the Authority, I am not the Auditor General for the period no more than I was the Minister during 1956 to 1961, and I can see no good reason why I should go into the accounts of the Housing Authority from 1961, and I have no intention of doing it. I am not doing it for the years 1970 and 1971, I am doing the accounts for which I am responsible but no one can come and tell me that I am responsible for not going into the accounts for 1956 for that matter.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Sir, that relates to an earlier situation and the Minister has given his disclaim on it, but a public officer not paying back his money is a continuing situation. He must tell us whether the man is paying now or not.

Hon. P. M GREAVES:
This is a report of the Auditor General for the financial year which ended in 1970, three years ago, and I have no intention of going into those accounts irrespective of however any member of this House feels about it, and if any Minister before me chooses to approve loans to persons, that is a matter for him and for the Auditor General, it is not a matter for me.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, what the Minister is asked about is point one which he has dealt with, and point two, whether the public officer is not carrying out the law which the Minister is put there by the people and the Prime Minister to administer. In other words, is the public officer referred to paying back his money now or not?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I do not want to interrupt, but this is a matter which the Minister can investigate. I am a Minister, I do not know who is paying back loans at MCW, but I would say that if you are willing to give him the name he will have to investigate it, but I certainly do not think it is fair to ask him because a Minister in his air-conditioned office cannot tell you who is paying back every month, and I certainly do not concede that to be the function of a Minister to go down every week or month to check the position. Since you have raised it, if it is contrary to law it merits investigation.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of explanation, is not the point that it has been drawn to his attention by the Auditor

General's report that a public officer is not paying back his money? if it has been drawn to his attention is he still going to say he is not going to go into it? It has been drawn to his attention by the report, not by me for the first time, he should have read the report.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to get into that. I would not like to say if it is right or wrong that a Minister makes a statement that he is not going into a report because the thing was not done during his time. The Minister's relations in his office have nothing to do with the time he was Minister or not, it has something to do with what the position is when something takes place. I must say I do not agree that the Minister should not go into it, if not, there is no point in his taking up responsibility as a Minister.

However, I am going to ask questions now about something to do with something when the Minister was not there, but he is there now. I am referring to the Ministry of Labour which is a very poor Ministry, and I am making no apology for saying that, I have said so publicly and I am going to say so now here. The Department of Labour is not giving the nation what it deserves, and I am making this statement and I hope that efforts will be made to bring this department up-to-date. I say this because it is pathetic in a country like this which is a predominantly wage earning community that the Trade Union is well organised, the employers are well organised, but when a dispute arises the Ministry of Labour and the Labour Department cannot match the contestants in the dispute, and then you hear a lot of bogus nonsense by people like politicians who know nothing about industrial relations, political parties making statements or afraid to make statements, because the Department of Labour has not been able to provide the kind of leadership that you would expect can match industrial dislocations.

I feel that we are spending enough money in these departments that we must get this sort of business. It is not good enough that thirty years ago you had a department that was in its beginning stages and you could look and find Commissioners of Labour, people in the Department of Labour carrying out these tasks, and today you are not getting equally that sort of person in these departments and dislocations are taking place that could be avoided. 5.10 p.m.

I hope that now the ILO has done a training course in Trinidad that this Government will participate more in ILO affairs. I would like to see that the people who work in the Department of Labour are given an opportunity to associate with their counterparts in other parts of the world so that they would be able to learn things by working alongside of other people. If this is done I feel that it will give them self-confidence and assurance in dealing with industrial matters.

The Department of Labour is very important in this country. Every worker is not an organised worker, and some of them rely on the Department of Labour to give them assistance with their troubles. I would like to see the Department of Labour taking a more active role in affairs that take place in some of these sectors. The country is industrialising, and some of the places that are built for the workers have been constructed without the necessary facilities in them for the workers to eat and so on. Some of the workers are forced to eat outside because the building has not been properly constructed. It is one of the duties of the Department of Labour to see that this is done.

For example, I received a request from one of the departments to amend the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act to permit women to work at night. I am referring to the 1938 Act. The women refused, and the department wants to know why. Some of the new factories that have been

opened here have not been paying the kind of wages which we are satisfied are good enough, and when we comment on it some people think that the Trade Union is preventing industrial development. If the Trade Union is preventing industrial development by refusing to accept wages at $18 or $20 a week, then the Trade Union is going to prevent industrial development, because I do not want to see, industrial development take place in this country on the altar of sweated labour and wages that have no meaning whatsoever in 1973.

I hope that the Minister of Labour will make it his business to have a proper investigation carried out in connection with the wages paid at all of the new industrial estates in order to find out whether the wages bear any relationship to the wages paid by local people in Barbados. What is the attitude of the people who are operating in the new industrial estates? What sort of incentives have been given to them? And if the incentives include that the workers should be paid low wages; if the Government told them that they could pay these wages; or whether the Government has told them that they should pay wages that bear some relationship to the wages paid by others in this country today?

Mr. Chairman, only today I had discussions with some employers who would like the docks, as they say in some instances, opened on a 24-hour basis. I will repeat what I told them. I said that if the Minister told them so, and they had any discussions with the Minister, that the Minister would have to come and do the work on a 24-hour basis himself. Some of these people have the idea that they can go to cocktail parties; put some of the Ministers in a corner, and tell the Ministers that the Unions think they are running the Country, but that the Ministers are running the Country, The Government has to run the Country, and I know that the workers have to work. You may as well bear it in mind that the workers are not going to work under any old-fashioned conditions merely to get a job. All of us want a job. When members of the House of Assembly come here, we are expected to be paid, but it is not expected that we must be treated indifferently because we will be paid. Similarly, you do not expect the workers to work under bad conditions and work for low wages because they want a job. Mr, Chairman, I am satisfied that this is not any emotional statement, and we have to be very clear that we are protecting the people.

Mr. Chairman, I know that there is a lot of talk going around about this Act. I understand that late hours of work for a woman is not an easy thing in Barbados. I understand that a young woman was raped recently going home from work. (Asides.) She work$ at one of the Banks, but when the people at the Banks get raped they do not say anything about it. They believe that if they are working at the Bank and somebody rapes them that they will never get married. This same kind of thing militates against the Indians. You know what has just taken place in Bangladesh after the soldiers raped the Indians/That sort of thing is regarded in India as a terrible crime. An Indian woman would be regarded as no further use to mankind if that happened to her and she would have to be abandoned.

We must not run away with the idea that new industries can come here and the investors can impose all sorts of conditions on the workers. Only this week an investigation was being carried out by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee into I.T.&T., and one of the members of I.T.&T. had to admit in evidence that they were doing things in Chile in order to create some uprising against President Allende. These people do not stop at anything. They go into big countries and small countries, and they think that they can take over a country. They have the idea that they can buy over the people. One of them told me that he was invited to come here, and now that he has arrived he has found things other than he had expected. I asked him whether he was told that there was a trade union in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the Trade Union's position very clear that we will not be part of any situation which will relegate the workers to a position that existed prior to 1937. We went through too much sweat, blood and imprisonment to see that the conditions of the workers were improved. I hope that the Minister will give whatever assistance his Ministry requires to make the office operate much better. Finally, I would like to see an office in that department where there is a sitting room where people can sit and discuss things after the various parties meet. They should either be an ante-room or an additional room to serve this purpose, because the present Department of Labour is inadequate to provide this sort of thing. 5.20 p.m.

The present building is inadequate for a Department of Labour. There is no point in buying old buildings with old pantries which were good enough for the Badleys as a residence, but are not good enough for our purposes, because when you have to do business and somebody is in the kitchen, and somebody else is in the pantry, that is not good enough. Those days are over. I hope that the Department of Labour which I understand was carded for some change in quarters will get somewhere that would be more in keeping with a Government Office, because the department has long outgrown the building in which it is now housed.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think last year when this Head came up in the Estimates and probably on some of the supplementary estimates there were some points made about the revision of the factories legislation, and we were promised then that the legislation was being reviewed. I would like again this year to emphasise that I think it is urgent that the legislation governing factories and safety and health in industrial concerns should be treated as a top priority by this Ministry.

I am sometimes appalled as I think the hon. member for St. Mchael West himself is appalled to see that there is not sufficient attention being paid to the welfare of workers on their jobs. I believe from time to time many of us both in and out of this House have made comments on some of the sub-human conditions obtaining both in old and new industries in Barbados, and indeed sometimes obtaining also at some of the commercial establishments in the Country. It is amazing to me how people can sit down and make money all the time without having some consideration for the welfare of the people who work with them. Sometimes you go into some of these establishments and it is almost impossible to find proper provision being made for the normal amenities and conveniences of the human body, and I wonder what they expect the workers to do in such circumstances. Likewise, there are very few attempts being made to provide for fire hazards occurring on premises. I believe the Minister should advert to this. Barbados in the Seventies and Eighties cannot look back over its shoulder to a position where anything went and it was allowed, or the standard set varied with the individual employer's conscience. We must set standards. I believe that if industry has thrived, and we are told very often that it has thrived sufficiently in this Country, then it can afford to carry the basic amenities necessary in order to allow its workers to give a higher productivity. I have said before that people will produce more if they work in commodious circumstances with sufficient amenities surrounding them regardless of whether it is in the Government service or indeed in the private sector. I do not buy the argument that people cannot afford to provide canteens, cannot afford to provide latrines, rest rooms or first-aid facilities. In my view this is part and parcel of any normal and properly run industrial or commercial sector, and if they are not going to provide it freely, then we must legislate for these standards.

Many of the people who come here to set up new industries and some of the firms which exist here

will go to the United Kingdom or to the United States of America and praise the standards existing in those countries and hold it up as the country they want to live in, but simply because we are small and underdeveloped they will remain in Barbados making their money and think they have not got to share some of this with the people who helped them to produce. The first comment you hear is that the workers are not producing well. I know there are a lot of reasons why productivity is low in certain sectors of the economy, but certainly one of the striking reasons is the conditions under which people are being asked to labour from time to time.

I also would like to make a plea for the female section of the labour force. The female section of the labour force is contributing tremendously in the new industries, and I have made a special habit of going to some of these new industrial estates early on mornings particularly in what would normally be the winter season, and I am amazed that some of these girls have to go along in the dark hours of the early morning almost unprotected to work at some of the firms, and I doubt whether they are given any special consideration for having to foot it from their homes, whether it is in Parkinson Field, St. Matthias or Sargeants Village to go to these new industrial estates.

Now I like to give Jack his jacket. I believe that were it not for the presence of a trade union in this Country things would have been worse, and that is one of the reasons I have always supported trade unionism, but there are some areas in which you cannot expect negotiations to bring improvement, and I think we have had enough time now especially since 1956 to see that we should legislate seriously in these particular areas. I do not know how well staffed the department is to look at factories, but there are still breaches even of the existing regulations occurring, and I think we need if possible to pay more attention to this aspect of the matter as well.

The hon. member for St. Michael West made mention of Investigating Sub-Committees of the Senate Judicial Committee in the United States of America, and sometimes I would like to think that we can adapt our procedures to really bring in some of these people before Select Committees of this House where they ate investigated in a similar manner. I think he is quite right and I would add my voice to that. I have gone to cocktail parties and heard some of these people boasting that they think they can invite members of the Government and Opposition to their cocktail parties and that is a pay off for us keeping quiet about sub-human conditions. On this I think we should join hands together and make it quite clear that whereas we welcome people coming to the Country, we will not welcome the abuse of fundamental human rights which are occurring. I have heard the hon. member for St. Joseph single out one particular employer in a new industry. I believe they have now folded up. They have changed ownership and gone. Where we find people operating so inefficiently, making use of our tax holidays and disappearing and abusing what little legislation there is, I think we had better be rid of them rathetr than having them in Barbados, because in my view it is too high a price to pay.

I am glad the hon. member made reference to wages. I believe this is an idea he has been pushing a long time and certainly we need minimum wage legislation. I am seeing too many instances in which, weekly, you have constituents coming to you arid asking you to help find a job for them and when you ask whether they are working, they say yes, when you ask where, it is in one of the new industries which are paying those girls $12 and $14 a week for working long hours a day. When you ask if they are members of the Union, you realise they seem to be scared to join, and you have to instruct them to go and see Mr. Greaves or Mr. Nurse or Mr. Walcott on this matter. We have to protect people like these. I think every member of Parliament has seen this occurring from time to time and sometimes feel helpless

in being able to give the correct advice on this matter. I do not think we should have a conspiracy of silence. Wherever it has been possible I have spoken up in this regard to people I have come in contact with. I am glad it has been mooted again in this House. I believe the Minister will take note of it. I do not know if his Ministry has started working on it at all, but I would have thought that this is the type of legislation that Parliament should, if necessary, meet in continuous session until we put it 6n the statute book. I certainly add my voice to the well pleaded case made by the hon. member who has just sat down before I began my speech. 5.30 p.m.

(Mr. ADAMS was addressing the Chair while in his seat.)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, who is addressing you at the moment? I am not so sure.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, all I was saying to you, Sir, was that any factory legislation by now for safety in factories must include something to prevent excessive noise being made in factories. There are certain industries in Barbados where the workers are being deafened because they are not being supplied with the requisite stuff to cover their ears in very noisy trades which would have to be provided in other countries. It is a small point, I am sure the Minister and the hon. member for St. Michael West will take note of it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I am not sure that I have the right of audience now, Mr. Chairman, but certain matters were raised which I think should be replied to. In the first place, when I mentioned earlier that I had no intention of going into the accounts of the Housing Authority before my time I merely meant this, and I am going to repeat it because I want to make my position clear on this matter. My intention is to make a success of the job for which I have been given the responsibility. I do not intend to sit in judgement on anybody. I think the Accounts Section of the Housing Authority needs some strengthening and we have been taking steps to strengthen it. We are computerising some of the accounts, and apart from the human aspect of it, it needs to be strengthened. As a matter of fact, I had asked that someone be assigned to us to assist us in strengthening those accounts, and in that respect it is that matter I am interested in. I repeat I have no interest in a report before my time that has nothing to do with me, no interest whatsoever, it is my intention during the time that I am Minister to be interested in the accounts that I have a responsibility for, and that is the matter.

This is not the first time, of course, that we have heard that the administration at the Department of Labour is weak. We have heard it several times and I have no comment to make in that regard except to say, of course, that neither the Cabinet nor the Government as such has any responsibility for appointing workers at that department. However, I have given instructions, and those instructions have been carried out, that an investigation should be carried out into the administration of the Labour Department. A report has been made very recently, as a matter of fact, it is only a day or two now that the report has been placed in my hands and it will be studied to see how we will be able to strengthen the administration of the Labour Department. Furthermore, we have also been able to secure a place at a University in the United Kingdom where we are sending one of our officers for formal training in the disciplines of industrial relations leading to a degree, and we hope that when that officer returns to us he will significantly be able to strengthen that department.

We do not want this to be a single isolated instance, we want to send other suitable officers who can benefit from courses of this nature from time to time in order that they may have the required training. My Ministry is also proposing amendments to the Arbitration and Enquiry Act and in due course we will be inviting interested parties to meet with us to discuss proposals for such amendments. I feel very strongly that the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act of 1938 should be revised. I said it before, as a matter of fact it formed part of my address to the International Labour Organisation in Geneva last year. I mentioned then that it was my view that that legislation retards progress in developing countries. It was my view then, it still remains firmly my view and my Ministry will be looking at it very carefully, to see in what respect this Act will be amended.

There are two other points mentioned, and one was factories inspection. I informed this Chamber last year that a committee was established for the purpose of looking into all the legislation relating to safety in factories. This committee is still hard at work, it broke itself down into sub-committees for the purpose not only of examining the safety at factories but also safety at other work places and I am assured that in the not too distant future the work of this committee will be made available to the Ministry for us to have a look at it and for us to introduce the necessary changes to improve the safety at factories and other work places.

Some time ago the Government set up a committee to look into wages in this country for the purpose of establishing a minimum wage committee. This committee was constituted of various sectors representative in the community. Of course the committee had its problems and I am sure if I were to inform the House of the attendance of this committee's members, hon. members would understand. That committee has not yet reported, and I hope that in due course when this committee will have reported, or if in fact we have to take other steps, because that committee was established quite a long time now and we cannot wait for ever on it, but we may have to take alternative measures in order to bring about the kind of minimum wage that we as a Government feel should be instituted.

I think, Mr. Chairman, those were the points raised in this debate to which I think I should reply.

The question that the sum of $1,069,886 under Head 43 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 44-NATIONAL INSURANCE

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $49,764 under Head 44 - National Insurance - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.40 p.m.

HEAD 45 - LANDS AND SURVEYS Head 45 - Lands and Surveys - was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the sum of $101,373 under Head 45 -Lands and Surveys - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, there seems to be some minor difficulty, no doubt, relating to maps of Barbados, but it affects certain hon. members. I refer to Item 20 - Maps of Barbados. By law, the parish boundaries of Barbados are as shown on a map of 1882 drawn by the Admiralty Surveyors. When the aerial survey was made in 1950 of Barbados, as a result of which modern maps have been produced, it seems - and I only have the authority of a former surveyor - that they found the roads to be in slightly different positions and the villages to be in slightly different positions vis-a-vis the coast of Barbados from the Admiralty Surveyors. The Admiralty Surveyors were totally accurate in respect of the coast. They then laid down the parish boundaries - I have researched this at the Archives, and I think that these things will be found to be true - and, apparently, they took the traditional spots in which the boundaries had to be drawn and connected them together in order to arrive at the boundaries.

Mr. Chairman, as hon. members will appreciate, if the road was a little out of its true position, you can get an ambiguity when its true position on the map is established. Now, the method used by the Colonial Office Surveyors was to take the overall scheme of the parish boundaries - in other words, they treated it as if there were no roads, villages or other landmarks - they just took the points at which the parish boundaries intercepted the coastland; used the appropriate angles, and superimposed this on the 1950 map. The result of it is that one or two traditional boundaries have found themselves in a different place from the place in which they are shown on the 1882 map.

My particular interest is the boundary between St. Thomas and St. James. Traditionally, the boundary between St. Thomas and St. James runs from the present site of the front door, I believe, of Clairmonte's House - although it should be noted that Clairmonte's House had rebuildings and so on since 1882 - to a point in the road near what is called Curiosity Village. I do not think hon. members would be familar with the site at Curiosity Village, because it no longer exists. Anyhow, it goes to a particular point in the middle of the main highway just where the road begins to fall off at the point where you should go down to Sea View. You go from Reeves Hill into Sea View, there is a little hill, and the boundary is supposed to be there. Now, these are traditional boundaries which existed, and when the Admiralty Surveyors came to draw the boundaries they drew them from the middle of the road to the present site at Clairmonte's House.

Now, if you look at the maps of Barbados at present, you will see that they have drawn the boundaries from a point about 900 yards, and not even feet, of the traditional parish line. They seem to have the other line correct, Sir, because they run it from the present Clairmonte's House, but the whole boundary has been shifted to the East cutting off a very small part of the village of Arch Hall. It is not yet a serious problem because the legal map shows the correct boundary and shows Arch Hall entirely to be in St. Thomas as we all have known for over 200 years. But the line, as shown on the present map, passes

through Arch Hall and it goes too far East. It nearly cuts off Ridgeway Plantation.

I believe that in the last election, not 1971, a mistake was made in the registrations around there and the mistake was subsequently corrected. I have selected a boundary which I know well and which is of some interest to me, but I believe it will also be found that there are shifts in other boundaries. It will surprise hon. members, perhaps, to know how many parish boundaries meet in the middle of a road. It was selected for that purpose. The boundary between St. Joseph, St. Andrew and St. Thomas meets in a particular part of Spring Vale Road. It meets in the middle of the road. It is drawn in such a way as to include the whole of Chapman's Village in St. Thomas, for example. These are small points.

Mr. Chairman, the new maps have several shifts away from many of the traditional boundaries and are, to that extent, misleading. Now, the Chief Surveyor previous to the present incumbent took the view that all we could do would be to take the boundaries from the 1881 map where they met the coastline, superimpose them on the new maps and they would be the boundaries. That is the old Chief Surveyor's view. The new Chief Surveyor's view is that a case may be made out that the boundaries had a few wrong angles in 1882, and that they should be correctly angled. In other words, if the boundary should run from point A to point B, then it should run from point A to point B on the new maps as well.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know which view is correct. I only know, for example, that when you drive down by the Lazaretto Road, you will see at one point that you are now leaving St. Michael, and when you look in the other direction you will see that you are now leaving St. James. I wonder how many members are aware of the fact that the 1882 boundary between St. Michael and St. James indeed crosses the road at one of those points and the boundary on the other map crosses at a different point. The two maps show a variation of a few yards on Highway 1 between St. Michael and St. James. I am hoping the surveyors are going by the new map. If they went by the old map they would have to put in different boundary lines.

I would suggest to the hon. member that this matter be analysed before it ever comes to court, whether on an election petition or not, because I can see that that may well be grounds for arguing that persons voted in districts for which they are not entitled to vote. I do not know how many hon. members know this, but after the City by-election in 1969, in one district, two-thirds if not three-quarters of the people voted against the hon. member now sitting on my left. I went to the Electoral Office and said that those people did not live in the City, and I had duplicated objection of almost every voter in that voting centre. Those people were all struck off, and I believe that the number of voters in that area was reduced to ten or twelve. The whole district is now a part of St. Michael South, but it would have been an imbalance at the polling station anyhow. These things can happen. These little errors in the boundaries can have certain repercussions one way or another. Before the repercussions reach the court, I wonder whether the Minister would care to ask the surveyors whether some research into the traditional boundaries could not be undertaken and the boundaries drawn or redrawn as the case may be. I submitted to the former surveyor a map which had been corrected before it was issued, because the said boundary of which I am speaking, between St. James and St. Thomas, had a printed correction drawn across it. One boundary line was crossed out and a new boundary line printed on before the map came from England to Barbados. It seems that the correction must have been made in only one edition of ' the map, because they have gone back to the wrong one. I believe if they had made the Minister aware of it,

he would have set the machinery in motion to have it analysed before it was too late.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few points with regard to the complement of surveyors in this department. From time to time we have heard explanations given by various Ministers, I can think of the Minister of Communications and Works, that part of their problems for providing areas on which people can put their houses is due to the delay in getting the surveys done. 5.50 p.m.

If this is so, it seems to me that perhaps there is some room for increase in the staffing of this department. I know that it is contemplated that there should be a National Housing Corporation and that the Minister will take over in due course full responsibility for the operation of housing, and then he might be able to re-deploy his technical staff in a much better manner than probably he can do in the present arrangement by which we have, I think, two different statutory bodies looking after different aspects of housing. I would like to say in case this is taken as a criticism of the staff in any way, that certainly in the last two years there have been great reorganisation of the surveying section of the Ministry, and today I think one is seeing a higher standard of professionalism than one noticed in past years. I believe that these officers are over-worked. I know they are still having problems getting old plans from surveyors in the Island who have kept them as their personal property, and have not always made them available to the Government's Chief Surveyor. I would like the Minister, if he has had information that there has been representation made on these points, to really examine them. Certainly to us looking in from outside, it seems that there is not a sufficient complement of staff in this department, or alternatively that what staff exists in the Government and statutory services cannot be properly deployed having regard to the present legal arrangements which exist.

The other point I should like to make on this Head of the Estimates relates to Government's lands in general. I do not know whether any hon. member of this House or indeed any member of the public can find an inventory of what lands are owned by the Government and by Statutory Boards. I would have thought that from time to time We would have seen publised a list of the properties which Government owns. I doubt whether the Government knows how much land it owns, Mr. Chairman, or where the land is situated other than the general description that it happens to be in Barbados, nor perhaps does it know how well it should make use of the lands which it owns. One of the first tasks the Minister should direct himself to under this Head is a proper inventory of Crown lands and set this out for the benefit of the House and for the Country as a whole. From time to time we see the Minister come to this House for approval to Resolutions for compulsory acquisition and the case is advanced that Government needs additional office space, Government needs additional lands for doing this or that, and I really seriously believe that Government has enough property, which if properly used today, would save further expenditure on some of these Heads. I have seen Government properties lying waste without being occupied for a considerable time. I have already cited under another Head of the Estimates the House on the Pine Plantation Road. How long must this remain unoccupied? If we had to pay interest.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I would like to inform the House that that particular house has been allocated to the Training Division, so that very soon you will see someone operating there.

Mr. FORDE:

I am indebted to the Minister for the information that some division has at long last got that house, but it has been several months that it has been unoccupied, and if the price paid for the house was borrowed

at commercial rates of interest, then Government would recognise the loss they would have suffered during this period of time.

I want to speak also specifically about some lands recently acquired. I am talking about the twelve plus acres at the Marine. That is top class land with tremendous potential, and I would like the Minister to advert to bringing a plan to this House on how the Government proposes to use this land rather than allowing it to lie down there forever and ever amen. If the Minister has not got any plans, perhaps he could listen to a few from the member who represents that constituency. We have a great need for an expansion of housing in that area. It could be used for that purpose. We have a need for the expansion of the St. Matthias School; they are cramped and have no adequate playing ground. It could be used for that purpose. I would not like it to be used for resale to private developers, and I want to make this point; I do not believe that statutory bodies or indeed the Crown should dispose of the fee simple of land bought by the Government for public purposes other than by way of exchange, so that they may re-align boundaries or get a better piece of land for development in these circumstances. I heard the Minister sotto voce say that the Government does not sell land. This is using the Government in the sense of the Crown in right of its Government of this Island, and not by Saying that public lands are not disposed of by Statutory Corporations out and out. I think that policy is wrong and I have said so before, and I will continue to repeat that it is a wrong policy to dispose of lands at 36 cents a square foot to allow private developers to 30 cents per square foot to develop and resell to this country at $1.80, and one of the uses to. which the Government might put the land would be to go into the land market and bring down the price of land. If the Statutory Corporations and the Crown have rab lands that are suitable for housing, there is no reason why Government should not enter the commercial sector in this field in order to alleviate and reduce the high price of land in some areas.

Mr. Chairman, Government must have a total concept of the economy and merely to acquire and keep it there without any proper use being made of it, is not satisfactory. I hope the Minister of Housing would get together with the Minister of Agriculture under whom A.D.C. and some of the other bodies come, and have an over-all view of what we are going to do. I want to see a plan for the Marine Lands. I do not mind if they tell me the priority is not for the next five years; I want to see a plan where the land is being properly used for the good of the Country. We have a pressing need in that area for house spots. People are willing to purchase or to get what we call a statutory option to purchase or to get a lease for 50 years. The Crown could well give leases for 50 years to small holders and other people and finally to help benefit the land accruing to the Crown eventually if it becomes necessary. These are points that have been bothering me, and I would not like the Minister to believe that Lands & Surveys appear to be a dull subject and therefore they are going unnoticed.

I would like to see him as he now has power under another Act which we have recently amended, lay down proper regulations dealing with the use of this, and giving to Parliament from time to time a list of the properties, accounting for what is being done with them and showing how the best economic use is being made of the lands which have been acquired. We have acquired estate after estate, some of them with quite a lot of tenantries. We heard that the private sector is being asked to give over their plantation tenantries, and I think the Hon. Prime Minister said that they are willing to get rid of

them. I want to see Government use its tenantry areas properly and do something about them; set the example so that others may follow. The Minister has a whole year in here. By next Estimates I do not want to hear him make the same sort of speech he has made under an earlier Head where he said that he

heard that speech before and that he gave an undertaking before. I want to see performance. I have been reminded by the hon. member for St. Peter that there is land at Waterfords where some development can be started. We are not bereft of this House; ideas came both from Government back benchers, from this side of the House and from front benchers sometimes thinking as they go ahead, and I would not like the Government to ignore the ideas and throw them out. 6.00 p.m.

I would not like the Government just to ignore the ideas and throw them out. The Australian legislation in particular provides a wonderful model dealing with landlord and tenant relationship, and also especially security of tenure for people whilst retaining for Government actual fee simple for its property. Another thing I will tell the Minister. A lot of the land that has been rented on the Harbour Road and in that area has been rented at too low a rate. I believe that people who have prime land like that should pay proper rents for leases, and I would like him again in view of the new land tax to have some site values placed on Government land do that the rent would reflect the type of area occupied by these lessees, and they should actually be examining rents where he would have additional revenue overall in the Ministry of Housing in order to relieve the chronic housing situation in the Country.

The question that the sum of $101,373 under Head 45 - Lands and Surveys - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 47 - PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hon. P. G. j MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $102,384 under Head 47 - Public Relations - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with the question of broadcasting, because I think that this is one of the subjects that the Government when they were in opposition used to hammer at the then Barbados Labour Party Government. We have seen in recent months, and indeed since the last general election, the advent of what might be called Government by the mass media, especially television. One would remember that during the last election the Prime Minister said that as far as he was concerned he did not have to hold any public meetings, and we had a classic example recently of what he meant when he said this, because what has happened during the last two years is that the Government has utilised the television for purely party political broadcasts and at the same time have denied this right to the Opposition party in this Country. This is something on which we on this side of the House feel very strongly. If there is something to tell to the nation there cannot only be one view on it, not only the Prime Minister or Minister of Finance, or the Minister for Communications or any other Minister has anything to tell the people of this Country, but you find that from time to time startling revelations are made.

Take the instance with the shrimp industry where instead of coming to the House and telling the House about the establishment of the shrimp industry and setting out the proposals for it, the Minister of Trade went on television and made his remarks and disclosed to the public at large that the shrimp industry

would be set up one way, but when it came before the House, as a result of the criticisms made by the Opposition which the Government accepted as valid criticisms, they went away and came back and changed the structure of the shrimp industry. That is an example of constructive opposition. Instead of Ministers going and making statements on television and ignoring the House of Assembly - we think this is wrong to begin with - it is an insult to Parliament more or less for Ministers to make the type of disclosures that should properly be made to Parliament on television. One saw recently, I think it was a few days after the same Minister of Trade made his remarks on television, where the Prime Minister of England was censured for making certain remarks on television which ought to have been made in the House of Commons.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I apologise but I should have mentioned an amendment to the Head in the beginning. On page 134 Item 14 - Clothing and Uniforms - is amended. You will find it in the amendments as circulated on page 4. It should read "Delete existing note and substitute the following 'To provide protective clothing, uniforms, overalls, overcoats and gloves for officers engaged in filming such as Cameramen, Technicians and for drivers and maids.' Delete the figure '15' appearing in the notes under the figure '14'." I beg to move that the sum of $102,384

under Head 47 - Public Relations - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I saw the amendment earlier as it was circulated. The point I was making was that the reaction of the House of Commons to the Prime Minister of England making a statement on television which ought to have been properly made in the House of Commons, so jealous was the House of Commons of their functions that the Prime Minister was severely criticised. We feel just as strongly and take strong objection to two things. One, going on television and making statements which should in fact be properly made in Parliament - but they do this in an effort to avoid any debate or discussion on them - but you find that in the long run as happened with the shrimp industry, that in fact you should have come to Parliament first and had a proper discussion before you went telling it in an unwise and stupid fashion to the nation. 6.10 p.m.

Another criticism is that this is a public station. I believe that the reason why C.B.C. was established in its initial stages was for the purpose of allowing party political broadcasts. I recall the former Leader of the House, now High Commissioner in London, once saying on the floor of this House that I will learn that we say a lot of things when in the Opposition, but when you are in the Government you will realise that you cannot do them. Perhaps the very Government that once criticised this party, though not the present members of this party, for conduct which, I daresay, would be reprehensible in those days for not allowing political broadcast. It is equally reprehensible of the Government of today to have deviated from the path which it had advocated in the days when it was in the Opposition.

Mr. Chairman, I see the Minister of Communications and Works smiling, and I know that he will agree that between 1956 and 1961 one of the things the Democratic Labour Party has always advocated when in the Opposition was a system of party political broadcasts. This sort of attitude does not exist

only in Barbados. At election time we were given an opportunity to do political boradcasting, but outside of that, the Opposition party in this Country is denied the use of the media unless, perhaps, we want to pay for doing it. We do not have the financial backers who are able to sponsor programmes on television fear us. That is why we are calling upon the Government to have a positive policy as regards

party political boradcasts. There are two different things. Do not let us mistake the Government Programmes and "Telling It To The Nation". "Telling It To The Nation" is nothing else but a pure, political braadcast, and anybody with any sense will know that. If the members of the Government are allowed to use the media of this country for purely political purposes, then the members of the Opposition should be entitled to that same right but not on the same ratio.

Mr. Chairman, we would recognise, as in the case of parliamentary elections, the broadcasting time would reflect a ratio of the number of seats in the House of Assembly. It can be a ratio of 3 to 1. We are not asking for time to go on television and abuse anybody. That is not the politics that we preach. We are asking for time, as in the cause of the shrimp industry, to go on the television and put forward an alternative policy, or programme, or suggestion to the Country. If the Minister of Health goes on television and states that the Government proposes to introduce a National Health Service and he sets out the form of the National Health Service, is not the Opposition of this Country to be given the right to go on television and criticise constructively what is proposed to be the National Health Service? Why cannot we criticise what is submitted by the Minister, and put forward what we think should be the National Health Service for this Country? I use that as an example. It could also be a question of education.

Mr. Chairman, we recognise that in the Budget Debate, if only because it is done in the House of Assembly, when the Minister of Finance is broadcasting live to the Country, he accords to the Shadow Minister of Finance the same right. Why should not the Shadow Minister of Finance be accorded the right to go on television on a 3 to 1 basis? Let us go on television. If we have nothing to say, then the Government benefit from it because we will be exposed to the public. On the other hand, if we go and misuse our right to use the television, then that right should be taken away from us. At this stage, I am saying that we should be given the right to use the television on a 3 to 1 ratio which reflects the position in Parliament and discuss any matter with a Minister,

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the members on this side of the House would be prepared to go on television not only with journalists who are members of the Barbados Labour Party and who will be there to support the Barbados Labour Party to interview us, as is done in most cases by members of the Government, The whole purpose of "Telling It To The Nation" is to take along people who are going to ask you the questions that you want them to ask you. What is the purpose of that? I think it is an insult to the journalists of this Country for a Minister to go on television and answer only the questions that he wants the journalists to ask him. That is why certain Ministers go on television and they get certain people to interview them. Those people have certain political leanings. 6.20 p.m.

They have certain political leanings and that is not right. If you are going to have a press conference on television, you should have a true press conference and allow the press to be free to come and ask the questions they want to. Do not say that you have come to talk only on housing, or on certain aspects of Home Affairs or of Communications and Works. Subject yourself and your Ministry to a broad spectrum of questioning by the press of this Country if you really want the television programmes to be

meaningful. I should hope to hear from the Minister something of what is Government's policy in relation to granting the Opposition party of this Country the right to appear on television and the mass media.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, in response to the hon. member for Bridgetown, I should like to say at the beginning that I really do not think that it could possibly be conceivable that anyone would imagine that party political broadcasts such as you hear and see on radio and television at election time could be on all-fours with the type of broadcasts that are taken up from time to time on programmes such as "Telling the Nation" by various Ministers of Government with their advisers. These are not in any sense party political broadcasts; they are Government broadcasts by Government Ministers with their advisers at their sides. Furthermore, it is impossible for some of these Ministers who have several portfolios under their direction, for example, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Communications and Works, to deal with the whole range of items on one half an hour programme, and for this reason the only direction which is given to the newsmen who form the panel or pose the questions is simply the broad category of discussion which is to take place. To suggest that they are told what questions they should ask is entirely incorrect. To suggest that they are brought there by the Government and wound up like dolls to put questions that were pre-ordained is quite incorrect.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I take issue with the Minister on this. When these programmes first started the members of the Press were requested to send in their questions

before hand, and when the Press Association objected it was stopped. When you first started the programme "Telling the Nation", the questions had to be sent in before hand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Point made.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN I really do not see how that could be that the Government was telling them what questions to ask. It was simply to try and make sure that you had a reasonable dialogue between the two people who were appearing in front of the television and cameras, but nonetheless that was changed. They did not like it and it was changed to suit the press.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, then the Minister admits that what I am saying is true when he says it was changed?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I do not see how that could possibly be a point of order. The fact of the matter is that when this programme was first introduced, it was an endeavour to try and work out the best way of arranging it so that the best results would ensue. The Press Association did not particularly like this way of doing things, and it was agreed because it is a matter which has to be done between reasonable people that this would be changed in order to accommodate the Press Association, and they are the ones to whom the invitation is issued, and they are the ones who in turn issue the invitation to certain members or certain news media and ask them to send along people. It is not, as was suggested by the hon.

member, that there are certain press men who have leanings towards the Government who are invited. The Government Information Service or C.B.C. does not tell the Advocate whom they should send.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of elucidation. I did not say that. I referred to a broadcast of the nature of the one by the Prime Minister where he got people from the University who have a certain political; complexion or affiliation. That is the type I am talking about. I did not say anything about sending journalists of a political party. I am talking about the broadcast on the Land Tax which was discussed by persons belonging to your political party.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, that particular broadcast was nothing to do with the one which is called "Telling the Nation" which the hon. member, as I recall it, did suggest that the Government not only invited journalists who were sympathetic to the Government's point of view and loaded them with questions, but also that we specified which journalists should come. That is simply not so. Neither C.B.C. nor the Government Information Service nominates these journalists. The News Editor of C.B.C. tells whichever one of his people he wants to represent C.B.C. on the panel that he is on the panel for that day, but as far as the Advocate, Rediffusion, Reuters News Service or whoever else it may be is concerned, and occasionally there are people like Mr. Cozier, father or son, and other news people who are there from time to time, no questions are submitted in advance as was explained. There is only the broad head; of subjects which are to be discussed and this has to be in order to contain it within some reasonable kind of discussion that it does not wander all around the world before it comes back again.

Mr. Chairman, the point is that these Government broadcasts by Ministers with their advisers are for the purpose of informing the public about something which is about to take place or something which has taken place, and it is not a question of the Government's view point. It is not a question therefore of anyone else coming along and presenting an opposing view.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, is the Hon. Minister saying that when a Minister goes on television and tells the nation, that he is not expressing the Government's view point? What nonsense am I being told in here now?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

What nonsense for a point of order is that? The point is that they are giving facts which are endeavouring to explain to the people of the Country things that are transpiring within their particular portfolios, and they have expert people from different departments to help them to do so, and this is an information service; it is not an indoctrination service. It is by no means a party political broadcast, and it would be pointless to invite people to give opposing points of view.

Mr. FORDE:

If the Hon. Minister would give way, would he concede that the Opposition cm these occasions are named and attacked?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
I did not hear what the hon. member said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I think all hon. members have the right to speak. I am not going to allow these interruptions.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
The hon. member for Bridgetown had suggested that if they had the opportunity to present a different point of view on a particular subject, then this would be helpful to the people. Yes, I agree that it would at election time, because that is the only time when people have the opportunity to make up their minds in a choice of two things. 6.30 p.m

The people in their very great wisdom made up their minds about 18 months ago and will do so again in three and a half years or so. In the meantime, the facts are to be given to the people and we shall continue to endeavour to give the facts whether the facts be facts concerning the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Trade, or whether indeed it is necessary to ask the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister of Finance to go on television and explain the finer points of the land Valuation Act and all its implications. I hope that this has explained the particular point for the hon. member for the City.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, I want to make a brief comment under this Head, and I would like to confine my remarks to Item 17 - Broadcasting. If I were not in Parliament and I was in what is locally known as a rum shop I would use the type of language which should best be used to the member who has just sat down. I would hate to refer to him as a bare faced brazen type of individual.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Now, now, now, now. Mr. CRAIG Now, now what man? Mr. CHAIRMAN Sit down.

Mr. CRAIG:
Do not shout at me, tell me to take my seat.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Sit down! I do not want to hear one word when I am speaking. Every hon. member must be silent when I stand, and I want all hon. members in this Parliament to adhere to Rule 28(10). I have mentioned it once already and I will mention it once again. You may continue your address.

Mr. CRAIG:
You mean that the hon. member may continue his address, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
You could not be an hon. member if you were not in here, so when I say the member may continue I mean the hon. member.

Mr. CRAIG:

You said you may continue your address, so I just drew it to your attention that you meant the hon. member may continue his address. If I still had to use the rum shop language I would refer to the hon. member as being bare faced and brazen. The story which we heard from him this afternoon would probably go down in history as Black Snake would go down with the hon. member who has just sat down. For the hon. member to stand here and tell us that the broadcast "Telling the Nation" is not used for political purposes, the member seems to think we are children. Since that is his view, I am calling on the Minister who is responsible for broadcasting to give this House the assurance that he will once every year or once every six months invite a member from this side to sit on the panel to interview one of the Ministers when they are telling the nation about the Country's business. Since it is not for the purpose of telling the public their political views, I would like that Minister, the hon. and gallant Minister, to give this Committee this assurance.

It is regrettable, however, Sir, to see the amount of crime in the television broadcasts, and this is what I am really concerned with. My colleagues may be concerned with Telling the Nation," I am concerned with the kind of nonsense that is shown on television, all the sophisticated crime, how to break and enter homes, how to pick locks, how to shoot down people and kill people, nothing at all that you can consider really educational to the Country, especially since we have a high wave of crime now in this Country. The Minister on the other hand has the audacity to state publicly that he withdrew his patronage from the film 'Black Snake."

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

On a point of order, the hon. member has said, I believe, that he was speaking under Item 17 - Broadcasting, and I do not really altogether understand what we are on now, because this broadcast concerns solely the production of the Government Information Service programmes. There is nothing whatever in this Head which concerns the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, where else do we broadcast from? If the hon. member can tell me that, I will be happy to accept it. He thinks that we are still in the dark ages when the Englishmen could fool us, but that is not true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order, the hon. member has the right to speak.

Mr. CRAIG t Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member that I do not know what it is all about, and I would like to apologise to the Minister in particular, because the only other broadcasting station I know we had in Barbados was the St. Lawrence Hotel which was burned down and which was owned by the Hon. Minister. I only know about CBC, if there was another broadcasting station before my time or his I cannot say, the only other station I knew was the St. Lawrence Hotel which was owned by the Hon. Minister and which was set on fire.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, one thing I object to is that he says it was set on fire. He has no proof of this, and when he refers to the hon. member for Christ Church North Central and makes this

insinuation the inference he is asking the public to draw is quite clear, and he should not impute improper motives. You are accusing the man of a crime, that is what you are doing. I am the biggest idiot in Christendom that I cannot understand what the hon. member for St. James is trying to insinuate in this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, if the hon. member said it was set on fire and the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works says he is imputing a criminal offence to the hon. member, set on fire by whom?

Mr. CHAIRMAN; No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The hon. member was a lawyer, I do not think he is still a lawyer. He loses his intelligence when he comes to Parliament.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Not only is it imputing improper motives, it is irrelevant to the debate. What is the relevance of the St. Lawrence Hotel to a debate on Public Relations and Broadcasting?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am prepared to hear the hon. member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know what is wrong with the Minister of Communications and Works; the Leader of the Opposition is not in his place and that is why he is getting on like that. The hon. member said I do not know what I am talking about. It is true that I do not know enough, but I do know however that it is really unfortunate that information is placed in the hands of the hon. member. In this day and age, Mr. Chairman, are your children and my children to be told what they should see and what they should read by that particular Minister? This is not really fair. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, in the year 1973, must my children and your children be told what they should read and what they should see, by that particular Minister? As long as I am alive, I would never be able to see eye to eye with the Prime Mnister of this Country, because I feel that when the member's name was put up for membership of a political party it was a retrograde step. Mr. Chairman, sometimes I feel wry worried that I will have to look at him for four years. Are you telling me that "Telling The Nation" on CB.C. is not putting over the Government's point of view? That is not fair to us, and then the Mnister has the audacity to state publicly that he has withdrawn his patronage from the film "Black Snake"! All that has gone wrong is that his ancestral conscience has pricked him.

Mr. Chairman, how can I understand 4n this day and age that in a country with about 95 per cent of black people, he has the courage to come and contest a seat in a constituency with 98 per cent black people living there and even at that stage they still bow to his complexion?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. In this Country I do not think that we are preaching discrimination.

We are a cosmopolitan group in this Country whether you are white, black or grey, and every citizen in this community has the right to contest a seat, as the Mnister of Communications and Works has pointed out earlier today. As long as you can find the $240, you are of age, and it is felt that you are a suitable person to be in Parliament, then the people will vote for you. The mere fact that the people in that particular constituency have voted for the hon. member is evidence that the hon. member has a contribution to make, has made a contribution, and a greater contribution than a lot of us in here.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am not going to have any further tirade in Parliament. You must now speak with decorum and adhere to the Standing Orders, or I will have to use the necessary authority.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, it is some time now that I have been watching the attitude and the habits of the Hon. Mnister of Public Relations. The members on this side have complained that there are several publications and statements of which we have not had any communication whatsoever. The Hon. Mnister gave the assurance in this House that he would communicate with the hon. member for Christ Church West in respect of these communications. Mr. Chairman, I am dealing particularly with "Telling It To The Nation." Now, the hon. member stated quite clearly that when a Minister goes oil television he is not expressing the Government's view point. I want to challenge him on this statement.

Mr. Chairman, if you are telling me that when a Minister goes before the Nation on television he is not putting forward the Government's policy, then it means that the Minister is pursuing his own private policy. Quite recently the Minister of Agriculture went on television, I believe, twice in the space of two weeks, to deal with a crisis which was facing this Country. I believe that, as Minister of Public Relations, it was his duty to inform this Honourable House of the situation which has arisen and had forced the Minister of Agriculture to go on television twice in a short space of two weeks to explain something which sought to damage the whole agricultural concept of this Country. Up to now the Hon. Minister will stand up in this House brazenly and defend his action without even explaining to the House the lack of communication which now exists between the Government and the Opposition, despite the fact that he is the Minister of Public Relations. How can you say that the Minister is doing the job that he is put here to do? How can he come to the House and defend a situation such as this?

On speaking of what the Head relates to, there is a fantastic sum of $13,449 dealing with the Film Unit. Throughout the Caribbean today, Mr. Chairman, agriculture is suffering, and everybody who has an interest in agriculture is trying to get it back to its former position. Ask the Hon. Minister what is the programme for the Film Unit to take films and show to the people of this Country in an effort to encourage the whole nation to see the benefits from agriculture? He cannot tell you anything about that, but he will say in public that he has withdrawn his patronage from "Black Snake." Why did he not give his patronage to a film produced by the Barbados Film Unit which would show to the public the values in agriculture, the concept which it embodies, and what should be done to enhance the position of this Country? Why does he not go on the television on the "Telling The Nation" Programme, and tell the people of the crisis which is facing every agricultural organisation in this Country? But he will come to Parliament to defend his inability to carry out the duties of a Public Relations Officer.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot even worry with him when he talks about the broadcast and says we

are not talking about C.B.C. Ask him what is the position of C.B.C. now? Even on C.B.C. one can scarcely hear or understand what Ministers are trying to tell the nation. In talking about the Film Unit, he says that we do not broadcast. I do not know whether we broadcast films, and I would like to know that now. The quality of the broadcast is so poor, I would really like to know from where we are broadcasting. Those are the questions he should answer, and those are the answers he should have, but he should not come here to defend the indefensible.

Mr. Chairman, $2 million has been thrown into C.B.C, and he is the Minister responsible for it. If you come to St. Philip where I live you will find that you cannot get a clear broadcast of C.B.C. up to now. You hear people talking about C.B.C. AM and FM, and he has come in here with a long-distance story which has not yet materialised. I would like to hear the truth about these things, because I would like to hear the Hon. Minister of Agriculture when he is telling the nation things that are really happening, but it might be in his interest to make sure that the Government Broadcast does not come out as clearly as possible. 6.50 p.m.

Those are the things I would like to hear him tell this Committee about this evening; so do not talk foolishness.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think last year I made a rather long speech under this Head and drew various matters to the attention of the Minister. I should like to state that I receive the information bulletins which are issued from time to time by the Ministry of Information and Public Relations, and when I got these bulletins I have passed them on as fast as I can.

I would like to make one or two statements about the staffing situation at the Ministry. From time to time we have by supplementary resolution had to increase the establishment of that organisation, and no doubt the output of the Ministry has improved. One regrets, however, the fact that all the civil servants in that Ministry do not feel easy in operating under the present conditions. I would challenge the Minister to deny that they have put what is tantamount to a ban on the Chief Information Officer appearing on television. Now if this was other than a public law situation and it was a private law situation, you might well find that this could amount to a breach of contract with the person concerned. I think it is very unfair to the Chief Information Officer that he should be treated in a position that not only must he submit to the Minister and

to the Prime Minister any programme he wants to go on television with, regardless to how insignificant it is, and that of his staff, he is the only man who cannot appear on television, but any other junior officer will appear on television. The result of that has been a complete undermining of the discipline of the information section of the Ministry, and junior officers look up to him and make any sort of comments about him. This is true. Ask the Government to lay on the Table of this House the correspondence on the matter. That is the sort of indirect victimisation of civil servants I talk about in this Country, and because they believe that he has the guts to. stand up and refuse to resign from the public service, he is being sacrificed up there with not one person who has the guts to touch the issue not even the Public Service Commission. I am not afraid to touch this issue. I think it is down right unfair

and political victimisation in an unfair guise against a decent member of the public service, who carried that Information Service and pushed the views of the Government on many occasions when there was no concept in this Country of what was public relations. I understand that when civil servants do not produce; you put a bit on them but in this particular officer's case, there is no doubt that he has been given a hard time. Let the Government deny it. Ask the Government to have an enquiry into it. If the Public Service and the National Union of Public Workers lack so much guts that they cannot stand up for the officer, this Country will come to a very sad past. They should join the Barbados Workers' Union- because when the Barbados Workers' Union has something to say about it, then the Government would bend to them. The other civil servants are afraid to touch the issue, but I think it is most unfair to him, and I could not remain in this Country without raising this issue regardless of what is said about it in the future. I think we must give justice to the public service, and it is an unfair way of dealing with him in the matter.

I should like to move on from that aspect to a few other points I raised for the Minister's attention. In past years this Country published what was tantamount to a handbook yearly. That; practice has virtually ceased. It should be revised. We need an authoritative statement in this Country of the organs of Government, of Parliament, of Ministers, highlighting various other things, I drew this to the Minister's attention last year. I do not know if he has got around to it yet, but I trust he will in due course get around to attending to this part.

Last year I mentioned the question of a Foreign Relations bulletin. Let me state that I

make no bones about the fact that if praise is due to somebody I will give it, but I also give him his criticism. That bulletin has now been implemented. I note however that the first volume of the Foreign Relations bulletin was issued in this Country without even an introductory preamble from either the Minister of External Affairs or indeed the Minister of Information and Public Relations. I expect that any properly run department would have had something to say at the beginning of these issues. I understand it was put out in a hurry; that might well be so. It is performing a useful function. I do not ask for an acknowledgement that it was my idea because as I understand the Government, anything that comes from me or from the Opposition Cannot get past; you first have to go and beg them and go down on your knees. I do not intend to beg them, but I will leave the ideas there. Posterity will judge how much sense we were talking in due course. I congratulate the Minister in moving fast on that, and I hope he will move on the other issues I have mentioned too.

Now I want to deal with the libel laws. We have been promised a Defamation Act and the Minister has from time to time both in and out of this House said that the matter is being reviewed. I think we should get past the stage of merely taking note of these things. One year has gone; it is about time we got a new Act dealing with the laws of libel and slander.

I want to come on to broadcasting, and particularly I think it is quite right that one should really see the true entirety of the "Telling It to The Nation" programme. It is all right to get up and tell the public that this is giving vital information which the Government must give. If you read my speech last year, the Minister will see that I said it is necessary for the Government to put before the people the work being done by Government. This is legitimate, but there is no doubt that the use of the information media gives to the Government an undue advantage in putting a one-sided case to the Country at any time, and if Barbados is supposed to be a democratic state with its institutions properly developed, it

should have no fear of opening the broadcasting and television media to every person so that there can be free broadcasts, and there can be at times agreement with, or constructive criticism of Government policy. I understand that the reply that is always made under this Head to us is that back in 1951 or prior to 1961 you all did not allow us to go on the broadcasting station. It would be a great pity if the development of this Country is going to be stymied by harping back on what has Happened fifty or twenty-five years ago. I do not buy that argument, Mr. Chairman.

I believe that if a Government is progressive as they say they are, if a Government is efficient as they say there are, if a Government is performing well as they say they are, then the Government should have no fear of its performance, of its progress being impartially examined on the radio station. Do you know Mr. Chairman, when this matter is going to be settled? When the first case is brought in this Country under the fundamental provisions of the Constitution making C.B.C. open its station to paid programmes for political purposes, because a lot of people believe that it cannot be done. At some stage a challenge is going to have to be made into the legality of the operation. I would have thought that the Minister of Communications and Works in particular who yesterday asked us to extend the hand of cooperation and let us have no partisan politics in the interest of the nation....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to ask hon. members on my right to adhere to Standing Order No. 33(6). 7.00 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

What is the fear of allowing the Opposition, which is part of Her Majesty's Government - I am not talking about the Barbados Labour Party - the Opposition has a right to speak in "Telling It To The Nation" as well. I understand the Minister to say that the television broadcasts are not used for party political purposes. They are used for political purposes, this is not denied, so that when the Government is speaking it is not speaking as the Democratic Labour Party. He would have us believe this. I look at the programme sometimes, and I as well as a large section of the public have our ideas about this. When we will be speaking on it we will not be speaking as the Barbados Labour Party, we will be speaking as the opposition party, part of the Government of this Country. I dare the Minister to ask the Prime Minister, because eventually it has to go back to hima he is not only primus inter pares, he is primus inter pares omnia because none of the Ministers would have the guts to say to his face that they are convinced of the righteousness of our argument and that this should be so. Do you know when there will be righteousness in the argument? When the Country throws them out and we go over there, and if we adopt the same bad tactics that they have now. That is supposed to be politics, that is in my view the low level of politics in this Country, that the Government cannot concede that people should have the right to hear different points of view.

The Minister said that election time is the only time that the people would have to make up their minds, so the people must wait for another four years and at that time they will then make up their minds and at that time they can hear you. Are you telling me that a country at election time take political broadcasts on a partisan basis, make up their minds despite these political broadcasts, are not at the moment sufficiently mature to hear broadcasts on political subjects from other than the Government's point of view? Are you seriously telling me that that statement made by the Minister does not represent the ultimate in guided or misguided democracy that you find in some of the worst dictatorships in parts of the world? I do not want people to come and tell me that Barbados has no restrictions on broadcasting, because it does. You are getting the position where the Minister is telling it to the nation

on land tax, he is given a signal that the 45 minutes are up and he takes a turn in the subordinate staff of C.B.C. telling them it is not Henry Forde's station and that the station belongs to him. Is that the way to treat the staff of C.B.C? This is the concept, with all due respect, which the head of the Government has about broadcasting and the radio stations in this Country.

I am not going to misquote them on anything, this is the truth. Simply because they had the guts on one programme, when they could not find anybody else to expose me to the Minister, the first question they asked me was on women's rights. That annoyed the Prime Minister and I was surprised they did not sack people for it. That led to a big row and subordinate staff being ill treated as a result of that. What is wrong with opening the radio station, and Barbadians should wake up because a lot of Barbadians know that what I am saying is right. A lot of the journalists know that what I am saying is right, but everybody is sitting down waiting to get his little piece, indirect forms of patronage, and are afraid to stand up to tell the Government they are wrong. A lot of the journalists seem too frightened to stand up on issues of this nature and make their points. Somebody has to wait for some form of indirect patronage. I have no patronage to make, I believe that the present policy being pursued by the Government in relation to broadcasting and opening the radio stations is a wrong policy, that it is not a democratic policy, that the station should be opened, that people should be allowed to buy time on radio and television, a political broadcasts station. I believe the Government should allow the Opposition time likewise in Parliament to make statements just as they allow the Trade Union time to make statements on trade union matters.

I do not believe that any side, either Government or Opposition, has a monopoly of commonsense or that they are the only people who can tell it to the nation, and therefore I think when the Minister begins to review the policy he should have the guts to put up a paper to the Prime Minister and stand by it. if he believes in democracy let him resign on an issue on policy as to whether the radio stations should be opened or not. Government should have nothing to be afraid of, the Minister of Education is one of the most skilled debaters that we have already in this House, and I would challenge him any time. The Prime Minister even in his most aggressive moods when he is trying to frighten me I would challenge him in my santimonious mood that he talks about, any time in "Telling It To The Nation" on any subject that he chooses at any time and then let the nation really see how it is being told. I believe that this nation of ours is as mature as the United Kingdom or America and take broadcasts on political subjects. The time has come for it and you should stop preventing it and allow the people to hear the truth on matters in the Country.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, before...

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member rose and made a speech and he cannot speak again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
He got up to speak and gave way.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very short, but what I have to say I am going to tell it like it is. It is surprising to me to hear the hon. members on that side tonight asking for the time to speak on C.B.C. time to tell the nation, when when we were establishing C.B.C. in this Country the Barbados Labour

Party Opposition opposed the establishment of a broadcasting station in this Country. They did not see the need for a broadcasting station, but tonight they come in here and they want to use the broadcasting. station. I say that as long as we are here we are going to tell it like it is and you are not going to use it. They said there was no need for a television station, they opposed television, they opposed the establishment of C.B.C. The late Sir Grantley said that we were wasting time and that he would not even listen to it. Now you hear the same Opposition that opposed the establishment of a broadcasting station in this Country say they want to go on television and broadcast.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, the hon. member sometimes gets carried away. I wonder if he has not heard his own members on that side say they opposed the building of the deep water harbour, despite the fact that they knew it was a fundamental concept of this Country to save the entire island. Now they are using it and talking about the Opposition opposing the establishment of a broadcasting station.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No Point of order.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, nobody on this side opposed the deep water harbour, they opposed the way it was going.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, the last Leader of the House.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have given all the latitude and we will get back to this Head. I really expected that the sitting would have been suspended. 7.10 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

In continuation of my address, Mr. Chairman...

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, Sir. You have got up and said that there should be a suspension and we could return. I wish to reply to the remarks that are being made now...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will both hon. members kindly sit. I am waiting on the Leader of the House to hear his position.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the position is that we suspended the relevant Standing Orders. We were really hoping to pass this particular Head and then suspend the sitting, but, if it goes on like this, I may as well suspend the sitting at this stage. Anyway, I will do so immediately after the hon. member who is speaking has concluded his speech.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
You cannot tell me when to suspend the sitting.

Mr. ADAMS:
Then we can have a debate on...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, I am continuing my address. The members of the Opposition accuse the Government of putting the Government's political views on television on "Telling The Nation". As far as I am aware, the people of this country have given a particular party the Government. The people of this Country expect to hear of progress made; of the problems arising and how they are solved; they want to hear of a crisis when it arises and what action is taken by the Government to solve the crisis, and they do not want to hear anything about that from the Opposition. If they want to hear the members of the Opposition, then they would have given the Opposition the Government.

The point at issue, Mr. Chairman, is whether the people who have put you in the Government have confidence in you and in how you are conducting their affairs. It is not a question of the Democratic Labour Party doing a television broadcast. It is the Government doing a "Telling The Nation" broadcast, and telling it to the people as it is. Telling the people, Mr. Chairman, if there is an outbreak of swine fever, as the hon. member wanted to raise an issue on. I do not agree with the hon. member that the Minister of Information should come and tell the House or anybody why a particular Minister went to tell the nation about a particular issue.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. chairman. I did not say that. I said that, despite the fact that the Minister of Agriculture went on television twice in two weeks to inform the Country of a crisis, up to now the Minister who is responsible for Public Relations has not yet made a statement to this House in relation to the crisis.

Mr. CHIARMAN:
Point of explanation made.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, the answer to that is simple. The Minister of Agriculture is quite able to take care of his Ministry. He is no novice in politics; he is no newcomer; he has 12 years of experience in public life in this Country, and he is quite capable of dealing with any portfolio which falls into his hands. In "Telling The Nation" it would be a duplication of manpower, effort and so on. Do you expect the Minister of Information to come here and waste people's time when he has con-fidence in his colleagues, and he knows that his colleagues are competent to do the jobs for which they are entrusted? Any Minister in here is capable of handling his portfolio. If the members of the Opposition ever get the Government, then they can run things the way they want to run them. Mr. Chairman, we are running the Government the way we feel like.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, speaking on Head 47, I...

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, at this point I think we will take the suspension.

I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for three-quarters of an hour.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member is on his feet, and I am going to hear him. (Asides.) Nobody is going to tell me what to do.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, cannot I speak in this House without being interrupted? I know that the Leader of the House does not hear very well, but I did not know that he could not see either, Sir. Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to be very short on Head 47. We have heard not from the Minister of Tourism, but from a Minister whom I would never have thought was the best friend of the Minister of Tourism. I never would have thought that he would have been a friend of the Minister of Tourism at all. I thought he would have remembered that when he was first transferred, the first thing that happened was that the Minister resigned as Chairman of the particular board for which the hon. member for St. Andrew would have had responsibility! Anyhow, we have heard him defend this Head, and I want, to some extent, to reply to the hon. member.

Mr. Chairman, I could not say myself that it is wrong, nor do I understand the hon. member for St. Joseph to be saying that it is wrong, for the nation to be told about the swine fever. I believe that we would like to hear the nation told the truth about swine fever. There is a difference between "Telling It To The Nation" as it is, and "Telling It To The Nation" as it really is in truth. That has been the burden of the complaint of hon. members on this side with respect to that broadcast.

I want to say a word about broadcasting generally. I said that this is partly a reply, Sir. First of all, let us get this quite clear. The Barbados Labour Party never opposed the introduction of C.B.C. That is an outright, deliberate falsehood. What we said was that private commercial broadcasting should not be introduced in this Country under any licensed agreement with...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. When the Bill was brought in here for the establishment of C.B.C, the Barbados Labour Party voted "No". The hon. member was not in here. I do not blame the hon. member, but I am talking about his father.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Point made.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, he also mentioned the late Sir Grantley Adams. Was he in the House at the time?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. I did not say that Sir Grantley was in the House. I said that Sir Grantley said he would not listen to C.B.C.

Mr. ADAMS:

When he want to curse Morgan, he curses Morgan, and when he wants to tell a lie, he tells it, too. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Get the Debates for me and see if what he said is true, please. Mr. Chairman, at the time we opposed the introduction of C.B.C. on a licensing basis with the Thomson organisation that is what we said. We have been proved correct, because after a time the Government ceased to honour the Thomson agreement. The Thomson agreement with C.B.C. has never been formally abrogated the Government said it could not sign the agreement, and refused to pay Thomson the money, and exactly the criticisms which we made turned out to be true.

I remember myself going on the platform and saying that we would not get C.B.C. opened the day that it was supposed to be opened, and it was not opened on the day that it was supposed to be opened. As far as C.B.C. television is concerned, the Labour Party has never pronounced on C.B.C. television. The Caribbean Broadcasting Act was passed at one time, and the introduction of television came much later without any question and Act of Parliament. Do not let anybody suggest, in the terms that have been suggested by the hon. member, that this was the case. (Aside.)

With regard to the deep water harbour, the Prime Minister said that the merchants should build the harbour, and that the Government had no right spending money on it. The hon. member for St. Michael West knows that is true. When we say that the Democratic Labour Party opposed the building of the deep water harbour, we know what we are saying. 7.20 p.m

There is something else. In dealing with these hon. members you have to be very careful to deal at all times with facts in writing. I am only sorry the Prime Minister is not here today, because the minutes of the Barbados Labour Party which he said yesterday did not exist, I have here in my hands, and I can recite the part when he was told not to sneer at the hon. member for St. Michael West because of his social origins. The very minutes which he said did not exist are here. So when we say something, we are not coining in here to say it casually out of the top of our heads.

Now Telling the Nation, the Government Information Service. Sir, we are in my view being hypocrites in here. We know that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is a system of out-door publicity for the Democratic Labour Party. It is no more or less than that. A Minister must be mentioned in the news every night, and then again in Telling the Nation and the Government Information Service, the Government Information Service has a duty to present Ministers to the public as often as possible. I heard the hon. member for St. Michael North West say that the Government has no fear of allowing us to go on television. I am going to issue a challenge to him. 1 want him to ask the Minister of Information to sell it to the nation about the Auditor General's Report on the Housing Authority and let him face the hon. member for Bridgetown who moved a motion reciting the very same facts that the Auditor General found to be absolutely true, every allegation and more. Let him tell it to the nation and let the hon. member for Bridgetown be a part of the panel. If he is a man, let him do that. He sent out a challenge saying he is not afraid. Let the Minister responsible for this Head preside impartially over that challenge,

and let the Minister for Housing and the Shadow Minister for Housing face each other across the Auditor General's Report. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Any time.) Mr. Chairman, the Minister for Housing said that he is ready any time. I am glad to see that he is ready to debate ,the Auditor General's Report on the defalcations and irregularities or what other people would call the stealing at the Housing Authority.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Are we on that Head?

Mr. ADAMS:
I am sorry, Sir. But the Minister said he is ready to broadcast it, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, nowhere in the Auditor General's Report is there any reference to any stealing in the Housing Authority.

Mr. ADAMS:
I said what ordinary people would call stealing. The Auditor General uses more polite language to mean the same thing.

Getting back now to the actual programmes of broadcast, on the night that an effort was made to put certain issues to the public and the hon. member for Christ Church West was a part of the panel, I tried to telephone but I do not have the special line of the Minister and could not get through, but why Was Mr. Keith Rouse cut off the air the very minute he mentioned the name of the Hon. Minister of Tourism and Public Relations? As soon as he started to say over the air that "the Minister of Public Relations was or had said or," he was cut off. Why was that? When we say that the broadcasting operations are carried on as a deliberate way of promoting the

image of the Democratic Labour Party.....

(Asides) Hon. members must not try to publish asides which may appear in the official record if they are afraid to get up and say so. I heard when the Hon. Minister telephoned me and he talked about women's rights. Do not say this exchange was not true, and I listened to that programme until I suppose 1 o'clock in the morning. Hon. members have a way of sitting down and saying something; giving an impression which as I say may even be recorded, but in fact they know they cannot get up and justify it. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. ADAMS:
It looks as though I am taking..... Mr. BOLDER Is the Chair speaking to me? All I was saying in an aside which might have been a little bit loud.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Would the hon. member please take his seat?

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, I have dealt with some of these things. I am now going to throw down an idea. It is a very fanciful idea and it has nothing at all to do with political broadcasting or otherwise. It relates to Item 20 - Government Film Unit. We have just had a very unsatisfactory situation here where a film - I have the script here of Black Snake which I have read through and I could see no reason to patronise it or to unpatronise it - which however many records it is breaking currently for receipts, and it is making more money than most other films that are shown here, has become the subject of controversy.

I am going to suggest seriously to the Government not that money be expended to make commercial films in Barbados, but some effort be made, as has been made by Governments in numerous other countries, to take a look at entering into the field of commercial films, not on the basis of making money, but on the basis of seeing how you can promote Barbados as a centre for commercial films, associate if necessary a national film corporation of some sort - we only have a Government Film Unit now because it is not important to be promoted to that level - but associate Barbadians with the making of commercial films and not merely with standing up and watching them made. The United States is the home of the film industry. It is not done there. More films are made in Italy, for example, and the Government of Italy associates itself and makes efforts to bring American film producers to Italy. I do not believe that a film which presented Italy in a bad light could be made with the facilities which are offered by the Italian Film Studios with the Italian Government's money. These are not the only Governments that do it.

Mr. Chairman, if Barbados has a potential value as a location, it may not have a tremendous value, but it may have some, let a positive effort be made to pursue an aim such as this. I do not think we should have a situation where the Minister of Tourism has to go and see a film before he can pass it. If I could get hold of this script, I am sure the Minister could get hold of one, and all he would have to do was to have read it before hand and avoid the embarrassment of coming out of a local cinema which employs Barbadians and saying something which might - it has not in the slightest, because nobody has taken him on because they are going in record numbers to see it - have had an adverse effect on the cinema's position. It isn't nice to give a man a showing of a film and then for the man to slap you in the face in a way that might affect your pocket. Do not let us fool ourselves that something nice was done in respect of that. (Asides) I would not like to think that the Minister would stoop to that level.

Mr. BOLDEN:

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There can be no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

But you have not heard me yet, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have asked the hon. member to take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation, you are judging me before the charge is read before the jury.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
And you are fighting now to make a speech.

Mr. BOLDEN:
No, Sir. All I said was "On a point of order" and you said there could be no point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member will take his seat.

Mr. ADAMS:
I do not mind giving way to the hon. member if he has a point of explanation to make if I have misrepresented something he said.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman..... Mr. CHAIRMAN That is a very illegitimate way of allowing the hon. member to make a point. I will hear the point of explanation.

Mr. BOLDEN:
What I was about to say, Mr. Chairman, is that the withdrawal of patronage in the Black Snake film was like the comment made about the two parrots in Canada that never spoke a word.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order. The hon. member must sit. 7.30 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS:
The Government will have an opportunity very soon, because I see there is a film with Miss Julie Andrews and Mr. Omar Sharif coming, which will be filmed in Barbados. I do not believe Miss Julie Andrews has ever cracked a whip in her life, nor has Mr. Omar Sharif wielded anything more deadly than a pack of cards. It is a pity the hon. member for St. Andrew is not here to hear that. I will hope that the Minister will at least ask these people when they come here to allow somebody from the Government Film Unit to come and watch techniques even, something like that. Associate those in Barbados who may need the training or the assistance on some of these various matters with the film makers. I am sure the film makers will be perfectly glad to help.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

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

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

On Resumption:-

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it reverts.

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

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 47 - PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of information, Sir, I was just about to say that the Committee could not resume because the Mace had fallen out of place. Parliament is falling to pieces.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I think that I should begin by trying to get the record straight. I think the Hon. Minister of Agriculture was at pains to state during the course of his speech that the Barbados Labour Party had opposed the establishment of C.B.C., and he stated that the House had divided on the voting. I find that the House did divide, but what we have here on record is that Mr. Smith, then member for St. Joseph, took issue not with the establishment of C.B.C., as a broadcasting station for Barbados, but he did not at all approve of Government taking taxpayers' money and setting up a broadcasting station and giving Thomson the type of concessions that were made known. That is exactly what caused the Hodse to divide, because you will find that Mr. Smith is recorded as saying- "I see that the Hon. Minister is tired and he wants to get home very quickly."

The Deputy Speaker replied to this, but Mr. Smith went on -"Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not be long in speaking on this Bill. Like other hon. members I welcome the erection of a broadcasting station in Barbados because I like to have competition."

That then, Mr. Chairman, puts the picture in its true perspective when we are dealing with the stand of the Barbados Labour Party on the establishment of C.B.C., as a broadcasting station.

Much has been said about our television, but let us for a moment cast our reflections on the Mobile Cinema because they are going to purchase another unit. We see that the old one has been going for repairs from time to time.

Can we say that the Mobile Cinema is performing its fullest function? Is it serving the nation in the way it really should? I believe that there can be a better choice of programmes for the units, and this is a question which I believe the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education have to share equal

interests in and see that the sponsoring of films for the Mobile Cinema is a matter given much greater attention and that you try to guide the nation into playing its part. 8.25 p.m.

Now, I believe that, with the present trend of people turning away from agriculture, the mobile cinema could be used as a means of encouraging our people to have an interest in some of our agricultural pursuits, and assist the Government in its programme for diversification as we go along. I also believe that in our dairy industry and in our health schemes, much could be done by the mobile cinema with a view to educating the young people. I am sure that if we were to show films, having as their object encouraging the young people into building a career by seeing what others are doing in an effort to earn a living, we would be doing something for the benefit of the nation.

I believe as well that there are some difficulties that were encountered by the Parks and Beaches Commission where litter is thrown on the beaches, and other things done by the Parks and Beaches Commission are destroyed from time to time. I believe that the mobile cinema could be used to educate the people by getting them in groups with a view to creating a type of consciousness in them and making them realise that they are part and parcel of the whole undertaking. If we were to proceed along these lines, I believe that much more could be done to assist the nation in the long run.

There is also the question of fire prevention. The mobile cinema is an ideal means for doing this. When the mobile cinema is putting on shows in the various districts, a number of people gather together in close proximity, and this will give an opportunity to educate the people in groups on such occasions.

The Minister of Tourism, Information and the like, in referring to the "Telling the Nation" broadcast, stated that it was a question of information and not indoctrination. I wonder whether the Minister really understands what he was trying to say? Let us look for a single moment at the press conferences that have been held during the past. The Minister said that before the conference is started you are told what areas you can cover. (Asides.) I find one Minister indicating to the Minister of Information that he has not been giving the House the truth about his Ministry. That is what it appears to be.

Mr. Chairman, as the Minister of Information has pointed out, it is true that the press is, from time to time, told that it can go so far and no further. I am one who, as a pressman, take objection to being asked to submit questions before you appear at the conference and so on. (Asides.) It used to happen, and I am glad to hear that it has been stopped.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. That was done in order to enable the Minister to get the necessary statistics, if "Telling The Nation" was going to be meaningful. If you wanted to know from the Minister of Communications and Works how many roads were done, the cost of water, and the cost of public transportation, you can understand what the position would be if the Minister did not have the statistics available. The object is to enable the information given to the nation to be meaningful.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am now told that, in the case of the Minister of Trade, questions had to be submitted beforehand. I sincerely hope that members of the press will have more pride in themselves at this hour, and are not submitting themselves to all of this nonsense and red tape. I believe that we have a long way to go if all of these broadcasts, our film units and our mobile cinema are to be as meaningful and useful

to the nation as we expect.

Now, let us look at what has been happening quite recently with respect to the dirty language that is being used along our streets by young people particularly. We can only use abbreviations and refer to it as the R.H language. What has been done by the Minister of Information either using the television, or the mobile cinema, to call upon these people who are glorying in this kind of filthy behaviour to put an end to it?

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the time is going to come for the Minister of Education to do something about this matter, because this type of language has brought his Ministry and the nation as a whole down to the lowest point ever.

If the opportunity presents itself tonight, I am going to tell him about this. The point of exactly where and how it has occurred he does not know.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has at its command the material and the wherewithal to bring about the type of education that is necessary and offer it to the people as an investment for the future, but that is not what is being done. 8.35 p.m.

Nobody is today particularly interested in seeing, as some little boy who cannot speak so well would say, the brutiful faces of some of these Ministers on television. (Asides.) Mr. Chairman, I took opportunity at one or two political meetings to tell the people that the face of the Hon. Minister who is just trying to be as humorous as possible is like a wild bee's nest, and he is now telling us about the compliments he gets. However, Sir, that is by the way. We have got to look at the question of agriculture. Mention was made of the shrimp industry. There are many of the projects that Government embarked upon from time to time.

On the Nurses Registration Act and the Land Valuation Act the mobile cinema should have gone out to the people carrying the news in advance, educating them and making them feel they are part and parcel of the whole exercise, and I am sure that Government will find in the long run that educating people as we are suggesting they should, would be to the lasting benefit of us all. You will find, Sir, that there is a sort of awareness which has got to be cultivated amongst us with respect to patients who are discharged from the Mental Hospital. I believe no better medium could be used than the mobile cinema in bringing families to appreciate the situation when these people are discharged, and make it easier for these people to be rehabilitated with their families, and make them understand that mental illness is not what they had all along been taught to believe - that once mad always mad. That is what the mobile cinema could be used for, for the benefit of us all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I think the allotted time is about to expire.

Mr. HINDS:
I take your warning, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate your position. There are a few points which I really wanted to make in this matter. At Item 21 you propose spending $1,600 for the purchase, production and postage of booklets, pamphlets and publications to the overseas missions and other news media. For one whole year what are we really going to publish for $1,600 bearing in mind today's cost

of material, of labour and all that is involved. I really do not think they are serious, and I think that is in itself an indication that the Minister of Information does not have very mulch to offer to the nation. However, nothing as it is, he will try to tell. There is a case, Mr. Chairman, where we have numerous parents who are not sending their children to school. We are aware of the circumstances which these.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am well aware of the point the hon. member was going to make, but I was speaking, and I now notify the hon. member that his time has expired.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a very brief intervention on this particular matter. I wish to state that I have not had the privilege of appearing on the programme Telling the Nation. I am not begging for any time, but when I wish to make statements I will make them in my own way.

I wish to advert to two points which have been made during this discussion. Quite a lot of song and dance has been made of the fact that journalists have been asked to submit subjects for which Ministers may be responsible or they might even be asked to submit questions. I myself do not take any big exception to the need to submit either topics or for that matter questions. I do not think there is anything fundamentally wrong with the submission of either topics for discussion or even questions for which answers may be required, because in this very Chamber members are asked to submit their questions beforehand, and Mr. Chairman, you have pointed out from time to time that this is the highest court in the land, so I do not see how a fourth estate could of right be expected to be given necessarily better treatment than this honourable Chamber itself. Hon. members have to submit their questions beforehand, but that does not prevent them if they require an oral reply from asking supplementary questions. Mr. Chairman, it is really not material to me whether questions or topics are submitted beforehand, because if one is familiar with the working of one's Ministry, as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has said, you can deal with the questions asked by journalists whether they are journalists in their own right or whether they are fortified by the probing brilliance of the member for Christ Church West or from any of the other hon. members on the other side. 8.45 p.m.

I merely wish, Mr. Chairman, to ...../Asides).....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Is the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Communications addressing the Chair?

Hon. F. G. SMITH; Mr. Chairman, there is no such portfolio as Agriculture and Communications, there is a Ministry of Communications and Works.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I believe I made the point.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, is the Minister saying that no politician should be questioned unless questions

have been submitted to him in advance? Is that what he is actually saying? Is the hon. member saying that he should not be questioned by anybody who is not an actual working journalist?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I am certain you will rule that that is not a point of order, it is a point of disorder. I am not saying any such thing, nor is the hon. member going to put any words in my mouth. All I am saying is that there is no need to make any big song and dance about whether questions or topics are submitted beforehand. Any journalist worth his metal if he is required to submit a question beforehand can submit that question and have a battery of supplementary questions to elicit the type of information on the topic which he requires The hon. member for St. Thomas demonstrates those skills in this very Chamber on any matter in which he is particularly interested. I do not really wish to say anything more on this particular topic.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, since the Minister has touched on the question of press conferences, will he give any undertaking now that when the Beacon is re-established that a reporter of the Beaton newspaper will at long last be admitted to Government press conferences?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I will await any further information which at the appropriate time will be put forward by the hon. member for St. Peter, but at this particular stage I reject categorically any statement which he has made to the effect that die Ministry of Education is at its lowest ebb at this particular time.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation, Sir, what I told the Minister was that later during the night I hope to prove to him, that is, if we go to the Capital Estimates, I will put before him evidence to prove that the production of his ministry has gone below zero and that he should not now deny anything categorically. He has not given me the opportunity to put the evidence before him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Point of elucidation made.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I want it stated from now - and the hon. member for St. Peter made his point about my ministry being at its lowest ebb, he has now added that it is at zero- that on information available to me, and I will await the information he will give, but I now reject categorically any statement, implication, inference or suggestion that the Ministry of Education is at its lowest ebb.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN rose. Mr. BOLDEN rose.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, on what has the hon. member risen? I asked a question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am waiting to hear what he has risen on.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
Mr. Chairman, I am rising to reply as the introducer of this Head.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I want to draw to the attention of the Chair, Standing Order 66(8). Just now the Minister of Housing was careful to point out to you that the hon. member for St. Peter had exceeded his time. The hon. member spoke earlier tonight and he had already moved the Head.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, we are not guided in this Chamber solely by Standing Order 66, we are guided by all the Standing Orders except those which have been suspended. The question of whether a member who has moved a motion has the right to reply is provided for by Standing Order 29. I see the Leader of the Opposition shaking his head in assent.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, may I draw to the attention of the Chair the Standing Order which states that a member may speak for 15 minutes at any one time provided that the time limit of the speech of the Minister when moving a Head of expenditure or replying to the debate on the Head.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
He is now replying to the debate.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I just want to get something straight, Mr. Chairman. Are you saying that the Minister is entitled to move the Head, get up during the debate and make a statement, sit down and reply again?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The same way the hon. member can make a speech and get up at intervals on points of order and points of elucidation and I accept that, I can accept it from the Minister. Take your seat.

Mr. FORDE:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. Minister is relying on 29(2) then of course there must be a motion critical of the Government. The motion which the Minister moved cannot be a motion critical of himself, let us get this absolutely clear. If you interpret the rules one way at one time you cannot jump around now and interrupt them in another way.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I want to make this point. It happened to me earlier when I was moving my Head, in that I waited at one point before I made a reply. I waited for some considerable time when Your Honour was about to put the question and then I got up to reply. After I got up to reply and took my seat, then other hon. members got up and spoke after me. That was an incorrect procedure, because after the mover of a motion has replied no hon. member should be able to speak afterwards. That is Standing Order 29, and the only reason I got up for the second time and drew to the attention of the House the fact that I had spoken earlier and was not sure I had the right of audience was because

other members had spoken and no other member should have spoken after I had replied. It was not that I had jumped up on my feet as soon as a member had spoken and attempted to make a reply. 8.55 p.m.

I sat in my seat and I waited until you were about to put the question.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is misleading the House, because as soon as one member spoke the hon. member jumped up, and he did not give anybody any chance to speak. He went on with a long exercise in justifying his Ministry.

Mr. FORDE:
I rise on a point of order, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
All members will sit.

The question that the sum of $102,384 under Head 47 - Public Relations - as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:-

AYES:
Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON;Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. F. G. S1VETH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Mr. MORRISON; Mr. WEEKES; Mr. ADAMS; Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN - 12.

NOES:
Mr. MOTTLEY and Mr. FORDE -2.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES (1) POST OFFICE

Annexed Estimates (1) Post Office was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,501,094 under Annexed Estimates (1) Post Office stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

PART II CAPITAL
HEAD 101 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I am asking that we proceed with the next Head. The appropriate Minister is not here, and I think he would like to explain certain matters, in connection with his ministry at a later stage.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I heard Post Office called, and I heard Port called. Is there a motion to postpone a Head, Sir?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
We are dealing with agriculture.

Mr. ADAMS:
What is the motion before the House, Sir?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, the Clerk called Head 101, and I intimated in fairness

to the House in Committee that the appropriate Minister is not here, but that he would like to explain certain matters relating to his portfolio. In the circumstances, we are not ready to proceed with this Head. I did not make any motion.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, before we go beyond the question of dealing with Head 101 - Capital Estimates....(Asides) May I make a statement, Mr. Chairman? The Hon. Leader of the House has said that he does not want to deal with Head 101 at this time and he wants to leave it until later, because the Minister has a statement to make in respect of his ministry in this Chamber. I am going to ask the Leader of the House to give the assurance that he will not deal with the Head tomorrow until I am here to deal with the question. I would say that he should not deal with it before one o'clock tomorrow.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I can give that assurance, because the House will be sitting from 2.30 p.m. I think the hon. member should be here by then. It was intimated to me by the Minister of Agriculture that he would like the Shadow Minister of Agriculture to be present when the Head is being discussed.

PART II - CAPITAL ESTIMATES
HEAD 102 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 102 - Ministry off 'Communications and Works - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, before I move that this Head stand part, there is just one amendment, I should like to make; one amendment to Note 24 by substituting the word "Bus" for "Bust". In moving that the sum of $7,319,010 under Head 102 - Ministry of Communications and Works - stand part of the Schedule, I think the debate we have had this morning on the General Current Estimates has given hon. members an opportunity to debate my ministry in greater detail. I think they have indicated to me in no uncertain terms the areas in which they think the ministry has fallen down; the areas in which they think there is

wastage, as well as they have given me the areas in which they think improvements and advancements can take place. 9.05 p.m.

I did refer to the Current Estimates where I pointed out the figures which were given me for subsidiary roads, additional roadworks, highway improvement, and I did express that these figures contained an element of labour; the Wildey Industrial road is to accommodate the Industrial Development Corporation, and we are to build it for them. You will notice the ring road which is endeavouring to relieve the traffic right across to St. Barnabas road out to Warrens. There is the Oistin by-pass road and the Speightstown by-pass road which passes near Nelson's Gate to connect with the development in that particular area which the member for St. Peter knows so well. On drainage, we have got a team of experts who should report to the Ministry in another few months. They have looked at the whole question of drainage from Oistin right down to Speightstown, and we have put in a reasonable sum of money to accommodate them and to try and stop the water flowing into the area, and to grade, plan and design out-fall drains. The sum of $250,000 is to complete in this financial year the Belleplaine bridge which was long in coming, and I think hon. members will see the advertisement for piling and for starting that, and the hon. member for St. Andrew, the Minister of Agriculture, has acknowledged that something is being done.

Water resources explain themselves, and the notes to these items clearly indicate that in this area we are making improvements. A new General Post Office which has been long in conception is about to be built and we have put in $800,000. The site is at Cheapside. A contract for clearing the site has been awarded and we should go to tender soon. We have had the best legal advice and we hope to give the people of Barbados a very modern and up-to-date post office which I hope will relieve the congestion in this Chamber and contribute to the enjoyment and expansion of members of this Chamber. You will see that we are to complete construction of the post office at Worthing, and I am trying to establish a sub-post office in Marine House subject to the Minister of Lands giving me enough space. With regard to the post office for St. Thomas, I think the hon. member for St. Thomas will understand that we are looking for a nice piece of land preferably in the Welchman Hall area. We have to build a new one. There is no room for expansion at the police post and at present we are negotiating for an area of land in Welchman Hall which we hope will satisfy not only a post office but a community centre. We have just had an offer. Mr. Homie Corbin has some land there. I do not know where it is, but he did write through his solicitors, Cottle, Catford, making an offer. It is six acres but I am not buying it if it is not suitable, no matter he is a member of the party. It has got to meet the needs of all the departments who may want to put a community centre.

We are trying to put one at Hastings on the ground floor of Marine House to

accommodate...(Asides) It may be better than building one. I am not saying it is a good place, but it might temporarily assist the people in the area, because if you have to go into planning to put up a wall structure, they would not get it for years; so if they can get some means of alleviating and stopping traffic from going into Bridgetown, this will be done. In addition to that, I made a tour of all the post offices. Some are in awful condition and I do intend under this vote to update them, put in more toilet facilities, put in more toilets and benches for the people who have to wait for their pensions and so on.

With respect to telecommunications, we have just got a telecommunications engineer and I think you will agree that telecommunications in Barbados have been running wild and at large. Barbados has just

joined Intelstat. Telecommumications and the organisation of telecommunications, telephones, radio are going to be set on a proper footing with new Acts to accommodate them. I am very proud to say that we have got a Barbadian who is qualified in telecommunications and he has just joined the Ministry of Communications and Works as our telecommunications adviser.

The Transport Board is another headache which I inherited. This money is to pay for twelve buses each year. I am tired explaining to the House how dilapidated the fleet is, but we have just had a report of the committee set up for reorganisation which is being studied. We have just had from the work-shop point of view a gentleman from England under the British Technical Aid, and I do hope to bring a certain degree of, if not financial viability, at least better working conditions for this organisation. This is another area in which I hope to get some improvement.

Parking systems are another vital area, I do not think there is any country in the world where parking is so cheap, where the Government holds. lands at the value they do to provide parking which the people enjoy in Barbados. There is land at Independence Square, land at Hincks Street and other places, and the whole question of parking in and out of Bridgetown has got to be seriously tackled. 'This is what the traffic engineer in the Ministry is doing. Whether we go in for parking metres or experiment with them is a matter which we are seriously considering.

The bus stands are in an awful condition both at Fairchild Street and in the Lower Green. We are going to upgrade the one in Fairchild Street and make it at least a fitting place where people can wait for buses in proper conditions rather than in the awful conditions which now obtain.

We are building a car park as you know at the back of the Hospital for 98 cars, and the intention is to connect that road to Constitution road.

With respect to Government offices, my ministry does the repairs for them. The $35,000 for land acquisition is to acquire land for widening corners and doing necessary minor work. This is not the big land acquisition vote, but for a few square feet to widen corners like the ones at Erdiston, Mansion Road, Villa Road, Collymore Rock, the one at the back by Mr. Connel in Bishop's Court and the one by St. Winifred's and a lot of areas where we may have to acquire so many thousands of square feet. (Mr. ADAMS: Where is the ring road?)

The ring road goes from between Cable & Wireless right out St. Barnabas and takes you out to Warrens, and we are doing it in phases.

We come now to the mechanical engineer's section. I want a good tree trimmer and I hope to come to Parliament to amend the law to enable me to trim trees for poor old people whose houses are in danger. Right now we have to rent the tree trimmer from Barbados Light & Power and it is very expensive. We have ordered that and we have ordered a wrecker to remove old junk and wrecked cars and cars that park illegally on the road when the new Road Traffic Act is enacted. We have bought a lot of other modern equipment. We have had to buy more road rollers, rock crushers etc.

The amount for the Treasury Building is for air conditioning.

I mentioned this morning that there are a lot of areas where there should be traffic lights. You will see

that we did not spend a penny last year which I think is not satisfactory, but I gave the reasons this morning when we were dealing with the Electrical Department. Halls road up by the Governor General's house where you have cars filtering is a place where dangerous accidents can take place, and I have asked the traffic engineer along with the Chief Electrical Engineer to tell me where they want traffic lights. There are certain areas where lights should have been installed, but you have been told why there was no action.

Mr. Chairman, we have to close the Mangrove plant because it was causing a nuisance and we have agreed to move that. We have to move the asphalt plant in view of the Seawell Airport development. The site has been chosen and the figure of $100,000 is to amalgamate and move them to this final site.

We hope to start some work on the deep water harbour consequent upon the report of the consultants. We have a Committee studying it because Government may have to order priorities. We have just had a man down from the Inter American Development Bank to look at it and to have his recommendations, but we have had to put in money in case we can get a move on it this financial year because the extension of the harbour is a must. 9.15 p.m.

I hope the members of the Opposition will forgive me for going into a little more detail in explaining this. They had a wonderful opportunity which they used this morning and for which I am grateful. Especially on the road section they had an opportunity to deal with the other aspects of my ministry, they had an opportunity to deal with the water aspect, they had an opportunity only a moment ago to deal with the Post Office - and I am grateful that they did not - they know the position with the Transport Board so nothing new can come out of this. As I say, the other Items - parking systems, bus stands, car parks etc. - clearly explain what my Ministry proposes to do from my Ministry's point of view at least to advance and create an atmosphere of convenience for the public.

Together with a new Road Traffic Act; a new Electricity Act to meet the needs which were mentioned today and to control and see that electricians have the proper qualifications and the necessary inspections are done; with a new Waterworks Act to meet the needs that the Waterworks Department has been called upon to fulfil, plumbing and putting water systems in new developments, which the old Waterworks Act never contemplated; with Barbados' and the ministry's entry into telecommunications as a result of the earth station, I think that hon. members will agree without much debate that the plan as outlined even though not ambitious is worthy of their support,

I think there can be many areas in which the Opposition could ask for more, but I think the Opposition will understand that in addition to what my ministry has set down as my ministry's goal, my ministry is always called upon not only to advise but to plan for, crematorium notwithstanding, for other ministries and for the community, and even although the members of the Opposition may feel that this is not an ambitious programme for the Ministry of Communications and Works, I think they will understand that coupled with the $43 million for Capital Works, the Ministry of Communications and Works will have a very big hand if not in constructing at least in advising and providing consultancy services for the other ministries as their Heads come before this hon. Chamber. I beg to move in those circumstances and with such explanations as I have given that the sum of $7,319,010 under Head 102 - Ministry of Communications and Works - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, we are not sure at what time they will stop, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
At 9.30.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, I must confess to an enormous interest in Communications and Works. I do not always indulge it but it exists. I must say I admire the speech of the hon. member, the Hon. Minister who has just sat down. It does seem to us that he is right up to the standard of Mr. Boxill in his administration of the ministry.

I did not develop my point speaking on the second reading about there being no development plan. It is particularly necessary for a development plan to be published for hon. members to be able to contribute properly to a debate on Capital Estimates under such a head as this. The last development plan expired last year and all hon. members, like the public at large - I daresay even like you, Sir, now that you are no longer in that ministry - are at sea because we do not know what the Government has in mind. Statements come out from the Chief Technical Officer from time to time about the building of a road to Warrens, now for the first time we have heard it from the Minister. We do not know what route this road will take, we want to know for example what industrial road could cost $100,000 - Wildey industrial road - while the whole ring road will only cost $200,000.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
On a point of explanation, the whole ring road is not costing only $200,000, it is being phased. This is the road from Cable and Wireless to St. Barnabas, putting in sidewalks, whereas the industrial road is in the new Wildey estate, but it is being phased and as you say, if you have the five year plan it would help you to see what we are spending each year on the ring road, so to that extent you are right.

Mr. ADAMS:
That is why I am really calling on the Government to publish a new development plan as early as possible. You need it before you can contribute properly to a debate on such a Head as this. I really have a lot of interest in these roads; I would like to talk about roads all over Barbados, but I want to talk more generally because that is more the province of the hon. member for St. Peter.

There is a substantial vote, although much less than the vote in 1971-72 - because it is to be noticed that although costs are rising and the Government is not spending as much this year as it spent at election time on private roads and so on - I do not anticipate that the present Minister will be building any stretches of roads of 100 yards leading to one person's house as a former Minister did at Moore's Road, St. Thomas. I do not anticipate that we will be seeing anything like that, or roads in Gemswick, which swelled the expenditure in 1971-72 to over $300,000 where in fact only $215,000 is being voted. Nonetheless, private tenantry roads are one of the great outstanding complaints which the public of Barbados has against this Government at the present time. All over Barbados there are still roads in extremely bad condition. I would suggest to the Minister some highly capricious decisions by civil servants as to what road is important and as to what road is not; you have also in the past got some

highly tendentious decisions by Ministers as to what roads are important and what roads are not. Although I anticipate that the development plan will hardly go into detail on private roads, yet I would very much hope that the ministry is concerning itself with a plan which will lay out private roads and balance them so that there will be no uneven development over the next financial year.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
If the hon. member will give way, it is now 9.30 p.m Mr. Chairman, and I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 9,30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair. On resumption -

Mr. SPEAKER:
This sitting is now resumed, When the sitting was suspended last evening the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

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

HEAD 102 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS PART II - CAPITAL ESTIMATES, 1973_74

The resumption of Head 102- Ministry of Communications and Works - as amended was called.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Communications and Works is charged with a very heavy responsibility to the Community, and no one would seek to deny that. We find that in the Capital Estimates diere is a revote in the sum of $42,000, and the Note explains that it is for construction and reconstruction of roads in residential areas. There is much more to it than this, Mr. Chairman. You will admit that, with the members of the public taking to the recent Land Tax Act as they have, it will mean that the Ministry will have to review its priorities.

Mr. Chairman, I represent the constituency of St. Peter, one of the most heavily taxed areas of the parishes in the Island. I live in St. James, and I own property there. It is another constituency in another parish which is just as heavily taxed in some respects as the parish of St. Peter. The same thing applies to Oistin, Christ Church, and so on. It means that if the residents in certain districts are bearing the brunt of the taxation, whether it is water services, road services, or whatever it may be, they must be given priority treatment. I am glad to hear the Minister say that he agrees that this is probably so. We are also faced with a situation of voting money for the strenghtening of road structures, construction of concrete haunches, adjustment of widths and levels and provision of essential drains.

Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to tell this Committee that he is prepared, at this stage, not to spend one cent of the money that is to be voted in this respect until he gets the advice of his experts. He has seen, he is satisfied, and he is no longer in doubt that with his present staff there is little hope for him to effect any sort of saving in this type of expenditure resulting from the type of construction work with which the Ministry has to put up with from time to time. I have said that some of these haunches are built, and then you have to return and spend ten or twelve times more than you had originally estimated, because the laying out of the haunches from the beginning was not done by anybody with any sort of Barbadian sense. You will find, Sir, that this Ministry has a tremendous responsibility, and ways and means will have to be found to see where savings can be made for the benefit of the public generally.

Mr. Chairman, I have tried to impress upon this House already the question of taking expensive land in Bridgetown and turning it into car parks. I do not support this; it is a waste of good money and of valuable space. In the case of the Hincks Street lot, there should be a sort of roof-deck type of pathway that could accommodate four or five flights of vehicles. That is what we have to give .early consideration to. Merely having enough space to accomodate cars on one floor is not good enough, and I know we are just wasting time there. In my .opinion that area could accommodate five or six times the number of vehicles which it now accommodates, if good engineering sense is applied to this question of car parks.

For instance, Trident House, K. R. Hunte's building, Cave Shepherd & Co., Ltd., building, Hanschell Larsen & Co., Ltd., buildings in Nile Street, and all of those buildings that have been recently constructed should have been constructed in such a manner as to provide parking space for their customers and staff. That should have been the Government's policy, and the Town and Country Planning Department should not have given permission for the construction of these commercial buildings unless adequate provision had been made to provide parking space for their customers and staff. Even if those buildings were examined now, you will find that arrangements could be made for them to accommodate the parking space that I have suggested. We have to live with the times. It is true that we get taxes from Cave Shepherd & Co., Ltd., but you then have to go and fritter it away by providing expensive car parks for their customers.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask whoever is responsible for the collection of these tolls to see to it that the money is properly collected. I understand that there are a number of people who park at Hincks Street lot who owe as much as $400! How did this come about? What are we doing about this matter? The question now arises. How long is too long? When things are getting out of hand, Barbadians will tell you that things are "good bad".

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the widening and improving of junctions on main highways including sidewalks and bus laybys, I have heard the Prime Minister say that some of these property owners should give the Government some of their land with a view to accommodating the building of sidewalks. I remember that the same Prime Minister and Minister of Finance owned a property at Black Rock, and this Committee voted money to pay for the portion of land he sold to the Government. How is it that he sold his land, and he is now asking others to give their lands free? He had an opportunity to set the first example, and things cannot work like that.

Mr. Chairman, there are too many people in Speightstown who have been suffering and undergoing mental strain for years because of this threat that has been hanging over their heads about the construction of this by-pass road. The method employed by the Government in going about this business is not fair at all. 2.40 p.m.

The people should be told and given one year's notice, if not longer, but at least a year's notice in advance that they must find somewhere because the Government intends taking over their lands. But here it is a housewife is in her kitchen or some other part of her home, and every other morning there is a rap on the door and two or three officers, some of whom would not identify themselves properly, would inform her that they have come to see where the road is going to pass. For the next ten or eleven months they hear nothing and suddenly again like vultures they come down on the land owners again. It just is not fair and Government should decide what they are going to do about it and give these people proper notice that they will have to move, and Government should set about providing alternative sites to accommodate some of these people. After all they are human beings, and they cannot provide themselves with the necessary amenities and accommodation that their homes require at the moment. Some are afraid to put on a bundle of shingles, because if they do and the Government says they have to move the next day, they would still have to effect further repairs. The% value of people's houses is going down and the Government is not giving them any valuation on their properties for Government purposes of purchasing. All this needs looking into and let people begin to feel that they are part and parcel of the whole exercise in whatever we are going to do, whether we are going to make Speightstown what it really ought to have been, the second town in Barbados and kept like this for all the years, or whether we are going to go on toying with the idea of tying ourselves to the nonsense that we hear from time to time, and you vote money and revote it and do absolutely nothing.

Some people, Mr. Chairman, started constructing a road through Heywoods land and made everybody's heart begin to quicken, and then we never heard anything further and nobody knows what is being done. This is not good. The medical practitioners in the area are reaping a harvest as a result of this.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister knows my views on the construction of these out-fall drains. Now we come to the point where we have reasons to believe that since they have started demolishing buildings around the Cheapside branch of the Housing Authority that they want to lay the foundation stone, turn the soil or whatever one may call it for the construction of the new Post Office. This is something to be welcomed, and I am sure everybody is looking forward to this, but, Mr. Chairman, let us look at the Fairchild Street bus stand. What is the point of voting and revoting money to be spent on the Fairchild Street bus stand? The Minister I believe admits having in his possession the Report of the Committee that carried out some sort of study into our transport problems and would have made recommendations. Arising out of that report the Minister must have then begun to cast his sights on

where he is going to have his bus terminus and how he is going to go about it.

Time and time again the Transport Offices were to be removed to this place and the next place, and we are now going to vote money for this. With the uncertainly of the behaviour of the Constitution Swamp, we need more than expert advice in spending money on the Fairchild Street bus stand and I would ask the Minister to look at this.

Now the asphalt plants at Mangrove and Seawell are going to be dismantled and resited. We would like to hear where these plants are going to be resited, and if the Minister took into consideration all that was necessary bearing in mind the proximity to the actual demand for the material that these plants are going to produce.

There is no point carrying them miles away and having to transport their produce long distances to carry up costs again, and I would like to know that something is done about this. We note what the Minister has had to say about the mechanical workshop, and we look forward to seeing that the Minister tries wherever possible to effect some sort of saving. But again, we do not like to see money is voted if it is not spent. If the money is voted, spend it, but not just for a show. The question of staff to carry out these projects has got to be borne in mind first and foremost, and I believe that this is weighing very heavily where the Minister is concerned, because we know that the staffing problem in the Ministry of Communications and Works starts from the very top. We need people with the best qualifications to fill the top posts in a Department like this that is spending this amount of money we are asked to vote for capital expenditure; and I ask the Minister to address his mind to all I have said here this afternoon.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of issues which I would like to raise under this Head. The most important which I would like to deal with first relates to the postal services. Now I was rather shocked two or three days ago when information came to light about some scandalous happenings in the postal services of this country. A quick investigation reveals that it is not so much the postmen who are involved in this, but it would seem to me from what judgment I can bring to bear on this particular issue that there is something wrong with the security of mail from the Airport. I have been very reliably informed, and as a matter of fact, I have seen some mail which was discarded in St. Lucy - mail addressed to people in St. Michael, and to people as far away as St. Philip, and I think that this is something which undermines confidence. I believe that the Minister of Communications and Works should take a very serious view of this matter with a view to instituting almost immediately an investigation into the misdeeds or mishappenings as regards the handling of mail at the Airport, because we know that lots people in Barbados, particularly people in the rural areas, depend to a large extent on money which is sent from their families overseas, and if we have this kind of situation developing, then you will see the difficulties and the hardships which this will cost to these families. 2.50 p.m.

I would hope that the Minister would take this into consideration and let us hear something about this today.

On the other issues, on the items relating to roads, I think that I made my plea yesterday relative to the kind of developments that we want to see in St. Lucy. I would want to reiterate this because I think there is nothing like pounding and pounding away on something to get something done, and I want to repeat that we have put up a number of suggestions to the Ministry and we are sincerely looking forward in the

coming financial year to some of these things being done. Yesterday I spoke about Pie Corner and the construction of the road in the Grave Yard area, and I would like to remind the Minister that some firm promise was made to lay down mains in Higginson just off the Connell Town area, and I hope that in this coming financial year we will see this done and that we might even be able to see not only the pipes laid down but the road in that area constructed. I mentioned also the widening of the road in the Crab Hill area, and again I hope that this can be treated as a priority.

On the question of public transport, I notice that the vote is to improve accommodation at the Transport Board and the purchase of buses. I am looking forward to the fact that when the transport system is improved, when additional buses are put on the run, that the rural districts - the areas which are furtherest from town - are better served by the transport system. I think that at present it is extremely difficult to get from Speightstown or from anywhere going up to St. Lucy after 7 o'clock, and I think that this is a situation which should be rectified almost immediately because there are people who work in town, there are people who would like to go into the City areas to enjoy some of the culture there, but unfortunately they cannot do this because of the bad transport system which is at present in operation. I am looking forward to an improvement in the service, the provision of additional buses running at times which would be suitable to the majority of people, and I look forward to this being done on the major routes we have, that is the route running to Pie Corner, going on to Connell Town, and the route going to Josey Hill.

There is also the provision in some part of the Capital Estimates we are considering here for laybys for buses, and I just want to make the point and draw this to the Minister's attention that as far as I am aware - and I think that I know my constituency well enough - there is not one layby in the parish of St. Lucy. I think that the time has come when at least if no more than a token vote should be made so as to provide some kind of convenience to take people off the edge of the road when they are waiting for the bus. I believe that this is the idea behind this kind of provision and I therefore hope that the Minister will do something to have some constructed in the parish during the coming financial year.

I know the hon. member for St. Peter is concerned about this Speightstown by-pass road. Let me also say that we in St. Lucy are also concerned about this because we really want to know what is happening with this particular development and, what is happening with the Heywoods development, when the development is going to take place and whether the road is going to be diverted or not. Lots of people have been asking questions about this, and I am sure the Minister will clear this up when he replies.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the first point I want to make under the Ministry of Communications and Works is on the question of public transport in this country. I know there has been a commission sitting, and I have seen from the newspaper that it has presented its findings to the Minister. What I would like to see done particularly is that the Minister amend the law, and I have asked in this House before, that the Government create a Public Service Vehicles Act which deals specifically with persons who are driving vehicles and applying for hire in the country. I have said before, that you should not take any person who has had a licence for two years and manages to get a truck licence and put him to drive a bus. You only have to drive behind these buses and you will see the manner in which they drive. Follow them and see where they stop, irrespective of laybys provided for them, and you will find that they cause at least 50% of the congestion experienced in this country.

Taxi drivers come under this Head as well. If we are going to open the country to tourism we must train these people to use the road not for themselves but in accordance with good road practice and for other persons using the road. We have had complaints recently about people being molested in taxis, and if we have a public service vehicle licence, taxis would be forced to carry the number of the driver, his photograph and the registration number of the taxi on the inside of the vehicle, and therefore any complaints made will be made accurately in respect of persons involved and therefore clear the names of the innocent ones who are doing a good job and keeping the standard of Barbados at a high level, which we deserve to have. These things cannot be rectified unless the Government sits down and draws up a proper Road Traffic Act and the public service vehicle licence which would be different from a licence for either a private or a trade vehicle.

The next point is that I would like to see rules or regulations drawn in respect of buses. People who live in the country districts are very frustrated. Recently I received a letter from a member of my constituency who complained of going to the bus stand to catch a 7 o'clock bus and was told he would have to wait for the 8 o'clock bus, but when the 8 o'clock bus came the driver or the conductor took it upon himself to decide that the bus was not going at 8 o'clock but that it would go at 9 o'clock. I have also heard that when this happens, if they do not feel like going at 9 o'clock, they will go at 10 o'clock or 10.30. If you are providing a service and you have a franchise you should exercise it, therefore I believe that the Government should do something about this quickly.

The next point is on the Post Office. I have complained, and I know several members have complained, about the late delivery of mail particularly in Barbados. I have had the experience of living in St. Philip and receiving mail which was posted in Bridgetown six days after it was posted. One thing I would like to compliment the Post Office on today is that at 11.20 today I received mail in my office which was posted in New York on the 20th of this month. In two days' time it was delivered. That just goes to show that if proper attention is paid to the Post Office the service can be an excellent one, and there is no reason to say that because one or two have gone astray that you must sit by, rest on your laurels and let the system fall down. The same way you can do an efficient job sometimes, I believe that 99.9% of the time you can do a very efficient job. 3.00 p.m.

The next question is the Ring Road. I see a figure set out in the Estimates for the Ring Road. I believe that it should be the Government's policy that as soon as a major development of this nature comes off the planning board it should be published, because it would give people a good idea of what is going to happen in the country. If you keep it as a secret, there is no doubt about it that some people are going to know about it to the exclusion of others, and you are going to (find yourselves in a position which existed in Trinidad or, probably, in England. Where you go ahead and do major development like this, it will be a secret but some people will know about it. You will then get people buying land and capitalising on Government work. In the circumstances, I believe that it should be the principle of the Government to state clearly what are its proposals in respect of major development of this nature in the country.

Mr. Chairman, it also has its drawbacks. If a man wants to repair a house, or if he wants to buy land in a particular. area, he may go and complete a deal merely to find that the Government will step in later and compulsorily acquire his land. In the circumstances, the man will have to start all over again. It has its benefits as well as its drawbacks, but I think that the Government should decide on a definite policy in this matter in order that people may know what is going on. It is no good putting a sum of money in

the Estimates and then some Minister will say that there is a proposed zone, the plans are not yet made, or something of this nature. I think that people should be allowed to plan their lives in a concrete rather than on an ad hoc manner as we have seen quite recently.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, the point has already been made in this Debate that it is rather difficult to discuss in any depth this Head of Capital Expenditure without having a set Development Plan being placed before this House, and being published and decided on for the benefit of the country. I think that that point is well taken. When one is starting the development of such vital means of communication as the Ring Road, one must assume that the Ministry has come to a firm decision on what would be the system of transport used in this country for some time to come.

I recall that it is almost four years now that the Development Plan for this Island has been prepared, made ready, and it has been resting in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I also recall that almost two years ago the then Minister appointed a Commissioner, Mr. Justice Williams, to hear representations on this matter. I am very certain that he has reported and that his findings have been before the Ministry for, certainly, upwards to 9 months, and yet this House has not yet had the benefit of hearing what is the final Development Plan decided on.

Mr. Chairman, it is in this context that we are being asked to approve Capital Estimates which point to some very major developments in the road system of this Island. I should like the Minister to tell me whether the Government has finally made up its mind as to whether it is definitely going to abandon the establishment of the Spine Road; how many Ring Roads the Government intends to establish; where will there be established; and what steps are the Government taking to acquire ahead of time the necessary land for these future developments?

I think the hon. and learned member for St. Joseph has made the point rather conclusively and forcefully that it is impossible to keep secret every little document which may well be marked in a special way "Confidential." The result will be that delay, plus failure to make a full public disclosure will, obviously, result in increased cost finally to the country. I do not think for one moment that this Minister, certainly, would like to find this happening. His complaint is not falling on deaf ears in this House, regardless of which side of the House we are. We note that the vote not only under the Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure, but also under the Capital Head is too small in the face of the mammoth task confronting this country in revising a road system for a country which is bulging in terms of traffic which is fast developing, and in terms of economic activity.

I should like the Minister to impress upon his colleagues in the Ministry of Home Affairs that delay is not in the interest of the Government and, finally, not in the interest of the taxpayers. I should also like him to impress that there is no point having a small Cabinet Committee meeting on these matters to decide what land should be taken, for what purposes, and how and when, when the Legislature has placed that power firmly in the hands of the Minister, subject to the approval of the Development Plan by Parliament. I am really not satisfied that the House should be, from time to time, asked to approve estimates of this nature unless we can foresee where it is going to lead us.

It is a fact that on the 1967 costings, which were very preliminary and very rudimentary, die cost of a proper road system was estimated at that time at $13 million exclusive of the cost of compulsory

acquisition of necessary land. If you would add to this the inflationary cost which would have occurred since 1967, you can well imagine that if the plan set out for road development is to be carried out today, and it is accepted completely by the Government, then we should probably look for something in the region of $30 million for this project.

Mr. Chairman, I feel it very inadequate in being asked to vote money under a Capital Estimate without being given the full facts and the whole story. I know that the Minister tries to do his best to be fair. He tries his best, subject, of course, to the control and the dictates of the primus inter pares that there will be. But he must find it very difficult himself to convince us on this side that this is the right line and direction in which we are going.

I appeal to the Government to look at this as a major matter. Whichever Government is here

10 years from now will have to deal with the phasing of this aspect of our country's affairs. While on this point, I should like, as an aside almost, to ask the Minister and his Technical Advisers to insist that in what development is going on now, we should plan for the twenty-first century. I am still seeing too many narrow roads being made in private developments and even on main highways development. We are not looking properly to the future.

The other point I should like to ask the Minister to advert to is: Has he made up his mind as to whether he is going to abandon the Spine Road which will pass through the Hastings/Dayrells Road/Bay Land area, and is he going to give us a monorail system? If the Spine Road is still to be developed, can he tell us how soon the Government will come to us to vote money under this Capital Head of Expenditure? Has Government taken into account the mass removal of very good constituents in St. Michael South and Christ Church West and the obvious human problems that will result? What plans have the Government made for resiting these people? These are things I should really like to know before we complete this Head of Expenditure.

With reference to public transport, the Minister now has the Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry which he has appointed to look into the re-organisation of the Public Transport System. I think it is only fair to say, and the Minister will agree with me, that the private concessionaires have tried their best in very difficult circumstances to give a public service. 3.10 p.m.

They have not had the benefit of votes and capital accounts from this House as the Transport Board has had, yet they have been trying to replenish and replace their fleet, and they have been trying wherever possible to fit in with the over-all plan for transport, but I do not think it is fair that they should be kept in vacuo for too long. I think that if the Government intends to take over the whole transport system, it must do so and do so quickly. If on the other hand it wants to revamp it so that although there is a unified command there is public participation, then it must do so and do so quickly. It is quite possible to have the participation of the public in the ownership of the transport system and still have it under one large corporation which at the same time could be subject to policy decisions from the Minister. The different forms which public enterprise and private enterprise take these days are not limited, and if he is going to look at the system, I will counsel him to also bring into account and allow to have some ownership in the system the workers who work with the organisation.

Mr. Chairman, it is rather difficult for people to have to serve the public day in and day out and only

look to their wages sometimes if they do not own part of the assets involved. This is 4 point of view which I hold and try to get over as often as possible, and although I know it is customary to run down the transport system in the country, I think that by and large in difficult circumstances they have tried their best, both the private concessionaires and the Transport Board. There has been some wastage and there have been slack moments. I think the hon. member for St. Joseph mentioned the difficulties at times of getting buses on various routes, and the hon. member for St. Lucy also mentioned one or two instances, but I think by and large in rather difficult circumstances, with the limited resources, they have tried to do some good in the circumstances.

I would have wished that the Minister would have taken us into his confidence, although in law or even in political practice he is not bound to, on things like where he is to site District Post Offices. Obviously a District Post Office is necessary for Hastings. In fact, it will pay for itself. He will not have to come to this House to ask for any subsidy to pay for the day to day running and administration of a District Post Office in Hastings, because it is one area of high economic activity, and the effects of the tourist trade in that area alone, I think, will more than compensate placing a District Post Office in that area. That is one reason why we welcome it there. As a matter of fact, I can assure the Minister that I have had representations from constiutents already on this matter, and I feel happy I can now write and pass on the thanks to him so that in future when he talks in my area he will get a greater hearing than he has ever got before. But I think his location is wrong. I believe that at the end of Hastings Rock proper next to the Caribbee the Government could have spent some amount from capital account for improving that area and probably expanding the building by a few square feet if all you want is a District Post Office there, and probably a branch of the Savings Bank, and he would have had a much more prominent area. I do not know whether he has considered that aspect of the matter rather than going over to the Marine. His technical experts probably do not agree with me. I do not think the security there poses any greater problem than the security at the Marine would pose. In fact, it is very difficult at the moment if you look around the whole Marine

area which is 12 acres, and if you have one watchman a night, it is going to be very difficult.

I can assure the hon. member that in my constituency the people are so well behaved and so hospitable that they would not be giving him any special problems regardless of where he places the Post Office; but if the only objection is security, it is not impossible to make secure on that side of the road the Post Office. I do not think there will be any particular extra cost involved, and if the point of view is worth anything he might re-consider it. They can look at police records to see whether they have had any problems there over the last ten years, because a Bank has operated on that side of the road, and I have never known of one breakage or hold-up of the Bank. There have been merchants there selling their goods and there have never been any problems there either, and I would like to draw this to his attention. I was brought up in the area and I can speak from forty years and two days of experience of that whole area, and I would like to say that the Minister should reconsider it because it would be a much more attractive place; but regardless of wherever in that district you place it, I think it is a right decision to have a Sub-Post Office in the area.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I see under Organisation and Management Study the item "Technical Assistance". I would like the Minister to give us some explanation about this organisation and management study that is proposed to be carried out in his department.

I am going to devote myself to the Ministry of Communications and Works, and I want to say that sometimes names can give a wrong impression. The organisation and management study is something I am glad to see has taken place, and I wonder if you are going to carry out an organisation and management study in the Ministry of Education also. I am at a loss, Mr. Chairman, to understand the mass of confusion that there is when you go into some of these Government Departments. If you want to go in for a time wasting exercise, write the Government a letter and you get a reply sometimes of the greatest stupidity asking you to reply again to something you have sent in. Again, to send a registered letter to a Government department is one of the biggest madnesses you can commit. We sent a registered letter to the Town and Country Planning Office on one occasion and the letter remained three weeks between our place and the department then to be sent back with the words "cannot be found". It meant therefore that the date for submitting your information to the Town and Country Planning Office had passed, so you could no longer appeal. This is not funny. They said it went into some box in the Ministry which is some central box, and in the central box they do not deal with registered letters, and there is some rigmarole that must take place, and back to the Post Office this registered letter went and then returned to the sender. This is a Government Department. Now this was where we were asking a counsel to send in an appeal to the Town and Country Planning Department. 3.20 p.m.

I am not hard, this is where we are asking a lawyer to send in an appeal to Town and Country Planning. I would like to know, and I hope the Minister will be telling us, what is responsible for this mass of confusion going on. In the Ministry of Communications and Works there are a lot of people working there, and apart from any open question about labour and productivity, I would like to find a more efficient method where you can get information about things and where if you ask a question the officers concerned can get the information for you. There are people who have worked for the Government and who are retired from the Government service. It is expected that you should have the records kept in some manner that at least people can find the information in order that the pensioners or the people when they apply can get it, and I am hoping that this organisation and methods study will be so conducted that it will provide the kind of efficiency or management arrangements in the public service that are essential. I feel that some people should not be blamed for things they are not responsible for, but I would feel that if we have a system that is archaic it should be changed.

We find that since Independence, Barbados has followed slavishly methods that were introduced in 1625 after the first settlers left here, and it appears to me that there are too many Civil Servants who believe that the word "tradition" has a meaning that you should copy everything that has been done 300 years ago and that the methods and bureaucracy that the Colonial Secretary had when we were in the Colonial days must continue. In order to tell someone in the Post Office that you want something done, even if you are working very near to the Post Office, this bureaucratic method prevails that in the office opposite the Post Office the file must go up to Government Headquarters, come back down, go down at the Labour Department, run around town then to go back up then to go across to the Post Office to say that some of the stamps should be put somewhere next door to the place where the man is sittings in the office opposite. This bureaucratic method is costly for poor countries, you do not have the surpluses for the bureaucracy that is carried on. It would be amazing to any person to go and read one file and go in for costing. If you read one file and you cost the salaries of all the officers, that is, you are not dealing with a man who is working for 80 cents an hour, but you are dealing now with people who are working for four figure salaries per month, when you finish costing them to find that no action has been taking place, then it costs the country sometimes $10,000 for no action. This is the kind of bureaucratic method

we have, and this is the sort of thing that must be rooted out because poor countries cannot afford this luxury and this is what is going on in the public service.

We have a project now before Government, and although we have plans, the architects, engineers, surveyors and everybody worked on them, do you know that up to now we have not had a reply from Government? Sometimes when Government replies, if land was something that would shrink by the time you get the reply from Government, it would disappear and you would not have any land to build on because you would not know where to find it. Sometimes when you get a reply you have forgotten what they are talking about, and the Civil Servants must realise that they are part of the money machinery in the community and that money must mean something to them in relation to what people have to spend. They should not treat money with such indifference as to make people walk time and time again to the various Government departments and then take 10 months to send a reply. We are told that sometimes the Minister does not see these matters at all. I believe that this management and office study that is going to be made will be done in such a way that the community will be relieved from the blame that is attributed to people who should not be blamed, and I hope that this study will involve the community so that questions will be asked that will straighten out this matter. This copy book system of carrying on the same basic system that the Colonial Secretary carried on should be stopped. The only difference you have is that you are multiplying it by the number of Permanent Secretaries, Ministers and Assistant Secretaries and therefore you are multiplying the bureaucracy of the Government and adding up the paper. At one time when it went from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor, then to the Attorney General and back home the answer was finished by then, but now it has to go to the Financial Secretary to the Assistant Secretary, up to the Permanent Secretary and back down the line, then if a file is missing it takes a longer time to find the file than if you are looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

It is time we stop this idea of having this total human wastage of resources. Sometimes the time of Senior Officers is practically wasted by the bureaucratic system in which you are involved and with which they have to live, a system that is archaic, not suitable to 1973, and worse not suitable to poor communities. This is something that countries with millions of dollars in surpluses can carry, and these little half cent countries are trying to carry these kinds of surpluses and wastages that could be used for the benefit of the people. It is time that we rip up some of this bureaucratic nonsense and get these people down to a more effective and active job rather than all this time wasting when we are not making progress. That is why I challenge any Minister sitting on that front bench to spend an adequate amount of money in a year; he cannot spend it. I hear the Minister saying that he is looking about for contractors, but contractors will have to be supervised but the time wasting must stop, and it is time that we begin to make the Civil Service more efficient. The reason why the Public Servants are as they are is because the system is what it is, but when they leave the public service and go into other aspects of employment they perform differently. Lots of them have left the public service to work outside the service and you can see the difference because the system is different. You either work or get out, but in the public service where you have a system where you can hide behind the bureaucracy, the Ministers and Minute Papers you can afford it. I think the time has come for this to stop, and I hope when this study is carried out that the recommendation will be that 50% of the bureaucratic methods that were copied from the Colonial Secretary's office in the United Kingdom will be taken away and that the Barbadian Civil Servants get down to aspects of work more in keeping with the country in which we live and have to work. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to be very long on this Head, but I note with interest the speech made by the hon. member for St. Lucy in reference to the security of mail at Seawell Airport. I believe that sometime earlier this year I raised this matter in the House, but on that occasion the Minister did not reply, he did not even comment, and since then we have had no final word from the Minister about the matter. I believe, as the hon. member has pointed out, that it is not the fault of a postman, but it is a question of mail leaving the aircraft and going a short way to the Post Office at Seawell and it sometimes finds itself on the rocky parts of St. Lucy and various places like that.

Mr. Chairman, I have been informed, and I have no reason to doubt the information which I have received, that in August last year bags with some mail were found in certain parts of St. Lucy, and it was said that they had been reported missing from the Airport Post Office at Seawell. I would, therefore, like to hear from the Minister something with regard to the security of mail at Seawell Airport when it arrives in this country. As the hon. member has pointed out, a number of people in this country depend largely on money that is sent from overseas by their relatives, and I feel that immediate steps should be taken to secure the mail arriving at Seawell Airport.

I also note with interest the speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I have had to suffer at the hands of civil servants when I made an application to a particular Ministry. For several days I have had to call up the various Officers in that Ministry to find out what had happened with my application. On several occasions I was told that the application was not in that Ministry and that I should get in touch with another Ministry. On checking with the other Ministry, I was told that it had been sent back to the other Ministry. When I made a further check with the first Ministry an Officer told me that it was not at his Ministry. I insisted that it has been sent back to his Ministry. He asked me to hold on, and in a few minutes he spoke to me and gave me the information I wanted. As a result of the delay in obtaining the information I required, I have suffered a financial loss. I have no doubt that other people have suffered financial losses as a result of such delays on the part of civil servants, particularly in the Town and Country Planning Department. I hope that the Organisation and Management Studies, although such studies relate to the Harbour, etc., will be of some assistance to the Government. I also hope that the words mentioned by the hon. member for St. Michael West have been noted by the Minister responsible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I shall not be terribly long. I am grateful, and I certainly share quite a few of the views that have been expressed by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I should like to let him know that in the Prime Minister's Division there is an office and Management Department which is responsible, in conjunction with the Chief Establishments Officer and the Chief Personnel Officer, for the re-organisation of the entire Civil Service. While in the note may have said "Organisation and Management Studies", it is an entirely different exercise. The Prime Minister has had here for nearly a year a gentleman called Mr. Sorgum who is looking into tthe time wasting aspects of the Civil Service, and the constructive advice of the hon. member for St. Michael West is certainly not pertinent, although in some way it is as deeply involved with my Ministry as with the O&M Department of the Prime Minister's Office.

With regard to the figure mentioned in the Estimates, I should like to inform the hon. member that some Ministries are compelled, under certain agreements under technical assistance, to provide

counterpart funds to meet the expenses of experts who have come to Barbados. The World Health Organisation has been and will soon complete a study of the Organisation and Management of the Waterworks Department. I feel that the whole House will agree that the amount of arrears and the method adopted by the Waterworks Department when they were in the old building left much to be desired. As a matter of fact, even at this point I do not think we are quite clear on how many million dollars have been in arrears. In the circumstances, the Ministry felt that it was necessary to get somebody to organise the accounting system of the Waterworks Department now that the Department has been moved to a more commodious building. As a result of this re-organisation, management study and assistance, fixed rates have been computerised and meter-billing will soon be computerised. I think members will agree that they have certainly received their bills much mole promptly than hitherto.

Mr. Chairman, we had the suggestion that a post of Office Manager should be created, and that has been done on a temporary basis in order to relieve the Chief Engineer of the administrative duties which he had to do when he was working in the old building. I am sure hon. members will agree that he would be unable to perform these duties together with his professional duties.

Similarly, on the question of the Harbour Study - I think this was raised by the member for St. Michael West - this amount of money is specifically related to paying Barbados' share of local expenses when we have advisers from abroad. So far as the Harbour Report is concerned, we have had reports from the Consultants in Canada; from time to time we will get Experts from the Inter-American Development Bank and so on. There is now a new Harbour Expert in Trinidad, who is attached to the United Nations Development Project, and he will have to come to Barbados to advise - not that we are bound by his advice - on certain aspects of Harbour Development.

Similarly, with the International Consultative Organisation, from time to time we have to bring in people because we are now dealing in new fields for the first time. Similarly, with Telecommunications. We have just had a Barbadian, who has been appointed and has taken up the post of Telecommunications Engineer, and we have to meet the counterpart funds to pay for Experts who may be consulted from time to time. 3.40 p.m.

It is not a re-organisation as such; it is basically to meet the local cost of the experts when they come.

Similarly with the Transport Board, we have just had a gentleman from England under British Technical Assistance to advise us on how we can update the workshop, and of course I think if hori. members follow the accounts they will see that the workshop is the cause of quite a lot of losses at the Transport Board. I should just like to thank the hon. member for St. Michael West for his suggestion which is more pertinent to the Prime Minister's department, although the note says that it is a specific allocation to meet the local costs of the experts on water, harbour study etc.

Let me deal with the matter raised also by the hon. member for St. Lucy who talked about the post office. I have had occasion to say in here that in any organisation you got bad eggs, and I, regret as Minister any breaking down in any department of the Ministry for which I have been responsible. I think that not only members but the general public can say that any complaint drawn to the Minister's attention receives at least prompt if not curative action within a reasonable time. It has been drawn to my attention and I have before me a file from the Postmaster General to the effect that at Hope Road in St. Lucy letters were found, and for one thing we have called in the police. I should just like to make it clear

that the airline despatches destined for Barbados were never received in the Barbados postal service, and this fact has been confirmed by the airlines. This is mail posted in Montreal and Toronto, New York and Miami. Last year fourteen bags of mail were lost on Pan American Airways weighing between 9.2 kilos and 16.2 kilos; so that if letters bearing remittances were sent to people, they just did not get them. Of course, my system naturally would bear the blame and I cannot blame the non-recipients because their relatives would tell them they have sent it, they have not received it here and would come to the conclusion that the postmen here have stolen it.

Mr. Chairman, we have lost mail in January, February, March, April, August and December last year, and even in February this year we lost a bag of mail posted from Miami weighing 16.2 kgs. From Canada we lost mail in May, July, August, September. November, and December; some nine bags which the airlines have confirmed have never been received by the Barbados service. As regards the mail from Canada this matter is being investigated by the security officers of both Air Canada and the Canadian Post Office. As regards the Pan American loss, discussions are taking place with the Commissioner of Police and themselves as to how best we can tighten up this. This is not confidential in a sense. I should let the public know that even although I accept that in any service you get bad eggs, yet the loss of mail in Barbados is not in every case attributable to the Post Office here. Letters do arrive from abroad partly opened and these are posted at New York or Canada, because they have dishonest postmen and dishonest sorters too; so that it is extremely difficult for me as Minister or even for the Postmaster General to give a definitive answer to what has happened to any one piece of mail.

I have mentioned this to show the public generally and to show hon. members that losses do occur which affect the poor people in the community, and the mail of which the hon. member for St. Lucy speaks may be the very mail that the Post Office did not receive, and I thought I should make this information known to show that it is not always dishonest postmen here as some people think, but rather some people outside...

Mr. GREAVES:

On a point of elucidation, I think the hon. member is getting the impression that I said the postmen here were dishonest. I want to be asbolutely clear about this because I think this is the tenor of his speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am not accusing the hon. member for St. Lucy, but what I am saying is that I have seen letters written to the papers suggesting that the postmen are dishonest, but nothing in his speech has indicated that. When auntie writes and says that she sent $10 each time, the people who do not receive it say that it is the dishonest postmen, but in some cases it has not arrived, or it has been taken out by dishonest postmen in the country of origin. Far be it from me to suggest that a Trade Union leader would suggest that members of his own trade union would be dishonest. I would never suggest it because it would not be politic and he has no grounds for it. I am saying that the public will write and say, as happened in the papers just a few weeks ago, that they did not get their money and ask what is the position. I have recited those facts to show the public and the House how mail can be lost and how a blame can be thrown on a system which is entirely unblameworthy.

There are one or two matters mentioned by the hon. member for St. Peter. I agree that with the new land tax I would have to look seriously at providing not only private tenantry roads and subsidiary roads

in poor areas, but I will have to relate my new road programme next week when I sit down to being fair to people who are now called upon to pay. As a matter of fact, I was told the other day outside by the hon. member for St. Michael West that he has got not a hole but a cavern. I sent the people to put some marl fill temporarily because I intend to do the roads in Regency Park, but I hope they did at least accommodate the member for St. Michael West. I will have to look at the total programme within the economic context of the money granted to me and divide it fairly among all sections of the community. That is a feasible and understandable request.

On the whole question of side walks and road widening, I share the hon. member's view that we must seize on every occasion the opportunity to widen roads and put down sidewalks, but as you know, the Constitution of Barbados is a hamstringing document, and you cannot take away a man's property without going to court if he does not agree with the compensation, and it can land you into many legal battles which are totally unnecessary, because we have in the Constitution what is construed as a fundamental right, and therefore we run into a situation where a fundamental right is hamstringing the development. A country is not a country unless it has land unless you are Our Lord to walk, and therefore a socialist country must see to it that the best use is made of the land it possesses in terms of production, in terms of crop diversification or in terms of land tax, and anybody who is a socialist and does not subscribe that although the land may be his or mine the society has a right to use it to the best advantage of the total society rather than to individual benefits, then you have not passed primer standard in socialism. We are hamstrung and I think the message has got home to my engineers that every opportunity must be seized in order to widen the roads and put down sidewalks. I should let hon. members know that already the Chief Technical Director and his staff are already carrying out surveys on the south coast road and certain aspects of the road leading to the airport with a view to compulsorily acquiring and extending, but you will realise that when you use the money for compulsory acquisition, you do not have anything to do the roads with. 3.50 p.m.

That is the position, because land up there now is $5 per sq. ft. and nobody is giving. The hon. member for St. Peter spoke about the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister is perfectly willing to give his. I know he is willing to give his land free, but when you see John on either side of you asking for a piece of change, after all, change does not spoil. If he is willing to give, the man on the north says no, the man on the south says no, and the Government has to take money to give the people on the north and on the south, you will be an idiot of the first waters to say I give and let the Government vote money to give B and C. You cannot blame a man for this, if they were giving free I know the Prime Minister would give free. I do not find fault with him and you should not find fault with him for this.

Another matter is the question of the Spine Road. The Consultant said that this road would cost $38 million, but with escalating costs it is going to cost a little more than $40 million. Even although traffic is congested and traffic in the country is causing a headache, I do not think in the scheme of socialist priorities this Government can spend $38 million on a Spine Road with schools to be built, more hospitals, a free health service and the extension to the Deep Water Harbour; because you have to pay interest on this money, the taxes are high and you cannot go in for these new fashioned six lane roads and therefore the Government has to make a decision on that shortly, whether we can phase it or whether we have to shelve it so that the development can continue. It is a nice design by the Consultants, but can a socialist Government pick up that sort of money with so many needs in housing, harbour development, airport development, technical education and youth affairs and spend it this way? Shortly the Government will make a decision so that those who are held up now by Town and Country Planning

can go ahead and develop.

The Ring Road is an attempt to relieve the traffic from going into Bridgetown and to push it from Rendezvous right across to St. Barnabas and then across to Warrens. It is going to be phased out, the money you see in the vote is to widen St. Barnabas Road and put in sidewalks. We are going to phase it because this is the best method we can adopt, but as I say there is a limited amount of money we possess.

I share the view of the hon. member for St. Michael West that the records of the casual

workers should be kept up to date. In most cases they know that John Brown is going to retire in three months' time but John Brown's records are not up-to-date. If he has to swear an affidavit this should be done in time, but more often than) not it takes John Brown two years to get his money because he is a casual worker. The top Civil Servant will get his gratuity and pension in three weeks' time but the man who is downstairs and needs it more will have to wait for a longer period. Many people come to me with tears in their eyes because they have not received their money, and the Prime Minister and myself have said that we want a more up-to-date system for paying benefits on retirement. I know that in the old days of Highways and Transport and the Public Works Department no records were kept, but I think we have really got to show some interest as the member says in the poor classes of our community.

There are just one or two other matters, Mr. Chairman, and I shall not be long on them. I have dealt with the Post Office and I have explained the present position with that. The hon. member for Christ Church West mentioned the Spine Road, but the whole transportation system in this country needs good organising, and again you have to have money to do it. This hand-to-mouth, patch-work, piece-meal method of organising a transport system does not work. The question of taking over the whole transport system is a recommendation of the Transport Committee I set up, but you cannot just run helter skelter like the last Government did and buy out some old rusty buses that up to today are not working, and if my workshop is not efficient or is not running properly I can find the people to do it, therefore I cannot take over another fleet to add to them when we are losing money on them already. As you can see this calls for some thinking, and I really want to be fair to the concessionaires to whom I will join with the member for Christ Church West and pay tribute. All these Transport Improvement Committees and all the people who write letters, why do they not offer to run a bus service; These people are 65 and 70 years of age - I do not know Mrs. Rock's age, so when I mention the ages of the concessionaires I am not referring to Mrs. Rock - but these people who start out with one bus are today helping to run a service. If tomorrow they tell me they cannot run it, even though I have power to take away the concession, what is going to happen with the same Transport Improvement Committee? We have to be fair to these people. Today a bus costs about $40,000 to land in Barbados, and we have given them permission to escape paying duty on chassis to help them to build up a fleet, so with all these ietters appearing in the Press about the 9.30 bus not arriving, I believe you should get buses on time and it is annoying to employers when their employees turn up late because they could not get a bus, but these big people will not run a bus service. DaCosta & Musson will go into plantations but they will not go into buses. You check and see who come forward to run buses, not the people with money, not the people who can get money from banks, it is the poor people like Mr. Coward, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Trotman and Mrs. Rock who are trying to render a service to this country. I want the people to understand that it is my intention to improve it to maximum efficiency and therefore you have to bear with us because everything costs money.

We are looking at the question of getting special buses to carry out tourists on conducted tours and we are trying to organise the taxi business in a way that can meet the needs of the people, so I just want the public to understand that even although Rome was not built in a day and delays are annoying, they have got to relate their ambitions and desires to a small community, and what I would like Barbadians to do is to travel to a developed country, not Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada, but when they do this that is why some of them kiss the earth at Seawell because they realise the things they have free here. When they go up to New York they realise the difference because they cannot tell an employer in the middle of winter that the bus was late or that the rain was falling or that they had an accident, but here they get away with it and they want everything on a platter. I have warned the Prime Minister already that the time is going to come when he will have to call on the people of Barbados to stand up and be counted and to shoulder their civic responsibility. I for one wonder what the reaction is going to be, because socialist or otherwise you make their paths smooth, you give them the things which true socialism demands but they as citizens of the country have got to bear some responsibility and sacrifice, and I doubt whether the people are being educated either by you or by us to face up to that.

The question that the sum of $7,319,010 under Head 102 - Ministry of Communications and Works - as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 101 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, it is common knowledge that agriculture not only in Barbados but all through the world has been undergoing serious revolution. It is customary and it is also accepted that in the economic development of countries the world round agriculture loses some form of importance. In Barbados we have our problems in agriculture because of the revolution which I have earlier mentioned and because of the fact that the economy of this country is experiencing rapid development. Wherever rapid development in an economy is being experienced it has adverse effects on agriculture, but that does not mean that the economic development is bad. 4.00 p.m.

In the United States of America where 3% of the gross domestic product in 1971 was supplied by agriculture, it is said that the total earnings of the country came from agricultural sources. In Barbados in 1971, because of the emphasis placed on other factors of the economic development in the country, the question of the establishment of Industrial Estates; the improvement in the living standards of our people; the progress made in housing development island-wide; agriculture has had to give up some of the land for such development. As a result, the total revenue for agriculture has reduced. I refer to the total revenue as was envisaged by the Statistical Department of this country, but there are certain hidden earnings in agriculture today to which people pay little attention. In this case, I refer to the backyard type of agriculture. Even although land has been removed from agriculture and has gone into housing development, etc., the people of this country are yet agriculturally conscious, and in every backyard, if there is not a coconut tree, there is an apple tree, or a few beds in which vegetables are grown. Even the Barbados cherry tree plays an important part on these house spots. In the front of the house there is a flower garden, and at the back of the house there is some form of vegetation which can produce something which is edible. If there is not that type of vegetation, then you will find the pig, sheep, goat, or a cow. You will find that sort of thing even in Regency Park which is an area which was taken from

sugar cane and used for middle-income Housing Development.

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned that merely to point out that although the statistics show that agriculture in Barbados amounted to 12.7% of the gross domestic product, I submit that it is higher than that because those statistics did not take into consideration the normal backyard type of agriculture. We have our 4-H Clubs that are encourged to grow vegetables and to keep livestock, but these things are not included in the

statistics. They grow vegetables in rock gardens and they grow vegetables in boxes. A few years ago we carried out a campaign whereby we have accelerated the rate of backyard farming. Of course, these things have not been accounted for in the statistical data which we are given.

In 1971, despite the fact that agriculture had been reduced, in some measure, in its significance, it still contributed to 17% of the employment of this country. It amounts to about 70% of the gross export trade of our country, of which about 60% is taken care of by sugar. When I refer to the word "sugar", I want to strike a note of warning here. "E.L.C." in yesterday's newspaper made mention of the fact that France has been advocating an expansion of beet root production in that country. The United Kingdom has been advocating an increase in the quota; therefore, it is for us in Barbados to have a new look and make a new approach to agriculture. This is what the Ministry of Agriculture foresaw and which it has been working on in its Research Programme.

Now, if you ask a farmer to make technological changes to make a profit of 10% or 15%, not taking into consideration the fact that he has to pay interest at the bank, the mortgage on his land and so on, he is going to laugh at you. If you tell him to go ahead and grow a product, and he does not have a proper comprehensive plan or a package deal, Mr. Chairman, I submit that there is no encouragement given to the farmer to do it.

The United Nations in a Report some two years ago saw the need for an increase of something like 4% in food production throughout the world. The developed countries with countries with a surplus could increase by 3%, whereas the other less developed countries could increase by something between 1% and 2%. Now, Barbados is a developing country, and we have to improve our local food production. The Ministry of Agriculture has a responsibility to the farmers in this country, and hon. members know that the Programme of Capital Expenditure which we envisage takes into consideration the need of farmers generally and the urgent necessity to accelerate our Research Programme, and get our findings off the ground.

In these Estimates hon. members will note that, in our aim to improve food production in this country, we have made provision for the establishment of our Agronomic Research Station. We are not resting on our laurels and saying that we have an export trade in sugar, and we know that we are good until 1974. We are

not a Ministry of today. We are a Ministry of today and tomorrow. 4.10 p.m.

We are gearing ourselves for our future problems and this is why I mentioned that we are doing research in our Ministry whereby we can hand the farmer a package deal. I may venture to mention here that we are giving serious consideration to a policy of agrarian reform in this country. I may mention

also that a Committee has been established and help has been sought to go into a complete policy of agrarian reform. We propose that there should be greater participation of all the people in our country in agriculture; we propose that there should be a more equitable distribution of the land resources of our country 70% of which still remains in agriculture. We also note that the majority of this land remains in the hands of a few people, and Mr. Chairman, it is the policy of this Government that that land will come out of the hands of those few people, and in our agrarian reform will go into the hands of many.

In order to do this, Mr. Chairman, we have got to educate our people, and in our approach to agrarian reform we propose to involve the youth of the country. We propose to establish a farm school and I will be coming back here for money, if I am Minister of Agriculture, to establish that school. Gone are the days when the profits from agriculture went to a few and we had the poor people acting as slaves. We feel that the country should be divided into smaller units giving each family an income of not less than $5,000 or $6,000 per annum. We feel the time has come when the man who formerly worked for Massa should be working for himself, and the necessity for this is shown in the fact that if you have a survey of the people cutting canes today, the average age is 55 years. We have to look for new techniques. We have been carrying out research in the cultivation by mechanical means, and mechanical harvesting not only as regards the sugar cane; we have carried out successful experiments in the Ministry of Agriculture in respect of mechanical harvesting of root crops; so we are in a position to zone the island and to establish farms throughout the country, and I may say that my proposal is to start first with the Crown lands and pass them on to small farmers. We never believed that the Agricultural Development Corporation should take a sugar plantation from the sugar magnates who could not make money out of the plantation and continue to operate them as sugar plantations. I feel that every inch of land in Barbados has its purpose. There is an area which could be used for sugar, and there is another area which could be used for cotton.

Mr. Chairman, we have carried out our cotton research programme and there is a good export trade for cotton. One unfortunate thing which happened to the cotton industry in this country is the fact that when the cotton seed plant was sold the Government was not made aware, but it was sold by private treaty and went out of the country, and whilst we have bought the ginnery, we do not have the facilities to deal with the cotton seed, and we find ourselves this year with thousands of pounds of cotton seed from which we could extract the oil and use the remainder as an ingredient for animal protein. I have instructed the Agricultural Development Corporation that it is their function to look for that type of equipment to take care of our further losses now in the cotton industry, because whilst we are extracting the cotton through the ginnery, we have the wastage of the seed. However, we have carried out certain trials and put the seed through our mills. We have carried out some trials on some of the Government-owned animals. It is said that the prussic acid in the cotton seed will poison our cows and so on, but we have carried out trials on a limited scale and we have not lost any cows yet. We may still be able to use the cotton seed, but we were offered a ridiculous price by Antigua for it simply because the processing plant is there.

When I mentioned the question of a package deal in agriculture, I was referring not only to the growing of the product, but also to the processing and marketing. The average farmer in Barbados is willing to work for himself. I know a man who is over sixty years, was a civil servant with the Central Livestock Station and who two weeks ago had a stroke. He had his own canes and when he was told that he was too old to cut them he said he was going to cut them because they were his. This is a classic example of the fact that the average Barbadian will work for himself but he does not want to go in the

field and work for Massa any longer, and where it is feasible to grow sugar, we propose to zone the country and in our agrarian reform programme let ten or twelve people operate, say, 100 acres of land in sugar on a cooperative basis. If it is a question of poultry we propose X acres of land, Y acres for pigs, A acres for dairy industry etc. This is our approach to agriculture in this country.

I name this year the year when agriculture must advance, and I started a programme on television entitled "Advance in Agriculture". I did not take it form the book written by Moisher who is an expert in agriculture, but from the mind of Edwards, and the reason I did this is

because I can foresee the day when diversification has a more than important role to play in the economic development of the country. 4.20 p.m.

I want to say this, that whilst agriculture in 1971 might have accounted for 17% of the employment of the labour force of this country, four years from now agriculture will be the biggest source of employment because of our agricultural diversification programme, because of the fact that more of our industries will be established, we will be having a pork processing plant despite the swine fever, we will be having a peanut processing; plant - provision is made in the Estimates for it - we will be having also a feed processing plant. We have been having talks with the poultry producers who want a central poultry processing plant which will be an incentive to the small farmer to go back into poultry keeping. Today the small farmer is finding it uneconomical to keep poultry because although a minimum control price is placed on poultry, when the small farmer carries his poultry to the only outlet he has he is even offered a price smaller than the control price. I am offering no apologies for what I am saying today because I like telling it like it is.

Mr. Chairman, I am all behind the establishment of this central poultry processing plant where the birds can be bought not only from the small farmer but from the large farmer at a reasonable price live, so all the small farmer has got to do is to produce that bird. It is ridiculous to think that in a country where we can be self sufficient in a commodity we have to be importing it. I feel very strongly about it and I propose to do something about it. We propose also to establish under the ADC vegetables processing plants. I said that I do not believe that the ADC should operate any plantations like in the old days; those days are over. I gave them a year, I told them they will have to get out of it by next year if I am still in the Ministry. They have to get out of the plantation system and the role of the ADC in this country is to facilitate and stimulate agricultural diversification. That is how I see it, and to do this they cannot operate sugar plantations that have been losing money, but what they can do is to see that the land which they have is used to the best advantage and that processing equipment is provided to take care of the produce of the farmer of this country whether he be small or whether he be great.

We have also made a breakthrough in peanuts. Last year we produced peanuts which supplied the island's needs for nine months of the year, and we think that we have as many this

year as to supply the island's needs for the whole year. We have gone further than this, we have established drying facilities so that the farmers when they produce their peanuts and they do not have the reduced amount of moisture we can dry the peanuts for them. We have had talks with interested parties who want to assist Government in the establishment of the peanut processing plant, we have issued instructions to the Chief Agricultural Officer to send some of our peanuts abroad to see whether they are the best type of peanuts that can be used for processing. We are awaiting results from that.

The question of the livestock industry in this country has been causing great concern recently. Hon. members will note that all of this emanated from the fact that there was an inadequate supply of certain ingredients for the feed, there has also been an inadequate supply of feed in this country. When I speak on the question of the establishment of a feed processing plant with the major participation in it being in the hands of the Government through the Agricultural Development Corporation, I know some people in this country get nervous, some people do not like to hear this, but we want in this country a feed plant operated by Government and farmers who have got to buy that feed and who would have an interest in seeing that their animals get a good quality feed. I go further. Provision is being made now in the Ministry for an amendment to the Feeding Stuff Act giving the Government just as was done years ago with the Food and Drugs Act the authority to take samples of the feed produced in this country and having them tested. If we do not have all the facilities here we can send them abroad, but I want to let hon. members know that within a few weeks' time my Ministry will be equipped through its chemical laboratory and the animal nutrition unit to carry out these assays to tell you what are the contents of the feed, what fats there are, what carbohydrates, what vitimins, what minerals, etc. so that farmers in this country will be assured of a high energy feed - and that is what is needed - not a feed mixed with pollard and marl. I am not saying that anybody is doing it, but I am just saying that we do not want this sort of thing in this country any longer. I am saying that we propose this very year to assist the farmer in getting a good product. Some people do not like it but we like it because we like the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, we also propose to continued our research in the field of Comfith because if it happens that we cannot produce sugar to sell on the world market, we have to find an alternative for the land, and I have just been instructed that after we have spoken to Canada on this matter that Canada has agreed to make funds and consultants available to us to continue the research in the Comfith project. We have crossed the hurdle as far as is extremely possible with beef but we are doing dairy industry, with poultry, pigs and sheep, and we hope that the favourable results which we have had with the beef will continue in respect of pigs, sheep, poultry, etc.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say one more thing before I sit. I know that the time is almost past, but I feel very strongly - and hon. members will bear with me - that the time has come when because of the world situation with grain that we have got to provide our own grain. 4.30 p.m.

We have carried out research in sorghum. We can produce sorghum on even dry land in the country or on land with low rainfall. We have carried out research and we have advised the farmers how to plant corn in order to get a yield of an average of 80 bushels an acre, and it is happening in this country. The problem the farmers had was that they were experiencing difficulty in getting the corn down to the appropriate moisture content of 14%. Since then we have established at Codrington a dryer which is not only drying onions for the farmers, but it will be able to dry corn and peanuts. I will be issuing instructions under, the Food Control Order Act to farmers in this country that a certain acreage of their land must be devoted to corn. Sorghum and soya bean will be planted. We have carried out research in sorghum for human consumption, but we are now doing research in soya bean for grain production . We hope that we will be as successful in this research as we have been in the other type of soya bean.

Mr. Chairman, in moving that Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - stand part of the Schedule, I should like to make the following amendments:

Item 2 - Soil Conservation.

Insert at end of note the words "Includes revote of $240,000."

Item 11 - Livestock Development. Delete existing item and substitute therefor the words "Purchase of Livestock and Livestock Research."

Item 15 - Mechanical Cultivation Scheme, Insert note to read as follows ".15. To purchase equipment for the Mechanical Cultivation Scheme."

Item 24 - Central Laboratory. Delete full stop at end of note and add the following "in respect of the establishment of a Central Laboratory."

Item 25 - Pork Processing Plant.

Delete existing note and substitute therefor

the following "Token provision in respect of

the establishment of a Pork Processing

Plant."

Item 27 - Feed Plant.

Delete existing note and substitute therefor the following "Token provision in respect of the establishment of a Feed Mixing Plant."

Item 28 - Vegetable Grading and Drying Plant Project.

Mr. Chairman, the Note was omitted here. The new Note should be as follows:

"To provide for operating expenses of the project. Include provision for the purchase of a tractor, van and office equipment."

I beg to move that the sum of $3,159,562 under Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr, Chairman, all I would like to say is that joy is going out of agriculture, and Taitt has got us in straights.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I did not hear the hon. member.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I said that joy is going out of agriculture and Taitt has got us in straights.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is absolutely nothing about the Hon. Minister, because there is no joy in this Chamber.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Exactly, Sir. There is no joy in this Chamber, and there is no joy in agriculture. Two years ago I came to this Chamber and called for the zoning of this Island. I also called for the serious establisment of the growth of corn, sorghum and soya bean all the year round. The Hon. Minister took the warning and, if he has put the suggestion into operation, I can congratulate him for it today. But how can I congratulate the Government on its agricultural policy? There is no room whatsoever for congratulation. Even if the Hon. Minister is convinced about the value of agriculture in this country, the Estimates and the happenings in this country today are sufficient to change the mind of anybody who has ever had any interest in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member told us what his plans are. He spoke about the backyard agriculture, the apple tree, the Barbados Cherry, pig, sheep, goats and cows. Nobody doubts that these things have contributed immensely to the value of the agricultural products in this country. Nobody doubts that these things have contributed to the livelihood of many of us in this country. If the hon. member had been following the newspaper, he would have seen that day after day the small farmers, particularly in the poultry industry, have been closing down. Take the statistics for the months of January and February, Mr. Chairman, and you will find that there are 50,000 chickens less each month in this country because of the attitude and the hamstrung position in which the small farmer in this country is placed by the Ministry of Trade which is handling the Barbados Marketing Corporation, an establishment established under the aegis of the Barbados Labour Party for the benefit of the small farmer in this country in order to enhance and improve the position of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask why did the Government think of moving the B.M.C. from under the portfolio of agriculture and putting it under the portfolio where those who are responsible for its operations do not understand the fundamental concepts of agriculture and what it means to this country? We talk about giving small farmers a chance. How can you ask a small farmer to get up on mornings and to produce products; purchase them from him at a starvation rate, and then sell them at an exorbitant price with a 50% mark up in some cases? I have prepared carefully, within the last few weeks, figures and statistics to prove every word I am going to say in here today.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at what the hon. Minister has said. He spoke about the peanut industry. We have grown enough peanuts in this country to last for 9 months or a year. According to the Minister's policy, he is going to take the land from the hands of the ADC and give it to the farmers; he is going to ask the small farmer to grow more crops so that we can have more local food. Do you believe that any small farmer will be satisfied, despite the backing of the Minister of Agriculture, to proceed to produce crops, take them to the only central purchasing agency in this country, the B.M.C., to find that he is paid 68/ a pound for them and they are then sold at $1.08 a pound? That is a mark up of 58.8%! Let the Hon. Minister answer that question and justify it in the light of the position of the small farmers in this

country. Let him give us something to justify the small farmers that they must remain in agriculture, because of the good will he has in his mind for them. Ask him if the Banks are not foreclosing on these people?

Mr. Chairman, up to Sunday last 19 chicken farms were closed down in this country. Every day in the week when you read the newspaper you will see that another chicken farm is selling out. The position is that the chicken farmer is growing his chickens and selling them at a loss. 4.40 p.m.

When I am finished I know the Minister is going to rant and rave. I know that side is going to shout, but I want these to be made documents of the House for posterity. In October and November last year I collected a list of feed prices. Roberts Manufacturing applied for an increase in price in the feed they were selling. What was the percentage mark-up on feed stuff compared with the old price? Chicken Starter 27.12%; Chicken Grower 28.89%; Broiler Starter 23.21%; Broiler Finisher 27.91%. Take animal feed for which there is a subsidy, Mr. Chairman. Calf Starter 17.9%; Mixed Mash 21.69%. Swine Feeds, mark-up ranging from 8.90% to 13.32% despite the subsidy of $1.00, but what is the farmer getting in return? If you take the back yard farmer which the Hon. Minister speaks about, you will find that he buys his feed in hundred pound bags. His mark-up ranges from 16.5% to 19%, but he is required to sell the produce at $1.18 from $1.05 which is 12.38%

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, I want to find out from the hon. member if when he refers to the word "mark-up" he means increase.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Yes, it is the increased price of these commodities. I am dealing with the sale of the feed in relation to the selling price which the farmer is getting. He is only getting 12.38% on his chicken and the retailer gets 11.30%.

Let us go to pork, Mr. Chairman. Pork has been selling at $62 per hundred pounds before the increase in price, but the price remains the same despite the mark-up in the feed prices. The Minister spoke about what his intentions are, but what do we find? The Government has created in the Barbados Marketing Corporation in 1973 an institution supported by the taxpayers which is offering unfair competition to the farmers of this country, because they are importing chicken at a landed cost here of $1.41 per pound, and I am challenging any member on that side to tell me what price it will be sold at based on the price of all the commodities at the B.MC. They are not selling it at the moment; they have got it in cold storage and on this is a price of four cents per pound for the first month and three cents per pound thereafter, but you cannot give the farmer a decent mark-up on his commodity.

Mr. Chairman, all the Minister has said can do no good to the farmers of this country unless he is assured that if he accepts the Agricultural Development's blessings on one hand, he must get on the other hand just reward for his labour. That is what he is not getting because he is in open fight with the B.M.C., and when the Minister spoke of a chicken farmer who took his produce to an agency and was offered a price less than the controlled price, I can say categorically now that the man took his chicken down to the B.M.C. which offered him $1.00 a pound. The Minister can talk what he likes; he has to justify his position in agriculture vis-a-vis the sale of the produce which is created. All the experiments you put into it, Mr. Chairman, can do no good whatsoever. They buy green limes at 28 cents and sell at

45 cents, a mark-up of 60.7%.

I want to hear the Minister of Tourism talk about the Hotels. Mr. Chairman, I have heard of some people in our clothing; that is all I have to say. I know of one of the big hotels which in December told a small man that it was not buying any more vegetables from him after 1st January, 1973. I am not going to make any recommendations this year.

The Minister speaks about feed and feed prices and about setting up a feed plant. It is all well and good to talk about setting up a feed plant and about what you are getting in your feed, but we must first understand that until this country has buckled itself down to providing at least 50% of the ingredients we need for mixing our feeds, and until the Government understands itself and sees that if a manufacturer spends $X in compounding a component he must be entitled to $X plus something on top of that, then the situation will improve. The Telephone Company has what is called a base rate. They are able to go to the Courts and say they are spending $X and are entitled to $X plus $1 or $Y on that, but what is happening to the local people in the country. They are hamstrung by the Government who is talking about absorbing the expenses, while the Bank is at the same time absorbing the farmers, and if this policy continues for the next few months, half of them may end up in the Bankruptcy Courts of this Island.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, I really want to understand, when the hon. member spoke about policy, whether he is talking about the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, because I have declared what the Ministry's policy is.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, that is like diagnosing that a man has diabetes and the druggist has not got the medicine. That is all I have to say about that. You go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and hear that you have a small cancer, but they do not have the machine to treat you, so you die in the meantime. I said when I started, that this year I am not offering any suggestings as to what the Ministry should do. For two years I have given suggestions and I am now pleading for the farmers despite all the intentions of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister talked about setting up a pork processing plant, but all he has for animal feed subsidy is $100,000 this year. Last year the amount was $250,000. We have just had swine fever in this country. Are you going to set up a pork processing plant and find at the end of the period that you have not got the pork to process? Are you going to tell me that a reduction in the animal feed subsidy is sufficient to encourage a farmer to go into the growth of pigs? For Livestock Development you have reduced the amount from $289,940 last year to $246,458 this year. Are you saying that these are the methods of encouraging farmers to continue in agriculture? Despite all the good intentions you may have, you have to show it better than this, not by a reduction. 4.50 p.m

It is about time that the Government realises that we in this country have got to battle with a little bit more of the elements than the people in the United States, Canada, or Great Britain. We have not got in this country up to now a lab sufficiently equipped or men with knowledge to come in and diagnose quite early the presence of any disease. The poultry farmers had difficulty some time last year when there was an outbreak of Newcastle disease and there was no subsidy for it. If you are saying you want to be self

sufficient, I am not saying that you must provide a subsidy for payment to everybody who claims that they have lost animals, it is human nature that if they can get it for nothing they will do it, but I believe that the Government should look at its internal policy on agriculture. Agriculture should not be by itself, but agriculture, trade and the sale of the product should be in the same hands. You have to look at a crisis like the one we have now with pigs. What concessions are we going to give to the pig farmer today? We hear nothing of that, Mr. Chairman, and we speak about what we are going to do, we are going to set up a drying plant.

I can tell you now, and I know that the Hon. Minister knows it, that there are farmers in this country who have vowed not to sell any of their produce to the BMC any longer, so even if he passes the law that people must do certain things they are going to do them reluctantly. It is now being clearly said that you can go into the market and buy better goods at a cheaper price than you can get at the BMC, and this is die outlet for the farmer. Despite all the Hon. Minister might say, I challenge him to tell me when he has made these proposals, when he has started this scheme, if he as a farmer will be satisfied to grow crops and commodities and then find at the end of the season that the return is poor. I see, Mr. Chairman, that you are raising your finger, I wanted to say something else and if I may continue I will deal with the forming incentives scheme.

When I came here two years ago I told the Government that in order to have a decent agricultural community, in order to develop interest in agriculture the Government should have a registration of farmers. They started a census but I have not heard anything about it since. I have spoken to the members of the BMC and to people in the agricultural department and I asked them how they could expect to satisfy a country's needs in agriculture unless they first made a register of farmers, knew what they were planting and what they hoped to reap and then decide on your import trade. Unless you do that you cannot get anywhere and the money you spend in your experiments is going to come to naught. I would like to hear the Minister tell me that despite all the plans why is it that the animal subsidy has been reduced. Does he know that with a reduction of this sum you are therefore reducing the number of animals you have in the country? Otherwise you are raising the rearing cost of the animals, and if you are raising the rearing cost of the animals what is going to be your control price at the other end? Without that I submit that the Government or the Minister of Agriculture in all his glory and well wishing cannot do better.

The last thing I want to say is this. I am not going to say that people were not getting pollard and mad in the feed in the last few weeks, but what I am going to say is that if you work on a policy where you have no control and you are going to say that you will control your selling price at $X despite the fact that you are bringing in at $X-1, you must get substitutes. Until the Government can look at this policy realistically a lot more plants will close down. Already one plant has closed down and I can tell you why it was closed down. The people asked for5/ per pound and the Government only awarded them 31/2:- per pound and the operators of the present feed plant have already written to Government and have been told that they are playing it close to the bosom. I asked the Minister of Agriculture about it and he said he could not tell me Cabinet secrets. Mr. Chairman, I would like to show the Hon. Minister this. This is a United Kingdom Poultry World Report of 11th January, 1973, and this is what it says. We do not grow any of the commodities here, but look at the U.S. Food Report of March 5, 1973. The price of eggs skyrocketed between January 1972 and January 1973 by 39.6% increase The price of frying chicken jumped by 7.3% increase. Then you have the Government asking the farmers in this country to subsidise the nation at their expense, and then the Hon. Minister of Agriculture tells us of his grandiose plans fon

agriculture. He must go back to Cabinet and tell them that he does not feel justified in telling the nation that they must become more involved in agriculture if at the end of the day they will find that they are ending up in the bankruptcy court owing everybody in this country.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, unlike die member who just sat down I do not care to class myself as an expert in agriculture, but there are some points which I would like to make on this Head. I do not think anybody can really say with any honesty that the Government is not doing a tremendous amount of work in the agricultural sector both from the point of view of developing agriculture and from the research which is being; carried on. I think this should be established first, but as the member for St. Joseph has pointed out, no amount of planning, no amount of research, no amount of grandiose plans can be of any meaning if the proper marketing facilities do not exist for getting the agricultural produce into the country and to the people who need them. I think that, this should be one of the major areas of concern.

One of the things which really always tends to bother me is the fact that when we talk about developing marketing fecilities there always seems to be an over-concentration on the Barbados marketing. Corporation as it exists on the Harbour Road. What I would like to see is that an extremely close look be made at our marketing facilities. It is true that at least the large majority of people who live in Barbados have lived in the St. Michael, Christ Church and St. James areas and get to the Marketing Corporation fairly easily. Further, for some time we have been insisting and we have been pointing out that there is need for the development of marketing facilities in Speightstown. If you were to go to Speightstown on a Saturday morning you would see people selling their produce at the side of the road; as a matter of fact, they are competing with the cars in the car park there for space to display their goods so that people can purchase from them, and this I believe creates a certain amount of difficulty for these people. 5 p.m.

In addition to this, if people who are going to be producing vegetables and so on cannot be given the assurance of the ease with which they can dispose of their produce, then this will deter them from going into further production. I think it is absolutely important that we pay some attention to our marketing facilities. This is going to be a very important area in assisting in the agricultural development which we are talking about and which the Minister has outlined here today.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister, in introducing this Head, did not make any reference to the Fisheries Section, but I should like to make a plea under this Head. We talk a lot about fishery development, but I want to point out that we must not only give assistance directly to fishermen, but we have to think in terms of creating facilities for disposing and keeping the fish which is caught. For instance, in St. Lucy we have two well established fishing villages. There is a market at Half-Moon Fort, but this market is in a very dilapidated state. We then have Crab Hill, and I am convinced that there is need for a Fish Market there. All of these developments will give people an opportunity to display their fish and other items and make proper arrangements for the disposal of them. I am sure that a market up there would be of great assistance to the people.

Mr. Chairman, in the Capital Estimates mention has been made of the Farmers' Incentive Scheme. Only recently I had an example of the manner in which this Scheme operates, and I would like to take time off to congratulate the Ministry for implementing a scheme of this nature. Just about two or three weeks ago, some poor farmers in St. Lucy got together, pooled what money they had, submitted a

scheme to the Government, and today they are the owners of a tractor which can plough the fields of the small farmers in the St. Lucy district. I think this is something along the right road, because it is well known that agriculture is becoming more and more mechanised. In our drive for mechanisation on the large farms, we have to be careful that the small farmers are not left behind, and this is something that the Government is making sure of. In other words, the Government is making sure that the small farmers are given an opportunity to continue with their production.

There are two other matters to which I would like to make reference. I refer to the question of markets. I see here that provision has been made for the Fairchild Street Market and the Cheapside Market. I consider this to be a matter of paramount importance. Anybody who goes into these Markets would be appalled at the atmosphere and what goes on there. I think there is either the need for some kind of control over the manner in which people offer their goods for sale, or the manner in which they do not offer their produce for sale. I feel that improvements should be made to these two markets, and every effort should be made to ensure that the people who go to these markets to purchase produce are not taken advantage of. We have heard of a number of cases where people have been given short weight and so on. I think that the Ministry should pay some attention to this matter.

Mr. Chairman, only on Saturday I was attending a seminar and I heard people complaining that scales are provided in some of these markets, but the scales do not operate in a way so that people could check to see whether they are getting their correct weight. I hope that the Minister will pay some attention to this matter.

I am rather interested to see, under rodent control, that the Ministry is making provision for purchasing equipment to control birds and monkeys. I think this is an important matter, because if we are thinking in terms of developing land, then we will have to find some means of controlling the birds or the animals which are likely to destroy various crops. I should like the Minister to tell me something about the type of equipment which will be used to control monkeys. I should also like to know what will happen to the monkeys after they are caught. Will we be having a lot of living monkeys to dispose of?

Mr. Chairman, I remember when I was a boy we used downfalls to catch birds, but I do not know whether the type of equipment envisaged will be an improvement beyond the stage of the downfall. I should like the Minister to give me some idea of the type of equipment which will be used to control the birds and monkeys.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. member knows that there is a flourishing market in the United States for live monkeys?

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear that. We would hope that when the equipment comes down we would be able to catch the monkeys and export them to the United States in which case it would make a lot of difference in our balance of payment problems. If the Minister is aware that there is a flourishing market in the United States for monkeys, then we will have to try and tap this market. At least we should ensure that when the monkeys are caught they will not be damaged and will be exported from the Island as soon as possible.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am a bit disappointed this afternoon. Usually the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and myself have a good debate during the debates on the Estimates. I am not saying that he does not have a good reason for saying what he has said, but the point I want to make is that his speech would have been more relevant under another Head of the Estimates. I am glad to see that, at long last, he has run out of steam as far as agriculture is concerned. He has a little steam on marketing.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister knows full well that for one to discuss Capital Estimates with 28 Notes in 15 minutes, when there is such a burning problem of the farmers in this country going bankrupt, one has to leave out part of the constructive criticism on agriculture and deal with points to save agriculture. It is better to use the 15 minutes to try and save agriculture rather than to make suggestions and in another three months we have nothing at all. 5.10 p.m.

The only way you can do it is to use your fifteen minutes to save agriculture rather than to make suggestions and in another three months we have nothing at all.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that the hon. member is concerned about farmers in this country. He could not be more concerned than I am because I owe it as a duty to the farmer to see that he survives well. We have already given the farmer the assurance that we are going to fight for him tooth and nail. (Mr. BOLDEN How are you going to fight the prices?) Mr. Chairman, I told the hon. member that I thought he would have had a greater contribution to make to this debate on agriculture. What the hon. member has spoken on was marketing, and what I am trying to point out is that his speech was more relevant under the head dealing with marketing than the head dealing with agriculture. I came in here today expecting that he would have taught me something about agriculture as he told me before, but I did not know that I would be the only teacher on agriculture. In talking about the question of price and reduction, he has not told me anything I did not know. I know that the production of broilers in December 1972 was 164,000 birds from the hatcheries; I know that in January the production was 109,000 and in February it was 114,000.

Mr. Chairman, I have offered a solution to the problem which is to see that a feed plant is established in the country which will produce a better feed at a more economical price. I want to tie into this reply the question of the subsidy. It was felt that since we are going to provide bulk facilities for our feed plant that you would get grain even at a lower price rather than through three or four people in this country importing grain and supplying a particular plant, drawing a commission and making a profit, we could produce feed at a much cheaper price at the people's plant.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, I wonder if the Minister could tell us how long a fowl, pig or cow will live while awaiting the establishment of the bulk facilities and a plant, and how long the farmers would exist under the present trend of things.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, the farmers are going to get out very soon. If I have to go to the extent of using the Land Acquisition Act in providing proper feed in this country for the farmers, they will get it, and a

word to the wise is enough. I gave a warning on television that when I have the feed essayed and it does not meet the required standard, some feed plant will close. (Mr. BOLDEN Another one!) Yes, another one will close, but only for a couple of hours.

The report on the price of pork is not my concern. My concern is to see that pork is produced in the country, and when the stand still order on pork is taken off the farmers will get a reasonable price for their pork. Nobody could expect them to pay an increased price of between 25% and 29% on their animal feed and not get a commensurate increase in the price of the end product. There is no consumer in this country who would object to paying more for pork when they know it costs more to produce the pork. The hon. member enquired about the establishment of a pork processing plant when we are not giving encouragement to people to keep pigs. I want to say that despite the swine fever, only a certain number of pigs have been affected, and I will give the number to date. There were 28 farmers affected, and 381 pigs were slaughtered out of a pig population of 33,000. There were about 691 that died, and we can only account for 381 as having had the infection, so the situation is not as bad as one would try to make it. I want to make another point in answer to the hon. member who raised the question of subsidy or compensation not being paid to poultry farmers, while I have referred to compensation being paid to swine keepers. There is a difference. The Ministry of Agriculture through its senior veterinary officer - and the hon. member knows this - has advised that vaccination be given to birds against the Newcastle disease. The farmers whose birds were attacked by the Newcastle disease refused to have their birds vaccinated two or three years ago when there was an outbreak. 5.20 p.m.

If you refuse to vaccinate your birds, is it fair to ask the taxpayers to pay you for your indifference? The point is that there is no vaccine available against swine fever but there is vaccine available in this country against Newcastle disease. The farmers were so advised, they were told that they should vaccinate the birds and they did not vaccinate them, and that is why the compensation was not paid. If they had acted in accordance with the advice of the Ministry they would have got compensation.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I wonder if the hon. member would give way. I am dealing with the outbreak we had early last year at which time I can personally say that there was objection to bringing in the vaccine when the disease was diagnosed. The Hon. Minister knows what the position is in respect of bringing in medicines of this nature, and I am saying that Government should create a fund for compensation in cases like this.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am dealing with poultry and I will state categorically that my advice has been that vaccine is available against Newcastle disease to poultry farmers, and poultry farmers and breeders are advised that they should use the vaccine. Some farmers said they did not want to use the vaccine because they feared that the vaccine would bring Newcastle disease to their farms, and what I am saying is that this is the reason they were not compensated because

those farms which were attacked are the farms of those people who did not vaccinate their birds against the disease. The hon. member can rise a million times but I am telling him like it is, I am giving him the facts.

On the question of the agricultural census, I have not yet received the final report on it. If I had received it I would have had the courtesy to bring it to the House. It is not yet complete, it is not yet

available. I told the hon. member that I have not yet received it.

On the question of the price of eggs which was raised, again I say that this is not my responsibility. What I say is that certain work was done in my Ministry and we passed on our advice to the appropriate authority.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Sir, since we are in the Estimates and we are trying to clear the air, I am trying to advance agriculture as much as the Hon. Minister. I wonder if he would tell me who the appropriate authority is so that I will know what to do.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
we usually put a case for farmers and we always put a good case for farmers because we are interested in farmers. Whether it is putting it to the Ministry of Finance, or whether it is putting it to any other Ministry, the whole point is that we have made out a case for the farmers and we hope that our words have not fallen on deaf ears.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of elucidation, you put a dead man in a box but you do not leave him there, the undertaker has to put him down somewhere, whether it is the Westbury Cemetery or the Crematorium,

Mr, CHAIRMAN:
No point of elucidation.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
I have asked the farmers to hold strain, and I am sure that they would not have to do this for too long.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of elucidation, the hon. member keeps saying that he expects a contribution on agriculture, but all he has said so far has told us nothing. How long must they hold strain before they are in the bankruptcy court? How long is too long?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:
Mr. Chairman, I understand that the situation is being reviewed.....(Asides)..... You cannot make me say anything I do not want to say, all I am saying is that I was told that the situation is being reviewed by the appropriate authority.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of elucidation, would the Hon. Minister tell us whether or not this matter has been dealt with by Cabinet, of which he is a member?

Mr. HINDS:
On a point of order, can the Minister tell us if the Ministry of Trade would be the appropriate authority in this case?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, all hon. members know which authority in this country fixes prices, otherwise they have no right being in here. The hon. member comes in here and ask questions of the appropriate Minister. They ask questions all the time of the appropriate Minister, and all I am saying is that the appropriate authority is giving further consideration to the plight of the farmers in respect of prices.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation, the Hon. Minister must not try it this way. We are dealing with agriculture which includes cattle, poultry and marketing. I know, for instance, that the Ministry of Agriculture deals with milk and dairy farmers, but I must admit I am trying to find the appropriate authority to make loud and clear representation, because I am afraid that many of the farmers are going to lose their houses. I know the bank has closed on three of them since Monday.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order, no point of elucidation;, that was another little speech.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, it is very interesting. Take note that the hon. member began dealing with prices and in dealing with prices he named a particular authority which fixes prices. In my reply I referred to the appropriate authority and there is nothing which they can say on that side that will make me change my statement.

On the question of the marketing facilities, I would like to let the House know in reply to the question asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy that having paid a visit to the Cheapside Market and the Fairchild Street Market I was appalled at the conditions around these markets, and as a result of this visit, we agreed that there ought to be some improvement made. We have the situation where bits of meat are stuck to the butchers' stalls and we are changing up all of this, we are tiling the butchers' stalls. 5.30 p.m.

We have a situation in the Cheapside Market where people are preparing food contrary to the

Public Health Regulations of this country; therefore, since it is a Government Department and these people rent their booths from the Government, I feel that it is the duty of the Government to put its house in order. The provision in the Estimates provide for an extension to the Fairchild Street Market where there are a number of squatters at the back of the Market. We feel that adequate provision should be made for them

Mr. Chairman, I feel that a market is a place where people go to buy and sell. Even in the bus stand, I feel that certain public facilities should be provided for the people. You do not carry people to the market, but you carry the market to the people. As far as I am concerned, we are making provision for improved facilities in Fairchild Street market and for improving the conditions at Cheapside market. On the question of the Speightstown market, I hope that the hon. member will .....(Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Reporters cannot hear, and I should like hon, members to comply with the relevant Standing Order.

Hon. A. DaC, EDWARDS:

I hope that Mr. Chairman will note that I have not been able to reply properly because of various interruptions, and I hope that that will be taken into consideration in dealing with this matter. We have proposals and a provision in the Estimates to take care of the marketing facilities in Speightstown. However, it has been decided that there is going to be a re-routeing of the road in Speightstown, and I think the hon. member knows about it. Now, the re-routeing of this road will affect the construction of the market where it was proposed to put it. We are waiting, therefore, to see the overall plan of the Speightstown area in order to establish a market there. I know that the hon. member for St. Peter will be glad to see a market there, but he will realise that it would be senseless to construct a Market and then find after the re-routeing of the road that it did not serve the purpose for which it was intended.

I am grateful to the hon. member for St. Lucy for the congratulation which he has given the Ministry on the question of the Farmers Incentive Scheme. Finally, I should like to point out that we have provided scales in the Markets. If the people want to accept short weight after we have placed scales in the Markets, then we cannot be blamed for this. We have provided scales so that they can check the weight they are getting.

On the question of the monkeys, I am not an expert in the field of monkeys. Although they have monkeys in Turners Hall woods, I represent the people and not the monkeys. I do not have any information here on the type of equipment which will be used to control monkeys, but I can assure the hon. member that I will get the necessary information from the experts in monkey destruction and pass it on to the hon. member.

The question that the sum of $3,159,562 under Head 101 - Ministry of Agriculture - as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 103 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Head 103 - Ministry of Health and Welfare - was called

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, whenever one comes down to the topic of health, one is likely to ask the question How important is health? In trying to relate the importance of health in a society to other topics such as education, industry, trade and commerce, in this comparison health is very often a bad loser. Some people believe that much money should not be spent on health and that money is better spent on education, industry, tourism and so on, but I should like to point out here that all the success in these other areas depends upon a healthy and vibrant community. If the people in a community are not healthy, then their endeavours in other fields must fall short. If you have unhealthy children, then they are unlikely to take adequate advantage and not even full advantage of the educational facilities provided for them. If you have unhealthy workers, you will find that their productivity, as has already been pointed out, by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works during this debate, will be very low. As we go on, Sir, you will see that health is a very important aspect of any community's welfare.

Mr. Chairman, when one tries to assess the economic importance of health, one does not look at it in terms of money which health is likely to produce, because money spent in health does not often produce

any money, and if it produces any money it is often very, very small. The importance of health is from the negative point of view. If you do not have healthy people, what will be your effort? What will be your expenditure in other areas? What will be your turn out in other areas?

I should like to say here this evening that I consider health as a very important aspect of the community as a whole. While the sum of money to be voted for health this afternoon may be considered a lot, it is my view that we in the Ministry of Health could do with a lot more money to pursue some of the objectives which we have in mind for the benefit of the people in Barbados.

Let me give you some of the items on which this money will be spent. You will find that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital stands out. As has been admitted elsewhere, we in the Ministry of Health take note of the fact that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has problems. In the money provided in the Capital Estimates for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it is the objective here to remove some of these problems. One of the problems confronting the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the inadequate accommodation for some sections of the staff.

During my discussions with representatives of the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it has been pointed out to me by the orderlies, the maids, the cooks, and other categories of workers that the accommodation facilities provided for them are very inadequate, and this may be one of the reasons why their productivity continues to be low and why they continue to grumble about conditions at the hospital. It is my responsibility, therefore, to seek to give them improved conditions so that when they are off duty, or are waiting to take up duties, they can go and relax in comfort.

I have had the experience of visiting some of these areas in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and I was shocked at some of the accommodation provided for orderlies, assistants, maids and other categories of workers there. I do not want to elaborate on the details of the accommodation there, but I will admit that it is far from satisfactory. If people have to accept such conditions, then it is only natural to expect that they are not going to give of their best, 5.40 p.m.

Part of the money voted under this Head for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is to go towards eliminating those elements of dissatisfaction in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where these categories of staff are concerned.

The Mental Hospital for a very long time has not received as adequate attention as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has received, and it is my intention here while I am Minister responsible for Health and Welfare to put the Mental Hospital on the level it should be. It has a right to be properly looked after. We have passed the days when people look at the Mental Hospital as the sort of institution for the incarceration of the mentally ill. We accept today mental health in the same light that we accept physical health, and we expect therefore to provide adequate facilities that people who are mentally ill can be properly nursed back to proper mental health.

The St. Michael's District Hospital has been upgraded. I know some hon. members of this Chamber will be eager to point out to me that the changing of a name does not change the conditions at the institution. I need not be convinced of that as I am aware of it, and the sum of money asked here is for the continuation of improvement of facilities at the St. Michael's. District Hospital. It would take a lot of money to improve that institution to the standard of a hospital, but again we have to do this in stages as

money required cannot be voted all at once as they are many other areas in Barbados demanding some of this money for improvement or development.

When one thinks in terms of the ambulance service, one's mind goes back to some of the sorrowful incidents which took place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital not very long ago. Already, this Honourable Chamber has been asked to vote money for the establishment of an ambulance service and the money provided here goes towards the provision of new ambulances for the establishment of this ambulance service. In passing, I would like to point out that the type of vehicle which is now being used is not properly an ambulance and we are hoping that with the new vehicles which we will be purchasing in this current year, we will have proper ambulance vehicles, and also, a proper ambulance service which each and every hon. member of this Chamber and the public in Barbados at large would be very proud to know they have.

When you come to the question of public health, there is the Bridgetown sewage project and we are concerned with the problems of sewage disposal in Barbados which is far from satisfactory. I believe we cannot go on much longer with the old system whereby people have to dig pits and so on for the disposal of sewage and other refuse, or allow their sewage to run into the gutters of the streets and expose the people to health hazards. We realise this and we also realise that with the increasing density of population within Bridgetown and the suburbs, the old system of disposal of sewage is becoming inadequate, and the Government will have to look at a new system. The new system which has attracted our attention is to put in a sewage system. Before we can establish such a system, a pilot scheme has to be implemented whereby we would get the necessary information to decide how this scheme should be implemented, where and in what manner and at what cost. At the present moment, there is a pilot scheme going on in Bridgetown whereby the necessary information is being collected and when we set about to implement this system we expect that it is going to cost us in the vicinity of EC$ 8 million or by that time we will have to say $8 million Barbadian, and when started, it is likely to take eighteen to twenty-four months for completion.

I would like to say right now that the firm of Quirk, Lawler & Metusky of New York, U.S.A. is carrying out the survey. That information may be of some importance to hon. members of this Chamber.

When one thinks of refuse collection in Barbados, again this is a problem and I would expect to hear in this Chamber this afternoon many other problems still confronting the people in getting refuse collected and disposed, but here again, I would like to assure hon. members that we will deal with this problem and we believe we will be able to deal with it adequately within the current year.

But the more important thing here, and we are concerned with public health, is occupational health. As a practising physician in Barbados some time ago, I have been disappointed at the standard of occupational health, especially confronting the working class people of this country, and I feel it is high time that we do something about protecting the health of workers in Barbados. I would like to point out that people working in certain areas, for example, people who work in printeries are exposed to hazards of lead poisoning, whether it manifests itself as lead colic, lead palsy or lead encephalopathy, and we find very often after working for many years these people having become affected by the fumes of the lead are disposed of and not given adequate compensation. I consider this a shocking shame to permit it to continue any longer. We have to look carefully not only at the health of workers exposed to these hazards, but also sometimes at workers in the sugar cane industry who may be exposed to megasse dust

giving rise to lesions in their lungs, and as we become industrialised, we are likely to find that the rate of industrial diseases is on the increase and therefore we cannot wait until a large number of workers come down with diseases due to industry, but we must start right now to put into operation a plan to ensure that we have an adequate industrial, medical scheme for the benefit and protection of workers thereby employed.

Occupational health goes a lot further because there are people who although they are not employed within an industry, may be affected by the fumes and dust emanating from some of these industries, and in thinking of this, I would like to draw your attention to the state of affairs occurring in the Lodge Hill area where from certain works you find the people in that area are daily tormented by dust and fumes coming from those areas, therefore, we in the Ministry, accept that we have to do something about that, and therefore we are asking you to accept that this money is an indication that we intend to do something about occupational and industrial health as a whole within the Barbados community during this year.

Now under the general items mentioned here, I expect a lot to be said about the national cemetery and crematorium, and I would like to remind hon. members that some time ago I promised I would make a statement in this Chamber concerning the national cemetery and crematorium. I do not want them to believe for one moment that that was a vain promise not to be fulfilled. I have every intention of fulfilling it, but administrative methods are not usually what I or even they themselves would like. However I should like to point out that this cemetery project started about two years ago when the necessary surveys were taken and estimates were given about what it would cost and how long it would take to be completed, but somewhere along the line we have reasons to believe that this estimate was a wrong one, it was based on insufficient information, and we are likely to find ourselves being called upon to supply money far in excess of what was originally estimated.

We in the Ministry are certainly not satisfied with the state of affairs existing at the national cemetery and crematorium site, and we have drawn this to the attention of the Ministry of Communications and Works and the Minister of that Ministry has promised to make adequate inspection and analysis of what is going on in that area. We realise in Barbados at the moment, that there is a shortage of land at the Westbury Cemetery and we have to make land available quite soon for the burial of the dead before that land becomes completely exhausted. With this objective in mind the national cemetery and crematorium project was launched. There are approximately 25 acres of land in that area and the project was phased into two. Phase one was concerned with making land available for the burial of the dead and phase two was to be the construction of the crematorium. Right now, when you go there you will see much of phase one which seems to be concerned chiefly with the construction of office buildings and a chapel, the merits or demerits of which are open to serious criticism or doubt. 5.50 p.m.

What we would have really liked to see at that site is that the actual provision of additional land for the burial of people would have been given top priority, but unfortunately this has not been the case and I will have to admit that the whole project is under scrutiny and may be re-evaluation. It is not my intention to say anything more on that, but I would like to assure hon. members that I will bring a statement on the national cemetery and crematorium at some time.

The central laundry for which a large sum of $100,000 has been asked for in these Estimates is for the purpose of centralising the laundry services of the hospitals in Barbados. Previously, we found that each

hospital was doing its own laundry, a survey was carried out and it was pointed out to the Ministry that it would be more efficient and economic to centralise all the laundry services for these institutions at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the money asked for here is for that purpose. It is not my intention to say much more at this stage because I believe that hon. members will have a lot to say and it will necessitate a reply from me.

Before I move that this Head stand part, I would like to make certain changes in the notes. Under Item 6,1 would like to point out that that money is to purchase five vehicles and other equipment. Part of that is a revote of $12,000. Under Item 13, to complete the construction of two communal baths and latrines throughout the island. Item 14, to purchase equipment for sampling industrial environments, e.g. fumes, dust and chemicals. Item 16, to continue improvements at Children's Homes. Item 19, to provide for additional accommodation at existing nurseries.

With these amendments, I beg to move that the sum of $2,066,500 under Head 103 -Ministry of Health and Welfare - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, it is difficult in the space of 15 minutes to really do justice to a debate under this Head which contains plenty Items, all of which are of importance. However, Sir, it is interesting to note that it has taken the death of three people for the Government to become aware of the need for an emergency ambulance service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I must say that on 3rd October last year we were promised a further statement as regards the establishment of the emergency service but as yet that statement has not been forthcoming.

It is also interesting to note that although we on this side of the House pressed for a Commission of Enquiry, an enquiry was held and the House was never given a report of the findings of that enquiry. Again, Sir, I note the words of the Minister in his introductory remarks in that he stated that the money under Item 6, $75,000, includes a revote from last year of $12,000, so that the establishment of an emergency ambulance service in itself, as I see it, some six months later did not really exist at the time.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, I will reply at one time. It is not my intention to interrupt him.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, I saw the Minister making some motions so I thought he was getting up to speak and I gave way to him. From time to time in this House we have had to complain of the fact that the Government has not seen fit to implement the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Act which was passed as long ago as 1965 and which came into the laws of Barbados, was printed in 1966 and was supposed to come into force by proclamation. I do not believe that as yet the Government has seen fit to implement that Act, and the two main points about that Act are to provide for a Board of Management to administer the hospital on behalf of the Minister, and to provide for a Hospital Appointments Committee. We have heard in here throughout the Estimates criticisms of the Civil Service and its attitude, and these

criticisms that have been made are equally true in respect of the hospital. We on this side of the House have been saying for the longest time that it is impossible to run a hospital as a civil service department of Government, and the sooner the decision is taken to remove and to bring into operation the Hospital Act of 1965 the better it will be for the entire administration of the hospital.

Indeed, the method of appointing junior staff is unsatisfactory at the moment. You will hear from time to time statements made by the Ministry of Health that there is a world-wide shortage of doctors and yet you will find that the approach to the appointment of doctors is one that is really ridiculous. You say that there is a world-wide shortage of doctors, and this would mean as far as I am concerned that you need to get doctors and therefore you need to get their services as quickly as possible, so you would have to act quickly, but under the present set-up, I believe that the recommendation has to go from the Medical Staff Committee to the Director of the Hospital, then to the Ministry of Health and then perhaps to the Establishments Division or whatever it is, and then to Home Affairs to clear them with work permits, and then back to the Ministry of Health, and this goes on for about six months. Is the Government really expecting that with this world-wide shortage that the person who has made application will sit down for six months and wait for a reply from the Government? 6.00 p.m.

It is not really adequate to say that there is a world-wide shortage of doctors. I think that the hospital must operate within the limits of this shortage of doctors, and it should do every thing to ensure that the appointment of staff - particularly dealing now with the junior staff, or people who come here on a one-year contract, and so on - in this category, should be speeded up in order that you may have an adequate supply of doctors at the Hospital, I daresay that it has been quite some time since the entire establishment at the Hospital has been satisfied. This staff shortage is reflected in the conditions of service of those who work, for instance, in the casualty department.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health is one who has practised medicine in this country, and he would know how hard it is to ask a doctor to work from 8 to 4 in the day, and then go straight to the casualty department and work until eight o'clock the following morning. These are the conditions under which doctors are called upon to serve in the casualty department and in various parts of the hospital because of the shortage of doctors. The sooner the whole method of recruiting junior staff is revamped the better it will be for all concerned.

Mr. Chairman, the fact that a person has such long hours of work must reflect in his attitude to a patient and the treatment of the patient. Indeed, this may very well be the cause for much of the dissatisfaction that arises from time to time at the casulty department of the Hospital. I trust that the Minister in his reply will state whether the construction of the Out-Patient department has started, and, if it has started, how soon will it be completed, so that the pressure which now exists at the casualty department will be relieved.

One other point on which I should like to touch, Mr. Chairman, is the relationship between the Government and the consultants. As I have said in here already, I think the relationship that exists between the Government and the consultants at the moment is one that must be reviewed. It must be reviewed because, as I am informed, there is dissatisfaction with the present arrangements. Those consultants who do private practice outside of the hospital tend to concentrate on the paying patients outside the hospital, and, as a result of this, the people who go directly to the hospital for treatment, and who cannot afford to see these same consultants as private patients, will have to suffer because they are

being neglected in preference to the paying patients of the doctors. This is a matter that must be reviewed.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that if you look at the attendance records, you will see when a consultant, perhaps, attends every clinic that he is scheduled to attend, but you may not see the number of patients that he sees. You may see that he is there every Monday, every Tuesday, every Wednesday as the case may be, or Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. What the Minister and the Government have to investigate is the number of persons the consultant really sees, or whether he merely sees two or three and leaves the others to the surgical Registrar while he goes off to do his private work outside of the hospital. The sooner the Government reviews this relationship, the better it will be for all concerned.

The other item which I would like to deal with is the dispensary at the hospital. I believe that this is short staffed and has been short staffed for quite some time. This is a classic example of where the hospital as a department of the Civil Service comes into play. The people work there from 8 to 4. (Asides.) The Minister says that it has been changed, and I am glad to hear that it has been changed, no doubt, on representations made in here.

I think it was in October last when we made representations about the ambulance service and dealt at length with the hospital. At that time, the Dispensary operated from 8 to 4. I am indeed glad to find, as a result of the Minister shaking his head, that what we said on that occasion did not fall on deaf ears and that the system has been changed. I believe that the dispensary is still short staffed, so far as qualified persons are concerned, and I should like to find out what effort the Government is making to change this situation. I also want to find out what the Government proposes to do about the high mark up that now exists on drugs in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I know that there is now a Prices Commission, but I am one of those who believe that the Prices Commission is functioning adequately in order to meet the needs of our community. Therefore I would urge upon the Minister of Health that the Government investigates the price control on drugs in an effort to save money for the hospital and the Government.

There are other points that I can raise about the hospital, Mr. Chairman, but I do not want to raise them at this stage. I should merely like to mention something about the equipment at the hospital. I should like the Minister to make a serious investigation as to whether all of the equipment that is ordered for the hospital, in fact,ends up at the hospital. He should also find out why it is that the cardiac equipment which was used by one Specialist - and I think this is a ridiculous situation - when he went away another Specialist locked up the equipment in order to prevent an acknowledged cardiac Specialist from using it when he returned to this country. 6.10 p.m.

These are things the Minister should investigate. I remember the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health some time ago stating in here that there were people in the hospital trying to undermine the hospital and that politics was coming into play in various things there. If this is so, I would seriously ask the Minister in view of that statement by his Parliamentary Secretary to investigate that matter also.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, there are three areas under this Head that I would like to make some comments on.

The first area relates to public health. I think that we can say that the Ministry is attempting to do its best to ensure that the standard of health in this country is raised, but there is one aspect which is of some concern to me and it relates to the disposal of refuse. I think that if one were to journey around the country side, one would be appalled at some of the dump heaps which are seen, and the fact that refuse is just left exposed and unattended followed of course by numbers of flies, and I am wondering if the Ministry has given some consideration to this potential health hazard, and also whether the Ministry is paying some attention to the number of cans which are disposed of and left in these dumps, and how they are going to get these out of the system. I think it is important that some consideration and attention be paid to this area, because as the Hon. Minister has pointed out, we have to do everything in our power to ensure that a high standard of health is maintained in this country.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, with which I would like to deal relates to the item which deals with the outpatients clinic and health centre. I was looking forward very much to see under this item the inclusion of some money to begin the construction of the long promised outpatients clinic at Benthams in St. Lucy. As a matter of fact, I remember that in the last financial year the area on which this clinic is going to be erected, as far as I am aware, was acquired, and I am really disapppointed that there has been no inclusion in the Capital Estimates to make sure that this clinic is constructed. I think we all realise the need for this, particularly since there is no medical officer who is resident in St. Lucy and people have got to travel distances to meet this, and I imagine the amount of inconvenience which people are put to in order to come up to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with ailments which could be dealt with much better and much more conveniently at the proposed outpatients clinic. I hope that the Minister will give some indication as to when this would be constructed.

The other aspect I would like to comment on, Mr. Chairman, relates to the area of occupational health, and I am pleased to see that the Minister has devoted some attention to this. There is no doubt that occupational health is going to be an area which is going to occupy our attention particularly since we are now in the process of accelerating our industrialisation programme, and we must get into this area as early as possible and make sure that the problems which workers face from an industrial situation are minimised as much as possible. It would seem that there will have to be a considerable amount of coordination and cooperation in the operation of the occupational health - and incidentally, I would like to see this section as occupational health and safety because I think the two go hand in hand - between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour. We would not want one Ministry to think that its province was being invaded by another Ministry, because we know that when this happens it would redound to the disadvantage of the worker, and I would hope therefore that this cooperation would be forthcoming, because the aim of this kind of attention is obviously for the improvement of the health of the people who are working in the industrial sector, and also, as the Minister has pointed out, those people who will be or possibly could be affected by industrial waste.

Mr, WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I would not like what the hon. member for St. Lucy has said to go as a solo especially with respect to the question of refuse. I think this is one of the aspects of our national life that is still somewhat primitive, and something must be done. I have had a complaint from the people in the district not very far from where the Minister lives, of the very method of how people want to dispose of refuse and cause a nuisance to the people in the district.

I am pleased to note also that the Minister spoke about occupational health because there seems to be

some sort of conspiracy between the medical profession and the controllers of pesticides. The Agricultural Department or the Ministry of Health has been using pesticides in Barbados in a manner that exposes some of these pesticides which should! not be retailed. They should be contained and when you use them you should use them and finish. There are some people who have suffered very serious skin diseases as a result of using these pesticides in agriculture, but if they die as a result of this sort of exposure I doubt very much whether much would be done or said about this sort of thing to bring it under public control. This is a question that was posed to me by the I.L.O., because I happen to be a member of one of the consulting bodies on occupatioanl health and safety, and this is one of the requirements they are asking for in many parts of the world, not only in the developing countries, but in the developed areas.

I was also pleased to hear the Hon. Minister speak about the Mental Hospital. The Mental Hospital has been operating on a system where the utensils and the methods of cooking and serving food were the same as in 1898 where you cooked the food in the morning and when it is serve at midday it is like it has just come from a refrigerator, and that would not be regarded as anything. Mental patients were really sent to the Mental Hospital as a matter of abandonment, and it has therefore made people become afraid of sending the sick to the Mental Hospital which was regarded as a place for abandoning your relatives or members of your family. 6.20 p.m.

I hope that the Hon. Minister will see to it that this mediaeval practice they have at the Mental Hospital is removed because it has an association even in the minds of the people who have to work there. It is God's mercy that as a result of working in the hospital that you do not get occupational contamination, that you work in a hospital like that and after ten years you become mentally ill yourself. I hope that these things will come to an end and that this method of giving the patients food would change.

I am very concerned about the central laundry, and I want to throw out a note of warning to the Minister. I am not opposed to centralisation, I spoke today abdut the bureaucracy which exists in Barbados, but what the Minister must be afraid of is if you pick up every piece of laundry from way back in St. Andrew, from Pie Corner in St. Lucy and all these parishes to bring to Bridgetown you have to be careful that this type of bureaucracy does not multiply on you, because the next thing you know is that a man will want a van every year to bring up the laundry and whenever you are finished you will find the freight backward and forward will cost you more than what the laundry costs. I would like the Minister to go into this very carefully, because when you bring all the things in and analyse them you will have so many vans bringing in laundry and when you are finished it will cost you more to launder the things at this central laundry than it cost the Army and Navy of the United States or Russia, because they will be multiplied all the way. I know what bureaucracy means. You are going to get some people sitting down who will be the leading clerks, then there will be delivery clerks and the detergent clerks and no work will be done. These will be the clerks who will take the soap from one place and put it another, and above them will be a Clerk of Works. You will have this multiplication of posts and all you will have is this terrific bureaucracy, and I will ask the Minister to watch it because it grows on you.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we have heard the Minister of Health and I was somewhat touched when we were discussing supplementary; provisions earlier when the Minister said that he did not relish the idea of the Opposition rehashing year after year what is taking place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, this

institution or the other institution. I want to tell the Minister now if he does not want to hear it he may get up and leave. The reason why we in the Opposition have got to bring it before the House year after year is that we bring it in not with malice or spite, we want to see the patients in these institutions get proper treatment, we want to see these institutions brought up to the type of standard the Government is trying to make us believe they are taking this money to bring these institutions up to. It is because we tell them what we see and because they take little or no notice of what we say that we have to hammer it home, and if the Minister now finds himself in the position that he has got to listen we are prepared to give him a chance to see what he will do, if not, he will share the same fate of some of the others who have gone before him.

I go on to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Minister said that they have taken note of its problems, and we take that to mean in the regular public service way that they have taken note, they have put it on a file and that is that. We mean to see that more is done at this institution at this time. At this institution money is asked for, the Minister says he is going to provide additional accommodation for staff, where it is now lacking, and he knows that where the staff is not adequately provided for productivity must be low. That is accepted. Mr. Chairman, one of the things that is plaguing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is what we on this side must call inter-personal relationships. The Minister cannot attempt to deny that the specialists at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital do not treat equals as equals. Some of the general medical practitioners snob the others, the Sisters snob each other, the staff nurses do the same, and I will tell you this, if you were to carry out an honest investigation into the working of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, you will find that there is a cleavage in one part of that institution, the kitchen. Supervisors deal with supervisers and cooks with cooks; that is all. Apart from this you will find that when new doctors join the hospital a senior doctor never opens his arms to welcome him or one of his equals sent to show him around the institution to carry out the soft of introduction that one would wish him or her to have on coming to an institution such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There have been cases in point where specialists, Barbadians who have gone abroad, come back here with some of the highest qualifications that one could have attained in surgery or whatever, and they are snobbed immediately they come back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by some who we feel should know how to treat them better. 6.30 p.m.

If they begin in that way, Mr, Chairman, if a specialist, however efficient he may be, comes to an Institution and receives this type of treatment on the first day he arrives there, what do you think will happen to the first dozen or half-dozen patients that have to go before that specialist? If he finds this type of snobbishness existing from the day he enters the Institution, do you think we can get the type of returns that we should get for the amount of money we are spending on that Institution? I believe that the Minister will bear me out in this matter.

Now, we have a Director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the presence of the Director is creating more problems than we ever had before rather than helping to solve them. The hon. member for the City made mention of the establishment of the Hospital Board and so on. The time will come and sooner than some of us may expect, when this Institution will have to be administered by people who are non-politicians. Quite recently, with the outbreak of some kind of influenza, it was found that a doctor, merely because of his political affiliation - not with any hon. member on this side of the House - went into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and got rid of some old people who were occupying beds and had not yet recovered from their illness. They had not received a discharge from the doctor who had admitted them and so on. The doctor brought in his private patients, and got rid of the old people who were sick and had not yet recovered. I believe that the Director of the Hospital should have been in a position to

administer a certain type of treatment to that doctor, no matter how eminently qualified he might be. He ought to have been in a position to administer the type of treatment to him that you and I would have been able to feel proud of having such a hospital Director administering the affairs of that hospital. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, I am asked if I would have cuffed him. The question we must think of is what would have been the position if one of the patients he had sent home had died. If the patient went home and died, nobody on that side would think about it. That sort of thing is our concern. We must look after those poor people who cannot look after themselves. As long as that type of behaviour is allowed to continue, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we will mention it in this House until it is stamped out once and for all Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are so many of us who are fed up with what is going on at that Institution that we often wonder how the present Minister of Health will ever be able to solve these problems, we believe that he will try his best. You will find that there are people who are working in the X-ray department. People are sent there, and there are others who visit there, but there is no adequate protection for any of those people against radioactive fall out. We believe, and it is known, that they are exposed to some kind of infection by coming into contact too often with this sort of exposure, and that is the type of thing that we are against at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Now, let us for a moment pass on to the Mental Hospital. I see the Minister of Health laughing. I believe he is smiling because he, too, must have the feeling that a lot of people there besides the patients are mentally ill. They are asking for money to continue the improvement of facilities there. Let us look at this _ occupational therapy which we hear so much about. Mr. Chairman, we agree that the patients may be given something to keep their hands active and their minds engaged. It is good for them and it tends to lead them on the road to recovery. It must be remembered that the Government, up to the present moment, has allowed an incident to go unnoticed. A patient stabbed himself at the Mental Hospital some time in November last year and died. What we are saying is that there are other people at the Institution who need as much occupational therapy and other treatment as some of the patients. It has been established beyond doubt that the behaviour of the patient, before he stabbed himself, was such that a nurse called on others to summon a doctor immediately. 6.40 p.m.

The doctors saw the patient and asked him if he knew where he was, to which the patient replied "yes". The doctor asked him if he knew why he was there and things of that sort, and then he said to let the patient go. The nurses, Mr. Chairman, were more observant than the doctor. The patient went and borrowed a chisel and did what he had to do - take his life. Are you going to tell me that there should not be an investigation into this to save others from coming under the hands of that type of doctor? These are nurses who have been serving this institution for nearly twenty years and they know as much as some of these people who say they are doctors, and when the nurse saw that the condition of the man had changed from what it had been previously and sent others to call the doctor to see this patient, she knew what she was doing from her years of observation and association with this type of illness. She knew that this man had made a change and deserved being put away or given some sedative to steady his nerves and some effort made to remove what was then playing on his mind; but the doctor let him go and that is the case. I understand that the doctor has since caught a plane and gone somewhere; but he can be found and brought back.

That is the type of behaviour you are having, Mr. Chairman, and it is really not good. I feel that the Mental Hospital has been trying to do some good for these patients in recent years. What we have not

been able to do with any real measure of success is to carry out the follow up work after these patients have been discharged from this institution. That is more important than anything else, because if these patients are discharged and are given medicine, tablets or whatever to take, and they are not encouraged to take this medicine, that is where the problem steps in.

We will for a moment now turn to the St. Michael's District Hospital. They are asking for money to upgrade a programme, but I want to say that they have no programme of administration. Everybody there is a boss. The administration by name knows absolutely nothing of what is taking place about the institution. There is no programme of supervision at the nursing level; there is no programme of nursing geriatric care, and there is really no concentrated programme of feeding. I do not have to say whether or not there is one of stealing, but I will say that the patients are so hungry that you see them searching about the dust bins looking for something to eat. As a result, an old woman drowned and was taken from the well there. She was in the well for days, and up to the present nobody knew.....

Hon. F. G. SMTH:

On a point of explanation, that is not true, and the hon. member for Bridgetown can tell him that is not true. There are other reasons, but certainly she was not searching for anything to eat.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the question of time and I am winding up. Nobody knew when the woman went into the well. She was supposed to have been in the strong room but nobody knew when she got out and went into the well; so how could the Minister tell us she was not looking about for something to eat. Is the Minister going to say she did not fall in the well either? It is a fact. We are not against voting this money, but we want to say that these institutions are for poor people who need care, and we are not going to vote the money unless the Minister is going to give us some assurance that proper care is going to be taken, that the dieting is going to be looked after, and that you do not have a lot of fat people about the place while the patients are left starving/That is what the Minister has got to look at. The question of time is against me and I pray God you will give me some time to talk again.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister in the beginning said that he considered the community's health as fundamental, and that in determining the priorities it was always a difficult question to decide where to allocate the funds. I think he made in his opening remarks a very strong plea for more money. He may not have put it in those words, but may I say that I agree with him in his general statements, and I would like to draw the conclusion that he appeared unwilling to draw, I would expect, for obvious reasons. It seems to me that looking at this Head of the Capital Estimates and indeed looking at the Head of the usual annual

Estimates, Health has not feared very well as compared with some of the other Ministries, and I wonder very strongly whether the Government has got the right accent in spending its money in this respect.

Mr. Chairman, I think that part of the problem with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and in other health institutions has been due to the fact that during the past years, very low capital expenditure has been made in this field as compared with some other fields of the community services. Indeed in looking at the rough figures, the Capital Estimates show something of an increase of $400,000, and we must look

at this in the context where the Ministry of Health has taken over to a considerable extent quite a lot of work which was formerly done by the District Councils and the City Council. I think it is true to say on an impartial examination, that in some aspects, this parsimonious treatment of the Ministry of Health has resulted in the lack of efficiency. I doubt whether the Minister is satisfied at all with the performance he is getting from the Sanitation Department and in the field of public health in this country.

Those of us who have constituents to attend to, including the Minister get daily complaints about the refuse situation, about the bad sanitary situation existing, and indeed those of us who walk the City of Bridgetown would be amazed at the stench which comes from the gutters. Say what you will, Mr. Mottley, former member for the City of Bridgetown, may have been labelled as a conservative, his actions were socialist though I believe, no matter what a paternal administration he ran, obviously maintained a much cleaner city that we have at present. Let us face it. It is a shocking shame to walk Bridgetown any day, to pass Harrison's to come along Coleridge Street, and to have the stench that we are getting from the uncleaned drains. During the Christmas period, many people in Barbados found themselves in a position where refuse was there for days, I must thank the hon. member for St. George North and the Hon. Minister for allowing me to disturb them on Christmas eve and ask them to use their good offices to get refuse removed from my constituency and from other parts, including the high class tourist areas, because you know Barbadians like to look after tourists before they look after themselves. 6.50 p.m.

I do not believe that this is good enough, I think we can do better and I am not satisfied that the Government has the right priority in dealing with public health in the country. I would have expected that there would have been much more money being spent on the collection and disposal of refuse and that one would have seen a more significant vote. I would have expected to see at least a token vote for an incinerator and hear what plans Government has for disposing of waste and using it eventually to help my friend from St. Joseph and the hon. member for St. Andrew as manure in the agricultural Ministry. I do not see any of those plans and I really must be absolutely disappointed that not one of us can go back to our constituents and promise them any immediate increase in the health conditions.

Mr. Chairman, I usually like also to make my plea to the public. I would like the public of this country to understand that the country is also theirs and that they must be litter concious. I was amazed in going to some of the rural areas in the United States last year to see the campaigns that were being carried on by voluntary organisations and small communities to keep their cities and their areas clean of litter, and to me we need a bit of civic pride in this respect also. I believe that at the moment, the public can cooperate in the manner in which it looks after its litter on the street. At any time of the day or night, you can go around the St. Micheal area, Christ Church - and I was amazed to see even within the country districts now - and you will find piles and piles of waste put out by the side of the road, none of it put in any proper container, flies gather, the rats come in and we are confronted with all sorts of diseases and an escalating bad health situation. I want to know what programme the technical advisers in the Ministry of Health have for health education. I want to know whether the Minister of Information has yet in conjunction with the Minister of Health devised a proper system for using CBC not to tell it to the nation but to educate the people properly about the health programme so that we have this sort of coordination between the Ministries. I am saddened to think that all we are being asked to vote under these Heads together is something like $192,500, totally inadequate.

I will only in passing advert to the inadequate vote for the ambulance service. I do not want to flog a

dead horse, we have rehashed that story in here and I am sure that the hon. lady member has managed to produce her paper and in due course will try her best, but I would have liked to see the estimates which this Ministry put up to Cabinet, and I would have liked to be present to hear what was happening at Estimates Committee because no matter how hard they would have been fighting I am sure they would have been brought down to a minimum; wrong priorities in this respect. I would like to think that the people who sit in Estimates Committee, the technical advisers and others, recognise that the health of this country is a very serious affair regardless of whether it relates to the water resources - and the Minister of Communications and Works can tell you that the water can be polluted from very bad health conditions existing and no matter how much airport development we are going to have or tourist development we are going to have, we might soon find that one health scare or epidemic in Barbados will mean the end of the tourist industry and the end of a lot of us.

There are two key areas of Government policy we want to hear about and which they should implement or let us do it for them. The two key areas must be housing and health, but apparently education has had tremendous accent recently, in the last few years, but I think now we need housing and health as absolute priorities in the next five years or certainly in the next decade, and when we look at it we are disappointed that this is not so.

I want to move on to my pet subject, Day Nurseries. There is no doubt that the day nurseries have proved to be a good institution. I am going to beg for mine in due course; as a matter of fact, I am one of the foremost supporters of day nurseries. I will leave it at that. I think that some of the day nurseries are being exceptionally well run and I believe that there is room for more. One of the reasons is that it relieves mothers of the day to day problem of looking after their infant children so that they can go out to work and make a contribution to the economic life of this country and we would not have a wastage of woman talent. We do not want this wastage of woman talent held up at home to look after their children, and that is why we need more day nurseries. Again I see a vote of merely $15,000,1 am not anticipating any resolution, but I hope that when hon. members have to discuss establishing day nurseries in other places like Brittons Hill, that we will see a supplementary vote under this Head. That is the point I want to make very strongly, Sir. Let us give Jack his jacket, I would like to commend the lady member for the personal interest she has been taking in the day nurseries both in and outside of her job. I have noticed it and I say so, I do not make any bones about it, and this is one occasion that I wish that some of our people would be a bit more civic minded. It does not take people much time to sit down - including some of the middle class people of this country- and make curtains for a day nursery, bring toys and repair them, must we be continually trying to tell people that they have a great opportunity to uplift their country? If the middle class women want an opportunity to perform well, here is an opportunity for them to do it, so to this extent I join in making a plea.

The hon. member for St. Michael South has an extremely well efficient day nursery in his area. In Pleasant Hall, we have everything that is pleasant there, in St. Matthias. We had the roads fixed by the Minister, but I am serious, Sir, day nurseries must not be looked on in this country as only an area where you send lower income children; in fact, some middle class mothers are now coming to recognise that they can have their children at the day nurseries and they are better cared for than leaving them at home sometimes. The reason why I am going to emphasis this point is because I think that the Government's economic policy, its health policy, must be directed towards social equality in this country, and one of the things you get if you have children of different parentage, different homes and different educational backgrounds mixing together at the early age is that you begin to break down this terrible class

snobbishness which we have in Barbados. I think everybody agrees with this. The Minister of Education in a supplementary since I was in this House brought forth an idea that I complimented him on as well, and I hope to see it pursued at the day nurseries where he is going to bring nursery education alongside the day nurseries, and I want to see proper votes under this Head. 7.00 p.m.

I want to see a proper vote under this Head. I am pleading with the Government for people's lives. I hope that the Minister will get some support from his Cabinet colleagues next time he brings down a supplementary to give him some more money. I think that the Government will be well rewarded for so doing. We may have a period in the Opposition, but the Government might hand over to us a working administration.

Another thing with which the Minister should deal is a National Health Service. Some of my friends and colleagues asked me why should we have a National Health Service. I do not believe that it is beyond the capacity of this Country to foot the bill for a National Health Service properly organised. There are many variations of this Scheme. The hon. member for the City has spoken on it. We have done tremendous research in this field with the different plans that they are in the United States. It should not be anathema to the doctors. They can be roped into a service that functions properly without any undermining of the economic position, provided they are prepared to make some sacrifice of their time in the interest of the public.

I do not understand why, as soon as professionals hear that you are going to try to equalise the community, they get up in arms and become special interest groups. Because a member of Parliament may get in here and talk about it, immediately they start ostracising him. Some of them tell me that they are surprised to hear me talking of a National Health Service. Let me say this quite clearly, that if the Government had the guts during the quinquennial that we are here to come down here with that plan they would get 6 votes from the members of the Opposition even if they may get a resignation from their side, because we are totally devoted to that policy. I reassure the Minister that we are.

Mr. Chairman, this half-baked document that I see circulating around the place coming from a few doctors, not properly thought out, and a journalist saying that it is the Government's policy, surprised me. I am sure that it is not the Minister's policy. If the Minister wants to see a proper policy relating to this matter, he should speak to the hon. member for the City who has done his research.

Lastly, I say to the Government that they should try during the next two years to do what the hon. member for St. Peter has said. They must try to iron out the inter-personal difficulties at present existing at the Hospital. I do not like to call names during a debate, but it seems to me that there are a lot of personal problems existing between the professional staff and others at the Hospital that are totally unnecessary and are frustrating. I think that if it means having your top personnel people do a proper personnel job with some people who believe that they belong to the upper and middle classes in Barbados and cannot even speak to one another although they are giving medical treatment, then they should try and ask personnel to do it. This has been known to exist at the hospital, and I think it is a bad commentary on educated people that this should happen from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, I have known of doctors joining the hospital staff and complaining that their senior colleagues, with whom they have to work in the operating theatre, have not even bothered to speak to them or to introduce them. When I was at the University of Cambridge, I visited the hospitals in that

area and talked with young men coming up, and it was a pleasure to see young qualified professors, more versed than some of those we have around here, being humble and going and introducing themselves to interns far less to their equals and Consultants. That sort of thing does not exist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and we will be continually losing some of our brilliant youngsters who are frustrated into coming back in that sort of situation. They are leaving us no sooner than they are here. I will not call the names, but I think the Minister knows the situation to which I refer.

Hon. C, E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

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

On resumption -

Mr. SPEAKER:
This sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

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

HEAD 103 - HEALTH AND WELFARE

Resumption of Head 103 - Health and Welfare - as amended.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
Mr. Chairman, I am not replying for the Government. The Minister is quite capable of replying to what has been said by the hon. members. There are just a few things I should like to say. As regards to the statement about which the hon. member for the City has asked, it was impossible for me to bring a statement before this Honourable House when we did not have the money to provide the ambulances.

Provision has now been made in the Estimates, and, as soon as we have organised an emergency ambulance service, we will make a statement. In the meantime, we have an interim service which is serving the community quite well.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that in the Ministry of Health and Welfare one is newer finished fighting a battle. It is a great battle indeed. Problems crop up daily. No master how hard the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and the civil servants who work in our Ministry try, the cards are stacked against us. I am well aware that certain things are needed in the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and I am sure that the Minister is aware of them.

I was very glad when the hon. member for Christ Church West said that health was very important. I hope that many citizens of Barbados will realise how important health is. Without good health one cannot take proper education. Without good health one cannot even build roads. I think that health comes first. The next thing that really bothers me is to see that in Barbados we have so many people who claimed to be good citizens and claim that they are Barbadians, and it is surprising to think that sometimes these people are not aware of what is going on around them or they do not lift a finger to help others. The feel that the Government must do everything. I think that all of us constitute the Government. Each and every one of us has a responsibility to our country, but I wonder how many of us are mindful of our responsibilities. Mr. Chairman, it will take foreigners to come into this Country and say what a lovely Country we have, but are Barbadians really interested in our Country?

Any Government will have problems in health and welfare. If the members of the Opposition were to take over the Government, they would also have problems similar to ours. It is nothing new to hear some members of the Opposition telling us of these problems. I would welcome any one of them to come into the Ministry and spend a day or a week with us, and I am sure that in no time he would be tired.

I will never stop fighting for the young and the old and for all of the people in this Country as regards health and welfare. My Minister was kind enough to give me a responsibility, and I will always see fit to carry out my responsibility in a satisfactory manner. If most of us would only study and think that we are a young nation, and think of what we are building, tilings would be much different. Are we building a strong foundation, or are we defeating our purposes?

Mr. Chairman, sometimes I am really amazed to think of the amount of money that is spent on certain things by this Government and the results are not forthcoming as they should be. I am a woman who has been in commerce, and I think that the machinery of the Government has been very slow. In my first year in the Ministry of Health and Welfare, I have had some frustrating moments when I thought that things could be rushed through, but I am now calm and resigned to my fate. I realise that files have to be passed to various officers in the Civil Service until they reach us, and we must sit and wait patiently.

The way I do my job is to take the morning to deal with files and so on, and in the afternoon I go and visit the Day Nurseries, the Hospitals, the District Hospitals and the Children's Homes. That is one of the reasons why I have asked my Minister for a chauffeur. 8.10 p.m.

This is one reason why I have asked the Minister for a chauffeur because the time has come when I will not be able to drive all over the Country by myself. I cannot say that I am that good a driver or that I like it that much, and if I want to concentrate on my work, there should be someone to take me around.

However, I will make sure that this Country is served well by its Ministry of Health and Welfare. I know that the present Minister is trying and the former Minister also tried, and I can well imagine what they had to go through. Sometimes when I think of it I wonder when we will succeed, but until the people who are employed by Government realise that they have a responsibility too to their nation, that they must play a leading role in making this Country something, we will not succeed.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that some of the organisations that have started to do some good work will continue. I hope they will look into such problems as refuse collection, the Sanitation Department, in short the Day Nurseries and Children's Homes, but especially the District Hospitals because people too often think that the District Hospitals are just there for people who should be left to die. In my opinion the District Hospitals can be upgraded and must be upgraded, and as long as I have a share of the responsibility for these institutions, I will make sure that they are.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, in replying I would like to say that health is no longer considered a privilege to some; it is accepted nowadays as a right. While that may be so, we have to realise that in delivering the health care systems of Barbados the Ministry of Health has been hemmed in by problems from way back in the past. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a beautiful institution as a building, is

a beautiful place as regards equipment, it may be a beautiful place as regards some of the people who work there, but it has to be pointed out that well over 1,000 people work in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital every day, and in an institution employing such a large number of people personal relationships will never be what one would like them to be. I do not for one moment hesitate to say that some of the problems of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are due to inter-personal relationships, but just to come here and repeat it or criticise it is not going to solve it. One has to analyse why this goes on and try and derive solutions either to eliminate it or to reduce it. You will find that in Barbados what obtained in the society at large has a tendency to repeat itself within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If Mary employed at the hospital dislikes Martha outside in her district, when Martha comes to the hospital the first thing Mary wants to know is why she has come in there and there the ruction starts. You find that this kind of thing goes on at all levels. Government can legislate for many things, but it is often difficult to legislate for the attitudes of people.

People in Barbados will have to realise whether or not they are doing the right thing in the best interest of the community and if they are not doing the right things, what then should be done to ensure that their behaviour is conducive towards the establishment of right principles and right behaviour. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Act has been passed, but it has not been implemented, and one of the reasons I understand for that has been that some sections of the Act have been in conflict with the Constitution. Since I have taken over the Ministry of Health a Committee was established to look into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Administration Act and to see whether it infringes the Constitution, and what amendments would have to be made. This Committee submitted a report and it looks to me that it would be better to bring in a new Act rather than implementing all the recommendations made by this Committee, because so many recommendations have been made that if you set about implementing them it would be tantamount to either changing the effect completely of the new Act, or to produce an Act which does not have the desired effect that you intended years ago.

I would also like to point out that some people seem to think that the establishment of a Board is a

panacea for all the ills of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that a Board has some intrinsic quality or characteristic which make a solution of the problems of the hospital easy and automatic. I would like to caution hon. Members about this, and many of the hon. members who have spoken this afternoon will on another occasion tell us all about the defects of some of the Boards now operating in the country, therefore one has to be rather cautious in setting up another board, because you do not want a duplication or continuation of the performance that seems to come out of some of the boards already functioning in Barbados.

I would like to point out also that in saying that the board is the answer would be to imply that there is no other answer or that the present administration is incapable of solving the problems of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I do not share that view. Already in this debate I have drawn attention to the fact that the Public Service Commission should readdress itself to the problems facing this Country and try to do something to bring solutions to these problems especially in discipline and administration. Failing that, one will have to look at the question of amending the Constitution of Barbados to give proper effect to these desires which we the people of Barbados would like to see.

It is also erroneous to say that there has been no ambulance service in Barbados, because it would be difficult to understand how people in the past could have called up or sent for an ambulance. What I am prepared to accept is that the ambulance service has not functioned properly, and what we have been doing in the Ministry in the meantime, while proper provision is being made to establish a proper ambulance service with new ambulances, is to have an interim service which within the past few months, has been functioning adequately, and has given rise to a lot of satisfaction not only among the ambulance drivers and staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but among the medical practitioners and various sections of the public of Barbados. I am not for one moment saying that that is all that needs to be done. I accept that an ambulance service in Barbados has to be established on an island-wide basis, and proper facilities, equipment and staff have to be provided, and whenever someone needs an ambulance, it will be there in a jiffy to transport the person from the area right to the hospital, whether it is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or some other hospital. I have every reason to believe that in the very near future, now that this money will be provided, we will start setting into operation this ambulance service.

A point has been made concerning the ridiculous approach to the appointment of doctors. I know that there is a shortage of doctors all over the world, and the close proximity of Barbados to the United States and Canada makes our task of recruiting doctors and holding them after a difficult one, because what Canada and the United States can offer we in Barbados cannot afford. The question of staffing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital relying heavily on the recruitment of foreign doctors is not a correct one. We have to look more and more at using many other doctors in Barbados who are with us most of the time if not all the time, and who are likely to be here unless something drastic occurs in Barbados to cause them to shift and seek other areas to reside. 8.20 p.m.

I would like to repeat that it is my view that to continue to depend on the recruitment of doctors from overseas to staff the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is not a correct one and is fraught with dangers in the light of the close proximity of Barbados and the North American continent where conditions are far much better from the point of view of payment, research facilities and post graduate education.

When you turn your attention to the St. Michael's District Hospital, I am a bit amazed at what the hon.

member for St. Peter stated relative to the death of a female patient at that hospital. We seem to be talking about two different hospitals because the information given me is that this lady was last seen at 11.15 that night in her bed in the ward, and shortly after, around 11.30, when an inspection was made she was no longer in the bed and a search was made. The search was called off around 1.00 a.m. and resumed a couple hours later when the lady was found in a pool of water in a sewerage disposal tank in the yard of the St. Michael's District Hospital.

It is not for me to say that the hon. member for St. Peter is telling lies, I do not know from where he got his information, but it strikes me as interesting. This information which he has given this afternoon would mean that one would have to seek further to see if there is any substance in what he has said. It cannot be dismissed lightly, neither am I prepared to say that it should be treated too seriously, but one would have to look closely to see if there is any substance in the statement made here by the hon. member for St. Peter.

On the question of the collection of refuse, again this is continually a problem. Since I have taken up the Ministry I have had talks with the Board on more than one occasion and pointed out some of the problems and ways in which I feel some of these problems can be solved. I will have to admit that I am not satisfied with the way the Board is functioning, and I will go a step further. I believe that most of my colleagues if not all of them share my views that the Board is not functioning as it should. We are concerned about refuse in this country because we have our water supply which has to be protected. An indiscriminate disposal of refuse all over the place can lead to contamination of the underground water supply in Barbados, and this would give rise to immense costs in getting this rectified. While some people may feel that it is not an important matter, it is also important from the point of view that indiscriminate disposal of refuse and sewage can lead to outbreaks assuming epidemic proportions if the conditions are right. You find very often in these refuse dumps flies breed, you have rats that go and feed in them and there are diseases which can be transmitted by rats and flies. Nobody would deny that, and therefore we have to be concerned about the inadequate collection and disposal of refuse in Barbados.

I would like to point out here that we can put up proposals, but then the people who have to carry out these tasks do not implement them properly or do not implement them at all, hence you are sure to get problems. In fact, very often when I look at the whole situation of the Barbadian experience today I feel that the time has come when all of us have to take serious stock of what is going on in the Country, and this is my view. We have been independent now for almost seven years and I do not believe that we can continue much longer to drift along like this and attempt to pass blame or responsibility from one person to the other without making a serious attempt to arrest what is going on in the country. I do not think that it is enough to come in here and criticise and go on criticising and shouting abuse on people over and over again without making a serious attempt to seek a solution and implement that solution if you get one.

As regards the position in St. Lucy, I would like to point out to the hon. member who raised the topic that a difficulty has been experienced where St. Lucy is concerned, which is to get a District Medical Officer up there. The post has been advertised repeatedly but there have been no applicants, except one, and that person has been given that post although he already holds a post in the adjoining parish.

As to the question of an out-patients Clinic in St. Lucy, this has not been shelved, the land which was

procured by the Ministry for this purpose was considered by the Town Planning Officer to be inadequate, and therefore we have to look for new land. Until we can find new land we will not be able to put up an out-patients Clinic in St. Lucy. Even if we put it up, there is still the problem of getting a District Medical Officer in that area, because as I pointed out when the post was advertised only one person applied for it.

Again, a lot has been said about problems at the Mental Hospital. I am not here to prolong the debate on this, but I admit that conditions at the Mental Hospital are not to my liking. I am a doctor, and I have to admit that in the past the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been the central theme of everything that goes on in the Ministry. Whatever the Queen Elizabeth Hospital wants it seems to get, and we have to bear in mind that if we are going to deliver proper health care in Barbados it cannot be done by paying attention solely to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. One of the problems confronting the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is that so much attention has been focused on that institution that people from all over the Country flock there when very often these people could get the same quantum of medical care within their own districts. We have to go very far in ensuring that the facilities to some extent are available to people in their own districts and thereby prevent them from having to travel from St. Lucy, St. Andrew Christ Church or wherever it may be to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and put undue pressure on that institution. One of the problems facing that institution arises out of this, that too many people go there every day, not because they are critically ill or they need to be admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but because for many of them the service is free, they can get their drugs free and therefore they do not go to the District Medical Officer or to a private medical practitioner. Moreover, the physical conditions in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to them are far more attractive than perhaps the physical conditions of the offices of the District Medical Officers or of the private practitioners.

We have to look at this, and when we go a step further, again one will have to admit that due to overcrowding in the Casualty Department there is a lot of dissatisfaction, not only among the patients but even among the staff of the hospital, but it is not all to come here and admit it, we have to seek solutions for this. I would like to say here now that since I have been in the Ministry we have been seeking solutions to the problems at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We have a plan to reorganise the Casualty Department and have an out-patients department, because unless the Casualty is separated from the out-patients department, we are going to be forever getting these problems which crop up over and over again. The Casualty Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is definitely not functioning as a Casualty Department should. Many of the people who go there want general medical practitioner services which can be provided in an out-patients department. I go a step further and say that due to peculiarities and administration within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, too often you find that a doctor who has done 8.00 to 4.00 duty on the wards turns up at 4 o'clock to work in the Casualty and has to work through the night. I admit that this is unfair, this is not the accepted practice at all, and I know that during my short sojourn at the Barbados General Hospital this was the practice, and I was a bit surprised to find that this practice still continues today. Obviously, doctors are human beings and you cannot expect them to have this amount of energy to carry them through an eighteen or twenty-four hour stretch, and this is a factor which adds to the distress and dissatisfaction of the people who go there, because very often when they expect a doctor to be there they do not realise that the doctor who should be there has already done a stint of duty and that as a normal human being he requires a spell of rest. Not knowing this, very often they get annoyed and they complain; they say they go to the hospital but there is no doctor.

The whole system at the hospital has to be looked at. It has been pointed out by the hon. member for Bridgetown that one should look at the conditions of the consultants. I do not need to be told that, I have already done that. 8.30 p.m.

I have already had discussions with the Consultants at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and have put up proposals. From their reactions to these proposals, I find that they are agreeable to most, if not, all of them. Therefore, I am looking forward to a better relationship between the Consultants at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Ministry of Health. While one may say that this and that should be done, we are doing a lot of work in the Ministry of Health. It is not for us to come here and say that we are doing this and that. What we want to do is to come here and tell you that we have reached a solution; we will try it out and see how it works. It is no point in coming here to tell you that we are looking at this and that, because I do not think you will want to hear that.

Mr. Chairman, there are so many aspects of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital upon which one can comment. We have the aspect of the relationship between the Consultants and the junior staff, or the new doctors joining the staff, and other inter-personal relationships. You cannot legislate for that sort of thing. If a man does not want to meet another man, you cannot tell him to go and meet him because he will still find ways to avoid meeting him. Of course, that is not the concern of Government, I will go a step further. This is a matter that concerns the medical practice in Barbados as a whole. There are many problems confronting medical practitioners in Barbados which I feel that an active Medical Association would be able to solve. Unfortunately, the Medical Association in Barbados does not seem to be functioning at all. All over the world you have Medical Associations which seek to regulate difficulties among its members, but in Barbados that is not the position. It is not only in medicine, but, in Barbados wherever professional people are concerned, there is no discipline among the various professions. In Barbados, whenever a professional man comes here he seems to assume that he can do whatever he feels like doing, and there is nobody to question him. If you attempt to question him you are told that you are not a doctor; you do not know what you are talking about, and people accept that. Sometimes you are not in a position to say that the advice you get from some of these professional people is adequate. It is always felt that if you are not a professional man, then you should keep your mouth shut. This type of thing has gone on for sometime, and until the various professional people come together and have organisations in Barbados which can regulate discipline among themselves, I find that Barbadians will have a lot to put up with. If they do not want to put up with it, then they will have to take things into their own hands. Nearly everything relates to the practice of medicine or of a particular profession.

One of the shortcomings in a country like this is that we know each and everybody. We may criticise here and there, but some people will say that he is my friend, other will say that we belong to the same lodge, or somebody may say that he is my cousin, so although the man is wrong nobody will be prepared to stand up and say he is wrong. In the circumstances, you will find that the professional organisations or the profession will come into disrepute in the eyes of the people of the country. While I will accept that it is wrong and bad to find this type of practice occuring among doctors, I will have to go a step further and say that it is high time that doctors in this country get together and have an association which will help to regulate discipline and the practice of medicine in this Country. One can go a step beyond that and say that the doctors in Barbados do not make any serious attempt to influence health matters in this country.

In the United States, Canada, Britain and other countries in the world, you will find medical

associations that will issue reports on various things for the benefit of the public. Can any member here tell me when last the Medical Association of Barbados made a pronouncement on any important item of health in this country? The Association is not concerned with such matters, but yet you will find that this Government will be blamed for everything. I accept that you can blame the Government for certain things, but there are other things for which you cannot blame the Government. I think we will have to draw a line between these things.

I should like to repeat that I consider health as very important. The Ministry of Health is the only Ministry which looks after people from the womb to the tomb. Education looks after you when you are going to school, or when you are educating yourself. Labour looks after you when you are working. From the time you are conceived to the time when you are dead and buried, the Ministry of Health and Welfare looks after you.

Mr. FORDE:

If the hon. member will igve way, Mr. Chairman. It reminds me of a phrase which I once heard From the erection to the resurrection.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health is a very important one. It looks after you from conception to the end of your life, and it cannot afford to be treated lightly. If you want to treat health lightly, then you will get a lot of problems in the Country. I find that people have asked to give them this here and give them that there, but I do not accept this type of ad hoc planning. I think we should have more national planning, and we should have a scheme into which everything fits. This question of somebody getting up and shouting for a Day Nursery here and an Out-patient Clinic there at the expense of other important things is not doing the Country any good. In the long run we will be providing a lot of facilities at high cost, but the benefit to the public is not what it should be. We have to come around to the question of national planning. Everything is inter-related, whether it is Housing, Health, Education, Labour and so on, and therefore we should have national planning to take care of everything. I feel that we will then be putting our money to optimum use and ensuring that the maximum benefit will go to the people of Barbados.

The question that the sum of $2,066,500 under Head 103 - Ministry of Health and Welfare - as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 104 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 104 - Ministry of Education - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, in the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport, there is no limited concept of the role of education and its contribution towards the development of this Country. Like my colleague, the Minister of Health and Welfare, I believe that education is part of the total process of the transformation of this Country from its former colonial attachments into a truly vibrant and independent country dedicated to the concepts of the establishment of a just and democratic society. Viewed in this particular context, education has a transforming or energising role to play in the

achievement of national goals. In this whole process, if not from the womb, at least certainly from the earliest years - the years of a pre-school child - through the erection of the first school and down to the point prior to interment and resurrection, the whole concept of continuing education is the one which guides and directs the process of education. 8.40 p.m.

With a total provision of something to the order of $34,346,749 for current provision and a capital provision of $6,895,792, the Ministry of Education is the biggest spender in the Government. I am certain that the Shadow Minister of Education was not including education as one of the areas in which the priorities are wrong, because I am certain he would not be calling for any cutback in this particular provision. I am referring to the hon. member for Christ Church West, not the adjunct Shadow Minister, the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. Chairman, no one will underestimate the fundamental importance of education to the total development of this country, for whether we are talking about the field of health, it is terribly important that health education be part of the process of education. If we are talking about labour relations in this country, it is terribly important that the right concepts and attitudes towards labour and productivity be instilled in

the child. If we are talking about social responsibility, we must realise that a sense of discipline, a sense of rightness and fairness and a sense of belief in the rights of others in relation to one's own rights is terribly important. If we are talking about the exploitation of our national resources or about the interchange for business in the country, there can be no doubt that it is terribly important that our own people be instilled with the concepts that we can run business in this country and that we do not have to import our skills in this area or all of the skills in this area for thine everlasting amen. So whatever field we think about in this Country, it is terribly important to realise that education and other subjects which constitute the Ministry for which I have responsibility will in no small measure determine how we achieve the vision of greatness that is before us.

Now if I may take you briefly and succinctly through the provisions, we have extensions to Primary Schools and replacements to Primary Schools. The provision which has been made in these Estimates for 1973-74 underlines the importance which this Government places upon primary education, because as I have said on a number of occasions previously, primary education is the very bedrock of our educational system, and if we do not get the base right, the constructions which are placed upon that base will not themselves be right. This capital provision we have here is to enable structures and other injections of a capital nature in order to permit the implementation of the programmes and policies of the Ministry with maximum efficiency. We propose during the coming year to begin the construction of an extension to the Hindsbury Primary School as well as the St. Margaret's School. As a matter of fact, the St. Margaret's extension has already commenced. Under Item 2 "Replacements to Primary Schools" we propose to replacement for the Vauxhall Primary School and the Stow Primary School.

I need hardly state for the benefit of the hon. member for Christ Church West who is a particular advocate for pre-school education, that there is no disagreement at all on the need for this provision, and in fact the Ministries of Health and Education have been in discussion about the provision of pre-school education, nursery education in the Day Care Centres where the Ministry of Health and Welfare would provide the day care services and the educational inputs would come from the Ministry of Education. There are other areas in which there is very close cooperation between the Ministries which have so vital

a part to play in the social development of this country.

As you yourself very well know Mr. Chairman, there has always been a clamour in this Country for the provision of secondary school places, and this is only right because this nation has set itself a goal of providing opportunities for pupils of secondary school age in accordance with the abilities, the needs and the aptitudes of these persons. We believe in the fundamental principle that each individual is entitled to develop his innate capacities and abilities to the fullest in accordance with the abilities of the nation to find the resources to make that provision. Hence in our commitment under secondary education for the development of new secondary schools, one of these is nearing completion at Constant in St. George. Building is still going on there with an assembly hall and some other rooms being provided, and I expect that work will be completed on that particular school which will accommodate some 1,200 pupils during the course of the financial year.

There is another secondary school under construction at the Garrison in St. Michael, and this also will accommodate some 1,200 pupils. We are also extending secondary schools. It has become necessary to extend the Ellerslie Secondary School which was opened some time in 1966 or 1967, as well as other schools, and the provision is included under Item 4 for extensions of these schools. Phase 2 of the St. Lucy's School has just been completed and we expect to start phase 3 shortly.

Under Item 5 - "Extensions to older secondary schools," we have carried out extensions at the Lodge School, at St. Michael's Girls' School and at the Coleridge-Parry School, and this programme of extending these schools will continue in the coming financial year with provisions particularly at the Boys' Foundation and Girls' Foundation Schools. So at the secondary level we are committed to the principle of providing additional accommodation, and in accordance with the resources provided we will carry out that programme both by the construction of new secondary schools and by the extension of our existing schools. 8.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Item 6 refers to Erdiston College, and we are trying to ensure that that institution continues to supply teachers for our educational system both at the primary as well as at the first cycle of the secondary level, and the provision in the Estimates here is largely in respect of science facilities to permit our teachers to have a greater capability in imparting this vital aspect of education to our children.

The provision under Item 7 - Barbados Community College, is in respect of the further development of the campus at the Eyrie. Already one building has been completed, and I expect that on 4th April the formal opening ceremony for the Division of Technology will be held. This will mark a significant stage in the development of this country, particularly in the provision of technical education in that out of that division, technicians will be produced and persons capable of carrying out efficiently their functions at the supervisory level to which my colleague, the Minister of Communications and Works, made reference during his intervention in this debate.

At Item 8 - the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, here again this represents a decided shift in emphasis in terms of our education provisions. There are some 1,284 students in that particular institution, and the role of this institution is to provide the skills at craftsman level for the young people of this country in order that they can undertake and make their contribution towards social advancement and the social and economic evolution of this country. We propose to carry out soil tests on the site to

identify at Wildey in respect of the establishment of the permanent site for the polytechnic.

Mr. Chairman, Item 9 relates to the Housecraft Centre, and this institution continues to provide vital training for the women in this country, and I know the hon. member for St. Peter will make a plea when he speaks briefly during this debate for more again in that institution.

The Hotel School. It is proposed to remove the hotel school from its present quarters at Richmond and to establish it as a separate institution and not as a division of the Polytechnic. It is proposed to establish this at Marine House, and the provision here is in respect of the adaptation of part of Mirine House for the purposes of the hotel school.

Item 11 - School of Librarianship at Mona, represents a contribution which is on-going in respect of library education, and Item 12 - University of the West Indies College, some $25,972 in respect of our commitments to the University of the west Indies.

Under Youth and Community Development we have again a token vote for a youth camp, and this is because we are carrying out a very careful survey for an area where this can be sited and the developing of the policies for its programme.

Item 14 - Community Centres is a hardy annual, but we are revamping the programme of community development, and already we are carrying out complete renovations at two centres, the Community Centre at Gall Hill and the Community Centre at Ellerton. I am hoping that early in the new year we may be able to have programme organisers stationed at the centres in order that they can develop a programme based at these centres for both youth and adults.

Mr. Chairman, Items 15 and 16 under Sport, Contribution To Sport as well as provision for the National Stadium these Items really speak for themselves, and the notes as amended will explain the purpose of the provision which is being requested.

Special Education relates to the provision at the Government Industrial Schools, and there is a token vote here for the School for the Deaf. This is an indication that we are planning an extension to that particular facility. It is very much needed and we hope during the course of the year to develop those plans for the School for the Deaf.

Item 19 - Assistance for Special Education, $11,000. We are unable because of our financial restrictions to provide as many facilities as are required for those who may be handicapped visually, mentally or in any other way. However, this provision of $11,000 indicates our commitment to providing the facilities for those who are less fortunate, the less fortunate young people in our society, and I hope that from this provision I will be able to make an enhanced contribution, particularly to the School for the Mentally Retarded. I may state at this stage that we have requested assistance from UNESCO in identifying our needs in the area : of special education.

The General Head, School Meals Service, we have a centre which is nearing completion at Country Road, and when this is completed there are some 5,000 other children who will be receiving meals and will be participating in the programme.

Item 21 - Archives Department. This Department is doing very valuable work, and this is work which is recognised throughout the Caribbean. Indeed, pretty shortly a committee will be established to draft rules which will regulate the use of the archives of the now defunct Federal Government, but this Department is doing very good work.

The other provisions speak for themselves, I do not propose to go through them in any detail. If any hon. members wish any additional information I shall be happy to supply that information. The Capital Provision of course relates to physical facilities and other types of equipment and injections of a capital nature. Sometimes the nature of the educational problem facing this Country is not entirely realised, sometimes we get statements which indicate somehow or other that we are not performing or that we are performing very poorly. When I make statements I make them against a background of fact, and although my information may not be as catylic as that of the hon. member for St. Peter or indeed as that of the hon. member for St. Joseph, any member can get up and ask me if I know there is a teacher at a given school who cannot work out a particular mathematical problem. 9.00 p.m.

I do not have that type of information. I am always willing to get the information and, if necessary, take whatever steps are neceasary to increase the capacity of the teachers to function in our system.

As far as examinations are concerned as well as the performance of the system, I merely wish to make a few observations here, and it is just to place this question of the performance of our system into perspective. I am refreshing my memory from some notes here, and I wish to state that, in the 1972 Ordinary Level Cambridge General Certificate of Education, the highest percentage of passes was obtained by this Country, when we take the three Caribbean countries into consideration: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. The highest percentage of passes in the English Language was obtained by Barbados. This was also true in the West Indian History, in Geography, in French, in Mathematics Syllabus, in Mathematics Syllabus C, in Civics Syllabus N, in Art as well as in Cookery. I may point out also in Surveying.

In these subjects we talk about the transformation of the curriculum and making education more relevant. That is the paraphrase we get. In Surveying, 9 of the 10 students who entered for this subject for the first time in this Country (O Level Surveying) were successful. In English Literature, Religious Knowledge - it is not as easy a subject to pass as some persons may think - Latin, Spanish, Mathematics Syllabus B and in Biology we were second in the examination when taking those three countries into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, the point I really wish to make is that we have maintained our position as a leading centre of education in the Caribbean area. What we have to realise is that, while this may be true in respect of those certificates, the standards which we have to set for ourselves must even be higher, and we must aim much higher than that. I should like to see our standards set much higher, so that we can get a higher percentage of passes in these public examinations. This is what the discussion on the debate is about. It is not that we have slipped down to the bottom of countries taking part in these examinations, but it is in respect of our requirements for the development of our human resources that we have to try even harder. I am committed, together with the officers in my Ministry, the teachers in the schools, the parents and all of those groups and persons, to the educational care and development of the 68,000 children. In our school system we are all committed to making this a possibility, and we hope thereby that the contribution which Education, Community Development, Youth Affairs and Sport can make to

the further evolution and unfolding and transformation of our society will continue to make Barbados a very good place in which to live.

Mr. Chairman, as I have said, I am prepared to supply whatever information the hon. members may require, but I know that on these matters there is an agreement between the Government and the Opposition, or rather the Opposition convinced that the policies of the Government in education are correct, and this is not a matter on which they will divide among themselves.

I beg to move that the sum of $6,895,792 under Head 104 - Ministry of Education - with the following amendments as circulated - stand part of the Schedule.

Head 104 - Ministry of Education

Delete the letter V at the end of the word "sports" where it appears under the column "Details of Expenditure".

Item 16 - National Stadium, Delete the existing note and substitute the following "To make final payment towards the repayment of the $l.m loan approved by Resolution No. 66/1967. Includes provision to meet outstanding claims in respect of capital works at the Stadium."

Item 19 - Assistance for Special Education. Insert new note to read as follows

"19. To provide assistance to institutions other than the School for the Deaf, which provide education for Handicapped Children."

May I also point out that in Head 101 there should be a figure of $149,490 as the revote.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I think it is true to say that successive Governments since 1951 have recognised the necessity to steer the course of this Country's educational standard at a very high level, and that the policy which the Hon. Minister has enunciated so ably in all of the tones of the Hon. Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago has been a policy that was set long before he came to this Ministry. Whether that policy has been effectively performed at all times is a different matter on which we will not talk tonight.

Let me say here and now that there is a substantial measure of agreement between the political parties on matters educational in this Country. Let me say that, like this Government, the Barbados Labour Party when it was in power made sure that it stood both in its Capital Estimates and in Recurrent Expenditure a high proportion of the Budget to be spent on education. The reason for this must be very obvious. It was only by placing emphasis in this field that we could lift the broad masses of the community to a standard where, today, you see in this Chamber and in all walks of life the results in that we have brought forth the working-class people - people with working class connections - into the main stream of the life of this community.

Mr. Chairman, when the Minister sets out his general statement, I concur. I endorse his statement. It is not merely the idea of the members of the Opposition agreeing with the Government, but it is that we are congratulating the Government on having the wisdom to follow some of the policies which we had introduced when we were in the Government. I am not going to outline any general principles of education for the Country. I want, however, speaking on the Capital Estimates, to talk about some of the things that we would like to hear more about and we would like to see action taken on.

I think there are two people, whom I would like to believe, that would one day be thought of as equally outstanding who believe in Government by Committee: it is the Hon. Minister and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Every day I open the newspaper I see that the Hon. Minister has set up another Committee. Of course, I think the idea behind that, if I may be very charitable, is that he must have the facts and necessary information available. But I must tell him that sometimes he must get out of the committee stage. We are certainly concerned about the idea of bring a new educational Bill before this House. I think that his predecessor in office may have done him some harm by saying that it was ready when it had not yet got off the ground, and he may be saddled with the statement then made. If the problem lies with the Legal Department, he should try and ask the Department to give priority to having the Educational Laws properly revised. 9.10 p.m.

There is another issue which we mentioned very briefly last year and we would like again to ask the Minister to advert to it. I am not really satisfied that the teaching service has been getting the attention which it deserves when it comes to matters of appointments, transfers and promotions. Mr. Chairman, I myself sat on the Public Service Commission and that body, no matter how impartial a body may be, is saddled with being a part-time organisation without a chairman who is full time, and there are lots of limitations that this places on such a body. Certainly one of the limitations has been that teachers do not always get the attention which they deserve, and I think that now that the Government has eighteen members which is two-thirds and the Opposition six, I believe they would find that there would be a bi-partisan policy on, if necessary, changing the Constitution to have a Teachers' Commission set up. It is a matter that should be examined in conjunction with the relevant Teachers' Unions, but I can assure the Minister that speaking from this side of the House the Opposition would be only too glad to lend its support to an amendment to the Constitution in this respect if the Teachers' Organisation wants it, so that in the new Educational Act there could be provision for this as well, and I think the Ministry will find that they will function much more efficiently, people would be less worried about their conditions of service, and we would not be finding something like 426 people on the establishment who are not permanently appointed.

We regret very much that there has been no approach to us on this matter, not that the Government has to approach us on the matter, but we think this may be the first step towards securing an integrated teaching service. Those are the two main points we should like to make on general administration. I know strictly speaking, they do not relate particularly to the Capital Estimates, but I think as the Minister outlined his general policy we should draw this to his attention.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin at the primary level. I am not tonight going to push forward another of my pet topics, the pre-school child, because I believe the Government is still tentatively finding its way in this field, but the two bodies which are functioning are performing reasonably well, both the one at Erdiston and the one at Government Hill, and I hope that the Government will see fit in the next Capital Estimates to press ahead with the construction of more nursery schools in the country

and the extensions if necessary of the day care centres to accommodate this aspect of education.

I am a bit concerned about the primary schools. I think by and large the Government has inherited from the churches in particular, schools that have been cramped, and any visit to these schools will reveal that with the extensions that have gone on over the period of years, there is still room for tremendous improvement. Sometimes at these schools the toilet facilities are lacking; class-room facilities show signs of great overcrowding, and I think the Government must shift some of its emphasis very soon from the tremendous expansion that is taking place in the secondary modern school buildings to the primary schools. If you look at the actual expenditure on extension and replacement of primary schools in the 1971-72 Estimates, there was a sum of about $13,000, and in the revised Estimates for 1972-73,1 think you will find that the figure provided was something in the region of $225,000. This year it is much more substantial; it is about $1,093,000. I would like to see an emphasis now and a concentration on the primary level since there is no doubt that it is still true to say in this country that the broad mass of the population do not get beyond the primary level stage.

I know there has been a tremendous accent on teacher training at the primary level, and anybody who has scanned the reports of the Ministry up to 1970 will see that proportionately there are more trained teachers at this level than there are at the comprehensive level. We are providing the teachers and we now have to look to provide the class room facilities and other educational aids, because when the children get to the 11+ stage those few who have been fortunate to have the benefit of reasonably well-off parents to go to selective schools find themselves at a greater advantage than those who were less fortunate, in that not only did they have a higher ratio of teachers to pupils, but they have also had better educational aids in teaching, more books available to them and other facilities of this nature. We would like to see this shift taking place and a realignment. I would like to say that I think in the secondary and comprehensive stage the Minister has done quite well, and we acknowledge that. His emphasis has been in this particular field and I think he is getting to the stage that he is providing the necessary class rooms, and perhaps his next Estimates will show a shift of emphasis coming back to the primary school stage.

I would like to talk a bit on the secondary stage. I am glad that the Minister has seen fit to talk about the performance of the system and has given figures to show we have held our own at "O" level. Sometimes when I hear the secondary teachers union being referred to as truculent and an army of occupation, and being castigated left, right and centre, I believe that these people have no dedication to their jobs, and as soon as a few "A" level results came out there were those who were their detractors to try and say that they were not performing, but certainly if the Minister is going to cite this at the highest percentage of passes obtained and plead it as a sign of the performance of his Ministry, he must at least throw a part of the bouquet over to the secondary teachers association and compliment them too on their performance.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman, I did say that I as Minister was committed, the officials in my Ministry were committed, the teachers in the system were committed and all those persons and agencies including the hon. member for Christ Church West were committed to this whole goal of development in our educational system and that we all have been working together and will continue to work together. I take the point that the hon. member is making, and there was no omission on the part of the teachers. I just want to make that abundantly clear.

Mr. FORDE:

I am glad to hear the Minister state it in such clear terms and I hope it will not fall on deaf ears. We would like to make one point on secondary education. I think the time has come when we concede that free secondary education has been the slogan and one of the strong planks of the Democratic Labour Party, and we would not seek to deny them the political applause which they won in this field, but we believe the time has come when your Approved Schools must not only be supported by an increasing number of bursaries, but we think we can take the bull by the horns and completely make education free as of now at that level. If you look at the figures for 1970, Mr. Chairman, you will see that the total establishment there balances out those in the Government schools. 9.20 p.m.

I think they are just about on par, a slight difference in favour of the independent secondary schools if you take the unaided secondary schools as well into account. I am not in this respect speaking of the Comprehensive Schools, I should make that quite clear, but it seems to me that in any event we cannot plead against this idea the fact that the buildings are not good enough and that this may mean tremendous capital expenditure, because at present we are going along in a halfway system where we have to send the children to the schools in the existing buildings. It seems unequitable that the parent of such a child should be asked to support the parent of a child who has been a bit more fortunate to get into a school where education is completely free. We have a lot of late developers, there are some people who take a bit longer than others to come on to their true potential and in those schools there are some of these late developers. I know there are possibilities of crossing over at a later stage, but I think that if the Government could look at this in its entirety it should be possible to accommodate within the budget of the country without too much more expenditure these additional 6,000 places at these schools.

One of the things I think which calls for examination is the 11 plus examination. The Minister has set up a Committee to review this whole examination and he should be better able to syphon off those who are technically minded into the Comprehensive Schools, and he will be better able to control the pure grammar school education of the others, and I think from time to time, his planning of the expansion of schools will be more properly regulated. If I must be quick I am going to leave my friend for St. Peter, the Shadow Minister of Education, to talk on other fields, but I could not sit down unless I mentioned some of my pet subjects.

Special Education. I know the Minister told me last year that the Government in the new Education Bill is going to restate its commitment to education of the sub-normal child, the retarded child and the handicapped child, but I still feel - and really I say this with very personal conviction - that the community at large is not shouldering its responsibility to these children. The total vote under this Head is something like $13,000 for the school for the mentally retarded, then there is a token vote for the school for the deaf plus a contribution which the Government makes by way of teachers, etc. at the school for the deaf, but it seems to me that more can be done in this field especially for retarded and handicapped children generally.

One of the ideas I would like to throw out to the. Minister is that Erdiston College can become the training ground for the sub-normal child in the whole of the West Indian Community by including a special curriculum in this field. There is a special two-year training course. I know the Minister has offered scholarships to four or five teachers in this field, but even within the primiary system in this country there are sub-normal children that are not being recognised as sub-normal and I think the community has to face up to this problem. I welcome the increase of $1,000 for the retarded children

and the increase of $11,000 which the Minister may use under Capital Estimates for special education, but I am asking him to press more strongly in his Ministry for greater accent on this.

The Archives Department. If there is any section of the Ministry that really spends its money properly and is very well organised and very well run, it is the Archives Department. I think the Minister should be proud of what he has done within the time the Department has been set up. It is really efficiently run and is performing a task which very few Barbadians recognise is necessary, saving our past, our culture and our history and planning for our future and for those leaders who come now. Every time I visit the Department I want personally to write to the Minister to say if his success is judged by the Archives Department then he has succeeded. I hope that his other departments will take a leaf out of the book of the Archives.

Community Centres. I do not think they are performing as well as they should. I will have to debate them on another occasion but I only say to the Minister that there is need for one in that part of his constituency which borders on mine and that of the member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, the Head Education is one that will always attract a Barbadian, but I am going to say something now that I would warn the Minister that I am going to say. You propose to spend $6 million under the Capital Estimates, and for a long time in Barbados we have been spending money on secondary education. I have lived long enough to hear that at our schools we are producing the type of hybrids in headmasters that they are now saying that the money the Barbadian community is spending on education should not be spent in the manner we are spending it, and that we should go back to the old system we had in 1898 and import teachers to come from the United Kingdom to take over these schools. All of these headmasters should be asked to hand in their resignation tonight and bring Englishmen here to take over from them; they have no national pride whatsoever. After the struggle that has been made in this country for national redemption, we get people who have been educated out of the public purse coming back here and not only insulting our national pride by telling us about work permits, but people who we have now elevated to be heads of our schools like Harrison College which is a school at which we had one of the greatest struggles, it nearly created a national crisis in Barbados, the appointment of an Englishman to be headmaster of that school as against a local headmaster, and now we have the spectacle of these same people shouting out nonsense because they cannot really find their true identity.

If we are going to find people who cannot identify their role in education and who only see education by this sort of concept that we cannot say that we want Barbadians to teach or that we want Barbadians to be in our schools, they are not fit because there is nothing in our educational policy which says that a man who is not a Barbadian cannot teach in our schools, because Barbados is a haven. This is the last vestige in which the white man can live in peace and comfort in the Caribbean. There is nothing in the Barbadian society that would lend one to make this stupid statement.

The other statement that is not too serious but one we have to watch is that a headmaster must know something about what he is talking about when he talks about foreign exchange. A school is not an area for foreign exchange, a school provides a service. We do not provide a school to deal in foreign exchange. We said there that the Lodge School boarding establishment is a luxury in 1973. Anybody can ride a bicycle around Barbados now, we have bicycle races around Barbados so there is no need for a

boarding school. 9.30 p.m.

We had a Boarding School here in 1898 when we had a buggy and an old horse that you had to tie under a tree, but nowadays you have a lot of cars driving through gaps; the people are asking the Minister to fix the roads so that they can accommodate the vehicles, and you are telling me that we require a boarding school! A boarding school is a luxury. Are you going to copy what you have and say that it has done something for Barbados? There are several things that have done something for Barbados with which we cannot continue. You also had Boarding Schools in Fontabelle, but we are finished with them.

Mr. Chairman, I do not see how a man can seriously say that because there are two or three boys coming from Venezuela - there are thousands of Barbadians who cannot get into a school, and he is talking to me about foreign exchange! Let me tell the hon. member for Christ Church West that there is no such thing in Russia as a Grammar School. There are schools in which people are educated to a certain stage, and the Russians are competing with everybody in the world now so far as education is concerned. It is time that we stop this nonsense that there must be a Grammar School.

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

Mr. WALCOTT:
There cannot be a point of order, because you have not yet spoken. I am not giving way. He has not yet spoken, and he cannot rise to interrupt me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I must hear the point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:
I want to find the Rule that says that you must not mislead hon. members, Sir.

Mr. WALCOTT:
I am not giving way for that. He cannot get up and say that he is looking for the Rule that says you must not mislead hon. members.

Mr. ADAMS:
I have risen on a point of order, Sir. I am not asking anybody to find.....

Mr. WALCOTT:
I am not giving way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There is a Rule which gives any hon. member the prerogative to stand on a point of order, and I must decide when I hear the hon. member whether it is a point of order or not. I am waiting to hear the point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

My point of order is, Sir, that the hon. member is misleading the House by saying that there are no.....

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, I am not standing for that nonsense. That is not a point of order. The hon. member wants throwing out of the place.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I must decide whether it is a point of order or not. While I am waiting to hear the point of order, I will not have the hon. member standing to tell me that it is not a point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member is misleading the House.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, that cannot be a point of order. How could it be right for him to rise and say that I am misleading the House on a point of order? You are allowing a member to get up and insult the whole Chamber by saying that I am misleading the House. How could that be a point of order? You do not have to read a rule book to decide that. It is so patent and elementary.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is not a point of order! You are making a statement that he is misleading the House, and it is not a point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order. I am drawing to Your Honour's attention....

Mr. WALCOTT:
I am not giving way at all.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, on a point of order. I have risen and another member has risen. I have risen on a point of order, and another member is standing.

Mr. WALCOTT:
I am not giving way, man. He has no respect, nor does he has any for the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Now I will ask the hon. member to take his seat.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sit down and know your place!

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have also ruled that the statement made by the hon. member is not a point of order. Are you making another point of order?

Mr. ADAMS:
I am making my point of order now, Sir. Now, Standing Order 28(2) reads as follows

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, that is the Rule.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is no point of order. The relevance to the subject matter I must decide.

Mr. ADAMS:
I have not made the point yet, Sir.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Both hon. members will sit. This type of behaviour I will not tolerate. This is a definite understanding. There is no point of order. When the hon. member quotes Standing Order 28(2), the Chair must decide when any hon. member in this Chamber is irrelevant to the subject matter before the House. I do not accept that as a point of order. I will hear the hon. member.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Can the hon. member say.....

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, I am not giving way.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, there is nothing in the Head dealing with education in Russia, We are dealing with education in Barbados, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Both members will at, and this will be the last time I will speak. I have ruled, and I want to hear the hon. member's discussion on education.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, instead of debating this matter, I feel as if I would indulge in other matters. I have

listened to the hon. member insulting you already in that Chair by talking in terms of your not being a lawyer. Well, I want to make all of the lawyers in this Chamber understand that those of us who are.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Now, this is irrelevant.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Well, I want to make this point very clear, because the hon. member has an idea that he can enter this Chamber at any time, whether he has spoken in a debate or not; get up on a point of order and interrupt any hon. member who is making a speech on any matter as he has done here today. 9.40 p.m.

Now I am debating a point in which I made reference to comprehensive education and grammar school education.

Mr, ADAMS:
On a point of order.....

Mr. WALCOTT:
I am not giving way, Mr. Chairman, because every time I will be interrupted by the use of the words "on a point of order", and you can have that nonsense going on all the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Let both hon. members take their seats. It is a known fact that within this Chamber we have plenty fraudulent points of order. It is my duty as Chairman when any hon. member stands and says "on a point of order", to hear what is the point of order, and any other hon. member who is speaking, according to the Rules, should take his seat. The Standing Orders which govern this Chamber gives me the authority to decide whether the point of order is fraudulent, genuine or an unnecessary interruption. It is my intention to carry out these Orders regardless of what any hon. member may think about the ruling of this Chair, and I am going to make it abundantly clear that any hon. member in this Chamber who feels that I am not competent enough to rule must bring a substantive motion that I be removed from the Chair. But as long as I am sitting in this Chair, all hon. members are going to obey the Chair, or I will use the appropriate Standing Order to ask those hon. members' who would like to flout 'the order and wish of the Chair to leave the Chamber.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, the hon. member has implied improper motives to me contrary to Standing order No. 28(7) by saying that I insulted the Chair, and I ask him to withdraw that. Nobody can insult the Chair and he has just said I insulted you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I do not accept it as an insult to the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS:
I said it is an insult to me. To say that I would insult the Chair is to impute an improper motive to me. To say that I insulted the Chair may even be actionable if it is said outside far less unparliamentary in here, and I submit he should be made to withdraw those words. I appreciate your saying I have never

insulted you, but by your saying that you feel that what he has said is not unparliamentary.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, he does not only insult you, but he gets up and makes a speech while I am making a speech. Not only is it insulting to you, but it is insulting to the whole Chamber. I should be the one to withdraw from this Chamber, because if he is permitted to rise on the occasions he has risen, and behave in the manner in which he has behaved, not only is it insulting to the Chamber, but he also alludes something improper to me by saying on a point of order that I am misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have already ruled on that and that is a closed subject. I do not want to hear it again.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I thought I would have got these interruptions which I have been enduring from the Minister of Education who introduced the Resolution.

I was saying, Mr. Chairman, when it comes to secondary education, I hope the Minister will understand that the English system has been to sub-divide education into lanes and compartments and call one a second grade school and another a grammar school; but the point I was making is that whether you are dealing with purely academic subjects or with practical methods within the schools, the comprehensive school must be looked at in order to remove the concept of snobbery from the area of education. In the Union of the Socialist Republic of Russia there is a wide system of education which embraces a wide range of people, and they have shown to the world that they are able to compete in education, and I hope that in Barbados we will begin gradually to reduce the concept of named types of schools as a projection for educating the children in this country. It is true that the schools have been serving their purpose. Education is a political matter, and you will find the political point of view of a period reflected in the kind of education of the time, and therefore if we are living in a more socialist democratic age, I think it is time that our educational system must begin to reflect this change so that the children twenty-five, or fifty years from now will grow up with a different understanding and point of view about education, and, also that they do not necessarily grow up with the point of view about education which was a product of the English system which we have seen, which has its benefits, but in many areas it has its problems.

Mr. Chairman, in small communities like ours we have to be careful. People have been saying that in Barbados people do not like to work, and they talk about motivating people. You cannot begin to motivate people until your whole education pattern is such that people are not distinguished and set aside by the named schools they attended and there is going to be an area of selection to determine. We have a classic example of what is still growing up in this society, but some of us are strong enough to fight the system, while some are too weak to fight. We have to fight this thing because it is repeated every now and again in this Chamber, and it is a reflection of the type of education which, although you have come into Parliament, you find it is still a hang-on. We have to completely eradicate that from our thinking, and some of us must be bold enough to pounce on those who want to perpetuate this system. If we are going to perpetuate a system that means nothing but snobbery, prejudice or privilege, we are at the stage where education in 1973 must gradually remove that. We have done that in our policy of making secondary education free to everybody. 9.50 p.m.

We have done that in our policy first in making secondary education free to everybody. Members on the other side laughed at it, they had the affrontery to say that it was not free, that it was only free for those who had money but not for the poor people. (Asides.) Your father had money but you still went to a Government aided school, he did not send you to Mr. Batson's school. Let us say that we should send those children whose parents had money to Venezuela so that they could not occupy places in our schools, we do not want a system where children must be excluded on the basis of their fathers' wealth. I say that the son of a rich man in Barbados has a right to be educated in the public schools of Barbados because we believe that the son of a rich man is entitled to the public facilities that we have to offer and I see nothing wrong with that. We know the rich can always get more of some of the things in life than the poor can, and therefore that is why those who believe in an equalisation of the economy strive harder each day to find a better distribution of the economy so that we do not have a few rich and a mass amount of poverty, and that we can level out the situation.

Mr. Chairman, I am not here to ask the Hon. Minister for anything outside the areas in the Capital Estimates, but I would like to see more and more attention given to industrial training and I would like to see greater capital provision made for industrial ..... (Asides.) Mr.Chairman, am I going to be interrupted by this unmannerly behaviour? If the voices are louder than mine I am going to stop.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am not hearing any voices.

Mr. WALCOTT:
I am hearing them, they are disturbing me and I am going to refer to the appropriate Standing Order. (Asides.) When country people come to town we know how you feel, you are not accustomed to all this light in the country.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, country people who come to town are bound to know other country people who come to town.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to see some more attention given to capital investment in industrial training, and I hope that the Minister will look towards this area. I see something is in for the Polytechnic but I am sure that that $10,000 will represent the proverbial mosquito on the rump of the rhinocerous, and if you have to think in terms of spreading industrial development or industrial training in Barbados this amount will rot be enough. I say so seriously because manual jobs are diminishing and it is time that the Minister bears in mind that more and more Barbadians will rely on skilled employment, and the more we can invest in the training of skills the better it will be for the community as a whole.

Mr. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, sometimes it is amazing to sit and listen to some hon. members who we assume know a great deal about education and educational policy. Sometimes in attempting to put forward their points

of view they reveal a very interesting thought process. I was taken aback when I heard the shadow Minister of Education - and I must say it is a good thing that he is only a Shadow Minister because I believe that if he were the real Minister we would get an idea of what the educational policy of the country would be - but I was amazed to hear him put up a point of view on the question of secondary education and on the division where we have on the one hand provision for comprehensive schools and on the other provision for grammar schools, that we should be concentrating on putting the people who are technically and vocationally bent into the comprehensive schools and the people who are academically bent into the grammar schools. I remember some time last year when the shadow Shadow Minister of Education, the hon. member for St. Peter, made a similar point and we had to draw to his attention and point out that this should not be the kind of development we should be thinking about in our educational process. We want to see a system develop which will be as comprehensive as possible, which will to a large extent give people every possible opportunity to be able to enjoy the benefits which exist in this Country from education, and it is difficult for us, or rather we are amused to hear of this kind of development which they would propose if they had an opportunity to guide the educational policy in this Country. I think we have to be extremely clear in our sites because I think that one of the most important aspects of the development of any country is the kind of educational policy which is pursued, and I do not think that we are from the point of view of policy doing as much as we possibly can to eradicate the kind of snobbery to which the hon. member for St. Michael West referred which will automatically develop out of the system that we are presently pursuing where we have a very clear distinction between the grammar schools and the comprehensive schools. 10.00 p.m.

I would very much like the Minister to be thinking in terms of having one primary school, and if you want to call them comprehensive schools you can abolish the idea of grammer schools, and develop schemes within these schools but, at least, make. sure that every kind of educational opportunity is provided for the pupils in the schools. In this way I think, we will have a greater equalisation of our educational opportunities.

Now, the Minister made reference to the fect that there is some sort of concentration on nursery or pre-primary education. This is an area in which I also have some interest. I believe that if we are going to develop a system where there is equal educational opportunity for people, then we should be concentrating on providing opportunities as early as possible for children of people who might not have the kind of environment at home in which their children who, incidentally, begin to learn things from a very early age, can develop to the point where they can compete and absorb things when they go forward to the other stages of education. It is good to see that some consideration is being given to additional provision for nursery education.

However, Mr. Chairman, what I should like to draw to the attention of the Minister- I am sure he is aware of this, but sometimes we have to do a little prodding so that we can get movement in these areas much quicker- is that I believe there is a serious lack of training for teachers in this particular area. This is a specialised area. I believe that even although the kind of training which is given at Erdiston Teachers Training College for primary school teachers might incorporate some aspects of nursery education. I think we should devote some concentration to training people specifically to deal with children at the nursery age. People talk about the day nurseries and so on. It should be pointed out that there are very few people who are trained to handle children at the day nurseries, and I think that the Ministry of Education should devote close attention to this matter.

Now let me move away from the Head of Education and deal with the section relating to Youth and Community Development. I do not intend to miss any opportunity in the House, Mr. Chairman, to do a little parish pumping. Now, my comment will relate to the Rockfield playing field, or community centre, or social centre. I am not sure what it is. Maybe it is a collection of all, because from outside of the playing field you can watch cricket. Formerly, football used to be played there, but the Barbados Football Association has declared the ground to be unsuitable for playing football. It is also used as a social centre. We know that dances are held there as well as other social functions.

As I have pointed out by way of questions in this Chamber already, the centre is in a dilapidated stage. I was in there one night and I had to dodge a big slab of concrete which had dropped down. I am asking that some attention be given to this particular community centre. I know that the Minister did say that every effort would be made to have this centre developed as soon as possible, and I hope that when the repairs are being carried out that additional facilities would be provided in such a manner that the centre could be used by community groups in the area. I also hope that in this development the Minister would pay some attention to levelling the playing field.

Mr. Chairman, this centre and the complex were built somewhere around 1952, and from that time the field was left in a high and low situation. It is not quite as bad as the cricket ground at St. Augustine where somebody has to stand up and tell the batsman when the bowler is running up to bowl. I hope that some effort will be made to level the ground so that the people in the area would be able to use it as soon as possible.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that if we look even at the reports in the Press we would get some indication of what public opinion is of the administration of education in this Island. Now, we might relate this to the amount of money that education is costing us, and to see how Government sets about in the spending thereof. You will find that there is 70% of our children in schools at the primary level. We can see what is being spent on educating these children, and it is left to us to look at what is spent on the others who are receiving education at another level.

Now, it has been said that the administration system, as practised at present, is somewhat ineffective, and we believe, as the hon. member for Christ Church West has said, that the Hon. Minister of Education has so steeped himself in the idea of copying the idea of the setting up of the Committee business that he has been at pains time and time again - I have pointed this out before - to by-pass the Statutory Advisory Board and the Constituent Committees, and he persists in adopting this dubious method of setting up these ad hoc committees. 10.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the two most recent were the Common Entrance and the one dealing with Curriculum Development. Now I believe that at the primary education level the Minister himself has provided the evidence that something is very radically wrong with it, and so wrong indeed that I think it is the Extra-Mural Tutor Dr. Shorey who is now at the head of a committee to go into the system and to make recommendations. Those of us who Rave been following the steps taken in education from time to time know that there are eight education officers who are charged with the responsibility for teaching, so to speak. There is one senior, three other district officers, one for handicrafts, one for infants methods, and I think one for home economics and visual aids. These officers have a duty to visit the schools and be part and parcel of all that goes on in schools day in and day out, week in and week out and year in and

year out. If these officers are discharging their functions, what is it that Dr. Shorey or anybody else can tell these officers or the Mnister that these officers themselves could not have detected so as to keep the Minister informed?

What is of importance to us is for die Mnister to tell us when last there was an inspection of the system of primary school education in this island.

With respect to secondary education, the Minister has at some time given us to understand that results were not always as good as he would like. A committee was set up to go into all this and I believe it is about five weeks that the public has been waiting to see whether or not a report would be made public or at least see some of its recommendations to let us know exactly what has been going wrong and with a view to removing from us any suspicions that might have crept up from time to time. One of the problems about the Ministry of Education is the neglect on its part to publish as readily as it should its annual reports. We believe that the last which has come to hand is the 1969-70, but there has been a lapse from time to time in the publication of these reports, and nobody is going to suggest that the Ministry is not adequately staff. Rather than have the information compiled and circulated, it is put in cold storage so that when the information is made available to those of us who would be interested, it does not really serve the purpose that we would wish to have it serve.

Now there are in our midst, Mr. Chairman, quite a number of children in the 14 - 18 age group who did not do well at some of these secondary schools they might have entered and some who have been turned out more or less from the comprehensive schools and from the primary schools as well, and they are the people for whom we want to see what the Government is doing so that we might reduce the number of waifs and strays and the growing number of unemplpyables we have in our midst.

I may say at this point that I personally am particularly concerned with the fact that 1952 or thereabouts was the last time a substantial sum was spent on the building of a school in St. Peter. I recall that some extension was done at the Alexandra School, but we do not refer to that as a substantial sum. The last time was when they built the Coleridge-Parry School. We have eight primary schools in St. Peter and I will ask the Minister to examine the situation and upgrade those schools and let it be taught to parents that some of the children can get in them as good an education as at Richmond or Ellerslie. It would save many of them the difficulty they encounter with their transport problems. Some of them have to leave home as early as 6.30 in the morning, and after turning here and there in the evening, some of them hardly reach back home until nearly 6.30. These are things we would like to see reduced in our educational set up, and we would like to know that the Minister pays some sort of attention to these little points.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have a system at Erdiston Teachers' Training College. At Erdiston you have lecturers training teachers for primary schools, but not one of these lecturers has at any time taught in a primary school. All they know about primary education is what thay have read in books, and they are the people who are lecturing teachers who must then go and take up substantive appointments in our primary schools. We do not think that the number of people who passed through the primary school ranks and other stages of education in Barbados and who are themselves qualified to teach should be

looked over and others brought merely to lecture at that stage because we cannot get the type of benefit that one would expect from them

Now in these primary schools there is a total absence of library facilities, and where there is a dictionary or any other volume that might be of benefit to a child, it is kept under some lock and key and is not really made available to the children who are expected to benefit from it. 10.20 p.m.

I am sure that the Minister, having set up his 11 plus examination committee, will at this stage be willing to give some sort of consideration to the fact that the teachers themselves are the people who have to carry out the 11 plus experiment, or the people who have got to make it work, that we do not want to see an error of judgement, but it is still open to the Minister to have some teacher representation, some active person from the teaching body placed on this committee, because we believe it would go a long way in cementing the sort of bond of friendship and raise the general tenure of the feeling among teachers generally.

Inadequate curriculum planning is one of the things that is plaguing the primary schools, both the Government primary schools and those private schools that are taking in people's children. We feel that some sort of consideration has got to be given in this respect because we find in the case of the primary schools that the children are taught arithmetic and English for the most part and there is hardly ever any attention paid to the teaching of scripture in these early stages. I believe that the Minister would be willing to give some better examination of the situation as it obtains there. I believe that the Minister is familiar with what obtains in respect of girls who attend Codrington High School in St. John, that whilst attending school some of them who are eligible apply for bursaries but they get these bursaries and then remain at school. This is a situation that is not so pleasant to have to relate, and we would wish that the Minister examines this as best he can when the occasion arises for him to do so.

I remember the former Leader of the House explaining that with children taking this 11 plus examination, a child who gets a higher percentage of marks need not be placed in one of the grammer schools but the child who gets a lower percentage of marks can be placed, leaving out the one with the higher percentage because of the fact that the parents of the child has stipulated they would like the child to be sent to a particular school. This is something which 1 feel the Ministry of Education should best know how to deal with because I feel that the master at Coleridge-Parry School, the mistress at Alexandra School and the master at the Alleyne School in St. Andrew are working miracles out of the type of material that they get from time to time, because you know that the cream is sent to Harrison College, Lodge and Queen's College. These are things to which the Minister will have to address his mind at some stage and do what can be done to encourage the masters and staff of those schools that have got to be carrying the brunt of the burden, because when a child from Coleridge-Parry gets five certificates at 'O' level the masters had to do a lot more with that child than their counterparts had to do with the child who got seven or eight subjects from Queen's College or Harrison College because the master at Coleridge-Parry began with zero.

On the question of dope in the schools, we know that the Teachers Union held a two-day seminar on this quite recently and we wonder exactly what steps the Ministry of Education is taking in this because it was admitted in this Chamber by a former Leader of the House that they had come across incidents where boys at Harrison College and Lodge School about three years ago were indulging in taking dope, which means that Government had full knowledge of this and it is full time that the Ministry of Education could have taken steps to eradicate it or let us know what is the true position regarding it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Some time has expired.

Mr. HINDS:
I am coming home. There is a question, Sir, of discipline at the University of the West Indies. We are going to vote money for the University and we believe that the Ministry of Education ought to say something about disciplining those people at the University who feel that all they have to do is shout "power", "power". Something should be done, and in our view there is a lack of commonsense in the approach to the discipline of these people, and the sooner that our Minister can address his mind to this the better it will be for all concerned. 10.30 p.m.

A boy, who wrote the Pitman's overseas examination quite recently, was asked to write ah essay regarding a conversation which he had overheard after leaving the cinema on his way home, and the boy wrote about all of the filthy language he had heard. This is a very serious matter and it is nothing to laugh at. If we have reached a stage in our education where our children are prepared to use that type of language in an overseas examination, then we will have to take a serious look at what we are getting for the money we are spending on education in this country. This is a serious matter that will have to occupy the attention of all concerned. What has happened in this case will affect Barbados.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be too long on this Head. There are just one or two queries I should like to make. Some time ago in this House I informed the Minister responsible for the National Stadium that there was no subsidiary legislation governing the conduct of persons who go to the National Stadium to witness various activities of sport. On numerous occasions I have seen people taking away the dunlopillo that is used by the people who are high-jumping. This is usually done immediately after the sports meeting is over, and this sort of thing should be prevented. I have also seen various activities up there which should not be condoned. I know that the then Manager of the National Stadium was very much concerned about these activities, and had asked whether or not the Government could make proper subsidiary legislation to govern the conduct of persons attending sporting activities at the National Stadium.

I have brought this to the attention of the Minister, because I notice that, outside of using indecent language, the policemen working at the National Stadium are hesitant to remove people from the Stadium for bad behaviour. I think that if you are going to have a National Stadium which is going to be used effectively, then there should be some sort of legislation controlling the behaviour of the people who attend the activities at the Stadium.

There is one other question regarding the National Stadium which is causing a great deal of difficulty. I refer to the use of the lights at the National Stadium. I should like to know whether any programme has been drawn up in relation to football in this country. I know that the Government has provided the services of a football coach, but I should like to know whether a programme has been drawn up for football so that the coach can go to the schools and clubs in the rural areas and give them the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

As far as I understand, in dealing with coaching at the National level, there seems to be some dispute, because it is difficult for some of the players to reach the Stadium until after 4.30 p.m. or 5 p.m., since

most of them have to work. In the circumstances, when the players arrive at the Stadium it is rather dark, and I understand that the government football coach is not permitted to use the lights at night. I should like the Minister to have this matter investigated, because I see no point in bringing a football coach to Barbados and paying him $27,000 when he is not performing any function at all.

Mr. Chairman, although we on this side have been calling for a national coach to be brought to Barbados, we have been urging that when he leaves at the end of three years we should have a Barbadian to replace him. We have been Urging the Government to send two or three of our coaches to be trained for at least three years and to come back and work for at least one year with the national coach here, so that when he goes there would be a Barbadian to do the job. These are the two topics I wanted to raise, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, it is only a question of ideology when it comes to education. I have agreed with some of the comments I have heard, but there are others with which I am in complete disagreement. I will start with the deputy Shadow Minister of Education. He has suggested that as far as the schools in St. Peter are concerned, what he would like to see in that parish would be the upgrading of the primary schools in order to provide education of a secondary type. I think that when, on the twelfth of never, he becomes Minister of Education he may implement that particular policy in respect of St. Peter, but that does not form any part of the policy of the Ministry of Education for the development of secondary education.

Mr. Chairman, our proposals call for the establishment of a secondary school to serve the needs of the children between the ages of 11-15 in that parish. This school, like all the others that have been constructed so far and are under construction like the one in St. Lucy, will be put up subject to the provision of funds. I just want to make it quite clear that it is not the policy merely to upgrade primary schools to provide for what secondary schools should be providing.

Mr. Chairtnan, on the question of the setting up of Committees, it is my belief that, on matters of education which touch a variety of persons and interests, one should, as far as possible, call upon the expertise and the talents and the opinions of a wide variety of people in trying to deal with these problems. That is why I have instituted a process of wide consultation. I have never given any instructions that the Education Board, so dear to the heart of the member for St. Peter, should meet. I am not the chairman of that Board, and I have no status as far as that Board is concerned. It is under the chairmanship of the Chief Education Officer; members have been appointed to the Board; I do not see the minutes of the Board, so I am not particularly concerned with the Education Board.

Mr. Chairman, we set up specialists Committees to deal with a single problem or range of problems. Those are the Committees that I have set up, but there is an Education Board which, I assume, carries out the functions that have been allocated to it. Mr. Chairman, I will go through these points one by one, because I believe that the record should be made quite clear. When the member says that I am aware or that I have provided evidence that something is radically wrong with the primary school education, I have not provided any such evidence that I am aware of, unless it was at a time when I was hearing voices, but we do not hear any voices in here. The evidence, I presume, was that I have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Leonard Shorey. Now Dr. Shorey was appointed as the chairman of a committee to review the operation and effect of the common entrance examination. This is at the point of transfer from the primary to the secondary stage of education. It has nothing

whatsoever to do with anything that is radically wrong with primary education or secondary education. 10.40 p.m.

It is a study of the transfer from primary school to the secondary phase of education, and to touch upon the matters raised by the hon. member for St. Michael West and the hon. member for St. Lucy, we have got to come down to these basic facts in this country that the educational system is not something separate and apart from the total economic and social situation, and the contributions that education must make must be in the direction of providing the type of personnel in the Country and trained manpower who can from a basis of well-balanced outlook on the problems facing the Country make their necessary contribution within the context of the abilities which have been impregnated into them. I completely agree with the suggestion that any type of names or designations which would tend to segregate schools into different types is contrary to the best educational development in this country, and that is why the schools in this country will be designated as secondary schools, and we are going to do away with this categorisation into comprehensive and grammar schools. That is the orientation and development we are going to take.

The hon. member for St. Peter asked what is wrong with the education officers, and I think he found eight of them who are supposed to visit the schools. I do not know what is wrong with them; I do not know that anything is wrong with them. They are carrying out their functions and duties as education officers to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member also asked when the report of the committee set up to review the performance of candidates in overseas examinations will be made public. I have already said in another place that I expect shortly a seminar to be convened of heads of secondary schools and the heads of departments and other subject teachers at which this report will be made public. There is no intention to keep any finding secret. As far as the report of the Ministry is concerned, I expect this report for the year ending 31st August, 1971, will be laid very shortly in Parliament. I have a draft of it in my hands and I can only say I expect it will be made available shortly. I also expect that shortly thereafter the one for August 1972 will become available. I have no doubt that the Ministry is adequately staffed to produce the reports. It is not the information that gives you any wrong figures; it is the orientation and construction that you put on the information which you have.

Mr. Chairman, there is just one other point I | wish to refer to and that relates to the question, and I hear it too often and must speak with some feeling on it, that Harrison College and Queen's College get the cream of something and that the other shcools like Coleridge-Parry and the Alleyne School get only what is left and something which is not the cream. I want to make it quite clear that in 1972 some 793 persons were awarded places in the secondary grammar schools out of a total of 11,006 taking this examination, and I would have to reject categorically any suggestion that only 100 or so of these 11,000 represent the cream in the country. If this is so, we could as well pack up. This concept that it is only Harrison College or Queen's College which have the cream and that the others get what is left I think shows a disregard for the human resources in this Country and the ability of our teachers to train that ability to its fullest capability. I speak feelingly on this, Mr. Chairman, because I believe it is something which has got to be laid to rest, and from whatever source it comes from I would like to make it quite clear that I do not consider that if 100 or 200 children gain admission to two secondary schools in this country and the others go to eight other secondary schools, that you have to work miracles at the other eight to get them anywhere, that they are untrainable or some such comment.

Mr. Chairman, if I may turn to the field of sport and community development, as far as the Rockfield community centre is concerned, early in the coming financial year this centre will be renovated and alterations carried out there in order to provide improved facilities. Some time later, I cannot say exactly when, the playing field itself will be looked at. But we must face the fact that this is a very small field and the centre there was sited very badly. We will try to do the best we can.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there were any particular matters otherwise that 1 am called upon to reply to. There was a question about the Education Bill. The hon. member knows that I cannot draft any Bill. Instructions have been given to the draughtsmen and they have been working on it. I understand it is ready for two clauses to be drafted, but I am advised it is nearing completion.

I believe my time for reply is expiring and .....(Asides) Mr. Chairman, I was not present at any seminar and I do not have any report of a seminar before me; so there is nothing for me to enquire into. As far as football and the electricity charges are concerned, 1 would like to state that I have given a directive that the charges for electricity at the Stadium should be reduced to those sporting organisations who use the Stadium than hitherto charged, and I expect that this will be implemented shortly if it has not already come into existence. As far as the other matters are concerned, on any other occasion when and if there are any substantive questions on these matters, I will be prepared to submit the information.

The question that the sum of $6,895,792 under Head 104 - Ministry of Education - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 105 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Head 105 - Ministry of Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $843,060 under Head 105 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stand part of the Schedule.

If there are any hon. members who would like to ask any questions, I would be happy to supply the information.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that. 10.50 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, Item 1, provision for additional accommodation at Central Police Station. This is a revote.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, dealing with Item 1, one of the points I would like to raise is the question of the building which houses the Criminal Investigation Department. This is a building in which all the criminal records are kept, the fingerprints and other vital information which people require from time to time when they need certificates of character and various things like this, and it is perhaps the most insecure building at Central Police Station. It is made of wood, this is very insecure, and I seriously urge upon the Government that steps should be taken as soon as possible to make provision for a new Criminal Investigation Department which would be more secure, and provide proper safety equipment such as a fireproof safe for the records which are kept in that department.

In addition, there is the question of District 'A' Station, Item 3, to provide extensions and additional accommodation at District 'A' Station, and part of this is a revote of $290,225. One of the things I would like to suggest to the Government is the possibility of removing the mobile unit of the police force from Central Station to the spacious quarters at the District 'A' Police Station at Station Hill. You may find that if this can be done and provision is made at the District 'A' Station for the mobile unit a great deal of space would then be available to the other branches of the Force at Central Police Station.

Additional accommodation for the Writ Department and Court Prosecutors. The question of the writ Servers Department is one that has been causing concern to those of us who are concerned with the administration of justice in this Country. It has caused concern because we feel that the time has come when the Writ Department should be brought directly under the control of the Magisterial Department, because one finds very often when there is some defect and a summons is not returned and a Magistrate has to ask any question he is told sometimes by one or two Writ Servers that he has no control over them that the only person who has that control is the Commissioner of Police, and this is a totally unsatisfactory situation. If you compare this situation to the one with the Marshals of the Supreme Court, they come directly under the Registration Office and are directly under the Chief Justice. The Judges of the Supreme Court have control to that extent over the Marshals of the Supreme Court whereas in the Magistrates' Court the Magistrates have no control or say in respect of the writ servers.

I think it is time, Mr. Chairman, that we report progress.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.. I think the hon. member is questioning the time but he knows as well as I do that the formal sitting of the House is from 12.00 until 9.30, but we started today at 2.30 and therefore we will go on till 11.30.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On the question of the public mortuary perhaps the Minister can give us some information as to how far the construction of the public mortuary has reached and also on plans for the forensic laboratory.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to look at Item 11 - Telecommunications. I believe it is some two years now that I spoke on telecommunications in respect of the Police Department of this Country and I said at that time that the age old system which had been employed at the. Police Station was very unsatisfactory because it was rather difficult to make communication between certain points in this country. I think that at that time the Leader of the House had assured us that they were contemplating purchasing new equipment and that all of these things had been taken into consideration. It is strange that nothing has

been done in respect of the systems which existed, because as far as I can recall those systems still exist in the Police Stations today.

Now I see there is a vote for $100,000 for telecommunications, and I would like to know from the Government whether they are now revamping the sets, whether they have been able to solve the problem of whistling in the systems or whether they are going to equip the offices with sets which are really meaningful and which operate on an efficient basis. I remember some time last year just off Seawell Airport there was an accident and the Police were trying to reach many of the out stations, but one could scarcely hear what was going on. Any person who visits any of the Police Stations and stands up in the Charge Office can hear what is supposed to be a telecommunications system whistling like some small boy. 11.00 p.m.

I am really at a loss to think that the Government will come to the House year after year and speak about remedies, etc., and here is a vote now and the Addendum speaks of the same thing which we spoke about two years ago: "To provide for upgrading of Telecommunications system at Police Headquarters. I believe that is not the way it should be done. The Government should make a positive statement on what is going on with the telecommunications.

Mr. Chairman, quite recently we have found ourselves faced with a drug problem in this Country, and most of the time the serious drug problem that we have been faced with is brought into this Country. I should like to see the Police equipped in such a manner that they can move from place to place and apprehend the pedlars. I am of the opinion that unless the Police are equipped to deal with this problem, no one knows where it will end. I think there should be proper communications between the Police Stations and vehicles. If the Police do not have a proper system of communications there is every likelihood that these offenders of the law will escape being apprehended at a particular time.

With regard to Item 8 - Launches - $15,000, this is clearly a reduction from the 1972-73 Estimates when we had voted $50,000. We will shortly find ourselves in the position of most Caribbean countries or even the United States with several of these so-called tourists in small boats moving from beach to beach with several water-skis strapped on top of the boats. They go far out to sea and return to the shore. I have just been told that it is a revote as well, Mr. Chairman, if these so-called tourists are moving from beach to beach under the pretext of water-skiing, it is quite possible that is another source of obtaining dope without being apprehended. In the circumstances, the Police should be provided with well-equipped launches in order to protect our beaches. I should like the Minister to say why he has reduced the amount in the vote and what is being done in this particular area.

With regard to Item 5 - Additional Accommodation For Writ Department & Court Prosecutors, the hon. member for the City has already spoken about the writ servers department. We have called for something to be done in respect of this section of the Police Force for a very long time. Mr. Chairman, I can only repeat what I have said in 1970. The writ servers department is looked upon as the dust-bin of the Royal Barbados Police Force. You will find that policemen who are not efficient, or who do not have any interest in the Police Force, are transferred to the writ servers department. In that department you will find policemen who are coming to the end of their retirement and they are still privates today. We have called for more promotion in this department. We have also said that the writ servers should be removed from under the Commissioner of Police and transferred to the court section and be treated like any other civil servant. Let them be controlled by the Magistrate and the Registrar, and one would get

some sort of efficiency in the department.

Mr. Chairman, at the moment if one can say that there is 1% of Police summonses which are not served that, probably, is a high number, because they are responsible to the Commissioner of Police. But when it comes to private cases, Mr. Chairman, you can go to that Department now and you will find cases there with the words: "The defendant cannot be found." 'The defendant has left the address." You will go and tell the writ server that you know that the person lives there, and the writ server will tell you "I cannot serve the summons after a certain time. 1 went there; he was not there, and I cannot leave it." On the other hand, you will never hear those excuses when it comes to a Police summons. In the case of a Police summons, although the Rules of the Court provide a method of serving complaints other than what is the regular system although it provides for leaving them at home, you can check and see how many summonses are left in that department. You will find summonses in that Department with the words "Not found," but day after day you can see the people walking on the road.

Mr. Chairman, if it is a landlord and tenant case, it will be a different matter. I will go further and say that if I have to bring a case against a policeman it will be returned with the words "Cannot be found." I have had to direct summonses to the Commissioner of Police, Central Police Station, in order to get policemen served with summonses. This is due to the fact that in the writ servers department the people are not satisfied, and unless some positive effort is made to deal with this department, you are not going to get an updated system in the Courts, It is no use talking about additional accommodation. You must first deal with the problem of inefficiency in the department. You must make the writ servers feel that they will get the same promotion as any other policeman, and you must make them feel that they are a necessary part of the community.

Mr. Chairman, I think it will be a good thing to transfer them to some department of the Court where they will not have to depend on Police recommendations for promotion, and I believe that the department would then be in a position to operate efficiently.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, with regard to.....

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I do not mind if the Minister answers now, and answers again. I do not have the slightest objection of his answering point after point. Sir, I should like to add my quota to what the hon. member who has just sat down has said, and I would prefer the second of his alternative relative to the Writ Department that the Writ Department should be transferred altogether out of the Royal Barbados Police Force into a new Writ Servers Service, so to speak, and with all the necessary arrangements made for them to exercise the choice that they will either resign and get a gratuity and pension now, or go back to the Police Force, or join the Service. 11.10 p.m.

I think the time is long overdue. I would also like to support what the hon. member has said about the different standards of service in criminal and civil cases. If a man is wanted urgently in a criminal matter he will be found if he is buried underground at the Animal Flower Cave. If the writ servers get a civil plaint to carry out that they do not like, it will take weeks and months and a lot of argument to get the person found, and when the writ servers get an idea in their minds, for example, that you cannot serve a judgement summons on a married woman, an idea which I believe even the hon. member for St. Joseph

still entertains although it was abolish as far as I know by the law of Barbados in 1898, nothing will induce them. I believe even if the Chief Justice were to tell them to do it they would yet be hesitant. It is surprising how much indiscipline there is in that aspect of the administration of justice in Barbados, I do not want to dwell at length on an item which I am very glad to see here, Item 7 - Forensic Laboratory. I made reference to this in an earlier stage of the debate on the Estimates saying what a good thing it would be if you could have a common forensic laboratory if necessary associated with the Regional Police Training College, and I very much hope this is the line which the Minister intends to pursue. The scientific investigation of crime is very important in any country, and I very much hope that the Ministry of Home Affairs will take this line as far as it can.

I must confess that I have not looked at these Estimates as carefully as I should because I see here a new station for Hole town. I know that Holetown is an area where the affluent population is increasing, sharply creating a demand for very specialised services such as those of the police, I very much hope that the Holetown police are not going to fall into the error of the police who used to patrol Belleville, Navy Gardens, Worthing and St. Lawrence in the old days upon the basis that they are there to give special services to the rich. Sunset Crest for example, I believe, should be encouraged to continue its present practice of employing security guards who will carry out many of the duties within the area of private roads that the police carry out on public highways.

But there is this I will say about Holetown and it relates to the Magistrates Court at Oistins as well. There is a lot of pressure from members of the Bar to centralise the administration of magisterial justice in this Island. I am not in favour of this. I know that the Oistins Magistrates Court will come up under Judiciary and I do not intend to anticipate, but speaking for myself I would prefer not to see a Magistrates Court at Holetown at all. I would prefer to see the police facilities extended as far as is possible at Holetown to meet new conditions, but not to transfer the St. James jurisdiction to Speightstown. Sir, this is something so simple and I think hon. members sometimes and the planners lose sight of these little details. Court work begins in the morning. In the morning most traffic is in Bridgetown; you should encourage traffic to go out. There are buses leaving Bridgetown and going empty to Speightstown and Oistins in the morning, and that is why I would be glad to see people encouraged to go north and south out of Bridgetown in the morning, rather than have to get in a bus in the nether parts of St. James to come towards Bridgetown although they are stopping off at Holetown. I really believe the Ministry should try to resist tod much centralisation in the courts, because it is a burden on poor people in Belleplaine to tell them to.....Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is referring to police courts, etc., but there are police stations we are dealing with at present. There is nothing under Head 105 that refers to Magistrates Courts at all.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Minister is a little bit late in getting up because I have already said that I know that this Head does not deal with Courts, and if the Minister can hear and understand, he might have heard and understood. The relevance is that I am suggesting that accommodation might be found in the existing court room at Holetown by transferring the court facilities to Speightstown. That is what I am suggesting, and not spending money rebuilding an entire structure at Holetown. That is the relevance of it to this Head. You have already ruled in here that relevance is a matter for you, not for a point of order, when I drew it to your attention that the hon. member for St. Michael West was allowed to insult the Chair and I was overruled on that point. That is the aspect of that matter which I would draw to the attention of hon. members.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I will not be long on this matter, and I suppose that the comments which I am going to make under Items 1 and 3 could well be made in this particular context under the next Head, but I will try to make it here. It is a good thing whenever arrangements are being made to improve accommodation for the police, but I would like to draw to the Minister's attention that the police who are stationed at Seawell International Airport do live there in very trying conditions. Those huts have become almost antiques with no proper system of accommodation, and I think that if any hon. member would take the opportunity when he is passing through Seawell to go and visit them, he will see that there is urgent need to try and provide proper accommodation at Seawell Airport, for the police who are called on to do duty at that part of the Country. I know it is not a recognised police station as such, but it is a place where policemen are stationed. I do not know whether the new airport plans will incorporate improved facilities for the policemen, but many of them have from time to time complained about the physical conditions under which they are asked to live up there. I am not talking about sitting and looking at emigration matters, but it is when they leave their desks and go back to the huts.

The other point I would like to make relates to the conditions of service to some extent, although I do not want to take up too much time on this point, of policemen. I notice that steps are being taken in the Capital Estimates wherever possible to improve the technical knowledge of the police with the provision of a forensic laboratory to improve the technical efficiency of the police, new telecommunications, etc., and I note that policemen have recently been sent for training in bomb disposal. I hope the Minister will bear in mind that this particular task carried special responsibility and a special danger, and I would like to see those policemen in that sphere being specially remunerated for what is involved. I do not want to press their case any stronger now, but I hope the Minister will bear it in mind for future planning because we have to train many more in this field. 11.20 p.m.

I do not want to press their case any stronger now, but if the Minister would bear in mind for future planning that we have to train many more people in this field this would be ideal. I think the Capital Estimates show that there is some accent being placed on security matters, and we know it is necessary to have bomb disposal experts but they are exposed to tremendous risks and their remuneration should reflect these risks.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, it is proposed to provide additional accommodation, including new barracks, offices and garages at Central Station. At present there are more than 300 men there and the accommodation there is not quite adequate for them. The sum of $50,000 is provided for this purpose. The hon. member for the City suggested that the mobile unit be transferred to District 'A' Station, arid this will also be provided for.

With regard to additional accommodation for the Writ Department and Court Prosecutors there is a token amount provided for that, and I will investigate what the hon. member for the City mentioned with regard to the writ servers.

In respect of the public mortuary, what is provided here is only a token vote. This building has not yet been constructed, neither has the forensic laboratory.

The hon. member for St. Joseph mentioned this $15,000 as against $50,000. The $50,000 was voted last year for the purchase of two launches and this $15,000 is to equip them with telecommunications sets. The two small launches were imported from Trinidad.

I have listened carefully to the hon. member for St. Thomas when he spoke about the Holetown Police Station. Some consideration will be given to this because this Station has become very small and St. James is a growing area. There is not sufficient room there now for barracks and accommodation to meet the present requirements of Holetown.

This $100,000 under telecommunications is for replacement of some of these sets which are used by the Police during the hurricane season. Parts are hard to get and in some cases unobtainable, so as a result of this some of the sets have to be replaced. One set is kept at the Ministry of Agriculture, one is kept at the Ministry of Health and one is kept at the Ministry of Communications and Works in conjunction with Police Headquarters for use during the hurricane season. Some of these sets aril obsolete, 15 years old and over. They have improved so much on telecommunications that these sets are practically out of date and this money is for replacements.

The hon. member for St. Joseph also mentioned launches. I think you will see that provision will be made for new police launches capable of going far enough off shore to give the entire Island a good patrol service which is a small coast guard system throughout the Island. These launches will be able to do up to 25 knots and will be able to pursue anyone indulging in any illegal action. I beg to move that the sum of $843,060 under Head 105 - Ministry of Home Affairs stand part of the Schedule.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until tomorrow, Friday, at 12.00 noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mir. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 11.30 p.m.

On resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY Mr. SPEAKER:
This sitting is now resumed.

When the sitting was suspended last evening, the

House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

HEAD 106- PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (1) AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Head 106 - Prime Minister's Office (1) Airport Development-was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, under this Head the amount to be appropriated is $3,983,660 for Development Project, $25,000 for contingencies and $220,000 for staff and expenses, making a total of $4,228,801. As I explained in my opening remarks in the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, the funds required here are for the continuation of the development programme at Seawell International Airport until the final plans for the terminal building and other facilities are approved, but we do have the green light to go ahead with the extension of the runway, and part of the amount is for the completion in this year of the runway extension.

The runway extension is 1,500 feet which will now make the runway 10,500 feet at Seawell International Airport which will be the longest in the region. Jamaica is 7,000 feet and 8,000 feet respectively at Palisadoes and Montego Bay; Trinidad is 9,500 feet as far as I know. There is a popular superstition that we are extending the runway for jumbo jet aircraft. This is not so. Jumbo jet aircraft have landed here at Seawall Airport, and for normal services to New York and Toronto and places like that which are less than seven hours flying, the 9,000 extension is adequate, but what the extension is for is to make it possible for any aircraft whether it be a stretched DC-863 or a 707 to take off with a full fuel load and full compliment of passengers for Zurich, London or Luxembourg non-stop. There was nothing wrong with our runway as it was before we did the extension for 747s or indeed the Concorde which is the SST or Supersonic Transport, and a lot of people are saying that we are extending the airport to make way for jumbo jets. We are extending the runway for European travel so that we can go non-stop to Europe with a full fuel load. If we do not do that and we have adverse winds, we have to stop at Santa Maria or somewhere else in the Azores or Cape Verde Islands in order to refuel which is a nuisance because there are no passengers to be picked up in those places and it means that the airlines only have to pay additional landing fees and pay higher costs maybe for their fuel by having to stop over at 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock in the morning. On occasion I have made the trip and I have had to stop at Santa Maria, as a passenger, for refuelling purposes So the runway extension is to gjve the planes the capacity to carry full fuel. If they do not have 10,500 feet, it means that in certain conditions they would have to sacrifice up to 28% of their fuel load. Seawel Airport will now have the longest runway in the region and it is already capable of taking 747s, and we hope to get from about August this year at least three services per week increasing to six during the winter of 747 aircraft at Seawell.

We are also going ahead with the parking apron because we need more room, plant and equipment. We have acquired Spencer's plantation because we have to build a new terminal building. We have acquired part of Coverly plantation and we are completing compulsory acquisition of some land at Fairy Valley Rock and Wilcox. The Terminal Building will be behind St. Bartholomew's Church; so some

section of the road will have to be diverted to accommodate the new terminal building and parking apron, but not as much as if you were going to build a second runway.

Some time ago I informed the House that we intended to build another runway at Seawell. We have now abandoned that idea. I am saying this for a specific reason because while all this was on the drawing board it meant that large areas of land between, let us say, Kirtons-Rices area and coming all the way down to Penny Hole-(Asides)... I go by what I see on the map-and Oldbury and around St. Martin's.....

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, the Hon. Prime Minister...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There can be no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of explanation, as far as I know the Hon. Prime Minister opened that area and called it Gemswick. Is he abandoning the name at this point.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I attended a function at the house of a member of Parliament at a place I know is called Penny Hole and on the map it is called Penny Hole. You can call it what you like, but the people up there call it Penny Hole or lesser known as Gemswick. People know what I refer to when I call it Penny Hole.

But what I am saying is a very serious matter because for a long time the land was frozen in the same way that we heard that land was frozen because of bringing the spine road through Bridgetown. We want to get away from all that. Decisions have to be made, and we have decided that that runway should not be built there. We have had the advice of the consultants and we have decided that if we can move general

aviation, and training to another site, for which the. Spring Hall group of estates has offered us some land in the north, it would be better to locate a training field away from the main stream of civil air transport. Even independent of that, we have decided not to build the runway because under the Land Acquisition Act, it would involve something between $9 million and $12 million in compensation alone.

What bothers me is that over four weeks ago we informed the Town Planning Office that as regards the applications which they were holding, we had gone into the noise zone, we call it NEF 30,4 everything outside the noise zone would be released, and I do not think that up to today, despite the fact that people's land has been immobilised, as it were, one single developer or householder has been notified that he can proceed with his building plans. As we said it should be done immediately, because we realised that a lot of people were in a bit of a quandary about developing and therefore I am making a public statement about it and I will tell the people to go ahead and build without Town Planning permission.

12.10 p.m

I do not have any interest up there or anywhere else, but I know that people have been into my office asking about the situation and I told them to wait a little. We held a meeting with the Ministers concerned, we went and looked at the land and then we made a decision. We communicated it to the Town Planning Office and asked them to notify everybody immediately and nothing has been done up to now but they still draw their salaries every month out of the Treasury as far as I know. Everyone living to the east of the stop-way or the 500ft overrun to the east of the runway at Seawell, that is, on the Spencers and the Oldbury end, you draw a line running due north to the end of the stop-way to meet the main Oldbury road, and then you come due west down to the junction of the Wilcox road, not along the highway but in a straight line, all of that land can be released and all the land to the west of the Wilcox road permission can be given to build there, and all the land to the south of the ridge by Paragon, all underneath the hill by Wilcox and Ealingrove, Gibbons and Gibbons Boggs, all of that land we have released and we told them that we were not building this runway now so let the people go ahead, and I serve notice that this can be done.

Then there is some amount for demolitions, taxiway, radar and navigation. We are getting very up to date on that because just yesterday I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Jean Marchand, asking him to send me an instructor on radar simulation for approach control which is the most modern in the world, and we have problems with security fencing which we have to look at.

Fife protection. We have just acquired eight new fire engines from the Canadian Government which we bought at an auction, but I would like to say here that I find it difficult sometimes to understand the attitude of the British Government because it was their air safety expert who told us that we needed additional fire equipment, and we asked whether this could be regarded as a contribution from the British Government for the airport development and they said that Barbados did hot qualify. Then we said we wanted a loan and they said we did not qualify for that either. Then we said we would like to get export credit guarantee, it is over £150,000 worth of equipment, and they did not give us a favourable reply on that either, yet they are having a British Week in Barbados. I got eight from Canada, and as far as I know on my lastest check last night, the bill for the eight fire tenders fromCanada, taking out the Rools Royce engines because of the unavailability of spares, repainting, reconditioning and everything, putting in new Ford engines, landed in Barbados would be $240,000, and we were left to buy two and a trader from England for $853,000. This makes you wonder sometimes whether the British are really serious about selling, but they come down here and make a big fuss about British Week. (Mr. BOLDEN: Did you say that during British Week?) There is a time and place for everything, read Bcclesiastes. There is a time to buy and a time to sell. I just mentioned that in passing because it is interesting to see how people operate, that they are not even willing to give you export credit guarantee, because British engines were recommended to us, we have British engines now but we had to take out the Rolls Royce engines and put in Ford engines, but out of the $240,000 the freight alone is $32,000.

We are getting eight fire engines which have heavy duty wheels and we will be able to shift out equipment from Seawell to the other fire stations and have some spares as well. They also have terrets for fighting fires with foam while on the move, but that was a blessing in disguise. I am very glad that they did not want ot sell me any equipment. Then we are getting a T.V. flight information display. Some time this month or early next month we should be able to stay anywhere in Seawell Airport and see the times of departure of the planes on T.V. printouts. That is a very small point. It also includes an amount for airfield lighting, extension of the restaurant and completion of the air cargo building and repairs to the concrete roof.

That is the development programme for this year. The runway, the parking apron, runway lights, extension to the restaurant, new fire engines, the new control tower, completion of the existing terminal building, repairing the existing runway, land acquisition and professional fees.

There is a slight amendment. Delete the existing note to Item 1 and substitute the following: "To meet the expenses of prescribed works including work in connection with the extensions to the existing terminal, runway extension improvements parking apron, development and construction of the new control tower. Also includes provision for radar and navigational aids, plant and equipment, land acquisition and other expenses related to the approved programme of work for the development of the airport." I beg to move that the sum of $4,228,801 under Head 106-Prime Minister's Office (1) Airport Development-as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear the various explanations given by the Hon. Prime Minister in respect of Seawell Airport, because in my opinion it is now truly an international airport. I would like to see certain improvements made at Seawell and I believe they can be made quite speedily. In the first place, the telephone system, the PBX which I believe was recently changed but rather than becoming better it is becoming worse. It is frustrating to telephone the number 87101 to find that the PBX is constantly busy. If you have reached the stage of being an international airport people should be able to get information on the movement of aircraft. Sometimes New York and London are either snow bound or fog bound which causes some delays in the flight schedules and people cannot get through the PBX to get any information. I have been told that many of the airlines have private telephone lines at Seawell but these numbers are ex-directory. I think that in the interest of the travelling public, the Government should make some sort of decision on whether or not an airline which is plying for hire in and out of Seawell, should carry a private telephone line, and not another line by which you can communicate with them despite the fact that they have their private lines for communication between their offices,etc. 12.20 p.m

I think this is something that the Hon. Prime Minister should look into. He should either enlarge the PBX system or put in duplicates, as the case may be, so that people would be able to make enquiries, if and when the time arises.

With regard to the Public Address System at Seawell, in certain parts of Seawell Airport all you can hear is a muffled sound and you can scarcely understand what is being said when they are informing passengers of the departure time, when they are calling the names of passengers, or when they are calling the names of their personnel. I believe the system is not up to date for a modern airport, or an airport as busy as the one at Seawell is at the moment.

Let me revert to telephones. As far as I can remember, there are only two private telephone booths at Seawell Airport, and I think that something should be done about this immediately. There are a number of telephones which are attached directly to hotels, but there are scarcely any public telephones that can be used. As I have said, if your main PBX system is tied up, then it is impossible to get a telephone line.

In the reconstruction at the Airport, the Government should see that a proper telephone system is installed and that a number of telephone booths are installed at the Airport, and not only in one or two departments, to facilitate the travelling public.

With regard to freight handling at Seawell, the present system leaves much to be desired. I should like the Hon. Prime Minister to give serious consideration to this matter, because it is evidently clear that the handling of cargo at Seawell will increase as time goes on. The present system is one which, I believe, should be dealt with as an urgent priority. At the moment there is a system whereby the cargo arrives at Seawell and then it is shifted to Bridgetown. I believe that there should be alternative arrangements with the Customs, etc., for the handling and moving of cargo, and I should like to see something done in this respect.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, there are one or two comments I should like to make. I agree with what the hon. member for St. Joseph has said about the telephones at Seawell Airport. I really wonder whether it is the function of the Government to provide telephones for the airlines. I do not see why the Government should undertake this burden of extending the PBX system and then allow the airlines to reap the benefits. As the hon. member has said, I think that some decision should be taken on this matter, and the airlines should be asked to make provision for their own telecommunication system.

With regard to the development at the Airport, I wonder whether the Prune Minister would, at some stage, undertake to make a statement as to the extent of the whole Development Programme and indicate, with some sort of physical plan, what is the proposed development We on this side of the House, from time to time, hear about the development to be done at Seawell Airport, but we have not had the benefit of seeing the study that was done by the Inter-American Development Bank, and it is quite possible that the Government may not be making use of that study.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, on the question of telephones, I should like to explain that the airlines pay the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the telephone servive which they use. When one listens to the hon. member, one may think that he is making a plea to save money for the Government, but what he is actually doing is making a plea to cost the Government money, or for the Government to lose money. If the airlines had their own telephones, they would pay for the service direct to the Telephone Company, whereas we charge them considerably more than they would have had to pay the Telephone Company, because when Seawell was first established, we had to bring in all of the telephone services up there. Therefore, we are making them contribute towards the cost of bringing the telephones up there. Now, if we give them carte blanche so that every man can have his own telephone, then the Government would lose money. If you would look at the revenue side, you would be able to get some idea of the amount of fees we collect from them. The telephone charges amount to $25,000 in the Estimates. This is what we collect from the airlines. If we allow them to have their own telephones, we would not be able to collect anything.

Furthermore, we would still have to pay for the Government telephones up there in the Manager's Office, the Customs and so on. There is a certain amount of method in our omission to let everybody put in his own telephone. Nevertheless, I agree with the hon. member that the PBX system up there needs considerable improvement, because the lines are overloaded. We are new in the process of a new expansion, and we do not want to go to the expense of putting in anew PBX system merely to find that

one year from now it is out of date. Anyway, this is being looked into in the general scheme of development.

As to the Howard Needles study, we are not in a position to release things yet, because we are still having discussions with the Consultants who did the study about the ultimate cost or estimates of cost of the whole project. When we settle these differences, which we hope to do in a few weeks and we get permission from the people who paid for the study, we will then be able to release things to the House. I can say that we have made certain definite decisions, and I do not think the people in St. Phillip and Christ Church ought to be inconvenienced any longer as to the extent of the time in which the development of the Airport will take.

On the general question of the Development and Capital Estimates, everything can be seen in the Capital Estimates here. In stage 1 or year 1 of the 4-year Development Plan, which is in the process of being printed- we have had to revise it several times, and we have tried to cut down on expenditure. The total Development Plan for the 4-year period, as far as I can remember, is about $170 million. This represents a directly proportionate part of the 4-year Development Plan for the years 1973-1977. The Development Plan will soon be presented to the House.

The question that the sum of $4,228,801 under Head 106 - Prime Minister's Office (1) Airport Development - as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 106-PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (2) REGIMENT

Head 106-Prime Minister's Office (2) Regiment-was called. 12.30 p.m.

In moving Head 106-Prime Minister's Office (2) Regiment- the amount required here is to provide $125,000 for adaptation of the buildings for the Regiment which will soon become the Defence Force, in the course of this year, I hope, to provide for arms and ammunition, clothing and accoutrements for the proposed Defence Force, and the third item which is for $40,000 is to provide transport and the fourth item $10,000 is to provide for stores and tools and matters of that kind.

I hope very soon to come down with the Bill for the establishment of the Defence Force and I will have a little more to say when I come to deal with defence and security.

I beg to move that the sum of $225,00 under Head 106-Prime Minister's Office(2 Regiment-stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 106-PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (3) JUDICIARY

Head 106-Prime Minister's Office (3) Judiciary-was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, the whole of this amount is for the construction of a new Magistrate's Court at Oistins. I think hon. members on the opposite side would know that the location of the present District "B" Court is really not conducive to ease of communications to say the least, except for those who are intransit to District "C", but from the point of view of the litigants it is not a very central location, and people find it a lot easier to come to Bridgetown than to travel to District "B' Court. Only the people in Boarded Hall Tenantry I think would be seeing any benefit from having the District "B" Court where it is.

It is proposed to establish a new Court at Oistin, but I am not quite sure whether the $75,000 is to begin construction or is the cost of total construction, but anyhow this is a move in the right direction, I think, in the minds of most people who have had to deal with the inconveniences of the Boarded Hall Court.

I beg to move that the sum of $75,000 under Head 106-Prime Minister's Office(3) Judiciary -stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, we are still going to have some problems because District "B" serves the people in Ellerton, the other side of St. George, and if you are going to keep the magisterial districts as set out in the Magistrates Courts Rules, you are going to create a similar problem that is, the other side of St. George will have to travel to town and then to Oistins. We have already suggested that the whole magisterial district be revised, and I have said that in my personal opinion District "C" can come to town as well as District "D", because the stations were originally sited on hills so that they had a look out joining up each other, and the police magistrates courts were sited at the same stations. I think the Government should take an over-all picture of this, amend the Act and have the courts laid out according to the travelling public, which would mean abandoning District "B" and removing the magisterial districts as laid down and leave it to the Rules to regulate to which particular courts people should go. In my opinion it would save a lot of time for lawyers having to travel from court to court, there would be a grouping of more courts in a central area, and I believe more work would be done. I hope that before this is done that the necessary amendments to the Magistrates Courts Rules and the Act of 1956 will be brought in.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I should just like to say that the only weak point in the argument of the hon. member is that you cannot rationalise the magisterial districts until you have the courts, and this is what we are doing here. We will build the court and then we will be able to rationalise the districts. As far as I know, I do not want to go into the province of the Head of the Judiciary, Oistins would probably be serving Christ Church and may be part of St. Philip; but as far as Ellerton is concerned, it appears to me that Ellerton

would better be served by Bridgetown because Ellerton is one straight run through to Coleridge Street, as it were; but you cannot rationalise the districts until you have the new courts ready so that you can shift people over. You cannot split up District "B" until you have some place for the people in Christ Church to go. If you really want to reduce it to its logical basis, I would bring everybody into Bridgetown and finish because it does not appear to me necessary to have all these cold pone Courts all about the place.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation, we have asked for that long ago- that all the courts be centralised in Bridgetown, with a central indictable court as well, because as the Prime Minister has said, you have people who have lived on the other side of District "C" in St. John, College Bottom and even Bath area who have to travel across country to District "C", and we have been asking for a centralisation of the magistrates courts for quite a long time, and I would have thought we would have central planning instead of this, and not building courts then to decide how we are going to rationalise them.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I myself cannot say that I am persuaded that the best solution of the problems to magisterial jurisdiction is to bring all the magistrates courts into Bridgetown. I think that would increase the pressure on transportation in the 'morning too much. I think there are one or two places such as Belleplaine which do not have easy early morning communications with Bridgetown and where it indeed is probably easier except for the people in Hillaby and also parts of St. Joseph to get to the court; but what I would say about the suggestion that you cannot do anything about the districts until you have the courts is that I really think that is putting the cart before the horse. I think you need to analyse what magisterial districts are required in Barbados and having analysed that, build the courts to suit.

Now I am a little surprised to hear that the court at Oistins will be the new District "B" Court. I had formed the impression that Boarded Hall would continue to operate for St. George and Oistins for Christ Church, just as in District "E" Holetown operated for St. James and Speightstown for St. Peter and St. Lucy, and I would be glad, if the Prime Minister would make a definite statement on that. Is it intended that the Boarded Hall Court should no longer sit? because that has not at all been my impression so far. District "F" also has divided courts one in Belleplaine and one in Horse Hill, and nobody closed down the old Bissex Hill Court when the Belleplaine Court was opened some fifteen years ago, and until a few moments ago I never had any idea that the people in Drax Hall would be told that they would have to go to Oistins to have their cases tried in future. (Asides). It was the impression I got and I am glad to have it corrected because I think the hon. member for St. Joseph also spoke as if that impression had been conveyed to him,

I know that the Bar Association and the magistrates and so on have often got together. The magistrates apparently would like the courts concentrated in Bridgetown. That might be an argument in favour of increasing their travelling allowances, that they prefer the convenience of town to the travelling allowance they get paid for going to the country, but I really think it would be unthinkable to close down the magisterial districts in the northern part of the Island. All the communications form St. Lucy pass through Speightstown and it would be a great burden for them to pass through Speightstown and then continue on to Bridgetown when they could stop there and use established institutions. But there is something else that I want the planners to bear in mind, Mr. Chairman. 12.40 p.m

Police Stations and Police Courts, now called Magistrates' Courts, are put next to each other for the convenience of the speedy administration of justice in respect of arrested persons and overnight crimes so to speak. People get arrested on a Saturday night, they get kept in the cells and they have to stay in there on Sunday unless they can get bail, and on Monday morning the Magistrate comes to the court and delivers the

prisoners so to speak. To have the Police Stations all over Barbados and the arrested prisoners having to go to the Central Police Station to await magisterial jursidiction is to place a great burden on police transport and police facilities in the out districts. There must necessarily be a close association between the location of the Police Stations and the location of the Magistrates' Courts. What I would suggest is this. I think that the two central parishes, St. Thomas and St. George, are better served by the magisterial facilities of Bridgetown, particularly St. Thomas, although it is not so hard to go from Welchman Hall to Rock Hall to court and to the Police, yet I do believe that it is still hard enough to prevent many persons from seeking the assistance of the police which they might need, and I have been convinced over my years of practice that the reason why you do not get a lot of cases in St. Thomas from Welchman Hall or at Boarded Hall, from the other parts of Christ Church, is not that the people are more law abiding but they cannot take the trouble to go to court and they prefer to take private vengeance and leave it at that, but I do not think that is necessarily a good thing.

I am sure that any Clerk in the Courts will tell you that the further a district is away from the court the less the people are willing to litigate and all sorts of dangers lie in that, Sir. I would be prepared to concede that there should be a new central district comprising St. Michael, St. Thomas and St. George. As far as Christ Church and the Oistins Courts are concerned, I would very seriously ask the Government to take a look at the magisterial district there. For some strange reason at present, the boundary between District "A" and District "B" in Christ Church coincides with the boundary between Christ Church North Central and Christ Church South Central constituencies. It is a difficult boundary and one that is ill understood by people since this boundary runs through many people's houses in the Dover and St. Lawrence districts and so on. It is a difficult and awkward boundary and not a very meaningful boundary in the context of criminal jursidiction. As I have said, the interest of transport would demand that you encourage people in the early morning to travel out of Bridgetown if they have to. The decentralisation of industries is thought to be a good thing, and a part of it is that it does not put the pressure on the transport facilities into Bridgetown.

I would hope that when you build the court at Oistins that you give back to Christ Church the whole Christ Church jurisdiction. Everybody knows whether he lives in Christ Church or whether he lives in St Michael. I do not think there is any difficulty in people estimating the boundary from the Garrison running through to Clapham you know where you live in those terms. Very few people know whether they are in District "A" or in District "B" vis-a-vis Christ Church, so I would suggest redrawing the districts so as to give the whole of Christ Church its jurisdiction, or at the very least the whole of the jursidiction that lies outside the old Bridgetown City boundary, that is the jurisdiction south of Rendezvous Hill give that all to the new court at Oistins so that people will not have to wait on a morning at Rendezvous if they want to go into town to court, they will be able to make a much easier journey to Oistins going south. I would urge this upon the attention of the Minister responsible for the Judiciary.

When these new courts are built at Oistins I hope that everybody will give consideration to the

necessity for car parking, the necessity for creating comfortable conditions for persons who have to go inside the court the necessity for creating privacy for the Magistrate to hold juvenile hearings in his Chambers. That is often a very difficult matter in many of these small and distant country courts. In other words create a mordern facility if you are going to spend this $75,000.

The question that the sum of $75,000 under Head 106-Prime Minister's Office (3) Judiciary - as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 106- PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (4) DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

There is a new sub-head which we now have to insert and which has been circulated on page 8 of the amendments. It reads as follows

Insert sub-head "(4) Defence and Security."

Insert "Item 1-Establishment of Coast Guard Services."

Insert the figure "650,928" under column "Estimates 1973-74" and make consequential amendments.

Insert note to read as follows-"1. Includes provision to meet the cost of two (2) instalment payments towards the purchase of four (4) patrol boats."

A decision has been taken not to upgrade the Harbour Police but to attach a coast guard service with a complement of 62 Officers and men to the Defence Force of Barbados which will be established this year. These boats take a long time to build and commission. I personally went up to Nassua in the Bahamas where they have such a service and inspected their service. We have had a Commander of the coast guard service of Trinidad and Tobago coming to Barbados, we have had representatives of the British firms who build ships for the Royal Navy, we have sent a Marine Consultant and the Permanent Secretary, Defence and Security to the United Kingdom, Bahamas and Israel, and we have had tenders from about four firms and came out with the conclusion that the offer made by one British firm should be accepted. I am pleased to say that in this respect, we managed to get a five year export credit guarantee arrangement to pay for these vessels. There will be three 40 ft. vessels fully equipped and one 62 ft vessel which is capable not only of going around the Island, but probably doing a three hundred mile range off neighbouring Islands. They will be fully equipped with radar and everything else, the boat facility, that is, boat house with gantry for lifting the vessels out of the water will be built at Oistins by the same firm as part of the deal.

We will not go as far up as the Sea Rocks, we will confine our construction to the immediate vicinity of the District Hospital. We will not interfere with the amenities at the District Hospital, but we have an Oistins Development Plan and what we really want to see is a general improvement in the conditions for the fishermen up there. I think this will be done to lift the whole tone of the district, what will be the new Magistrate's Court, but it does not mean that the sailors up there will mean an increase in the amount of bad language, therefore we have to have a Magistrate's Court, but what I am saying here is that we have a complete package for payment over a period of five years for one 62 ft. boat, three which are

approximately 40 ft. 7 ins. long equipped with all navigational and other equipment supplied by a British firm. We are going to train our people, we are not taking Harbour Police in their picturesque uniform and just transferring them to these boats, but naturally, if there are some policemen who are capable of benefiting from this kind of service we will be glad to have them but I do not think there are many. 12.50 p.m.

What we want to do is to recruit some young, intelligent, people to work in the Coast Guard Service. We think it is essential, because there is a certain amount of smuggling going on in Barbados. We now have our new Shrimp Fleet and we have to protect our fishermen and carry out rescue operations. Incidentally, I should mention that the 62-foot patrol boat, which would be the flag-ship, as it were, of the Oistin

Fleet will be used - (Asides.) The reason why we are going to have, particularly the 62- foot ship at Oistin, is that there is an international requirement of Seawell Airport that it should take part in search and rescue work in case of accidents. If we are to become a Grade A Airport in close proximity to the ocean, then we must have a high-speed launch which is capable of picking up survivors. The ship will have more than one function, and the full complement of the crew, as far as I can remember, is about 62 with a shore-based Commodore, or Commander, or whatever you call him in the land-ship, and sea-going Captains on the various ships. There will be a drive-in hangar at Oistin where the ships can be lifted up into the hangar and can be repaired and serviced. (Mr. MOTTLEY: "What about armament?") I cannot remember what the armament is. I am not interested in the armament so much, but the armament will be manned by the Coast Guards. I think that they all have mountings for armament We have had experience from last year that we need an efficient Coast Guard Service instead of having to use other people's boats.

Mr. Chairman, there are several things going on now. Things like animals are being smuggled into Barbados and a lot of contraband which I do not need to go into at this stage. I am not satisfied, for instance, with what goes on in the Careenage. When I say that the Careenage is an open sepulchre, you will understand what I mean. Any boat can tie up alongside the Careenage, and anybody can walk on and off as he likes. I do not particularly like that situation, but as soon as we proceed with the extension of the Harbour we will be able to control that sort of thing much better.

Now, there will still be a requirement for patrols to be done by the Harbour Police inside the Careenage and inside the Deep Water Harbour. In other words, the small launches which they have will be released to the Harbour Police as well as row boats and so on. There will still be a requirement for the Harbour Police to patrol the Careenage and the Deep Water Harbour, but Carlisle Bay, up and down the West Coast particularly, from Half Moon Fort and so on will be carried out by the Coast Guards. I hope that our Coast Guards will pay visits to the other Islands, protect our fishermen, and perform other duties. Of course, they will be trained in navigation and so on. This is a firm decision which has been made by the Cabinet, after mature consideration, that Barbados does require a Coast Guard Service. I have no doubt in my mind about that. The damage that can be done in this community from the point of view of sabotage, contraband and so on is immeasurable, if you do not have an efficient Coast Guard Service.

Mr. Chairman, there is one other aspect of it which I have not mentioned, but it is a most important aspect. I refer to the dynamiting of fish and the destruction of the coral beds around this Island. Now,

with four fast vessels of this kind, which are ocean-going, I am sure that we would be able to combat this. The Government are the sole importer of explosives, but, because we are not quite ready to handle the importation side of things, we have had to issue temporary licences this month. Strictly speaking, as from December, or January, the Government are the sole importer of explosives. In this way and with the electrical detonation, plus the Coast Guards, we hope that we will be able to replenish our fishing facilities in Barbados, and to reduce all of the illegal dynamiting that goes on.

I beg to move that the sum of $650,928 under Head 106 (4) - Defence and Security - stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I will not anticipate a debate on the forthcoming Defence Act, but I will just mention very briefly that I hope when the Prime Minister brings down the necessary legislation which will provide for the service of Barbadians in a full-time Defence Force and Coast Guard that this legislation will contain some kind of protection relating to the professional advancement of the persons who enter these services as careers, and it will also contain some kind of safeguards against political partiality which are, broadly speaking, contained in the Services Commission legislation. I am sure that no Government of Barbados would wish to contemplate a situation where there would be a Political Defence Force, or a Political Coast Guard, for there are countries in this hemisphere and others where navies have taken over Governments, unusually though it may seem and there are countries in this hemisphere where navies opposed the Governments. But I very much hope that the legislation, as far as is humanly possible, will make these Forces non-political, non-partisan and confined to activities that relate purely to defence and security of Barbados as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister smiled when he was asked where the facilities for the boats would be situated and he said Oistin. He observed that I smiled. I smiled not because I live near Oistin although the inhabitants of that district can say that I would welcome such facilities as would be afforded by a new Police Station, a new Magistrate's Court and so on, but because I remember back in the early part of 1966 Bernard St. John, now Senator Bernard St. John, and I sitting down and preparing a document which formed a part in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto of 1966 which said that a By-pass Road, a Magistrate's Court, anew Jetty - I must confess that we did not think of a Naval-based Jetty - for fishermen and all of these facilities should be constructed at Oistin along with a proper drainage system to prevent the road from being flooded every time there is a downpour.

A long time after that a Committee of some sort was appointed, I believe to advise the Government on the development of Oistin. It was noteworthy that none of those who had already appeared in print for the necessity of this kind of development at Oistin were invited to take part in it even though these were persons who were residents.

Hon C. E. TALMA:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The general public was invited to send in recommendations, and even organisations were invited to send in recommendations, or to submit memoranda, or to attend and explain things, if necessary. I happened to be the Chairman of that Committee, and what the hon.

member has said is incorrect or a reversal of the truth. 1 p.m.

I happened to be Chairman of the Committee and that is absolutely incorrect. The reverse is the truth.

Mr. ADAMS:

I well remember the political committee which the Minister who has just sat down chaired. It was the committee I was referring to, not the invitation to the public to submit memoranda and the Minister knows as well as I know that the proposals which had appeared in our Manifesto were well known to the members of that committee. We did not need to send them in. What I am saying is that I have always believed in encouraging the inhabitants of whatever political complexion of a district to associate themselves with committees set up to advise on facilities in the district, and when the Barbados Labour Party comes to power we will not shrink from our belief in that. If we have to develop Six Cross Road, one of the first people we may ask to advise, if he is still in the House, would be Mr. Speaker, and to advise not only generally but who should sit on the committee, who is a knowledgeable man about the district.

That is what I am complaining of. The Minister who has just sat down is very fond of saying that things are the reverse of the truth. There was a time when I used to believe that this was due to a lack of understanding; I now believe it is due to a lack of something else which would be unparliamentary for me to say in here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member is trying to mislead the House. He knows there was a Committee set up of which I was chairman and we canvassed opinions from all sides and people actually did submit memoranda. If the hon. member himself did not, I believe we got certain suggestions from members of his party, and we got many suggestions from the Junior Chamber of Commerce and so on, and this went on for quite a long time. We had about six meetings, and we have very substantial recommendations which, provided we have the funds, could make Oistins a different place altogether. The hon. member for St. Michael South West gave a lot of his time and effort in helping with reclamation and with the establishment of a harbour for shrimp boats and the bypass road so as to avoid traffic going as far as Oistins. We have only implemented one recommendation and that is the setting up of the station there for bulk fuel for the Airport, but all the other recommendations are there.

Mr. ADAMS:

When I think of what the hon. member for St. Michael West would have done if anybody had treated him like that in the middle of his speech....I hope it is being separated and I do not have to lose my time for that point of interruption. Anyhow, I am satisfied that what appeared in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto is being carried out however it came to the attention of the Government, because I love the people and I am happy to see that what we were prepared to offer the people in 1966 is being carried out even if we have had to wait until 1973 to get any governmental involvement, for never forget that in 1966 when the hon. member for Christ Church South Central was still butting about in the nether regions of the civil service, we suggested the identical plan which the Government has moved in one case a token vote for, that is $10 for the police station, but in the second case a new sub-head and a token vote for the naval base, and only in one case has actually moved money which is for the construction of the magistrate's court. The bypass road is also token. Only in the case of the magistrate's court is there an actual construction which will be undertaken by the Government. Had the electorate

given us the franchise in 1966 they would have been done by now, but the people of Christ Church South Central and of Oistins have had to wait until 1973 to get the plans from the Government. Nonetheless, Sir, I am glad that it will be done some time, and I would only hope that all hon. members who have any interest in this matter and have an opportunity to influence it will see to it that proper drainage at all times forms a part of any plan for development in Oistins.

The drainage very fortunately was not adversely affected by the Shell installation. I only hope it will continue to remain the same. While I am talking about development at Oistins, I would look forward to seeing the beach at Welches kept scrupulously clean and free of some of the industrial activity, because that is how I have to refer to the fishing boat activity there. It is a pity really that the industrial part of the beach cannot be kept for fishing boat operations and the recreational part for recreation, but I hope that whatever facilities are provided will also be ample to allow the extensive Oistins fishing fleet every opportunity for careening and cleaning its boats in the same way as the naval vessels will have an opportunity for cleaning and careeening theirs.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one comment. I heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition make a reference about the hon. member for Christ Church South Central butting about in the nether regions of the civil service. Apart from the fact that he pretends to be the champion of the civil service; every night he should pray to God that he still not butting about in the nether regions of the civil service or he could not be sitting anywhere near where he is at the moment. These slurs must stop. He knows in his heart of hearts he is glad he is not in the nether regions, but he will get on the floor of the House and stare at him You ought to pray he is still not in the nether regions or you could not be Leader of the Opposition anywhere in here.

The question that the sum of $650,928 under Head 106 - Prime Minister's Office (4) Defence and Security - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr.. Chairman, I am asking leave to take Head 108 - Ministry of Finance - for which I have responsibility, as the next Head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

HEAD 108 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Head 108 - Ministry of Finance - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, under Item 1, Inter-American Development Bank, the $177,000 is for one year's subscription to the Bank. At Item 2, for the Caribbean Development Bank the amount is $1,612,000. An amount of $112,000 of that is towards the paid up capital of the Bank, and $1.5 million to continue

construction of the new headquarters building at Wildey. The over-all cost of the new headquarters of the Bank will be approximately $2 million. 1.10 p.m.

We have not spent half million dollars yet because it is just at the initial stage. It was part of the undertaking given by the host country that the Bank building would be constructed.

Item 3. The amount there is $220,000. We have made an application to become members of the world Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and there is every reason to believe that we will be admitted to membership of the Bank before September 1973, and the amount of money set out there is to pay our initial subscription which is approximately U.S. $120,000.

Item 4 - Barbados Development Bank. We are running into problems with the Bank because we cannot lend out more money unless we increase our equity, because we have a debt equity ratio as far as I can remember of 3:1. If we increase our equity by $500,000 we can then lend out $11/2 million more. We have the money to lend out but we have to increase the equity ratio. We do not actually deal with money, we deal with equity and that money which I hope to increase again during the course of the financial year could be taken up in Treasury Bills to be taken back into Barbados.

Item 5 - $1,600,000. That money is for the Central Bank to meet its recurrent and capital expenditure until it becomes fully operational. Some time after 30th September this year the Central Bank will be issuing Barbados currency and Barbados coins. We have to pay the people who are minting the coins and the people who are printing the currency for the currency and coins that we will be issuing. At the same time we will be redeeming at least $25 million worth, some time say between September and November, of old currency notes and will be issuing our Barbados notes, so the amount of money which we have here of $1.6 million is for that. The Central Bank should be making profits, but as this is the first year in which they have to pay for their printing and minting and other expenses in connection with the establishment of the Bank, this money is required for that but we should be issuing reports of the Central Bank within a reasonable short space of time.

Under Item 6 - Customs Warehouse, we have put in a provisional amount of $10. Under Item 7 - Central Purchasing, this is for stores and office accommodation for the Central Purchasing Department, and also to provide chain link fencing so that there will be a certain amount of security around the stores.

Under Item 8 - Statistical Services, a token vote of $10. Item 9 - Rates and Taxes Division - $93,000 mainly for continuing and constructing branch offices at Folkestone $30,000, construction of sub-office at Six Roads, St. Philip $27,000, extension, renovations and general improvements including air conditioning at the Bridgetown office $35,500.

Item 10 - Arrears of Interim Pay and purchase of a computer unit. I explained earlier in the debate when we were dealing with the Data Processing Centre that it is not proposed to spend the full $40,000 on the computer. We have put in a revised offer of $10,000 for the four tape drives and the two rotary converters, but I am not in a position now to state whether that offer has been accepted. If I were, I would be able to reduce that vote by $30,000.

Interim Pay for public officers is self-explanatory, so with these explanations, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,154,020 under Head 108 - Ministry of Finance - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MDTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, just one or two questions about the printing of the money. I am not dealing with the financial aspect of it I am just dealing with one or two points. I want to know from the Prime Minister whether the coins he intends to mint will be of the same denominations as we have now, and whether it is the intention of the Government to display or put on the bank notes pictures of some of our noteworthy citizens. I can think of Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neale and Sir Grantley Adams I wonder if the Prime Minister could give us some indication as to this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
According to the Act the thing is done by the Board of Directors of the Bank with the approval of the Minister of Finance, and all these and several other names were considered - the names mentioned by the hon. member - but for the first issue for now they have decided with my approval that the picture of Samuel Jackman Prescod should be on the first currency. We are supplanting the Queen with Samuel Jackman Prescod for now. In later issues maybe most of the historical figures, less controversial, a few years from now I think it will be appropriate to have the people mentioned, but right now, it was tthe centenary of Samuel Jackman Prescod's birth when the decision was made so it will be Samuel Jackman Prescod for now.

I cannot remember the denominations, I know we are bringing out a ten-dollar note which we do not have now, and we are bringing out a 5ø 10ø and 25ø, and I cannot remember whether there is a penny or a cent or both, but I know there is one or the other or both, but I really cannot remember. I will bring that information and the specimens to the House on some future occasion if the members so desire, but that is all the information that I can be sure of now.

Mr. ADAMS:
In the fullness of time, Sir, I have no doubt that it will fall to some hon. member on this side or on our successors to decide whether to place the Prime Minister on a note, and he has my assurance that if such a suggestion is made when I am there and it happens to be made and I happen to be there, that I will give my full approval for any bank note upon which his head comes up. I am a little worried about the size of the vote. I see $1.6 million, and that seems to me to be a lot for running a Central Bank, even including the printing of notes. I wonder if the Prime Minister can tell me how many notes are going to be printed. I would be glad if he could tell me by value raised as well as total face value, because many citizens are very concerned and there has been no statement coming from the Government as to what the total note issue will be. It is appreciated that the parity presumably will be maintained until the occasion of devaluation or revaluation arises, but the size of the note issue and its relationship to the number of Eastern Caribbean notes currently circulating in Barbados have been much occupying the attention of citizens who have observed bank notes cause inflation, that is, inflation caused by the circulation of too many bank notes in various countries in the past, and I would suggest to the Prime Minister that this is a very suitable moment for saying how much Barbados currency will be issued and how much Eastern Caribbean currency is in circulation at the present time in Barbados. 1.20 p.m.

Sir, I am just going to say something about the use of Prescod on the bank-note This is a personal

opinion and a mixture of citizenry. Prescod was never an Emperor or a King that his picture should be on every bank-note, and I would never support the idea of one citizen, who is not a symbolic figure, as the Monarch or the President is, having his picture on every bank-note no matter how long ago he died, be it Prescod, be it a slave, be it one of the white planters in the 1970s who did a lot for agriculture in Barbados by discovering that sugar cane could be bred, or even a more recent political figure. I would not support the idea of a non-symbolic citizen, or a former citizen, occupying our currency. This is a personal opinion, but I regard it as a bit sad that the Committee was unable to make recommendations. I have little doubt that the words, after the years have passed and controversies have died down, that it was impossible for the Committee to decide on the distribution of the faces of eminent citizens, or former citizens, on the bank-notes. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, I regret that. I think that to choose a compromise by putting the face of a man described as the first black man to be elected to this Assembly, but when you see his face you have some doubt in comprehending that description - (Asides.) My face, or the face of the Hon. member for North West, because by the time the artist is finished with his face you would not understand it either. If you put a light to his face and mine, you would not find much difference, Sir. I think that the Committee should have taken the bull by the horns, as a responsible Jamaican Committee did, and put not living persons, Sir, because that would have disqualified the Prime Minister and, I believe, when we go back to the date when the decision was taken, it would probably also disqualify Sir Grantley Adams. The Jamaican Committee decided to put not living persons, but a selection of persons on the bank-notes once and for all.The Queen has been on all of our bank-notes. Are you going to put Prescod on all of our bank-notes as if he were the King or something like that, Sir?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, my recollection is that there are between $62 million to $65 million (EC) in circulation. The total demand liability for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board amounts to $72 million. The amount of coins in circulation is probably about - I am now really speculating, but I know that the total amount that is supposed to be in circulation in Barbados is $25 million. I am giving you round figures.

Now, two weeks ago I returned from a Conference held in St. Kitts to discuss the withdrawal of Barbados from the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board. At this Conference, we proposed that six months' notice should be given for the withdrawal, and we notified the associates in the Eastern Caribbean Board that we expected to get most, if not all, of our new notes and coins by the end of September, 1973. Therefore, if we gave notice on the 1st April, we could certainly begin issuing notes by the 1st October or 1st November, and within 30 days thereafter the parities between the Eastern Caribbean Currency dollar and the Barbados dollar would remain the same. In other words, we would float with the £, but the Barbados Central Bank would reserve the right, at the expiration of 30 days after the date on which we began to issue our notes, to change the parity.

All of this was quite acceptable, but we ran into problems when we came to deal with the general reserve of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board, which stands at something like El.5 million, or $7.2 million. There was a real problem there, because Barbados normally would have been entitled to between 43% or 47%, which would amount to $3.26 million. When we said that we would expect that in the same way as Trinidad, Guyana and all the other people who withdrew from the British Caribbean Currency Board in 1965, were paid their proportionate share of the general reserve which the law

demanded - the law demanded that general reserve should be 10% of the demand liabilities of the Board. I said that the demand liabilities were $72 million, and they said that the general reserve was over $7.2 million, which would have given us a 10% reserve for currency which we expected to issue.

Now, the Lesser Antilles, as I like to describe them, not as a term of disparagement but as a geographic expression, went into two caucus sessions and offered us 2%. Well, at that stage, there was no point in the Barbados Delegation continuing the meeting. In other words, they were offering us 1/5 of what we were entitled to receive on the grounds that we did not have any legal claim to it, although the amount to be contributed every year is specifically worked out and contributed to the general reserve. The only thing that I could say to our adviser from the International Monetary Fund, when the spokesman said that, was that the man is a thief, and he is not serious.

Anyhow, we broke up with a very strong note of disapproval on our part that they should expropriate the funds belonging to the taxpayers of Barbados in that way. We had ample precedent for it, because, as I pointed out, when Grenada joined the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, Grenada had to contribute 8.6% of the general reserve, which shows that the general reserve is something which is calculated and assessable and for which each Government is accountable from year to year. 1.30 p.m.

I said we would have to go to the International Court of Justice for this, because this is one of the problems in dealing with the Lesser Antilles. (Asides.) I have not finished yet and there is no point in interrupting because you could not know better what happened than I know because I was there; so you could not correct me or ask me any questions because I have not finished telling you and you cannot correct me because you were not there. You could only be correcting me on heresay. If you want to ask me a question, you will have to ask me at the end. I do not have to give this information at all; I could sit down, but we are dealing with currency and this is a good opportunity to show the kind of problems we have with the Windwards and Leewards who not only have a mendicant mentality, but they have a mordicant mentality and a mentality which only makes you come to the conclusion that they believe in robbery with violence and grand larcency, because when we can contribute our money from year to year, and because we are withdrawing from the Board - Trinidad was allowed to take out its part and Guyana was allowed to take out its money - they say "we will offer you and you are getting your sterling reserves."

I had to point out that for the $25 million in notes which will be redeemed naturally, we can go to London and demand sterling for it, because the law and the agreement say so, but I do not have to be Minister of Finance of Barbados to demand sterling. Any peasant from the Ukraine who finds himself with a few hundred thousand dollars of Eastern Caribbean Currency notes can go to London and demand sterling too. There is no favour they are doing us, and I had to tell them I will have to take the whole lot of them and the British Government who will be responsible for their international affairs to the International Court of Justice to get our $3 million back. I think that we have come to the stage where we have been talking about LDCs, Lesser Developed Countries, and these people do not intend the help themselves; they intend to beg, borrow or steal their way through life; and I am serious. I want it recorded. They do not pay taxes in their own countries and want to carry away the money belonging to Barbados, and I am not going to have any of it.

The latest I have heard is that they want to offer us something by some involved formula which I have not looked into yet because it came to me last night, which means that we may be able to rescue about

$2.6 million out of the $3.4 million or $3.5 million which actually belongs to us. But this is part of our general reserve, but on the redemption of the notes we can demand sterling, and this is what we will do.

The amount of $1.6 million which you see for the Central Bank is because the Central Bank has to pay for the printing, and you cannot pay for printing $25 million because notes have a high velocity of circulation in the Caribbean and they tend to get shop soiled and have to be destroyed, and we probably have to print $100 million, but the coins of course are more durable and we are only printing sufficient coins as we consider we can reasonably use within the next ten years or so.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I am not in any. way contradicting what the hon. member said about the Eastern Caribbean. He must understand the position, but could he perhaps explain to hon. members why there is the necessity to redeem the $25 million if they would not give us a reserve, because once we have $25 million in Eastern Caribbean currency, that is $25 million in claims against Eastern Caribbean goods and services. All you have to do is to stop the Banks sending the money back, physically stop the notes from leaving Barbados and use the notes as $25 million in claims on the goods and services of the Eastern Caribbean which far exceeds any amount of money that the Prime Minister wants to get out of reserves. The Government can physically take a million dollars of Eastern Caribbean currency and go to St. Vincent and buy something for $1 million and bring it back, and we will have paid nothing for it. The Government of Barbados can go and buy every hotel in St. Vincent for $25 million if it wants to; so there is no need to redeem the money.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I do not quite agree with the hon. member. We are not printing $25 million in Eastern Caribbean currency; there are $25 million of Eastern Caribbean currency in circulation in my pocket and in his and yours, I hope, Mr. Chairman, and my colleagues on my right and so on. The Government cannot come and take my $3 out of my pocket and say they are buying anything in St. Vincent for me. When I want to buy anything in St. Vincent I will go and buy it myself. No Government can come and take my money.

The point I am making is that the Eastern Caribbean currency notes are legal tender in Barbados and in the Eastern Caribbean. When we are issuing our own notes we need backing for our currency, therefore we withdraw Eastern Caribbean currency notes and we exchange them for our own notes. Buying goods does not help us because that does not give us back the money. We will take those notes and get sterling or sterling securities in London which we will need in London as backing for our notes in circulation here. Now the general reserve is something else. The amount of $25 million has got to be backed dollar for dollar by sterling securities at 4/2 in London; so when we exchange our notes over the counter or at the Bank, we then pay for the sterling securities which will be allotted to us in London or we will buy sterling securities on demand. The general reserve is supposed to be 10% of your liabilities. The demand liabilities of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board is approximately $72 million. The law says you have to build up out of your currency profits, that is, out of your investments of those same secruities which normally would be distributed year by year as currency profits of which Barbados would get over $1 million in some years and in some years over $2 million, a general reserve fund until you have 10% of your demand liabilities which would be $7.2 million or £1.5 million. If we have been putting our currency profits every year into that general reserve until it reaches 10%, Barbados is entitled to approximately between 43% and 47%. Don't ask me why I say that; that is another little argument; but

let us put it at 43%. One is either based on the total notes issued or one is based as far as I can remember on the actual amount of currency profits which you pay to the General Reserve Fund. We are entitled to that. They say they will allow us to have one-fifth of it, and I say that is larceny because that is our money.

In the same way they need a General Reserve by the Currency Law, we need a General Reserve and if we get 43%, they get 57%; their currency is backed by sterling, ours is backed by sterling; we have a reserve of 10% and they have a reserve of 10%. They are two separate things. There is very little fiduciary issue. As a matter of fact, there is no fiduciary issue in the West Indies because everything is backed to 100%. They have Government securities which they call a fiduciary issue, but there is no fiduciary issue; but that is a misrepresentation of the term. The position is that general reserve is $7.2 million, demand liabilities are $72 million, currency is backed right up to the hilt by sterling securities which are held, most of them by the Crown Agents in London, and there are some local Government debentures scattered through the Islands to the extent of $7 million or so.

Mr. Chairman, if we took their notes and bought goods and the goods are consumed, we would have no general reserve. The general reserve in my humble opinion is not absolutely necessary, because you not only have 100% backing of your currency, but you have a general reserve as well which further backs your currency by 10% or 15%, we are not exercising any monetary policy as an instrument of economic growth. Our currency situation is ultra-conservative. 1.40 p.m.

In my humble opinion I do not see the need for the general reserve, but we have provisions in our Central Bank Act for building up a general reserve fund in a similar way as well. Whether it is psychological to give people compliments or what the particular purpose and objects are I do not know, but the general position today is that we are ready to go ahead in October. We have no problem of converting the currency, we have no problem of getting our backing in London, we have a problem in squeezing the money that belongs to us out of the Lesser Antilles because they intend to live off other people for the rest of their lives. It is as simple as that. The whole CARJFTA exercise, the whole Caribbean Development Bank is an exercise in mendicancy, in saying we are poor and making a profession out of being under developed and lesser developed, so that you wake up and find that the Barbados taxpayer is subsidising them all the time. They say they are not getting anything out of CARIFTA but they are getting everything out of GARIFTA, they are getting everything out of the Development Bank and they want to steal our money as well.

The question that the sum of $5,154,020 under Head 108 - Ministry of Finance - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 107 - MNISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 107 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - I will deal first of all with Item 1 - Barbados Marketing Corporation. There are three Items to be dealt with, 1- Barbados Marketing Corporation for the sum of $795,200; 2 - Industrial Estates for the sum of $1,528,073 and 3 - Handicraft Development for the sum of $9,000.

As far as the Barbados Marketing Corporation is concerned, it was set up, I think, in August, 1961 for certain specific purposes, and the main purpose, was to encourage, promote and stimulate the production of agricultural produce, mainly planters' vegetables and things of that sort. The greater emphasis was

being laid on the peasants. I happened to be the Minister of Agriculture at the time, because it was set up before the Democratic Labour Party came into power - at least the Act was passed - but I was the Minister from December, 1961 right through to 1964 and I know something about this organisation. During my term of office there was only one bad incident, and that was that there was an order for a big set of crates which was an embarrassing situation, but of course like on this occasion I will probably be blamed for things I know nothing about, but the fact is that was the only bad incident during my term of office as Ministry of Agriculture as far as the Marketing Corporation is concerned.

The Marketing Corporation is still serving a useful purpose, but probably there is a lot of room for improvement still. This amount of $795,200 which is being asked for under Item 1 is to enable the Government to continue its commitments to upgrade the facilities and streamline the organisation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, and it is Government's aim to ensure that this goal is achieved at minimum cost to the taxpayers that is, to ensure that the operations of the Barbados Marketing Corporation are conducted on a commercial basis. The interest of the producer unlike that of the consumer - although the Corporation should have the interest of both at heart - should be of first and paramount importance.

I had better refer to the objects of setting up the Marketing Corporation, because every now and then I think it would be well if we were to remind ourselves of the reasons and the motives behind setting up this Corporation, both in the minds of the Labour Party Government and also in our minds. The Barbados Marketing Corporation was set up in August, 1961 and the main objects were to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer, and to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce, etc. in the island and out of the Island, and in every case for the benefit of either the producer whether he is alone or in a cooperative or the consumer. Those are some of the main objects.

The Corporation's main object is to protect the producer and see that things are done on the basis whereby they are scheduled and planned and contracts are entered into so that the producer is protected and his efforts are not mislaid, and the confidence of the producer is retained. We have listened to certain speeches in here recently which show clearly that the planning is not all to be desired, and I am inclined to think that there is something in what I might have heard because I know there was some trouble last year as far as the production of onions was concerned, but I am not going into that now. This Corporation has to function on a commercial basis and show a profit, but of course it seldom shows a profit. If it were to function on the basis to stimulate the production of essential vegetable products, especially the finer vegetables like carrots, string beans, okras and things of that sort, then it will be serving a very useful purpose. At present the Corporation is more or less a supermarket from what I can see, and I do not know if it was really designed to function that way, but it looks as though it is moving in that direction. Maybe in order to function on a sound commercial basis and to adopt commercial practices it may have to extend the ambit and scope of its operation, so to that on a commercial basis, it is not the intention that the Corporation should function on a basis to lose money or to give things away at a price which is not economical. 1.50 p.m.

The intention of protecting the interest of the farmer or the small peasant should be the predominant role, and I am hoping that it will carry through with that role and protect the interests of the producer and the small farmer, because that was the original intention or purpose for which it was set up. Of the

sum of $795,000, the sum of $313,000, or just over 40 per cent of the total estimated expenditure under this Head will be spent on this item. It will be spent on equipping and upgrading the facilities of the Corporation for storing, grading and packaging of vegetable produce, and the sum of $20,000 will be spent on what is intended to be the first phase in the programme for the construction of collecting centres for vegetable produce to alleviate some of the difficulties experienced by small farmers in getting their produce to the B.MC. from various areas of the Island. Those are two very commendable purposes, Sir, in that the Corporation must grant certain facilities to small farmers at certain centres island-wide in order to facilitate the delivery of their produce.

When the hon. and learned member for St. Joseph spoke yesterday, I think he was speaking more directly to the Marketing Corporation than to the Ministry of Trade. I would not go into further details of the Marketing Corporation at this stage. I will probably answer some questions later on, if I can, but I am hoping to be in a position to answer certain questions later on.

As far as the industrial estates are concerned, there can be no gainsaying the fact that the industrial estates have done excellent work. They have established estates in many different parts of the Island and have provided employment for thousands of young girls. However, the wages are not in keeping with the times; the wages are uneconomic and should be looked after. Something should be done to see that the wages paid to the young employees, especially the young women, are put on a proper footing. That is the contention we have been dealing with all along. Plessey has pulled out not because of the fact that the Union insisted on higher wages. Plessey had granted two increases in wages without being asked. The Union then went for a third increase, but I am not quite sure of that. Plessey pulled out because other bigger combines were operating in similar areas and could produce these computers and the various components that we were producing here in Hong Kong and places in the Far East where the bigger combines monopolised everything, and they were losing money in this operation. (Asides.) I am telling you what I was told by the General Manager. Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The explanation given here varies considerably from the explanation given by the Mnister on television.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

No point of order, Sir. Plessey left here because they could operate in the Far East much cheaper, and they were sinking money here. I have quoted that to prove that there are certain companies operating that give increases in wages and salaries on their own without being approached by the union. The union is insisting that proper wages be paid as it would not be beneficial for girls to be employed at $12, $16 or $18 a week, because in these days, the cost of living is such that when one takes into account the cost of transportation, food and clothes, etc., a girl working for $20 a week would have very little money to take care of other things.

The industrial estates are preventing thousands of young girls from remaining at home idle, but at the same time the question of wages has to be looked into to see that they are not taken advantage of. When all is said and done, the industrial estates, whether there are at Grazettes, the Harbour, Seawell, etc., are employing thousands of young women who would have been sitting down at home and, probably, getting into some sort of mischief. The industrial estates, in my opinion, are still serving a useful purpose; a half-loaf is better than no loaf at all. That is the way I feel about it.

In the final analysis, although I have mentioned the union's stand, and the union is there for that purpose, the union is there to see that the workers are properly paid and given proper conditions of

employment. In the final analysis, I will still have to say that it is better to have the industrial estates providing some form of employment even though the workers are not properly paid, but, as I have said, the union will see that they are properly paid eventually. When the Union has regulated wages with a firm like Clarke & Tucker, I believe the Union can take care of any of these foreign firms that come here and operate contrary to local conditions and who feel that they can have all of these tax concessions and then leave the Country after they have made their pile.

As far as Handicraft Development is concerned, Sir, that is under the Ministry of Health and Welfare. I think the trend is that handicraft should be under this Ministry in that it is more in line with promotional business of this sort. I do not believe it needs much explanation. Probably the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce who sits in the Other Place will be able to explain in detail any question which falls under his portfolio. He will be well equipped to explain in detail all of the points likely to be raised. I will attempt to answer any reasonable question that is raised to the best of my ability.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following amendment:

"Item 1 - Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Delete the word "principle" appearing in the second line of the note and substitute the word "principal."

I beg to move that the sum of $2,332,273 under Head 107 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr.BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to take up the Leader of the House on what he has just said that maybe the Minister of Trade is better able to explain things than he can explain them. I am now calling on the Minister of Information, who controls the television and the radio, to allow me to meet the Minister of Trade before the public of this Island in confrontation of what is happening in the Ministry of Trade. 2 p.m

I do not want him to do what he has done in the last two days, to give specific instructions to C.B.C. not to report anything said by the Opposition Party. I want him to understand that this is our Country and I want the public of this Country to hear the debate which will result between the Minister of Trade and whoever we decide on this side should answer him because, Mr. Chairman, if you look at the Advocate-News of Saturday, 20th January, 1973, you will see that the reason given by the Hon. Minister of Trade, Senator Branford Taitt, for the closing down of I.S.L. is different from that given today by the Leader of the House. I say that the Ministry of Trade is in turmoil today simply because they have not got a policy, and I say now once again Taitt has got us in straits.

The Hon. Minister said that the B.M.C. is supposed to operate on a commercial basis. There were so many contradictory statements in introducing this Head today that one does not know where to begin. He said that it was set up to protect the producer and that the producer should have confidence in the

establishment. How can you have confidence in an establishment which was set up under the Ministry of Agriculture to look after farmers in this Country which has now been transferred from Agriculture to the Ministry of Trade?

Let us take a typical example of the prices advertised last week-end by the B.M.C. and controlled by the Ministry of Trade:

Buying Selling % Mark-up

$.4 $ ø

Beans 40 54____ 35

Beets 25 36 44

Local Cabbage 45 50 24.4

Local Carrots 25 36 44

Ground Nuts 68 1.08 58.8

Ginger 45 65 44.4

Eschalots 75 1.15 53.3

Limes 28 45 60.7

Marrows 15 25 66.6

Onions 14 22 57.1

Oranges 9 & 10ø 14ø & 16ø 55.5 & 60

That is what you call having confidence by the farmers, where they are strangled as a result of the Government's running of the B.M.C. and the Minister of Trade turning around and making exorbitant profits and robbing the housewives of this Country.

The Minister of Agriculture stood in here yesterday and said that if we do not get a proper feed, some plant is going to be closed. Let us take the answer to that now. What do you get from the Minister of Trade? They allowed Roberts Manufacturing 27.12 percent mark-up on chick starter, 28.89% on chick grower, 27.95% on layer, but when you come to sell the end product, the Minister of Agriculture said it was an agency who offered a farmer less than the controlled price, and I say here and now that it was the B.MLC. which offered a chicken farmer $1.00 a pound for his grown chickens with the words "take it or leave it!" It is high-class robbery controlled by a mid-night Minister who went to a mid-night school and is still a primer standard economist today. That is what I call him, and you can tell him I said so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would like the hon. member to adhere to Standing Order No. 28(10).

Mr. BOLDEN:
I don't remember it, Sir. If you will read it for me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I will not accept that type of rudeness from any hon. member. Is the hon. member telling me he cannot read?

Mr. BOLDEN:
No, Sir. I said I don't remember it. Mr. Chairman, you know that there is one one thing I do not intend to do and that is to disrespect the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
On a point of order, the particular rule says that a member should not speak or use any insulting or disreputable language or words to that effect, and I am asking the hon. member to withdraw those words in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce is a highly qualified individual and holds a very responsible position in this Country. It is a cowardly act for the hon. member to speak as he did and because the Minister is not here to defend himself, it is in my place to defend him. Many of us went to night school and became doctors, lawyers, dentists and engineers. Certain members in the Opposition might have gone to night school and became self-made men and better men than the others who might have been spoon fed and helped all along by their parents. The better man is the man who went to the night school and worked and studied, because he is a self-made man like the hon. member who made that aspersion. The hon. member has to withdraw it because it refers to him too.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, some of us are afraid of our zup-bringings, some of us are ready to pretend that we were born at Buckingham Palace, and if the Hon. Leader of the House is afraid to think that the Minister of Trade went to night school, I can tell him that I drove buses and went to night school too, but I am able to transfer my night school learning to day time operation. Do you want me to withdraw that about myself now? If the Hon. Minister of Trade went to nigh school and cannot see the light of day, what do you want me to tell him?

Mr. Chairman, when we look at the B.M.G. we have to ask ourselves whether the B.M. C. today is operating with the intention of the Act under which it was created. The very Minister of Trade controls the mark-up of other goods in Bridgetown, and I am sure that there is no other product in Bridgetown which merits a 66% mark-up exactly where the risk is not involved in the man who is peddling to the consumer. The B.M.C., as the Leader of the House has admitted, is nothing more than a half-baked supermarket, a half self-service half attendant served institution. There are men in it who do not understand agriculture or economics, and that is the first bad principle.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, is that you have a buying officer who goes out and buys at one price, and when you complain about the selling price of the goods his excuse is that he is only interested in buying, so talk to the man who is setting the price for selling. When you talk to the selling officer, he tells you that he does not buy, so he does not know the price to buy at, but he is selling at what he thinks

is a good price. Ask a member on that side if they did not buy beans from him at 14 cents a pound and sold them to Sandy Lane at 45 cents a pound. I have positive evidence which I can bring before this Chamber of carrots being bought at 30 cents a pound by the B.M.C. and forthwith dumped in the shelves at 75 cents per pound when the risk involved is with the farmer. How can you inspire confidence in the farmers of this country if you are going to make a 150% mark-up? What they are asking the farmers of this country to do is to subsidise the entire population and end up in the bankruptcy court. And do you tell me I must not say that the Minister and the officers in the Ministry of Trade are a bunch of mid-night economists who have not yet seen the light of day? 2.10 p.m

The day has not even begun to dawn upon them as yet, and I am asking this Hon. Chamber today to at least let them understand that they are killing agriculture in this Country from top to bottom. Every chicken farmer in this Country is finding it hard. Read the newspaper for the last two weeks and you will see day after day advertisements that chicken farms are closing down. When the Hon. Minister of Agriculture said yesterday that if they do not produce proper feed he is going to close down the feed plant, I am one who says I have no liking for the feed plant operators and I say it openly, but at the same time if we are an importing Country, if we have to import commodities at a certain price, if the feed plant needs a certain price to produce a good quality feed, is it good economics to cut the recommended price in half? I am using the words of the Minister of Agriculture that he has put up recommendations which were not accepted, and I know that the Minister of Agriculture put up recommendations to the Ministry of Trade of the price at which feed should be sold, of the price at which eggs should be sold, the price at which chickens should be sold and they were not accepted. Are you telling me that these are not midnight operations?

Take a look at the chicken industry today, Mr. Chairman, these are facts and figures. Where you were buying the day old chick for 35ø in November last year, now you are buying it for 39ø It takes you 7ø in medicine to raise that chick, it takes you 57ø in starter feed, $1.51 in finisher feed, you pay an average of 30ø to process it, and by the time you get the BMC to blast freeze it, the time you take into account your transport and water supply, labour has just gone up - and the Trade Unions are right to demand proper wages for the people of this Country - depreciating costs and the cost of the bag you put them in, you are leaving the farmer with about 41ø maximum to pay for those contingencies. What is his mark-up on that? $1.05 to $1.18. And then at the same time, they import chicken into this Country which is landed in Barbados at $1.41 per pound, they are then subsidising the American farmer who is already subsidised out of the labour and the work of this Country.

Then the Hon. Leader of the House gets up and tells me I must withdraw a statement. Every day you see a chicken farmer sets up for sale and he does this because he has been called in by the bank, The Hon. Minister of Agriculture said yesterday that he knows up to last Sunday that 16 farms had been closed. I can tell him now that up to yesterday afternoon 21 farms had been closed. Ask him what was the number of eggs imported into this Country for hatching purposes; how they have dropped. I have known of one hatchery which has closed its doors last Saturday, and you have a Ministry telling you they are holding down the cost of living, when in truth and in fact they are using the farmers of this Country to subsidise part of the people and then paying subsidy to the American farmer and the English farmer who have already been subsidised in their countries. You tell me I must not call names, but ask him why he does not come and face either one of us before the general public and let us ask him what his mark-ups are. He is selling to the BMC. Go down at the BMC and you will see more canned goods occupying their shelves with a lesser mark-up than what the farmers of this Country are producing. Last

year when I complained to this House that despite the fact that farmers were growing carrots and beans in this Country they issued import licences to bring in frozen carrots and frozen beans, it was treated very lightly, but how can you inspire confidence in what you call a system of trade? I am inviting the Price Control Officers when they go out on their duties to look at the BMC first and prosecute whoever is responsible. That is going to be the answer, and if the Government does not do anything about it, I know already that several farmers have got together to form a private marketing organisation and I am telling the housewives of this country that they are being robbed by the BMC daily, because if you are told that the Government is pressing diversification, it means that you are moving from an entire agricultural policy on sugar cane, but how can you diversify under this system a system whereby it takes a little bit more than it takes a lawyer, a solicitor or a doctor, because remember it is the elements which we do not control that we have got to fight against, and unless you can do it the proper way there is no salvation for this Country.

All the industrialisation you talk about cannot go forward unless there is a relevant agricultural policy to go by, and agriculture cannot flourish unless there is a marketing policy. Go to the Caribbean Development Bank arid ask Sir Arthur Lewis if he and a man called Mr. Gaitskill did not write a report and publish it in the United States of America saying that despite the industrialisation of the country.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer the Chair to the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. It is not necessary to refer the Chair to the time. I have already marked the time, but there was a point of interruption, and I am prepared to give the hon. member the amount of time. I have already watched the clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I rose on a point of order, I did not know it was a point of interruption.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, let me move on quickly to the industrial estates. I want to see the Government take a positive policy in respect of industrialisation in this Country. I want to see that the Government as of now, based upon the experience of the foreign entrepreneurs who come to this Country, look carefully into the setting up of industries in this Country. They have got to see that future companies which are being set up in this Country must be marked by some sort of interest of local persons in this country, and I say now that the Government has got to review its entire policy so that local people who are interested in going into business in this Country must receive favourable replies and accommodation, and I use the word "accommodation" with great care and interest.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The time has now expired.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. P. M GREAVES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for one hour.

Hon. P. M GREAVES:
I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 2.20 p.m.

On resumption -

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee and to that it now reverts.

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

Resumption of Head 107 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce was called.

Mr. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, in speaking on Head 107, I want to pay some attention to Item No. 2, which relates to the vote for the Industrial Development Corporation. I should like at the outset to make the point that I do not consider that anybody in his right senses could be opposed to industrialisation. I think that everybody realises that industrialisation has the potential for solving our unemployment problems

and also for raising the standard of living of the masses of people.

Having said that, I think there are a number of things which I should like to raise particularly in relation to our present industrialisation trends. The first point which I consider to be of paramount importance is the wage level which exists in the new industries which are coming into Barbados. There seems to be a feeling in some quarters that we should try to get industrialisation at any price. I do not believe in this point of view. As a matter of fact, the Leader of the House, when he was introducing this Resolution, made reference to the role which the Barbados Workers Union has played and is playing in raising the wage level in this Country. This is something which is of particular importance to the Union. In our relationship with some of these manufacturers we have come across some very serious problems of low wage levels.

I think we have to set our sights very clear on this question of wages. We often say that when we encourage these people to come to Barbados, they promise to employ a lot of people, but their wage bill is a rather small percentage of the total cost of things and when the wages are compared with the wages which are existing in other sectors of the community, you can see that some wages are far behind. This situation should not be allowed to develop any further. As a matter of fact, every effort should be made to eradicate this situation. That is why it is of particular concern to us to look at the type of entrepreneur

who comes to Barbados to invest money. One would have thought that most of these entrepreneurs, having come from highly industrialised countries where proper wages are paid, would not have to be convinced that they shoud pay proper wages here. We have discovered, for some reason known or unknown, that they prefer to pay low wages. We have to insist, therefore, that the people who come into Barbados to invest money are not the type of people who want to make a fast dollar. I think that this is, probably, one of the failings of our industrialisation programme.

It would seem to me, without any systematic kind of investigation, that the people who have actually come here and set up business are concerned with making some quick money and they are not particularly keen about what happens after that. I think this is something which should be of concern to the Government. We must get away, and quickly, too, from the kind of exploitation which presently exists in some areas of the manufacturing sectors in this Country.

One often hears, when one has to deal with these industrialists, about the possibilities which exist for them in the Orient or in Haiti, and one gets the impression that these industrialists want to enjoy the political stability, which has a price in this Country, but want to pay the kind of wages or to maintain wages at the level which obtains in Haiti or in the Orient. We cannot allow a situation like this to develop in Barbados. I said that political stability has a price, and it is a very important aspect in any country which is industrialising. We must make sure that we do not throw this off for little or nothing. The results of any industrialisation programme should, as it were, trickle down to the masses of people and thereby show, as a result of their standard of living, what industrialisation has done for them.

Unfortunately, it does not seem as if the impact of industrialisation is a great as we would have hoped. I would like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we have reached the stage in our industrialisation programme where some assessment or some study should be made of the contribution which industrialisation has made towards the economy. We should look very closely to see whether we are gaining, or whether in the final analysis we are losing more than what is really coming in. A lot of these investors come down here under the guise of bringing in money, but in truth and in fact they come here only with a scheme and then they borrow the money locally - money which has been put in the banks by our local people. You can see that with this facility, with the tax holiday which they enjoy, and with the payment of low wages which exists in some of these industries, they are the only people who are benefiting from this kind of programme.

We also get a lot of investors who pretend that they are going to employ 200 or 300 people, and they never get beyond the 50 or 60 people that they started with. These are things, Mr. Chairman, to which we should devote our attention. We should see whether we are gaining or losing from the kind of industrialisation we are pursuing. The Industrial Development Corporation who makes an effort to bring these people here should endeavour to ensure that these people are prepared to make a meaningful contribution towards the economic development of this Country, and watch those who are intent on coming here to exploit the situation,

I think it is well known, Mr, Chairman, that unemployment in Barbados is still a very serious problem. This, I would imagine, is known to potential investors, but in spite of this we cannot allow investors to come here and take advantage of our situation. That is why I say that some investigation should be made into the whole industrialisation programme from the time it started right up to the present time. This is the time for stock taking. Let us see what we have done so that we can plan for the future. This is

extremely important.

There are a number of other aspects of this matter to which we should devote our attention. Another point I should like to raise, Mr. Chairman, relates to the factories on the industrial estates. There is no doubt that the Industrial Development Corporation has been trying hard to provide factory space and other facilities for investors, but there are a number of problems which are encountered which I think I should draw to the attention of this Honourable House. There are factories which have been constructed without the facilities which one would expect to find in modern factories. I do not think that anybody could gainsay the fact that the factories which are built on the industrial estates are supposed to be modern factories.

If you take, for example, the question of the provision of lunch rooms or even the provision for washing and toilet facilities, you will be surprised to see the position. In some instances the Industrial Development Corporation in constructing these factories would put in what it may consider to be the basic requirements. 3.30 p,m.

How the space is going to be allocated often rests with the investor and when for example we try to get proper facilities for the workers at some of these factories, we often hear the investor saying that it is not for him to do, that the Industrial Development Corporation did not provide this and that he cannot provide it. I think the I.D.C. should take careful note of this and ensure that when a factory is rented out that they insist that these facilities which we consider to be normal in this day and age for workers be provided, and that all the space is not used up in storage and on the production line. It seems to be the feeling in this Country that this kind of facility should only be extended to top management personnel or middle management personnel, and I am not sure that middle management is treated with this kind of respect in some of these industries. This kind of facility is only extended to top management, and I think we have got to disabuse our minds of that approach and always try to insist on as high standards as possible.

We have a situation, Mr. Chairman, when these new business enterprises are set up where people in top positions are brought in from overseas and are given the best of facilities out of the business. One finds that rent is paid for some of the best flats or houses in Barbados, transportation is provided and lavish entertainment allowances out of the business, and when the Barbados Workers' Union moves in and tries to get an increase in wage levels, one will hear that the factory or particular enterprise cannot bear this because it is not making money. I was appalled about three or four weeks ago in meeting one of these people where the girls were working for between SI8 and $20 a week to hear the employer talking about a 10 per cent increase in wages and how this would affect him, without realising that this 10% of $18.00 is only $1.80 and this would hardly get to $20.00 in the first instance. This is the kind of situation that exists, and we feel we should try in our industrialisation programme, to attempt to woo people to come here to look for the very best. If it means not having as many people coming here to set up factory as we can possibly get, if it means reducing the people who come here, then so be it, provided that the people who are attracted here are people who are going to come and be really serious about the contribution which they are going to make towards the industrial and economic development of this Country, and towards raising the standard of living in this Country, and are prepared to stay and make a meaningful contribution. I hope these points, Mr. Chairman, are taken into consideration.

There is another item under the Head Ministry of Trade on which I would like to comment before I

finish, and it is Item 3 which deals with Handicraft Development. I think it is interesting to see that some attention is being paid to this aspect of our industrialisation. I do not think it is news to anybody in this Chamber that very often when we go into the stores to buy gifts or things which we think look local and turn the particular item upside down we see it is made in Hong Kong or Japan or some place like this. However, I think it is good to see that we are concentrating on developing handicraft. I would also like to point out that this development is not only taking place centrally but is being spread out all over the Country, and it is indeed an interesting development because I feel that with the growth of the tourist sector and the fact that so many Barbadians are overseas, this would provide an opportunity for local people who are interested in handicraft and in developing handicraft to be able to give vent to their talents to ensure that people all over the world can see what we can do here in Barbados, and I hope that not only will we continue to support this programme, but that it will be accelerated and that as much attention as possible is paid to it.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, when one represents his parish well, in some cases he can de considered as a parish pump. I have no apologies to make to any for representing my parish.

In dealing with Head 107 - Item 2, I think that the time has come when these estates should be placed in certain rural areas. Now in the parish of St. Philip we have Six Cross Roads, and I would appeal to the Minister of Trade to give us and industrial estate in that parish. Regardless of what has been said of cheap labour and I am thoroughly against cheap labour I must let this Honourable House know that with the closing of Plessey Limited a large number of youngsters in my parish has been placed in a very awkward position. They are all unemployed and if the Hon. Minister would consider helping the parish of St. Philip by placing one of these estates in Six Cross Roads, it would not only assist the youngsters financially, but it would also alleviate certain hardships which they face in travelling to other parishes to seek employment. As you know, Sir, there is such a thing as bus fare, lunch and all of these other expenses, and if we can carry some of these estates to rural parishes, and especially St. Philip, we would be assisting our youngsters with employment. In addition, I would say that the time has come when these estates should try to organise their own transportation for the benefit of the workers. 3.40 p.m.

This a matter which could be given consideration by people who have come here to assist us with unemployment.

As concerning the wages, we know that they have been very low, but I think it was the Hon. Leader of the House who said that half a loaf is better than no loaf. That does not mean cHeap labour, but it does do something to help us with those who are unemployed. I am appealing to the Leader of the House and to other Ministers to do all that they possibly can to influence the Minister of Trade so that he will do his utmost to recommend an estate for the parish of St. Philip.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr, Chairman, there has been a lot of woolly thinking on this question of industrialisation and the benefits to any community. Barbados is a country that suffers to a large extent from unemployment, underemployment and over population - and of course there are the unemployables - but in the absence of a man-power survey it is extremely difficult to find the exact percentage into which either or all of these categories fall. I should suspect, and my guess would be as accurate as any of any economist, that the unemployment rat$ in Barbados is probably between 10% and 15%. In industrial countries like the

United States and Canada, they get worried when it reaches 6.5% or 5.7%, even 3%, and I know that in Jamaica when I was there in December the unemployment percentage was 25%. This was actually told to me by the Prime Minister himself when I paid a courtesy call on him, so that it is extremely important that we in the Caribbean which is a small area and which is fragmented - it has always been a source of disappointment to me - we are not working as one unit, but we are competing one against the other for the limited amount of overseas finance, which, had we been together, would have been available for industrial development all over the territory, and I think one of the problems of CARIFTA is the fact that the LDCs, as they are called, in contra-distinction to the MDCs, I am not satified that the pattern of industrial development, is contributing to their development as they would hope.

In every country we have got to look at the industrial incentives which we have got to give. I read the other night - and I think the hon. member for Christ Church West will support this - that a member of the legal profession attacked this whole question of industrial incentives and of course the CARIFTA Secretariat is looking at the whole problem of harmonisation of fiscal incentives, because even for the Government, there is no doubt that the time for review has got to come. In view of the fact that we are competing in a small country with ten different countries, we have got to watch to see what the incentives are, because let us face facts, a capitalist is not a philantropist, a capitalist or an entrepreneur is going to the country in which, taking into account the labour conditions, he is satisfied that the return on his investment is greatest in the shortest possible time, whether it is Argentina or Latin America - and you know that in Latin America one of the greatest quarrels with the United States of America is that they have been exploiting the Latin American continent - so that in terms of return, I have never thought and I do not believe, that any industrialist would come to Barbados because he likes the sun and the sea, the tourist comes, but the industrialist comes because he thinks he can make a reasonable return on his investment. What is any Government operating under these conditions expected to do? It establishes a Development Board with certain clear objectives and it entices within limit, the entrepreneur and the investor to come, and here is where I must draw a line with the Barbados Workers Union, because this Government has at all stages endeavoured and has had representing on the Industrial Development Corporation a representative of the Barbados Workers Union, so I do not want to hear in 1973 that this wicked Government is allowing people to come in and exploit workers, because if you trace the history of the Board as far as I can remember, the General Secretary was on the Board and he is now represented by another officer who can say to it whether this industry is coming in and exploiting the workers. I want to be frank.

Mr. GREAVES:

On a point of order, Mr Chairman, I just want to make the point that the Barbados Workers Union has one representative on the Industrial Development Corporation, and I would assume that if a decision is taken, it is a majority decision.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I should imagine that if I was a representative on a Board and I was representing a particular interest that I found advantage was being taken of, I would resign and I would tell the public why I resigned, so do not tell me there is only one. Whether it is one or one hundred, if you find and if you are not safeguarding the particular interest of the industry or the association you represent, then your job is to leave it and tell them you are not serving on a Board that is prepared to exploit workers, that is not prepared to lay down minimum standards for wages, that is not doing what your organisation thinks is in the interest of the workers.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I just want to make the point that when the Barbados Workers Union believes in a particular objective - and we believe in industrialisation - we prefer to go inside and fight the system to change the system Hon, F. G. SMITH I entirely agree with the hon, member for St. Lucy, fight the system but if the system is fighting against you, pull out and fight it from outside. That is why we left the Barbados Labour Party. We tried to cure it, reform it, organise it from inside, but when the time was unbearable the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House and myself left and formed our own Party because we could not change it from inside. This is my view and I think it should be the view of every aspirant either for trade union or political office.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, will the hon. member say why he left the Democratic Labour Party?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I will tell you that one day, but I am back in it now though, so I could not have left it under circumstances where I could not return. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that even although I will accept some of the points raised by the member for St. Lucy, who is the Education Officer of the Union, do not let it now be said that this Government has brought in industries in this Country to exploit people. I am not saying that there is no exploitation and that some of the wages are not low.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I will continue to interrupt the hon. member if he continues to distort what I have said. I think he is trying to give the House the impression that I said that the Government has brought in people with the intention of exploiting people. We do not believe that this is the intention, but nevertheless it happens, people are being exploited. This is a fact and I think it is a fact which the Hon. Minister should face.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

This Government believes in Trade Unions and it believes in freedom of association. It believes in the right of the workers to share in the profits and the produce of industry, and I am speaking as a loser-President-designate of the Barbados Workers' Union in 1954, so that when I speak in this Assembly, like the Leader of the House - we have been in the labour movement long before anybody on this side or anybody on that side - so my interest in the workers has not now started, it started in 1954 when I ran for President of the Barbados Workers' Union. 3.50 p.m.

The present General Secretary and the then Leader were against me for different reasons, and I will tell you the reasons, too. The big forces were against me and I was defeated. The member for St. Michael West and the father of the Leader of the Opposition were against me for different reasons, and the combination of forces defeated me.

Be that as it may, I agree with a lot that has been said. I am to a large extent agreeing that employers must be told that they must pay the workers a certain standard of wages which enables them to live

comfortably. This Government is forced to provide employment for people. I have had to deal with this question of cheap labour. I remember the night we launched the campaign having to deal with it in Independence Square. I am against anybody who will tell any entrepreneur abroad or here that he can come to Barbados because there is cheap labour. I have explained that what is meant by cheap is that if an employer has to pay the same wages in North America or in the Western World as has to pay in Barbados, he will set up his factory in North America rather than in Barbados. If he is an American or Canadian and he finds that when he looks at his labour content of the operation that it is no less, then he is not going to come here to provide employment for Barbadians when he can put up his factor in Canada, Germany, Haiti or wherever he can put it.

Let us face facts. When a person makes an offer to come to Barbados to establish an industry, it is because he has looked at the labour content of his operation in terms of money and he is satisfied that it is less than New York, Montreal or Toronto. I think it is time that the people in this Country be realistic enough to understand that the only reason entrepreneurs come to Barbados is due to the fact that they find that, in due course, the returns on their investments will be greater than it would be if they stay in their own home town. Barbados is not competing against Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Barbados is competing against Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, and other countries in the world that are prepared to offer to investors a climate of industrial profits. I think the Virgin Islands gave a Company 199 years the other day. Dominica is giving, St. Lucia is giving and so on. If anybody can tel me today that Barbados has reached the point where we can do away with industrial incentives he is dishonest; he is not telling the people the truth and so on. If he says that the time has come for a review of industrial incentives, then I am with him 100 per cent. If he says that the time has come for standardisation, harmonisation of the fiscal incentives, I am with him, but when you are going to get up and tell the people of this Country that this Government is sort of handing over or selling out the country to entrepreneurs you are talking through your hat. (Asides,) I am dealing with a hypothetical question. I am saying if that is ever said, then that is not a fair statement and it, certainly, does not show an appreciation of the entire position.

I agree with the member for St. Lucy that no modern factory should be set up without certain basic facilities in it: a canteen, a club house, and the basic human necessities. In my Ministry, it annoys me to find that in a Mnistry which employs so many people there is not a club, there is not a playing field, or there is not a recreation centre to which workers can go. I think that the Industrial Deyelopment Corporation may well have got the pattern from the business places in Bridgetown. Where is Cave Sheperd's playing field? Where is Cave Shepherd's canteen? Where is Harrison's? Where is DaCosta & Musson's? Where in this Country today is there any form of recreation for the workers employed in...

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am surprised to hear the Minister making that speech, Sir, because he, obviously, heard me making that speech in this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is no point of order; it is a point of interruption!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I have said this before. It hurts my heart when I drive through the country and see children playing in the road, and the land on which they used to graze horses on, before they had lorries to transport cane, is

lying idle while children are in danger of being killed on the road. We have this mentality, and the workers have not been given what, in any concern, is vital. In England when I was doing law I worked for nine months as a member of the National Union of Railway men. (Asides.) I had my card; I had to take a medical examination. You could go and fish; you could play golf; you could play cricket - I was one of the star boys in the cricket team - you could play football, and ...

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is he the star performer who made nought in every innings?

Mr,,CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
They had recreational facilities according to the likes and the hobbies of the various workers. When the workers at Cave Shepherd, DaCosta & Musson, and so on are finished working where can they go and drink Banks, and play cricket or dominoes? Where is the club room in which to create that friendship and so on? I am 100 per cent behind the Union on the point that no industrial factory, which is employing above a certain number of people, should be built without certain recreational facilities. I do not think we need hot and cold water as in other countries, but they should have certain facilities.

Now, the question of cheap labour is a ticklish problem. You have to look at this matter rationally from a Government's point of view. If a man says that he has $300,000 to bring in to make shoes, pots, pans and baseball bats - (Asides.) Even if he has the money outside - I am not talking about a man who comes in to borrow money to do business - it is really difficult for the Government, at least, to lay down a wage pay for a factory which has not yet started production. That is the Government's point of view, and it is not that we do not believe in trade unionism or in a certain standard of wages. If the man from abroad says that he is going to make baseball bats or whatever it is in Barbados, how at that point before he has occupied the factory, before he has made one and has seen the cost, can you tell him that he has to pay the workers $40 a week when he has not produced a baseball bat, has not seen the competence of workers, he has not trained them in the technical operation of the business and so on? How can the Goverment do that? That is common sense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. At this point the time allotted has expired.

Mr. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. Are you going to hear me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Yes.

Mr. GREAVES:
The hon. member asked how can an entrepreneur determine whether he can pay $30 of $40 a week. To accept that argument, the man can say that he would have to start off his factory before he could pay one cent because he does not know what it is going to cost him to produce anything. 4 p.m

It is interesting to note that as much as the Minister talks about his activities in and his knowledge of

trade unions, he has been totally out of touch with what has been going on, and I sympathise with him Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, I am not saying that he cannot tell you what he can pay. All I am saying is that in the discussion with the entrepreneur, knowing how many people he intends to employ and what his production is expected to be, you can work out a wage structure, not starvation wages, which may not be as much as eventually he can pay. When I was doing courses in England on Trade Unionism I wonder where the hon. member for St. Lucy was. So when you tell me I do not know about trade unionism I was in it a long time. (Mr. GREAVES I was not born yet.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of explanation I am accepting absolutely no more explanations on the matter I am prepared to hear speeches.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, it is indeed surprising to see that the Minister of Communications and Works has decided to take on the junior half of the Barbados Workers'

Union, though he has not taken on the senior part. That is only by the way.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I can only speak to who is in the Chamber. If he was in here I would make the same speech. He is no McGuffy to me. Do you want me if he is not in the House to speak to him, or go and find out where he is?

Mr. MOTTLEY:
As I said, the Minister has made some rather surprising statements on the question of paying wages. The Minister does not expect anyone to believe that any investor is going to come to Barbados and set up a business unless he has a proper costing analysis and investment study done before he comes in, if not, he is no businessman whatsoever, and therefore the Minister's suggestion about coming and then starting business and knowing what wage he is going to pay is a lot of nonsense as far as I am concerned.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
On a point of explanation, what I am saying is that a correct wage level cannot be properly established until the industry is going. I am not saying he cannot set up some sort of wage level.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I have already ruled I am listening to speeches.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Not even that is acceptable because you must have proper planning and cost analysis done before you come here to set up, and I am glad also to see that the Minister talks about the fact that people coming here should be made to provide certain facilities.

I have in my hand a document which we printed and published as long ago as 1970 where we set out these things as criteria to which people investing in this Country should be made to adhere, and now the Minister comes back - and I am glad he listened to one of my speeches and has repeated it here today -

and says that places like Cave Shepherd, DaCosta & Musson and Barbados Shipping and Trading did not provide playing fields for the workers. What is even more startling is to hear the member for St. Philip South getting up today and making a plea on behalf of the young people in St. Philip that were displaced as a result of the closing of Plessey, because when I came to this House and sought to raise this matter as one of urgent public importance, the entire Government voted against it, although the Speaker who comes from St. Philip had given permission.

I was glad to hear the Minister of Communications and Works talk about the fact that there was a representative of the Barbados Workers' Union on the Industrial Development Corporation, and yet we have been having low wages. This is one of the very things of which we talked, and I have here in mind hand a document which we put out called "Conflict of Interest" dealing with the fact that although there was representation on the I. D. C. you still had low wages. The hon. member for St. Lucy said that he does not believe in the suggestion that comes from some quarters that there should be industrialisation in Barbados at all costs. In other words, what he is saying, if I may interpret it the way I understand it, is that he does not believe in those who advocate industrialisation of Barbados at the expense of the exploitation of the workers, or in other words, that cheap labour is better than no labour at all, or if you choose, as the Minister of Trade prefers to call it, adaptable and inexpensive labour is better than no labour at all.

As long ago as 1969 when we came to this House, I believe the Minister of Agriculture was then Minister of Labour, in a discussion on the Wages Council we raised this question of the low wages that were being paid to people especially in the garment industry in this Country. I know of one particular case where a lady was working at one of the garment factories and her title was that of supervisor, - I spoke about this on a public platform in Carrington Village during an election - and she was only getting $18 a week. I talked about it on the platform and called her name, and the following Tuesday she came back and thanked me and told me thay had increased her salary to over $30 a week. It is quite clear that exploitation there has been going on for some time, and the Union and the Government must take some blame for this, because the Union should not allow conditions to exist once they find out, and the Government should not allow people to come here and pay starvation wages.

I have raised cases in here before in respect of people in the garment industry in Grazettes. I do not know if it was because one or two people up there belonged to either the constituency of St. Philip South or North, but when we talked about low wages we were told that they were being paid by the piece. This was the excuse given in the House. They did not deny it. When one of the garment factories opened on the Harbour a few years ago a lady came to me to put her husband in court for support and when I asked her what her wages were, this woman who had three or four children told me that she had been a needle worker for about ten years and had gone to this factory on probation for which she was paid $9 a week. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Did you charge her?) I did not charge her.

(Horn F. G. SMITH:
was she a member of the Union?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am going to warn hon. members again on both sides to adhere to Standing Order No. 33 (6).

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, you had the situation where the member for St. Michael West was at one stage a member of the I. D. C. and you had what I must call a conflict of interests, because at one stage he was there and people were coming in and being given pioneer status. 4.10 p.m.

I do not intend to deal with any special place like the one in Christ Church which only employs three people, but he was on the IDC when that was set up and no objection was taken.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, when ISL came into Barbados the member for St. Mchael West was not a member on the IDC.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I do not mean ISL, I mean the one which has three people making essence, Rose La Flamme. As I was saying, there was a conflict of interest there and you did not hear the Union come out talking about it, you did not hear the Union coming out to discuss these things when the shrimp industry folded up and 500 people were unemployed, you did not hear the Union then because there was a conflict of interest in another way with the Party, but what I want to move on to is the statement made by the Leader of the House with regard to the closing down of Plessey. The explanation which he gave today and the explanation which the Minister of Trade gave in a press interview are in direct conflict, because the only explanation given by the Minister was that ISL was involved in a $4 million law suit in the United States. I know the liability suit existed long before any decision was taken to close down Plessey, and that under no conditions whatsoever that law suit had anything to do with the closing down of Plessey because the Directors of Plessey never gave that as a reason, the reason they gave was that' they did not have proper economic conditions, but they did not state whether the economic conditions to which they referred meant the wages or the working conditions in Barbados, or whether they meant on the export market for their products. The Government did not look into this, the Government accepted this statement from the Directors of Plessey, that the economic conditions did not prevail. This is what I want to criticise the Government oil, the failure to investigate these statements.

Hon. G. E. TALMA:

I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, it is not a question of investigating, you cannot investigate something ex post facto, they came and saw me in the absence of the Prime Minister and I made sure that I saw the Prime Minister the following day, because he was out of the Island, and I gave him the reasons, so it is not a question of investigating, they came with a firm decision and intention to close down. They were just being courteous to us before they closed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Even if that is so, and I will deal with that attitude in a moment, but I want to deal with it also in the light of a statement made by the Minister when he went on to say that it was clear that we had reached a point where we must expect the closing down of factories and that the Goverment had planned for such in an overall look with severance pay. That is what the Minister of Trade said. Is that proper planning? Are you not going to set up machinery to ensure that when an overseas investor comes to you and tells you he is closing down because of economic conditions you can investigate to see what sort of conditions exist, to see whether or not the factory is a viable concern, whether the factory is such that the Government itself can take it over to ensure that the workers are not displaced and to give some of the benefits to a local stock market here in Barbados? (Hon. F. G. SMITH Where in the world do you know

this happens?) What happened with Lockheed? What happened in Guyana?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. This will be the last time that I will give any warning at all. The next time I will use the appropriate Standing Orders.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

What happened when the shipyards in England were closing down? Did not the Government go to their assistance? What happened when Boeing and Lockheed factories ran into trouble in England? Did not the Government go their assistance? Here you have 350 people employed and the factory is going to close down, can you not set up machinery to investigate and look into all the books, look at the past record of the Company and see what it has been doing for the past 10 years, to see what its projections are for the future, to see whether or not you can put money into it or borrow money in the same way you guaranteed the loan for the shrimp industry to encourage people to put money into it? Do you think the Government could not set up machinery to do that? That is the short-sighted thinking of the Government. The Minister said that you provide severance payment, and the Minister of Trade said that most of the people were employed, but apparently not the people of St. Philip South, if not the member for St. Philip South would not have to beg today for the people of St. Philip. Mr. Chairman, those are the observations I want to make on this matter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we believe that Government has been somewhat lax in providing these incentives and granting pioneer status to a number of firms and then not policing those firms with a view to protecting the welfare of the workers employed therein. We believe that much of the suffering, robbing and raping to which the workers of this country have been subjected by some of these imported North American industrialists or whatever you may call them is due in very great measure to the neglect of Government by not appointing more welfare officers and attaching them to the Department of Labour to look into the interest of the workers employed therein. It would have to my mind ensured a better relationship between employer and employee, and what has gone on in the past and has led to the breakdown could have been avoided, but this was not apparently to be so. Mr. Chairman, one of the biggest jokers we have in industry today is our Minister of Trade. 4.20 p.m.

I have said on previous occasions that he shows himself at every turn of the tide to be unfamiliar with the practices engaged in industry in this country, and I can say that he is the laughing stock of commerce today. I do not mind whether he is the 'Crown Prince'; whether he is to succeed and to rule over us all, or whether someting is to be bequeathed to him. What we must pay very special attention to is that whenever the Minister of Trade fails to function effectively, and that has been his best performance up to the moment, the nation stands to suffer. That is the way we measure him, Sir.

The Minister of Trade has gone on television from time to time. I can tell you, Sir, that one of the most important things a Minister appearing before the nation has to do is to instil confidence in the nation that he knows what he is talking about and that he really believes what he is saying. If a Minister can do this, he will go a long way in allaying the fears of the people. Now, what can we say that the Minister of Trade has done to keep the cost of living down during the past few weeks?

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Joseph has given quotations in relation to the prices of commodities, and he was at pains to point out that what is reported to be the legally percentage mark-up

of profit is not exactly what the Minister of Trade would want us to believe it is. I have no reason to doubt what the hon. member for St. Joseph has said in this House today, but I cannot at the same time, Sir, make anybody believe that I could believe anything that the Minister of Trade has ever attempted to say, because we have seen enough to convince us that he is merely feeling his way, and that you and I and our children are paying the price for his learning.

We do not want, Mr. Chairman, to examine the B.M.C. at any length any more. I have said on a previous occasion that, if the B.M.C. is given proper advice and protection, it might one day find its own and come out breaking even. The Leader of the House, at one stage, said that it was a profit-making concern, and at another stage he said that it was designed.....

Hon. E. C. TALMA:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am afraid I did not say that it was a profit-making concern. I said that it should be run on a commercial basis,

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Point made.

Mr. HINDS:
I have noted, Sir, that the Minister said that the Corporation should not be functioning to lose money, or to give things away at an uneconomic price. I also heard the Minister say that it must be operated on a commercial basis. Mr. Chairman, if you are going to operate on a commercial basis, not to lose money, not to give away things uneconomically, do you not have to run it in order to make a profit? It is as simple as this.

Mr. Chairman, what is wrong in the Ministry of Trade is that we have to get it knocked out of the head of the Minister that the system of trading in this Country is a 3-tier one. Somebody from somewhere has given him the phrase and it has stuck on to him like what people tell you will stick on you if you go to the end of Jenkins excrete pipe. All the washing with all the detergents you cannot get it off of him. It has stuck with him for life. The system is not a 3 tier one. Until the Minister can understand how we do our trade, we can get no where under him.

In dealing with this 3-tier system, when the Minister tells us that business is so arranged as to provide a 3 per cent for the importer, 8 per cent for the wholesaler, and 12 per cent for the retailer, Mr. Chairman, all the Roebuck Street merchants are laughing him to scorn, because the others who are really making the profits out of this the Minister seems to be unfamiliar with. He is not au fait with the trading practices in

Barbados. I have been at pains, time and again, to point this out, and I am not going to waste my time in trying to teach the Minister any more. 4.30 p.m.

I do not believe the Government is going to take a single step to remove this Minister because of his incompetence. It is the people who are groaning under the high prices that will eventually say how long is too long when all of this is so bad.

Mr. Chairman. l was making the point just now that at the Barbados Marketing Corporation the profit

is neither on a 3%, 8% or 12% basis, for as the member for St. Joseph has pointed out, it is in some respects on a 50% or 60% basis. Does this not then go to show that someting is wrong somewhere? This bears out my point that if the B.MC. is to serve the nation as it was established to do, it must bring the producers within its fold and let them become part of the make-up. That would be the first step in an effort to reduce costs.

If we were to look at what is obtaining in industry generally, we cannot say that we have a pattern of which we can be proud. We have got to see to it that we invite the type of industry that can be established in the outlying districts as well as those that can be established near the airport and the seaport; we have got to take into consideration the fact that our workers are not all located in the city of Bridgetown or the parish of St. Michael, and we have got to do something to reduce this constant flow of workers from the country districts to the St. Michael and Bridgetown areas because they cannot find jobs near to where they live and live healthier and feel happier in the several districts of the country. We have got to decide here and now where we are going to locate our industrial estates in future. It is no easy weight for a girl who lives at Pie Corner in St. Lucy or in some part of St. Philip having to catch two buses to get to a job at Grazettes Industrial Estate, or one coming from Pie Corner, St. Lucy or Boscobelle, St. Peter catching two buses to get up to Gibbons Industrial Park or any of these areas, and to catch the same two buses to return home. These people leave their homes before 6 a.m. and may be the parents of two or three children, which means that they set out on mornings before their children awake, and when they return at night the children have gone to sleep. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that these people are out five days trying to earn a dollar and the children who live in the house with them never have an opportunity to see their father or mother as the case may be. Barbados is too small for this, and I believe we can give some sort of consideration to locating these industries much better for the benefit of all who are concerned in these exercises.

I see, Mr. Chairman, that you are looking at the time. We must give consideration to your ruling that an hon. member must wind up his debate when the question of time is announced, but there is one very important thing I would like to say and I am sure you would like to hear me say it. We have the Manufacturers Association in Barbados which means a lot to each and every one of us in this House, but it is now designed to show that it intends meaning more to members on that side of the House than to any of us anywhere else or to the nation as a whole, because its President has formed a $50 club and is collecting $50 a month from each of its members to finance the campaign of the Democratic Labour Party at the next election. So you will understand how healthy the party will be at the next election under those circumstances.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am afraid the hon. member's time has expired.

Mr FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to be long on this Head. I intend merely to repeat some of the statements I made last year under the Head of Trade. They will be very brief and I hope to the point. Particularly, I would like to deal with Item 2 - Industrial Estates. I think I may begin by saying that this Ministry is a Cinderella Ministry. There is always a fairy godmother who promises the world, but when midnight comes and the clock has struck, one discovers that there is really nothing to gain from her, I think it is true to say in very general terms that the performance of this Ministry is probably hampered by the fact that the Minister does not easily take the advice of his civil servants. This is well known..

This is the mistake of bringing a civil servant from a junior position, landing him to run a ship of State and discovering that he cannot take advice from his civil servants. He wants to be Minister and civil servant, and hon. members should recognise that this is part of the trouble that is existing at the Ministry of Trade. He cannot daily sit down and listen to what his advisers are telling him and no matter how many advisers you bring with economic qualifications in that Ministry, you will first have to explain to the Minister that his job is to formulate policy and leave it to his civil servants to execute the policy. He must listen to them and see the facts which they give him from time to time, The result has been that he has found it impossible to make up his mind on many issues. The Government has had applications, for instance, from people like Catelli and other people to review prices and the Minister thinks that the best way to make a decision is to do nothing. He remains there like maximus cunctator hoping that everything would go away. If he wants to be effective, he must learn that he has to take unpopular decisions sometimes. This is really unfair to the former Leader of the House but somebody has likened him to the former Leader of the House. He has a plaster for every sore, but when you remove the plaster the cut has never been healed. I would submit to this House that even in the field of industrial development today, he is found wanting in many respect.

I last year in this House, raised for instance what I would think to be a fundamental point for industrial development. You cannot encourage local people to participate and your local producers and designers to be interested in the development of the country, and you cannot motivate them unless you provide a structure for motivation. Where today, despite the emphasis on the garment industry, is there on the Statute Book of the Country and Industrial Designs Act? Do not tell me that it has taken the Government eleven years to give protection to people who are designing in the garment industry; and the result is that we have found other countries taking our designs - and I cited last year the instance of batik and this is still true - using them to advantage and selling us back the products in Barbados with no benefits accruing to the Government of Barbados. 4.40 p.m.

I move on from that point. We raged with the Government and crossed swords on this issue at election time, laying down the guidelines for foreign participation in the economy, and the Democratic Labour Party stated outstandingly in its Manifesto that it would lay down those guidelines. Senator St. John when he was Leader of the Opposition in this House from time to time hammered home the point that the guidelines should be clearly set out, that there should be certain fields in which foreign participation is not welcome, others in which they should go in on a fifty-fifty basis, and others in which they may have freedom of choice. The Government today has laid down no guidelines for anybody. Where is the Minister in this respect? He should take the policy to the Cabinet. I do not know what are the guidelines, certainly I have never seen them published, except Government participates haphazardly, and you get the Minister on the radio justifying the type of participation where he sends down to this House a measure to give the Government minority participation but maximum backing by way of guarantee. This is local enterprise hiding behind foreign co-operation; any good lawyer will tell you that, so do not tell me it is local enterprise, I want to see clear guidelines laid down so that the young people will know in what.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I cannot sit here and accept the strictures of the hon. member, my friend from Christ Church West, that it is a local enterprise with outside backing. The ownership of the shrimp industry in Barbados is 100% Barbadian.

Mr. FORDE:

Perhaps the Minister has never heard that one of the fundamental principals of the capitalists system of company law is that the equity interest or beneficial interest was never shown on the books of the company. In many instances, if we could get behind the company structures and find out the real people holding shares and where they are holding them a lot of revelations would be made in this Country and we would never be challenged to give the evidence or to prove our case. That is all I want to say on that point.

I am asking the Government that if they have given a pledge they should carry out what was in their Manifesto and publish the guidelines so that the Country could know where it is going with the industrial estates.

I want to talk about the standard of wages that exist. I agree to some extent with the Minister of Communications and Works when he says that capitalists are not philanthropists, But no Government should be so philanthropic to the I extent that they encourage foreign investors to come into the Country on the basis that when they come here they can exploit the labour force of the Country. I must join with the hon. member for St Lucy on this plea, that the Government must make it absoutely clear by minimum wage legislation that it will not be tolerating industrial development at any cost. That is what the plea is meant to be. There is no point in saying you are interested in the workers, both sides of the House are interested in the workers, but let us perform now and stop talking. How long must we wait for minimum wage legislation before we find we are going on trying to get people in and some of them being given the wrong information, then when they get here they find they are confronted with legitimate claims on behalf of the workers and they go?

The truth about Plessey closing down is not any law suit, that is very far off the mark. Neither is there any retrenchment in the industrial sector in which they were dealing, the truth is that Plesseys knew that in the future they would close down. They would have had their tax holiday and ran, and they saw the severance payment legislation, and with proper negotiations going on they packed up and went. I believe that any proper industrial policy provides for this type of eventuality. It is not enough to hear from a Government that at the last moment they can do nothing about it because the horse has already bolted the stable. That is not good enough. A Ministry which is functioning properly must know how each of the industrial sectors is performing, it must know its work force, its wages, its future projections, it should be able to have access to the information because they are being given tax incentives and they must make full disclosure. The industrial arm of the Governments of the United States and Canada should investigate these people properly, and if your foreign Missions are performing, they should join in it too, but we are getting a lot of people who are coming here with very low capital giving cocktail parties believing they can caress people in this way and then making their packets and leaving. I am asking the Government seriously to have a proper investigation system in the industrial sector in the economy so that they can provide for such eventuality.

I think the hon. member for the City is quite right. We should be able to own the plant, we should be able to move in very quickly and take over the industry if it becomes necessary in order to preserve jobs. We must be able to see that the employment policy is providing the know-how for other people coming on so that there is also a pool of management that we can draw on. I agree that BIMAP is now existing, but within the Ministry itself I do not believe we have the correct feelers along this line. I hope never to see another Plessey situation occurring in Barbados where overnight some 450 people are out of jobs.

We assume that each of them has at least four mouths to feed, and that is a very serious thing for the economy. I believe that a Government should be prepared to step in. The Minister gave an . undertaking that the B.M.A. was going to re-employ people all over the place, but the trouble with this Government is that it has the knack of categorising the Opposition as being the conservatives and in with the merchants, and in truth and in fact the Government happens to be in the hands of the B.M.A., people like Mr. DaSilva who is right up in the Party. Everything he says goes, and he is prepared to make a statement here about all sorts of things and you are fooled down the line and cannot see it.

As I have said before, a Government guided by policies dictated to them by foreign industrialists who are prepared to take everything they say without doing their own proper investigations must always run into trouble, and if the Government runs along this course consistently, they may find that they lose the Government before the five-year period is up.

I want to make a few other points. I am amazed by the failure of the Ministry not only to protect designers, but by their failure to protect consumers adequately. There is no proper consumer legislation on the Statute Book of this Country, so there is nothing that people could execute and carry out and see that it is functioning properly. The Hire Purchase Act is outdated, there is no Credit Sales Act, there is no truth in Lending Rate Act; what is the Minister doing about this? He is one of the best speakers we have in the Country if you are listening to the radio, but one of the weakest performers in the Ministry. I would like to coin the phrase of my friend, sometimes to give us back joy we might get out of straights in that situation, Sir. At least you know you get some performance. You may not always agree, but let us face the fact. Today he has alienated the farmers and he has got every consumer - if you have your ears to the ground, Sir, in your constituency, if any hon. member of this House has his ears to the ground - asking us what are we politicians doing to them Prices are sky-rocketing and he seems to be able to do nothing. We advocated during election time that the Government must be able to go into the economy and look for other sources of supply where necessary. It must encourage local production where necessary, not to the extent that it is going to hamper local production, but it must also be able to hold a proper balance between killing the local producer and fattening the foreign exporter.

I do not think that the Minister has his balance right, and he should try to get it. I hope that we will see some relief next year from the injection of money into the Barbados Marketing Corporation which is now functioning as a pure supermarket, and the mistake being made with the Barbados Marketing Corporation is as I told you before, that it was set up by legislation of the Barbados Labour Party and that the legislation needs remodelling. 4.50 p.m

What are you doing about bringing the producers into the equity capital of the B.M.C., or in your co-operatives? When it first started I was a member of that Corporation. Let me state here and now that, were it not for the shrimp industry at that time, it would not have got off the ground at all. I was only for a period of a year. In those days the then Minister of Agriculture, now Leader of the House, I was not there when the present Minister of Agriculture was there, but the Hon. Minister of Health would personally come down there to see that it was correctly started. He is the Minister of Home Affairs at the moment. They, personally, took a day-to-day interest in the matter.

I believe it is wrong at the moment to remove almost completely the Marketing Corporation from under the Ministry of Agriculture, because there is no proper liaison going on. If you add to that the fact that the producers themselves have no say in the policy or in the equity so that they can have an interest,

then I think that is where your trouble has started. You are creating another commercial enterprise which is looking for a mark up to justify the high administrative costs which we now have. The time is up, Mr. Chairman, and I will sit down.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should not be speaking under this item. Perhaps what I have to say may not go down well in the ears of everybody, but let me start off by saying that I do not care. I am telling it as it is. I understand that during my absence the hon. member for St. Joseph made reference to my making recommendations to the B.MC. I refer to the Shadow Minister for Agriculture. I think that he should have added "further".

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of explanation, Mp. Chairman. I am always worried when members come in late and get news from others who do not convey the news correctly. I will tell the Hon. Minister what I said. I said that it is to my knowlwdge that recommendations were made in the Ministry of Agriculture which were not followed by the Minister of Trade. I never said that he made any recommendations. Whoever gave him the news should have.given it right.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Point made.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear that the hon. member has put it that way. I want to say something and it is in connection with the laws of this Country. I have been telephoned at twelve o'clock at night, while in my sick bed, and I have heard the telephone ringing at six o'clock in the morning by people who want to make complaints to me

in connection with agriculture. I am speaking about this because it affects the B.M.C. I want to read Section 10 of the Act under which the B.M.C. was established. The B.MC. Was established to function as a Corporation. It states: '

"It shall be the duty of the Corporation -

(a) to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production , marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer;

(b) to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce whether in the Island or out of the Island, and in particular to assist agricultural and fishery co-operatives societies to dispose of their produce to the best advantage;

(d) upon being required so to do by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make recommendations on any matter directly or indirectly relating to the production or marketing of produce."

Now, to facilitate, stimulate and improve agricultural diversification in this Country, I say that agriculture has to be subsidised until we have reached the stage where we can stand on our feet. I am

going to say it here, because I know I am right. If I leave in here without saying it, I will be going out with a dishonest conscience. I am going to clear my conscience regardless of what the consequences are. I feel that it is unfair for a minimum control price to be placed on the farmer for poultry at $1.18 per pound, and for the B.MC. to offer the farmer $1.12. I say that is robbery with violence, because the B.M.C. was established to facilitate and stimulate agriculture, and the growth of poultry in this Country includes the production of poultry. I have said so, and I stand by that.

The position is that the B.MC. can argue that it sells at a wholesale price; it can argue that it has to freight and freeze for the farmers, but look at the people who have to send their chickens to the B.M.C.? The people who send their chickens up to the B.M.C. are people with 200 or 300 chickens in their backyard. If a vote comes to this House to subsidise that poor man with chickens in his backyard, I am going to be the first person to vote for it. I am saying that in dealing with small farmers we cannot look at commercialising on some -economic commercial basis, but we have to look and see why the Act was Introduced in this Legislature. The Act was introduced in this Legislature because it was seen that agriculture had to subsidise certain forms of agricultural diversification. That is where I say that the B.M.C. has made its first wrong step.

Mr, Chairman, my criticism is constructive; my criticism is on behalf of the farmers of this Country, and it will go down in the annals of the political history of this Country that I have put forward the case of the farmers. I repeat that in a growing industry where you have small-farmer involvement - the large farmer has his outlet; the large farmer has the hotels to take care of him; he has his cold storage from which he can sell; he pays less for his animal feed than the small farmer, and so on. Are you going to tell me in this day and age that somebody has the effrontery to go and tell small farmers in this Country that he is going to pay them less than the large formers get? You have 20 small poultry farms closed down in this Country today because df die fect that they are not offered a proper price for their produce.

I do not care who says that I have criticised a Department of the Government. If it is not functioning as it should be functioning, then I, Joy Edwards, am going to criticise it, and when I leave here I am going to "Norwood". If the B.MC. wants to be operated as a glorified supermarket, then there would be no need for this legislation. When I operated the B.MC, I appreciated the fact that it could not make a profit if it were to help the small farmer. What is the point of my telling the small farmer that he should do this and do that in the Ministry of Agriculture and then the farmer is left frustrated? 5 pan.

Why should a small farmer get $1.12 a pound for poultry when the minimum control price is $1.18, and even the large farmers cannot produce at $1.18? I say it is iniquitous. That is all I have to say on that score. There are other things I can say, but I will say them when the time comes.

I want to say something on the other aspects. On the question of labour legislation, it is unfair for hon. members to insinuate at any stage that the Government is encouraging cheap labour and doing nothing about it. Both I as Minister of Labour and the present Minister of Labour have taken the question of wages into consideration and a Committee is appointed. The hon member of the Union who spoke on this cheap labour situation knows quite well that the Government has a Minimum Wage Committee appointed and the Union is represented on that Committee. The fact is that the Committee does

not meet as often as it ought to meet, but we are concerned ourselves about the question of low wages.

In Canada and in the United States of America there is the question of piece work, but when our workers leave here and go to those countries, although they are given piece work, there is a minimum wage that they receive, and that is what I want to see happen in this Country. I agree that there should be a minimum wage and this is why I initiated action on the question of a minimum wage I would like to remindhon. members that we are not unmindful of the fact that there ought to be a minimum wage legislation. Everybody on that side knows that it is our policy and that a Committee has been appointed to go into it. The Committee has taken long to report. I would like to make an appeal here now to the hon. member for St. Lucy to encourage the member of the Union who sits on that Minimum Wage Committee to see that meetings are held so that we will have minimum wage legislation in the not too distant future. If the minimum wage legislation says that a man should not work for less than $20 or $25 a week and he is given piece work to do, if he produces less by the piece than amounts to $25 a week, the minimum he would get to take home would be $25. I think all this talk on either side on the question of low wages could be solved if we could get the Committee to report and get the legislation on the Statute Book of this Country. I do not know who is holding up the work. I am not the Minister in charge. I know that the Committee was appointed and I know that the Union itself has a member on the Committee. We have the Wages Council Legislation in this Country which protects shops in Bridgetown and people get around that, but not all the people in this Country are represented by the Union. I think the Education Officer of the Union has got to do a little more campaigning in the industrial estates for more wages. Let the people know that there is no crime in joining a union to represent them, I share some of the views of the Hon. Minister of Communications, when he said that the Union can organise these workers. Where there is no minimum wage legislation and the workers are not organised, the Union should try to bring home forcibly to these people the need for organising themselves, even if it fails in its first attempt, Mr. GREAVES: On a point of elucidation, like the Minister of Communications, the Minister of Agriculture is displaying what I would call a total lack of understanding or a total ignorance of the situation. We have a continuing programme of organising the workers, but we cannot lasso people to bring them into the Union, and our efforts at organising are often frustrated by the attitude of the same industrialists we are complaining about.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

All I am saying is that I can go on a political platform and persuade somebody to vote for me, if my case is better than yours. If an employer tries to dissuade workers from joining the Union, I feel that if a proper case is put to the workers and it is pointed out that they are robbed by not being unionised, I think they would join the Union. I am not criticising the Union as such and I plead ignorance. But one should not say that the Government encourage low wages. I speak my mind. You should not say that the Government is bringing people to this Country and encouraging low wages. All I am saying is that there can be a campaign and the people of this Country are not that foolish. They know that if they are taken for a ride and a proper campaign is carried out, they can get protection from the Union.

I congratulate the Union on the job it has been doing recently, but I feel that in certain sectors of the industrial development where there is dissatisfaction, a little more effort on the part of the Union would make it unnecessary for us to air this situation in here.

Mr. GREAVES:

On a point of explanation, the effort is there, but sometimes the effort is frustrated by some Ministers who interfere and who come down on the side of the employers. I did not want to say this but I am being forced to say it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I am not aware of interference by any Ministers, and I feel that if any Minister interferes with the work of the Union in bargaining on behalf of the workers who are getting wages far below subsistence level, he ought not to be a Minister.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, again just let me explain this not interfering in bargaining, but interfering in organising.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to wind up. Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is that I know of no Minister who would stop the Union from organising in any industry for workers in this Country.

Mr. GREAVES:

On a point of order, not stop the Union, but at least to give every i encouragement to the employer to continue with his exploitation.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, we have to look at the rules carefully because one member is saying that the other member is really not telling the truth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

And I am saying that the time has expired, and the hon. member must take his seat.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr/ Chairman, you allowed the hon. member on the other side five minutes to wind up his speech Could I be allowed the same latitude? All I am saying, Sir, is that it is not fair to blame the Government, and I know of no Minister, and if there is one, even if it is I who stands in the way of the Union organising any group of workers who are receiving subsistence wages, that person should not be a Minister, because the Union should always come out and tell the nation about low wages.

The question that the sum of $2,332,273 under Head 107-Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce-as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.10 p.m.

HEAD 109-MNISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment of which due and proper notice has been given to Item 3 of Head 109. It is an amendment to the note that the word "fifth" be substituted for the word "fourth", and the note will then read "To meet the fifth instalment of the equity investment in the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company." I beg to move that the sum of $10,866,000 under Head 109-Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance-as amended stand part of the Schedule.

I should however like to make a few introductory remarks. It will be noted that it is proposed during the coming financial year to allocate from the Treasury the sum of $7 million towards the Housing Corporation. I say it is proposed to allocate this sum from the Treasury because the Housing Authority is proposing to spend almost 50% over and above what is shown here. The estimate of the Housing Authority shows that the amount proposed to be spent during this financial year is $10,450,000. The rest is intended to be supplemented and made up from the domestic income of the Housing Authority. This is nothing new, this was always the case, the sum of money that we have been voting is the sum of money we expect to get from the Treasury, and what we get in domestic Income we add to that we get from the Treasury.

I should like to say a few words on how we intend to spend this money. We are planning to build on the 47 acres of land that we own at Wildey 436 houses, 100 of which will be for the lower income groups. This is that category of worker for whom no Authority or Corporation has been providing previously. It represents that gap between perhaps $260 per month and, say, $500 per month, and we are hoping to be able to build 100 or so of these houses on about 9 or 10 acres of land at Wildey to serve that income group, The rest of the houses we are planning to construct at Wildey will be for the lower income groups.

There is yet another 14 acres of land that will be reserved for the resiting of houses of persons who have had their homes removed from the sites they occupied by virtue of Court Orders or indeed those persons who are now living in areas which are flooded or are subject to flooding.

We are also proposing to build houses at Eden Lodge. This is on the south eastern side of Highway 2 immediately behind the cigarette factory. If I may say a few words about what is being done at the moment, we are now completing the development in the Lodge Estate as it is now called. We are now building about 90 to 100 houses to complete the development of that section, and about 30 of these 100 houses will be of timber, and it will be a pleasure of mine to invite any member of this Chamber to have a look at the housing developments that are taking place at Eden Lodge. At the moment the Housing Authority is building a day nursery at Silver Hill which will be completed within a matter of four or five weeks?. It will also have completed its first shopping centre at Silver Hill at about the same time. There is also another day nursery intended to cater for 120 children, and we heard from the Minister of Education yesterday that he has an arrangement with the Minister of Health, and that the Minister of Health would look after the day care of these children and the Ministry of Education will provide the educational aspects for training these three to five year olds who will attend these day nurseries. It is the intention that these day nurseries that are now being constructed will in fact serve this purpose. Not only is there cooperation between these two Ministries but there . is cooperation also with the Ministry of Housing because the Mnistry of Housing is providing the infrastructure that will make the cooperation between these two other Ministries possible.

The Housing Authority will carry on its many other services including loans for persons who want to build, renovate or buy their own homes, and we will be allocating a sufficient sum to provide for 300 or 400 of these. All in all over this financial year we are hoping to finance directly about 600 houses, and indirectly, that is by way of loans, another 300 to 400 houses. We are sorry that we are not yet able to tackle slum clearance, we hope that we will be able to do this soon but we find that the pressure for additional houses is so great that we have to give priority to this aspect of housing, that is, to provide new houses rather than to go in for slum clearance which entails the demolition of houses before we can

provide new ones. 5.20 p.m

I think it is well known that we are looking into the complete re-organisation of the Housing Corporation. Not so long ago this Chamber passed a new Housing Corporation Bill, and we want to look now at the administration of the Corporation because we want to make it more efficient. We have streamlined it for a good purpose. We have streamlined it not only to bring the two arms of housing together, but because we want to make the administration of housing a more efficient entity in our community. We feel that in so doing we will be able to cater to the needs of the community in a more efficient manner.

As regards the $50 million under Item 2, this will be revoted because the money was not spent during the last financial year. The $50,000 for the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company represents another instalment from the Government of Barbados to the equity participation in this Company. This, Mr. Chairman, is an agreement with the operators of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company that Barbados would put in an amount of $1/2 million over a period of time.

If I may interject here, Mr. Chairman, it is my view that in order to give housing the kind of push that it deserves, not only from the point of view of our Housing Corporation, but even to encourage the private sector to provide more houses, we may have to do a greater amount of planning. I have already announced that at some stage we will be going into a 10-year Development Plan for the Country, but it will have to involve mortgage loans, rates of interests, Savings and Loans Associations or Building Societies, because I believe that such things will act as a stimulus to housing in this Country.

With regard to Parks and Beaches-$401,000-I explained to this Chamber last year, the Parks and Beaches Commission has been doing a very commendable job, and the Commission will be concentrating this year on the King George Memorial Park. We have been trying to concentrate on a park at a time, and this year we are going to concentrate to a greater extent on the King George Memorial Park. Plans have already been prepared by our consultant architects, and we hope to accept these plans during the financial year.

We have not yet completed the work on Queen's Park House. As a matter of fact, we may not be able to complete the work at Queen's Park before the end of the coming financial year. We hope to complete this work in due course and proceed to the next stage in Queen's Park by way of providing a Bar and a Theatre.

This $401,000 includes provision for establishing an Under-water Park and so on somwhere off the St. James Coast, and it also includes beach facilities for Bats Rock and River Bay. The vote for Land Acquisition is virtually the same as last year. It is not easy to know exactly what properties should be acquired at any one time, but we feel that this is a reasonable figure, judging from the amount of acquisitions in previous years. We feel that this is the minimum amount we should include in the Estimates. As a matter of fact, in the 1971-72 Estimates we spent $1.8 million, and in 1972-73 we spent $3.8 million, but these amounts may not necessarily be repeated in the coming financial year.

Now, $15,000 has been provided for a Manpower Survey, and we hope to do that this year. The $2.25 million provided for Government Buildings, Mr. Chairman, is to begin work on two buildings in Fairchild and Probyn Streets: a 6 storeyed building and a 3 storeyed building, and this is nothing new.

So far as the 3 storeyed building is concerned, it will just be a question of putting another storey on the coral stone building that is there at the moment. These, Mr. Chairman, represent the Capital Expenditure of my Ministry during this financial year.

I move that the sum of $10,866,000 under Head 109-Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, as amended- stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, the Minister has dealt with the items seriatim, but I will not follow his scheme. I should like to start with mortgage, insurance, and one or two other matters and then return to the Housing Corporation. Now, Mr. Chairman, mortgages are very hard to get in Barbados by the standards of the outside world. We have heard an enormous amount of talk in Barbados about high interest rates; there is no money available, and so on. We are not even made aware of how difficult it is to get a mortgage here and how disadvantageous the terms are compared to mortgage financing in North America and in Europe. Now, 100% mortgages for house building are quite unknown in Barbados. Even the Housing Authority does not lend you 100% to build a wooden house. I think the Authority only lends 90%. Now, 90% mortgages are also, as far as I know unknown in Barbados. Very generally Commercial Banks in Barbados expect that the borrower is going to provide one-third security, or is going to raise one-third of the capital himself one way or the other either in the security of land, or the ultimate value of the average property. This is a practice reserved for the better known.

As you have seen, Sir, if there is one thing which can fuel economic expansion in an under-developed country it is the construction industry. If there is one thing that can spread income over the whole community, it is a really healthy and vibrant building operation. It has, in fact, been proved over and over again in innumerable countries that the country does better in the years when it is building hotels for the tourists than in the years when the hotels are built and the tourists are coming to them. 5.30 p.m.

They are the real benefits of tourism that have been seen since the War. Everywhere where this has gone on, it has been obvious. In Spain, the years that saw enormous economic expansion were the years in which the apartments were being built and the hotels were being developed. We have seen it in Barbados too. Now the Prime Minister has said that he expects $100 million in new construction next year. That is what I understood him to say during the course of an earlier speech, therefore it would be unreasonable to ask the Minister of Housing at this stage to aim for a big expansion in mortgage finance housing development in the forthcoming year; but I want to throw out these few remarks so that he can start working on them. Why can't he get a 90% mortgage from a Bank in Barbados? Why do the Banks want to lend money on the security of land, which in Barbados is going up at the rate of 5% every year according to the Prime Minister again, at a rate of 9% or more when in the United States the prime rate of interest is running around 6% and in Europe around 8)1/4%? Don't be fooled, Mr. Chairman, by all the Banks put out and tell you. If you want to borrow money, you have to pay 9% for it. Who thinks that that could be reasonable to borrow only 60% or 70% of what you need to carry out a house building project and pay that rate of interest for it?

It is time that something is done about the misery that Barbadians are put through to get mortgage

financing. It can never be repeated too often that it is a distorted form of development of the economy to lend people money readily to buy motorcars and refrigerators that come from abroad, but not lend them money to employ Barbadian carpenters, masons and contractors to build houses. The wage component in the building of a house must be at least half in these days in Barbados, and yet money will be lent out to employ workers as I have said in here before in Coventry and Yoko Hama but not lent out to employ workers in St. Michael and Christ Church, and the Minister of Housing must be one of the Ministers who keeps this particular kettle continually on the boil. It must be up to him to emphasise that his reponsibility for providing housing is not limited merely to what the Government can do, that he must view private housing, public housing and the construction industry generally as all part of one whole which is important to future economic activity in Barbados. The vote is only $50,000 at the present time, but I think what I have said is enough probably to give the Minister a chance to say something this year, but I would prefer to see him come back next year with some proposals on this particular Head.

Sir, I have never understood the item-Government Housing. Whatever Minister it is, whether the hon. member for Bridgetown or the member for St. Michael North-West. What Government Housing was provided for $183,000 year before last? I have never understood that either.

I would not like to say anything about Parks and Beaches. They are doing a good job so far. I could wish that persons other than those resident in the city of Bridgetown were given employment by the Parks and Beaches Commission, but I can understand the predeliction of its Chairman Land Acquisition and Government Offices, Items 6 and 8. Just in passing, I want to say I am glad to see the manpower survey is coming off after so many years. That is another thing we had in our election Manifesto that I have never myself seen in a Democratic Labour Party one, certainly not in the one for 1966.

Dealing with Land Acquisition and Government Offices together, I see an enormous amount of money here for phase I of the Fairchild Stree white elephant. When the Marine Hotel was bought for less than $2 million, I urged then on the Prime Minister to reduce the scale of expenditure at Fairchild Street. Just because you have National Insurance money it does not mean that that is a good reason for spending it. The National Insurance money can be used to lay the foundation for a national health scheme. Some of the money to my mind can be lent out through Government to mortgage agencies rather than lent out through the Bank. At least we would know that it would be lent out for house building and not for motorcar buying when that money is put in the Bank and then lent out by the Bank. We again are using the workers' National Insurance contributions to finance employment in countries outside Barbados.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES; On a point of explanation, the hon. member is right when he stated that some time last year when we acquired the Marine Hotel he said that we should reduce expenditure on the Fairchild Street project, and we assured him at that time that this is in fact what we are doing. The project has been reduced by three floors and I am sure that the final cost would be reduced almost proportionately. As far as the costings done by the Quantity Surveyors are concerned, more than $1 million have been knocked off the cost of thg project. We have not had any tenders submitted although tenders have been invited.

Mr. ADAMS:

Do I understand from that answer that the Government is proposing spending %21/4 million on building Government Offices and no tenders have yet been received and the Government does not know the cost of the offices? I am asking what the cost of the offices is. If you are voting %21/4 million, you

must have some idea of what the cost is going to be. You only need to vote $1.00 if you do not know what it is going to cost. Can he tell us what the Quantity Surveyor's costing is? if a reduced scheme in part is going to cost $21/4 million and I have never seen in Barbados a Quantity Surveyor's cost that is less than the tender, and this is phase I, what is this white elephant going to cost us in full? It was never necessary to have laid out the money that has gone to all good supporters of the Democratic Labour Party like Mies Roth well and the other persons who have received these enormous fees based upon a much larger structure. Engineering drawings for three extra floors with the additional elevator accomodation and foundation necessities cost proportionately more than it costs to remove the three floors. The Minister will know that your engineering problems increase more than proportionately as you go higher. Anyway I am hoping I will hear something about the costing when it comes.

Now, Sir, I am going back to Item 1- Housing Corporation, $7 million, and I understand that $10 million in all is going to be spent. Now, Sir, I do not know what to say to the Housing Authority and the new National Housing Corporation. The Bill to establish the new National Housing Corporation was passed although it was only circulated to hon. members on this side the day before, but we made a point to the Speaker and we cannot complain about that now. Anything designed to clean up some of what is left behind will have received some of our support, but the Minister cannot be insensible to the fact that the public is crying out now about what the Minister of Housing may consider as an old scandal which he is determined not to inherit, but which is concerning the public a great deal. 5.40 p.m.

I am suggesting that the public is owed an explanation of what the Auditor General called the irregularities of the Housing Authority before the House is called on to vote any more money, especially an increase, for financing a successive body to the Housing Authority. The Minister seems to think that he is in the position of an heir at Roman law who could disclaim his inheritance if he did not like it, but there is no such provision under the law of Barbados of which I am aware. Earlier on, I specifically said that it was the duty of the Minister and his Permanent Secretary if they read these reports to find out whether for example continuing situations referred to have been remedied, such as the situation of non-repayment of public officers' housing loans. I am also suggesting that the Minister must satisfy himself that never again will a house be built at the Housing Authority without any decision being taken by the Board itself without any tender being invited, that never again from nowhere will $7 million of the people's money be taken to repair houses which were subject to the regular maintenance programme year after year.

In 1970, I believe it was, we moved a Resolution in here and the Prime Minister got a lot of political footage out of one of the classic remarks of the last few years in Parliament, it was a Resolution moved at the wrong place, at the wrong time and for the wrong purpose and so on. He told us it should have been addressed to the Governor-General, but as the Prime Minister knows and as I believe every hon. member of the House who has looked it up knows, the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry has always been a political matter in Barbados even back in 1908 when the Act was passed. It was the Governor-in-Executive Committee then who had to appoint a Commission of Enquiry, this was changed to the Cabinet and even now the Cabinet has to advise the Governor-General to appoint a Commission of Enquiry, so the imanginary point that was made about the Resolution being directed in the wrong direction is so false as not to have been worthy of being put forward in this House at all. It has always been the case in Barbados that a Commission of Enquiry is appointed by those politically responsible for administering the Government. The Colonial Office could never have ordered it in the old days, it would always have been the members of the House of Assembly who were advising the Governor, not the

Executive Council, the Executive Council in 1908 had to determine on a Commission of Enquiry, and it is the Cabinet now. I can only accuse one or two of the hon. members sitting opposite of certainly being in the Cabinet and in the House of Assembly at the time, but I am very ashamed that persons who should have known better, persons who are both employees of this House and also active journalists should have lent their authority to this matter. What was the headline in the Advocate? "No Case to Answer against the Housing Authority", but the Auditor General did not find one or two, the Auditor General has found a whole report full of cases to answer. I am asking the Minister of Housing to use his influence in the Cabinet to reopen this matter and satisfy the public of Barbados by the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry.

Upon the last occasion, the Prime Minister informed me that if evidence was to hand that I should have sent it to him and let him deal with the matter. In other words, he was admitting that he had the power to make arrangements for a Commission of Enquiry, but the illogicality of the two statements was not marked on at the time. I am giving notice now I am going to write a letter to the Prime Minister and draw his attention to the Auditor General's report. I am going to state-the Press is not going to take this down, CBC is not going to take this down- I am going to state in my letter that on every occasion when a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee has been summoned and the item "Housing Authority" is seen on the Agenda no Democratic Labour Party member of the Public Accounts Committee has turned up and therefore no quorum has even been obtained. I am saying all that, I do not expect to see a word of it in the Press. The Opposition cannot form a quorum of the Public Accounts Committee, I would carry on the enquiry myself as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee with the assistance of the Auditor General, but we cannot form a quorum without the DLP members and none has ever turned up when the item "Housing Authority" has been on the Agenda. There is one member of that Committee of whom I have hopes and that is the hon. member for St.Michael West. He in particular would know the high ideals with which the Housing Authority was started by the Barbados Labour Party, he in particular would know the funds that were made available to start the Housing Authority and assist sugar workers, because they were the first persons who would have had opportunity of receiving loans, and if he remembers anything about those idealistic pioneering days he should be the first to come and assist in having this matter thrashed out.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Housing knows that this is not the only year in which the irregularities referred to took place, for the work was acutally going on during March, 1970 and it continued after. The person who is referred to as the Waterworks employee who received $750,000 went on to receive over $1,100,000. One million dollars of the people's money was paid out without a tender and without a contract and it was defended at the time, and a member of the staff of this house wrote in the Papers there was no case to answer. If I could deal with it at the Public Accounts Committee, believe me I would deal with it. I will try again but I am also going to write the Prime Minister. He has rejected certain of the evidence I offered him, I offered him photostats of delivery books of the Housing Authority showing delivery of building equipment to the building site of the then Minister of Housing at Stanmore Crescent, Black Rock and he said two things; one, that he had already taken this to Queen's Park and therefore he was not considering it, and the next day he brought a letter from the Minister of Housing's foreman stating that he got the equipment on his own account and the Minister did not know about it, so I do not believe that it would be easy for the Prime Minister to reopen that, and indeed I no longer have the copies, but the essential matters which are complained of in the Auditor General's report must, I submit, be adjudicated by impartial authorities who will say even more than the Auditor General has said, whether what the Auditor General has said is justified, whether it amounts to improper dealings

with public funds and so on. The Prime Minister offered to surcharge anybody who was found to be using Government equipment and so on, but as far as I know none of that has been done, all of it should be analysed and should be gone into.

There may have been one or two points made on the earlier occasion which I am not going over because I am not making this an occasion for a debate on the Auditor General's report, but I am giving notice of what I am going to do about it. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr, Chairman,l rise to reply and I want to make it clear that this is my reply. I was waiting for some considerable time and since no other hon. member has risen I am not giving way, I am now giving my reply to the motion that I have made. There is not very much for me to reply to in this regard, some of the statements of the hon. member for St. Thomas were tendered as advice and of course, he made the inevitable reference to the Auditor General's report. I should like to deal with one or two questions he raised. I tried to write them down but they were not really not very much. 5.50 p.m.

On the question of mortgages, Mr. Chairman, Government puts in by way of an agreement $50,000 a year as equity in the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. That is an agreement with the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company and that entitles the Government to a director on the Board on that Company, but this is not all that the Government has been putting into housing. In this year alone Government has provided $6 million for mortgages. Not all of these mortgages are in this Company it is true but a substantial amount of mortgages are in this Company. Now, $6 million has been taken from the National Insurance Reserve Fund, and that portfolio of investment is managed by the Minister of Finance He has directed that $6 million from the National Insurance Reserve Fund be taken out and used for housing mortgages in this Country, and some of it, of course, will be used for Public Officers housing loans.

The Barbados Mortgage Finance Company gives 9% mortgages up to a ceiling of $30,000. if the value is $30,000 then the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company is entitled to put in up to 9% of that, which is $2,700. If the value is less than $30,000, the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company will put in 9% of the amount. I feel that if a person wants to own a home, he should have been saving some of the money to put towards the house. I do not think that that statement can be disputed.

Mr. Chairman, it is not true to say that no financial institution in this Country is putting in as much as 90% of the capital housing development. In fact, it may be putting in as much as 100% of the capital cost of the house. The way in which these Finance Companies operate is that they provide about two-thirds of the value of the house. I think it is generally known that as soon as the house is constructed the value of the house is over and above what it actually costs you to construct. If a house costs you $40,000 to construct and the land costs you $10,000, it is quite possible that when the valuers are asked to assess the value of that property it may be valued at $70,000 or $75,000. That sort of thing is not uncommon and it happens all the time. In point of fact, one can get 100% mortgage on his house development. This has happened. I know it has happened to me.

With regard to the Government Offices, I want to make it quite clear that this is not all that the Government is going to spend on the Fairchild Street project. We have now provided $2.25 million, so when we come back next year for additional funds, I do not want it to be said that it was going to cost

$2.25 million. This project is going to cost substantially more than $2.25 million. We will be coming back for additional funds next year not to construct a White Elephant, because the Government does not construct such things, we leave that for the other side to do. We are coming back for additional funds to construct a project for which everybody will be proud.

We are borrowing funds from the National Insurance. (Asides.) Somebody has said to finance some foreign company. I do not know which foreign company the Government will be financing. Maybe the hon. member who made the statement knows about it. Perhaps he had some connection with a foreign company. I do not know who is going to get the contract, and I do not care to know. It is not me as the Minister responsible for Land, it is not the Prime Minister, or any member of the Cabinet who is going to award the contract. We have a Tenders Committee and the contract will be awarded by the Tenders Committee, and on that Tenders Committee no Minister of the Government sits. It is chaired by the Chief Supply Officer and, as far as I know, the members of that Tenders Committee are persons of some repute in the Government Service.

Mr. Chairman, I know nothing about financing any foreign company in this Country, and I want to make it clear, again, that we will be coming back for additional funds next year in order to complete the construction of the building. At this point of time, according to the Quantity Surveyor, the building is estimated to cost somewhere in the vicinity of $4 million, but we have to await the tenders. We know that $2 million is a safe amount to include in the Estimates, because we know it will cost a lot more than this. We hope that the work will begin in June, and we will be able to spend this amount of money during this financial year.

I should like to turn now Mr. Chairman, to the Auditor General's Report to which some reference has been made. Reference has been made to irregularities, and I gather from what the hon. member for St. Thomas has said that the idea of the new Housing Corporation is for the Minister to start anew. That, of course, is not material. What are these irregularities referred to? I have the Auditor General's Report in my hand, and I laid it on the Table of this House. With regard to the allegations made by the other side in the last Session, we now have the Report arising out of those allegations. The Auditor General carried out an investigation, and he has made a Report. He has not only made a report on where the money has gone, but he has made a complete Report in other respects. I want to look at these irregularities, because I want to have everything in its true perspective.

Mr. Chairman, two days ago in this Chamber we heard that the Auditor General's Report hinted broadly at what Barbadians broadly call "thieving". I want to deal with this Report, and I will read paragraph 15:

"As regards the expenditure of $350,000.00 it seems that the normal and accepted procedure of awarding the contract through the invitation of tenders was not adopted inasmuch as no evidence to that effect was produced for examination on request. According to the minutes of a meeting of the Board in this connection, the acting Manager said that the Honourable Minister was anxious to have one hundred and fifty (150) houses built by the end of March, 1970, but with the depleted staff this was practically impossible. A firm (named)....."

It is a pity the Auditor General did not mention the name of the firm ".....had offered to build houses at an

approximate cost of $6,500 each. A decision was taken at this meeting to award the contract to the firm indicated above to build one hundred (100) houses."

Mr. Chairman, if the allegation is that work at the Housing Authority was carried out without an invitation for tender or without the normal procedure for awarding a contract, then it is an indictment not only on this administration, but also an indictment of the Government of the Barbados Labour Party. This same firm which was given the contract to build houses for the Housing Authority at $6,500 was building houses for the Housing Authority since 1957 without a contract and without a tender. 6 p.m.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, this is nothing new at the Housing Authority; this was started under the administration of the Barbados Labour Party in 1957, and the same firm that is mentioned in this report.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of explanation, as regards the words which the Minister has read out and to which I referred "normal and accepted procedure of awarding the contract", is the Minister saying that it is not normal and accepted procedure to award a contract after tender? Is the Minister saying that the Auditor General is wrong in saying that the procedure is to ask for tenders?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I am saying that this same firm which built houses for the Housing Authority in 1969 and 1970 built for the Authority in 1957 without a contract, and he knows that is true.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I do not think much heat need be generated in this. There is no need for the Minister to say that a firm did it in 1957. The Auditor General's Report refers to the normal practice in 1970 which would indicate that some time between 1957 and 1971 we had the system of awarding contracts after tender.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I am not accepting any legalistic arguments in here because that is of no value but legalistic. What I am saying is a fact. No contracts were awarded by the Housing Authority before now.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, is the Minister saying that no contracts were awarded as a result of tenders between 1957 and 1970?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

That is not a point of order, but that is what I am saying, and to this same firm. It is not that this Government

came in and favoured this firm. This Government found this firm doing work for the Housing Authority for all the years and continued to give the same firm work. Let us get our facts straight. I am saying that it is a pity that the Auditor General did not name that firm It started to work first for the Barbados Labour Party. I will read paragraph 16 that you are asking me to read and I will comment on

it. I stand ready to read any paragraph. I am now asked to read paragraph 17(d), but I will read from section (c) which the hon. member read in this Chamber two days ago. I read:

"(c) According to the relevant minutes of the Board, quotations for repairs and decorating of houses would be invited from three persons (names), but evidence of such quotation was not provided for audit examination, and apparently no written contracts or agreements were entered into in the matter. The examination revealed that four persons were paid for the duties of repairing, repainting etc. A number of houses and requests in writing from three such persons were seen for an additional payment of i$ 100.00 per house with effect from January, 1970, over the agreed price. It was noted that payments were made on the basis of certificates signed by an Estate Supervisor employed by the Housing Authority. Such certificates read as follows: -

'I have inspected houses given out on

contract to Mr.....situate

at.....Road.....Housing

Estate.

I certify that the following houses have been properly repaired, repainted etc., in accordance with the terms of the contract.'

(d) A total of $966,600.00 was paid in favour of the four persons who were not normal employees of the Authority, although from available information it would seem that one such person has been an employee at the Waterworks Department and has, moreover, been advanced a loan under the Public Officers, Housing Loans Fund during the year. The payments were made in respect of repairs/redecoration of 1937 houses in the following proportions per person: -

(1) $753,000.00

(2) 89,500.00

(3) 87,500.00

(4) 36,600.00

$966,600.00

Mr. Chairman, 1937 houses were repainted or redecorated during the financial year 1969-70. The contract was for $500 but they were paid an additional $100 making it $600. I would invite any of those persons on that side to visit the Housing Estates particularly those built by them and see if they can get a house repaired or redecorated for $600, and if they can, I would be happy to get it done. Mr. Chairman, a sum of $600 was not exorbitant to pay for redecorating these houses. What the Auditor General is getting at is the methodology of doing it. He appears to hint that this should only be done by normal employees of the Housing Authority, but I do not know where he got that view. Maybe they had been

built in such a way that only those who worked on them between 1957 and 1961 knew how to repair them.

Mr. Chairman, four persons were given $600 each to repair and redecorate those houses, if you go and look at the houses, some of them need pushing down, not redecorating.

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, when the Minister says four persons were given, they were not given equal amounts. During the year under consideration one man got $750,000.

Hon. P. M GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, that is not a point of order. If he wants to make a speech, let him make a speech. 6.10 p.m.

I do not accept that a new person cannot work for Housing Authority, that you must be an old stager to work for Housing Authority, and that aspect of the Auditor General's report I reject categorically because it will not be pursued during my time of administration. I am making it quite clear that I will not definitely state that only persons who worked at the Housing Authority before can get work there. "A person who seemed to be a member of the Waterworks Department." He did not say he was a member of the Waterworks Department but let us accept that he was a member of the Waterworks Department, "and moreover he had a loan from the Public Officers' Housing Loan Fund." What does having a loan from the Public Officers' Housing Loan Fund have to do with doing work at the Housing Authority? If I had a loan from Manning and Company Limited should I not do work for them? What kind of rubbish is this?

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order, is the Minister unaware that there is an income limit on persons who may receive loans from the Public Officers' Housing Loans? That there was in the estimated cost of those houses a 25% contractor's profit built in at $400, and therfore if a man receives $750,000 on the Housing Authority's own estimation 25% plus out of that must have been profit, and should that man be qualified to receive a Public Officers' loan within the law?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, he does not understand what a Public Officer's Housing Loan is, anybody who is a public officer is entitled to a housing loan, he does not have to have any level of income. So long as a person is employed by the Government as a public officer, he is entitled to a loan, there is no means test for that. Permanent Secretaries get Public Officers' Housing Loans, so there is no limit, the fact is that you qualify when you become a public officer. I cannot understand people getting up and talking this kind of ignorance.

It was stated in here two days ago that a public officer was not repaying his loan, and it was also stated that he threatened the officers at the Housing Authority that if they took any money out of his salary he would take some kind of action. Mr. Chairman, coincidentally an officer came to see me the next

morning and I believe that is the same officer the hon. member is talking about. I cannot say the officer is mad, in fact I would not say that at all, but the officer works at the Mental Hospital. I do not know if that is sufficient justification for saying that the officer is mad. The officer had a loan from the Public Officers' Housing Loans, as is the practice, the officer signed a voucher for receipt of the money but no money was passed to the officer because all cheques for Public Officers' Housing Loans are sent to the Authority's Solicitors. His money was sent to the Authority's Solicitors and to this day that officer has not got the money, that officer had to go on to a commercial bank and borrow the same amount of money and is now paying back the Bank for that money, and his point is that he cannot pay the bank and pay the Authority when he has not received the Authority's money. If I were that person I would not pay that money either, but I had to advise him as a Minister to pay it. The Auditor General has made reference in his report to some unauthorised person handling funds of the Authority.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, in view of the information given by the Minister which he received from the Civil Servants, will the Minister refer that to the Director of Public Prosecutions for action to be taken on it?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, reference was made in this report to unauthorised persons having money from the Housing Authority, and I am sorry that the Auditor General did not name those unauthorised persons. The unauthorised person was the Solicitor of the Housing Authority to whom the Authority passed the cheques and who processed all the applications, and the Auditor General says that he is an unauthorised person but he does not name the unauthorised person as the Solicitor for the Housing Authority. That person has acknowledged this and has paid back a considerable sum to the Housing Authority. It is not the present Solicitor of the Housing Authority, that is all I will say, and that sum of money has been repaid.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have answered the charges which have been made on the other side, and I am very glad they were raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition because I was hoping that one of them would raise them and if they did not raise them, I would have had to urge one of the members on my side to raise them to give me an opportunity to say something about the whole matter. It is true that I would like to use this Auditor General's report as a guide for the future. We want to be able to run an efficient organisation, we have been behind in our collections in respect of rents but with regard to loans we have been making considerable progress. In fact we have been collecting arrears over a period of time and up to the end of last month we have collected $10,000 a month more in rent than we have been collecting previously. The maximum amount that we should collect in rents is $48,000 and every month we have been collecting very near $50,000, some of it towards arrears. We have set ourselves the target of collecting $1,325 million in the Housing Authority, and when I set that target they said it was too high and that we could not reach it, but up to the end of February we had exceeded it, we collected $1.36 million in rents, including arrears.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, does the Minister know off hand the total amount outstanding as arrears?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

It will be in the report anyhow so I can give you. The outstanding arrears of rents is about $11/2 million and in loans more than that, loans to sugar and general workers $2 million. We have been

making efforts to collect these arrears, our Solicitor has been prosecuting people for rents and for loans and we have been collecting both. The fact is that we have been doing more and more and we intend to do more. Next year the Housing Authority in domestic income, apart from sales, has to collect $2 million. Mr. Chairman, that is the case. 6.20 pan.

The question that the sum of $10,866,000 under Head 109 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour & National Insurance as amended - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G, MORGAN; Mr. HOPPIN; Mrs. EASTMOND; Hon. N. G. A. MAXWELL; Mr. MORRISON and Mr. WEEKES - 12.

Noes: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. FORDE; Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN - 4.

HEAD 111- OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE

Head 111 - Office of the Minister of State

- was called.

Hon. G E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of the sum of $103,287 under Head 111 - Office of the Minister of State - I should like to point out that Item 1 - Printing Office - $103,387 - represents a revote of the unspent balance of funds which were provided to purchase additional equipment and for the expansion of the existing printing office. It is anticipated that, on the completion of the extensions, firm orders will be placed for the purchase of the remainder of the machinery and the equipment in order to fully equip the Government Printery. That is the temporary extension which we are doing. In so far as the new Government Printery is concerned, we have selected a site, subject to the approval of the Minister of Lands, and we hope to make further progress with it very soon.

I beg to move that the sum of $103,287 under Head 111 - Office of the Minister of State- stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr, Chairman, I believe that the Minister of State would be able to tell us if the Building Extension Programme is progressing at all and to give us a Progress Report. We see that the sum asked for is exactly what had been asked for previously. We are still maintaining on this side of the House that it is not a question of stocking the Government Printery with machinery that will facilitate or expedite the printing that we in this House have to be interested in.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that there are some members of the Government who are not prepared to

accept, what is as clear to them as daylight, that, as long as the present arrangements exist where you have even in their plan the provision for giving the Government Printer two Deputies, and so on, it will not be the answer to the problem. We do not see that it is too difficult for us to have an experiment in our proposals to have Parliament printing attempted on the premises of Parliament. Let us do as much of it as we can here and rely as little as possible on the Government Printery. In other words, let us relieve them of some of their present work-load. That is all we are asking.

Mr. Chairman, we see and understand that it is only when we are in difficulties, and we stand on the Floor of the House and lay complaints that there is some shuffling, or hustling, here and there. It is only then that a specific request from Parliament is given the consideration that Parliament deserves. It should be given consideration not at one time but at all times. Parliament cannot get proper consideration under the present set up where the Government Printery has a big work-load for so many Departments and will never be able to measure up to all of these requests. We are asking the Government to consider what we have put before the House.

Mr. Chairman, you would be as happy as I would be when the day comes that a debate which takes place in this Parliament can be read by people in the streets, say, 7 days from the day on which it took place. In other words, at a time when it will have some relevance, or some meaning, that it could be understood and appreciated at the time when it is read. There is no point in my criticising the Government Printery any further. The question of the relationship among the staff; what some people think of the Government Printer, and whether or not he is qualified to be in charge of the whole phase of the operation have been mentioned several times, and it is no point in my repeating it.

I appreciate that the Government finds itself in a very embarrassing situation, but there is a remedy for it. If the Government wants to correct the situation, I would advise the Government to place a Printer at the head of the Government Printery who could command the respect of the printers working under him. He should be a qualified man who has been trained as a printer. 6.30 p.m.

I would advise the Government that if they have to spend thousands of dollars to correct the situation, they should have a trained printer placed at the head of the Government Printery and one who could command the respect of the people who are under him. If we find that the present Government Printer can assimilate the teaching that can be be given to him abroad, let us give him the type of course that is necessary so that he can command the respect of the other members of staff whom he has got to manage and instruct and direct throughout the course of operations, because the Government Printery is not an institution that is going to function for this year and not for next year; it is an institution for all time. I would urge that every consideration be given, Mr. Chairman, in Government's expansion at the Government Printery to make preparation there for the training of recruits in the graphic arts. It is time that the Government Printery stop relying on the smaller printeries and other places for meeting their demands as years come and go. It is not fair to those places and the sooner Government can address its mind to all of those things, the sooner we will begin to see a remedying of the situation in the long run.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to re-emphasis that what we are asking for is a revote of part of the initial sum which was voted in 1972-73. The amount then voted was $237,481, and we are asking for a revote of the unspent balance of $103,287, having already spent $134,194.

The points raised by the hon. member have been raised more than once and I have them noted, but I will assure the hon. member that the point raised in the first place that commercial printing should not be undertaken by the Government Printery, but that the Government Printery should concentrate on getting the Government's work done and seeing after Parliamentary debates and the urgent backlog which we still have, I quite agree with, although progress has been made and conditions are better than they ever were. I agree that commercial printing should not be undertaken and I will look into that.

On the point about parliamentary printing being done here, we will have to re-examine that. There was a Committee set up and recommendations were made. We will look into the matter again to see whether that is a feasible proposition.

As far as getting a trained printer is. concerned, that is a matter for higher authorities, but I guarantee I will look into the matters I can deal with, and I assure him that I will give him on the floor of the House and personally, the replies to these two important matters.

The question that the sum of $103,287 under Head 111 - Office of Minister of State -stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 112 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Head 112- Ministry of Legal Affairs - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this is our contribution to the Council of Legal Education. The agreement has been signed and the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs is looking into this matter, and this is Barbados' contribution to the setting up of the Council of Legal Education.

I beg to move that the sum of $47,195 under Head 112-Ministry of Legal Affairs- stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 110.- MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 110 - Ministry of External Affairs -was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving this Head, there are four items, the High Commission in the United Kingdom $98,000, the High Commission in Canada $6,700, the Embassy at Washington $22,000 and the Consulate General in New York $63,600.

I suppose hon. members would like to hear some explanation. As far as the $98,000 for the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom is concerned, the sum of $142,500 was voted in the 1972-73 Capital Estimates for capital works as follows: (a) $100,800 to renovate the official residence of the High Commission, to purchase kitchen equipment and to provide accommodation for household staff; and (b) $41,700 to renovate the Chancery at 6 Upper Belgrave Street, London, so as to provide additional office space. The work there is well in hand and is expected to be completed before the end of this financial year. The commencement of the work at Iverta which is the residence of the Barbados High Commission in the United Kingdom has been delayed for many reasons, some of them beyond our control, and only the sum of $12,260 has been spent, $6,500 for china, cutlery and such other equipment, and $5,760 on insulating the bedroom of Iverta for the winter. the amount of $98,000 which is now being sought in these Estimates is merely a revote In so far as the second item is concerned, that is, the High Commission in Canada, this sum of $6,700 is required for the following purposes $800 to redecorate the reception area of the offices, $1,200 for reconditioning the grounds to counteract earth slippage at the rear of the High Commissioner's residence, and $4,700 for air conditioning, painting exterior, repairs to patio of Councillor's residence and reconditioning of the lawn.

In so far as the third term is concerned for the sum of $22,000 for the Embassy at Washington, it is made up of $8,200 for paving parking area and construction of car park, $9,640 for renovation and repairs to porches and first and second floors of the chancery, $2,960 for completion of three bath rooms and reproduction from the chancery and $1,000 for contingencies. 6.40 p.m

I am giving a breakdown of these various amounts, but the sum of $63,600 is required for these purposes. 1 beg to move that the sum of $190,300 under Head 110 - Ministry of External Affairs - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed. Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, Clause 2 is amended by deleting the figure "$131,738,496" and substituting the figure "$132,473,306" therefor. On page 2, lines 5, 6 and 7 by deleting the words "one hundred and thirty one million, seven hundred and thirty eight thousand, four hundred and ninety-six dollars" and substituting the words "one hundred and thirty-two million, four hundred and

seventy-three thousand, three hundred and six dollars" therefor. I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended stand part.

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

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

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATES OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1973-74

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker, this a Resolution under section 10 of the Harbours Act to approve the Estimates of the Port Department. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.50 p.m.

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

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 3rd April, 1973, at twelve noon.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker, in seconding this motion, I crave your indulgence to permit me to pay a tribute the Officers of this Honourable House, especially the Shorthand Writers and the other Officers who have worked so diligently and conscientiously, to see that the business on this particular matter has been concluded within the period permitted by the Standing Orders.

I am sure that I express the view of the entire House, the Government as well as the Opposition, when we say that we are extremely

grateful to them for putting up with the asidesr the inconveniences, and other....

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order Mr. Speaker. Is it right for an hon. member to smoke a pipe in the Assembly at this time, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER. I see no smoke emitting from the pipe. I see that a pipe is in evidence, but I should hope that no attempt will be made to smoke it while I am here.

Mr. BOLDEN:
That shows the way the hon. member....

Mr. SPEAKER:
You have made your point.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker, I shall not be long. You will agree with me that when we have completed a sitting of this nature on a matter of this nature, it is but fitting that members should forget that the Officers are paid to do a job, and to express to them our sincere thanks and appreciation for the work which they have done under, in some cases, very trying conditions. I think you will agree with me that on an occasion like this, it is but fitting that we should do so.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I should just like to associate myself with the remarks as regards the staff of the House and the good job that they have done during the debates on the Estimates.

However, I should like to say that it is very obvious to all of us on this side of the House that there are certain Standing Orders which would need to be amended, and we would like to suggest that this be done at a later stage.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, I do not know what hon. members are trying to reduce this House to. The Officers are rightly paid for their jobs. The debates, so far, on the Estimates have been shorter than any of these Officers has experienced. I cannot compare any circumstances during these Estimates with what they have mdergone during the past. That is not the point I want to make, Sir. Who can say, up to this point, that the Officers have really done their work? Not one of us has been able to read a line of what has gone on during the ebates on the Estimates. For what are you praising the people? When Policemen do long hours of work the Commissioner of Police or any Officer does not thank them for the hard work they have done.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Speaker, there is just one comment I should like to make. This is the first occasion in which we have operated in Committee of Supply under the new Standing Orders of the House. I am sure there has been a lot of thrust in the debate, but I think it is only fair to record that the time limit on speeches should be reviewed very urgently, not with a view to prolonging the number of days allotted to the debate, but it is certainly very difficult under certain Heads like Education, for instance, to reply effectively or, indeed, to develop points.

I think the Chairman in Committee has been most indulgent on occasions, and we are indebted to him for that. I believe that in future, for the benefit of hon. members, when Your Honour sees fit to invite the Standing Orders to be properly consituted that we should look at this point in an effort to facilitate hon. members. In view of the fact that some Heads were passed very quickly, in five minutes, I believe, you will find that we were unable to make the contribution that we would have liked to make. I can think particularly of the Head of Education. It was particularly difficult to develop any point either for the benefit of the House or, indeed, for the Minister concerned. Anyway, we are indebted for the opportunity of having had as much latitude as we have had without abusing the scope of debate allowed to us.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, everybody has praised the Shorthand Writers and has said a lot. The person whom I want to praise, specifically, is Mr. Chairman. I am sure that Mr. Chairman realised that in dealing with the Estimates the supposed 15 minutes allowed to deal with a Head is certainly insufficient as far as the Estimates are concerned, and had it not been for his tolerance and his understanding of what we the

minority.....(Asides.) You can always tell when ignorance.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Carry on. This in itself is a latitude. The behaviour of members who are being allowed to speak on a motion is in itself a latitude. Please do not abuse it.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, we must compliment Mr. Chairman for having given us the indulgence, particularly when we reached a point and the time limit was up, to wind up and avoid having an incomplete speech which would make nonsense of the records in time to come. I should hope that the Standing Orders Comittee would see fit to call Mr. Chairman as a member, or to co-opt him as a member, when the time comes to have the Standing Orders reviewed. I hope that the time will come very quickly, because we cannot do justice to the Estimates if we are given only 15 minutes to speak on a Head. We can develop into a Parliament that people can take an example from but we must have enough time to speak and develop our arguments.

I know that the Minister of Agriculture has struggled within the limit of the Standing Orders to reply to the debate on Agriculture He took 55 minutes to introduce the Head of Agriculture, and he took 35 minutes to reply. I am sure that the Hon. Minister would have liked to have more time to deal with a burning issue like Agriculture. I, also, would have liked to have more time to deal with the issues. I hope that when the Standing Orders Comittee decide to review the Standing Orders that they will use the common sense of Mr. Chairman and increase the time limit for speeches.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I should like to associate myself with the laudatory remarks directed at the staff of the House and the Chairman of Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 3rd April, 1973, at twelve noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.55 p.m.