

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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

Tuesday, 29 th May, 1973.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.05 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B. (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E. (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc, Econ. LL.d. (Prime Mnister); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Mnister of Home Affairs); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES J.P. Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P. (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Mnister of Communications and Works); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. H. deB. FORDE, MA., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Mnister of Health and Welfare); Mr. A. MORRISON.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Honourable House for Tuesday, 8th May, 1973, are before you for confirmation, and if there are no amendments or alterations, the Minutes will be confirmed.

There being no amendments or alterations, the Minutes are duly confirmed.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Accounts and Statements for the month of June, 1971, as prepared by the Accountant General.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

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

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for one month ended 30th April 1973.

An Account of the transactions in Rumbin the several districts of the Island for the quarter ended 31st March 1973.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

A Bill to amend the Miscellaneous Controls Act, 1970.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

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A Bill to amend the Agricultural Aid Act, 1905.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. C. E. Talma, seconded by Hon. G. G. Fergusson, a Bill to amend the Miscellaneous Controls Act, 1970, was read a first time.

On the motion of Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, seconded by Hon. C. E. Talma, a Bill to amend the Agricultural Aid Act, 1905, was read a first time.

Hon. P. M Greaves entered the Chamber and took his seat.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re THE DEATH OF JOHN WESLEY CORBIN

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House is commenced, I wish to pay tribute to the late John Wesley Corbin, a former member of this House for the parish of St. Andrew, and also a former vestryman of many long years and a member of the Northern District Council.

Mr. Corbin or "Homie" as he was popularly known by many of us was indeed a very outstanding figure and a very likeable man. He endeared himself not only to the people of St. Andrew and the Northern parishes, Sir, but to the entire Island through his manner and love for the people wherever he went. He was indeed a kind, generous and loyal person and one who could be relied on in every respect. I speak from my personal dealings with him in that not only did I know him politically, but I also knew him in his private life.

The late John Wesley Corbin first entered the House in January, 1959, after the resignation of our present Minister of Communications and Works who was then representing the constituency of St. Andrew and resigned for a high legal office overseas late in 1958. The late Mr. Corbin actually came to this Chamber in 1959 and served until 1971 when the Session ended. He did not seek re-election under the single member constituencies, but I must say that from the time he entered the House as an independent, he fought a very gallant and successful campaign against both the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party and was successful in clearing the way and entering despite the opposition then. He eventually joined the Democratic Labour Party and served well, made a useful contribution and was a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology.

The late Mr. Corbin was a very kind man and well beloved in St. Andrew, and I know that his passing will be deeply regretted, in that he was not only a representative as such but a real and dear friend to the people in St. Andrew and to the working class people island-wide. I think he left a sister and some other relatives, and I know that hon. members will wish me to extend our heartfelt sympathy to his sorrowing relatives and we certainly regret his passing.

I beg to move that the following Resolution do now pass.

Resolved that this House place on record its profound sympathy at the death of Mr. John Wesley Corbin, J.P., a former Member of this House for the parish of St. Andrew.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his relatives.

Mr. Mottley and Mr. Bolden entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, in seconding the passing of this Resolution, I do so with heartfelt grief and the utmost sincerity. The late John Wesley Corbin was an inseparable friend of mine. I came into direct contact with him from the year 1961 when I entered this House. We were both appointed Parliamentary Secretaries on the same day, and the unbroken friendship and fraternal spirit which existed between us were, I believe, unique in this House. We sat together here and would at all times discuss any private matters of vital importance to the interest of the masses, as well as other topics of mutual interest.

The late Mr. Corbin came from among the masses, mixed with the masses, and toiled with the masses before he entered this House. You can therefore see, Mr. Speaker, that he was a self-made man. He knew the grievances of the masses and at all times expressed the feeling of the masses in this House. Through his hard work, fraternal spirit and dedication to the cause of the poor man, he won the respect of the constituents of St. Andrew. This was proven, Sir, beyond the shadow of a doubt when he ran for the House of Assembly as an independent candidate and defeated the candidates of both political parties.
12.15 p.m

Mr. Corbin was brought up under certain poor conditions and through no fault of his he was not given the opportunity to become a scholar, but his common sense and sound judgement in many cases exceeded those of some scholars. He will always be remembered in this House for his biblical quotations, his humour and his honesty of purpose. He has made his contribution in this Island and was

too big a man in mind to cherish the thought of being selfish. He has gone and we too must follow, and now that he has left us for a better world let us think of the words written by Charles Wesley, and I quote:

"Our brother the haven hath gained, Out-flying the tempest and wind, His rest he hath sooner obtained, And left his companions behind, Still tossed on a sea of distress, Hard toiling to make the blest shore, Where all is assurance and peace, And sorrow and sin are no more."

To his sorrowing relatives and close friends, and especially his sister who took care of him during his illness, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I join in this Resolution that has been moved by the Leader of the House. My first recollection of "Homie", as he was well known to all of us, was when I was still a student at Harrison College. One day I was having my hair cut in a barber shop not too far from this House, and there I sat as a young boy listening to the political arguments that were taking place when suddenly a man entered the barber shop. He was tall and was forceful in his speech, and in the ensuing political argument - I think it was late 1957 or early 1958 when the Hon. Minister for Communications and Works was still the sitting member for St. Andrew - in the ensuing political argument "Homie" got the best of it because one could see that he was a man of great dedication, that he possessed great sincerity and that he was dedicated to the cause of the working class people of this country.

A few months later, having met and seen him in the barber shop on numerous occasions after the first meeting, shortly before I left this country to go to England to further my studies, I think the member for St. Michael South Central resigned his seat and had left Barbados, and there was a bye-election. I well remember counselling my father who was then Leader of the People's Progressive Conservative Party, that the person whom I thought would win the seat in St Andrew would be John Wesley Corbin, but for some unknown reason my counsel and advice were not accepted and I was happy to read some months later when I was in England that this same man who had earlier impressed me with his sincerity, courage and dedication to the working class people of this country, had succeeded in defeating the might of the two existing parties, the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party. He had succeeded as an Independent candidate and I think that was his greatest moment.

Perhaps if one were to seek to assess his contribution in national terms as compared for instance with that of the member who represented St. Andrew with him, one may not be able to come to the same conclusion, but if one looks at it in terms of contribution at the parochial level no one can gainsay the fact that "Homie" made a tremendous contribution to the people of St. Andrew.

I join with the Leader of the House in expressing the sorrow and sympathy of the members of the Barbados Labour Party to his relatives and friends.

Hon A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I rise to join my colleagues here in extending my sympathy to the sorrowing relatives of the late John Wesley "Homie"

Corbin. Mr. Corbin as we would have heard before, was one of the politicians of this country who

dedicated his life to representing the poor people of this country. Not so long ago we moved a Resolution of sympathy in respect of another person who was dedicated to the poor and I think that as far as representation of the poor people was concerned, "Homie" was second to none. He served in the vestry for St. Andrew and in the Local Government Council, and in whatever capacity he served as a parochial representative he did yeoman service for the poor. He had established himself so greatly as a representative of the poor that with a lantern and without equipment he was able to defeat two organised political parties when he sought to represent his people in this Place. As a matter of fact, he was told in 1958 that he did not have to keep a meeting because he had already done his canvassing, and his canvassing was not going and asking people for Votes. his canvassing was doing something for the poor people not only of St. Andrew but all over the country. "Homie" was well known not only in Belleplaine and in Chalky Mount but even in Chapman Lane, wherever you turned everybody knew "Homie". Even the donkey knew "Homie", and he was always giving a joke about his passing a donkey on the street, and it brayed "Homie", "Homie", "Homie".

Because of his kindness to people he was always remembered by people whom he had helped. I happened to represent the same constituency he represented as his junior colleague between 1961 and 1966, and I also served with him as senior member between 1966 and 1971. 12.25 p.m.

I can say this about him: just as he predicted, it turned out. He was failing in health, and I can remember in 1961 his telling the people in St. Andrew to send a young man with him so that when he reached the steep part of the hill the young man would be able to push him over. He found that he needed help with his political work and the dedicated service which he owed to the people of this constituency primarily and the people of Barbados in general. He was getting older and not younger, but he still fought for roads, water and lights for the people. These were the things which meant something to the people in that area which he represented.

Now, I missed him at the end of last year more than at any other time. Towards the end of the year, because of the topography of the land in the Scotland District, "Homie's" role was to see that the cart tracks and roads were cut to enable the poor people to bring out their canes. Even when he had resigned his seat in the House of Assembly he continued to see that that was done. That was a burden taken off the shoulder of the then lonely representative, which happens to be 'Yours truly.

I would say that "Homie" went on his dying bed representing the poor people of this country. Perhaps he might have been limited in sophisticated phrases, but what he said could be understood. What he said came from his heart. Regardless of what one may say about his terminology, etc. he meant every word he said from his heart. He meant to represent the people and that is what he did.

Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said about many people, but very little more can be said about anyone in this country, as far as representing the poor people of this country is concerned, than can be said about the recently departed John Wesley Corbin. I take pleasure in supporting this Resolution which the House proposes to send to his sorrowing relatives, not because of the departure of a colleague, but I am pleased to be here to join in this debate on this Resolution to offer my sincere condolence to his sorrowing relatives. May he rest in peace.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I shall not be long. I think it is my bounden duty just to join with hon. members formally

in paying tribute to John Wesley Corbin. I think I can say that I, personally, have had a longer association with John Wesley Corbin, or "Homie" as he was familiarly called, than any other person in this Honourable House. I was raised in St. Andrew. I went to St. Andrew when I was 8; I am now 49, and I knew "Homie" for 40 odd years.

I remember as a little boy travelling and catching crayfish in Long Pond and picking mangoes at Lakes, and there was "Homie" to give some advice or consolation. That friendship matured, and, when in 1956 I was a candidate in the elections of that year, "Homie" gave me his blessing and his wholehearted support. Apart from my own personal popularity at the time, and apart from my own exertions and hard work, I think I was able to win over all the working-class people and humble folk "Homie", by his support, brought to my campaign which was victorious.

I have seen him during his illness. A few weeks ago I was doing something for him. Although I knew his illness was pretty serious, I had hoped and prayed that he might have lived to see the completion of a matter which I had undertaken on his behalf. A man, who has dedicated his life to his people, a man of humble origin, yet a man of integrity and honour, and a man who earned the respect of all classes, has passed on.

It is not very often that people of this nature receive the praise which is given, but it is a tribute to show that from the working class of this country and from humble folk - I wish to Heavens that more people would spring up to carry on the banner, because it is they who have suffered and who would know the pinch of the shoe. In my view this country needs a lot more working-class people who have suffered, toiled, and have won the race. May he rest in peace, and may the words which we have uttered in the Resolution which we should pass be some sort of consolation to his sorrowing relatives in their hour of greatest need.

Mr. MORRISON:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. John Wesley Corbin, deceased, but I want to pay a special tribute to Mr. Corbin as a common man of the people and as a grass-root man. In these days of political controversy, one is actually fighting, coming from low surroundings, to aspire to high political honours. As a matter of fact, there are some people in our society who would deny us the right to contest political honours. When one considers the career of Mr. John Wesley Corbin, a man who fought the might of two political parties and won, this is something characteristic, significant, and a memorial to the hopes and aspirations of all poor men in our society. Coming from a poor background; education inadequate and so on, one requires genius of character and heroism to have arrived at that height from where other fortunate politicians have started.

Sir, because of Mr. Corbin's great Christian virtues, his great faith in his own ability to contest an election, and his belief in the hopes and aspirations of poor people, in this country, I salute him as a very worth while son of the soil - A man who, by his very devotion to duty, has given the small man that degree of hope and confidence that his efforts will succeed provided his heart is in the right place. 12.35 p.m When it comes to loyalty, I do not think that anybody on my side in the Democratic Labour Party can boast of being more loyal and more dedicated to the role of the party than the late John Wesley Corbin was in his lifetime. That is quite a tribute for a man coming from those surroundings, a man who has stuck to his party beliefs despite whatever adverse criticisms might have come his way, despite what he would have suffered in his own lifetime. He stuck to the task of being a loyal and true member of the

Democratic Labour Party.

I met Mr. Corbin when I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and he gave me a few hints, and I was very impressed by his ability to quote from the Bible in support of his points. He made a very great impression on my mind as a young politician, and I would hope that the people of this country would take a leaf from Mr. Corbin's book and aspire so that we will have the highest and the lowest in the same place, because the highest cannot exist without the lowest, and that is the meaning of life and society in general.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to extend my sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Corbin. May he rest in peace.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I join with the other members to say something on behalf of the late John Wesley Corbin whom I remember as the junior member for St. Andrew. I knew Mr. Corbin and I believe many people who have had business to deal with in the Supreme Court or the Court in Belle plaine would have seen Mr. Corbin in his role assisting persons who did not fully understand what the court was all about. But I remember him most of all and I believe the memory of this great man will live with me for a long time, because when I first entered the House I would always look at the gentleman sitting in the seat which is now occupied by the member who has just sat down, and I remember that in the first heated debate we had in this Chamber the hon. member rose and made his speech and he said "Mr. Speaker, you must give us some latitude and some longitude, and also a little altitude." Later I said to him "Homie, those were some classic words", and he said, "Boy, you would not understand politics; let every side talk and you will soon get a conclusion which is good for all."

I believe this man understood what politics was, because he knew that although the two sides may have their arguments, and time might be prolonged, at the end of the day the issues would have been thrashed out to the benefit of the country and the two sides would then be happy. I shall always remember this incident because several times when Mr. Speaker would tend to rise to curtail the debate, Mr. Corbin who was the junior member for St. Andrew at the time, would rise to give him the warning of a little longitude and latitude to both sides of the House.

I extend to his sorrowing family my deepest sympathy, and I know that the people of St. Andrew would have missed a fighter for their cause. He never spoke very often in this House as far as I remember, but everytime he spoke he had some biblical quotations which would always put us in our places, causing us to understand that it is not always the beautiful words or the flowery English language which made politicians, but the man who understood what politics was about, the man who believed in the good of the people rather than in the good of a political party.

I remember one incident in which the hon. member stood up and spoke out clearly and disagreed with his own political party, and when we chided him outside, he said that he represented the people, he did not represent a party, and I believe that if most of us would adhere to this principle, if we can adopt his attitude now he has gone, politics would be all the better in this country.

I once more extend sympathy to his sorrowing family and to the people of St. Andrew.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker I should just like to wind up as it were the eulogies which have been delivered here today to a stalwart and former member of the House I do not think that anyone can come into politics on a better footing as it were and leave on a better footing than the late senior member for St. Andrew, and I say this because the former hon. member for St. Andrew came in here supported by the people, at a time when party politics was at its most acrimonious in this Island, when there were two strong political parties almost equally balanced at the time, not necessarily numerical in representation, but certainly in the support which they demanded from the people of the Island, and Mr. Corbin decided that in that atmosphere he was not in a position as an humble peasant proprietor to evaluate the respective merits or demerits of the claims which were being made to the support of the respective parties. He was approached by both the then governing party and by the party which I now have the honour to be President of, but at that time I was not, as far as I can remember, necessarily the Chairman of the party, and he said quite honestly that he would win his seat with the support of the people of St. Andrew, and I asked him why he was so confident of this, and he said it was very simple, you cannot stop the current. And this was a slogan in the campaign. He said "You cannot stop the current." That is a very symbolic, almost metaphysical, and a very telling kind of statement to make in political life, and what I think Mr. Corbin meant by that was that when the tide begins to flow in a certain direction no man can turn it back.

When on the floor of this House Mr. Corbin made his political decision, he repeated the slogan with which he had conquered two strong political parties, and one has only got to read the records of the debates of this Chamber when he said that he had sat here and that he had listened and he had studied the condition of man and that God had studied the condition of man, and that the former leaders had been weighed in the balance and had been found wanting, and he said also, because he was fond of biblical quotations, that God had shaken the tree, and he predicted the outcome of the elections, and he made a free and independent decision. I remember him also on the floor of the House giving his own version of the parable of the prodigal son, and he transposed it in a very interesting way, because he said it was that the prodigal man had two sons and that one of them produced and the other one deproduced 12.45 p.m.

That was a word which was not in currency at that time, but again Mr. Corbin was prophetic, because I pride myself in being a member of a profession called economists and it has now become part of the jargon of economists and almost a slogan in the Civil Service that people counter produce, in other words, they deproduce. What Mr. Corbin said on that occasion about the prodigal man was that the son we know as the prodigal son deproduced, and without in any way being acrimonious he likened the performances of the two parties to the two sons of what he called the prodigal man. Because of his basic generosity, his insight into those spheres of human understanding and activity that other people did not have either in the political arena or in the day to day transactions, whether in business or in social life, I think him in this sense a human genius. I do not attribute his political genius to the fact that he defeated two organised parties but to the fact that Mr. Corbin also knew when it was time for him to lay down arms, and he made an independent decision in 1971 that he would no longer continue in the political affray.

Again it must be a question of insight because 18 short months after the last election was held he has now been called to higher service. My only reason for rising is to show my appreciation and to join with all the other members, not to prolong the eulogies which have been already delivered, but I am a very

sincere

person in my dealings with people. When I admire a person I think I ought to say so whether he is alive or dead, and I prefer to tell him that when he is alive. Mr. Corbin knew that I admired him and I told him so when he was alive. It is not good enough to wait until people are dead to say these things. I have one consolation and those of us who are honest in our dealings will have a similar consolation that Mr Corbin knew that he was appreciated, because I told him so.

Mr. SPEAKER:

To demonstrate our unanimous passage of this Resolution let all hon. members be up standing and observe a moment's silence.

Members of the House stood in their places for one minute.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May he rest in peace.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW Mr. Speaker, I think that I can announce that the remains of the late Mr. Corbin will be interred at St. Andrew's Parish Church tomorrow afternoon. The service will take place in Belleplaine at 3.30 p.m after which the interment will take place at St. Andrew's Parish Church, and I am sure that all hon. members will wish to attend.

STATEMENT re FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to announce that it was my intention to deliver my Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for the year 1973-74 tomorrow afternoon, but in view of the arrangements which have been made, which I discussed with the former senior member for St. Joseph who is in charge of the arrangements, I have decided to defer the Budget Speech until Thursday, 31st May. The House I hope will convene at 2.30, and shortly after that, between 2.30 and 3.00, subject to the other formalities being completed, I intend to make my budget statements on Thursday afternoon.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 77 asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph is now ready.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. BOLDEN Mr. Speaker, on a point of information, I came in late but I have certain

questions to ask and I am wondering if with the leave of the House I could ask them later today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If it is the wish of the House the hon. member may ask his questions now. There being no objection leave is granted to ask those questions now.

Mr. BOLDEN:

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

1. Are the reefs in and around this country charted?
2. Are the various sewage pipes and waste water extensions from institutions and hotels which extend into the sea charted?

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, would the Minister state whether or not such charts are available to

- (a) the Harbour Police,
- (b) local boat owners, and
- (c) persons involved with operation of ships and other vessels in our coastal waters?

3. Will the Minister state:

(a) what damage has been done to boats operated by Harbour Police in the period January 1972 - April 1973 due to collision with reefs and/or pipes laid in the sea?

(b) the cost of repairing such damage during the relevant period?

(c) the nature and extent of damage done to any pipe lines extending from the land into the sea by boats during the said period?

(d) The length of time such damaged pipe line or lines remained unrepaired?

(e) Was there any ecological disturbance as a result of such broken pipe line or lines?

(f) If so what was the disturbance and its effect on sea bathers?

12.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister;

In view of the recent disclosures of the loss of mail from Seawall Airport, will the Minister state what plans have been made to erect and put into operation a sub post office at Seawall?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state how soon he intends to lay on the Table of this Honourable House regulations providing for the control of poultry in this Island as is provided for under Section 24 of the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act 1949.

Mr. Speaker, there are some other questions and amended questions which I would like to discuss before asking them. There are several questions which I have handed in and which, apparently, have not come back to me. I do not intend to ask certain questions today because there are some difficulties which must be straightened out. There is another question I have asked pertaining to motor vehicle batteries, which was handed in and it is not here.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not know if the Clerk at the Table is able to help the hon. member. I do recall that it was handed in at the last sitting of the House. I am informed that it was laid last Tuesday. At the last sitting of the House the question was put and the answer was laid.

ORDERS OF THE DAY Mr. Speaker:

Orders of the Day. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr, Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22,43, 44 and 47 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, subject to the rights of the Opposition to deal with any matter which they consider urgent and of public interest.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

LAND TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1973

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before us is to amend the Land Tax Act which was printed and circulated some

two weeks ago, but I did not proceed with it on the last occasion because there were certain amendments which I myself wanted to introduce. Most of them happen to coincide with some amendments which have been suggested by members on the other side. In view of the fact that some accommodation has been made in respect of the views expressed on both sides, I think we will find that the Act will be a lot easier to operate than it has been up to now.

Basically, the difficulty about Section 41 was that Section 41 as it was enacted provided that the title of the land could not be passed until the Registrar issued his certificate on the production of the necessary notices and other certificates from the Collector of Taxes that all the tax had been paid. The effect of this was that, if the Collector of Taxes was in a position that his records were not up to date, a bona fide purchaser and vender, who had done everything that they were expected to do, would be held up due to the lack of completeness of the records of the Collector of Taxes. There are other ways in which the intentions of the parties could be frustrated under Section 41, as it was enacted by Parliament. Therefore, as a result of representations being made to the Legal Department, the Attorney-General and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel had a look at the Act and presented the Bill which was introduced, printed and circulated, and which I did not proceed with because on the Attorney-General himself and my looking a little more closely at the Bill with some of the legal people on our side, we discovered that there were certain parts which needed clarification.

I indicated on the last occasion when the House met that I would not proceed with the Bill until the Attorney-General and myself had an opportunity to go into the matter. At that time the hon. member for St. Joseph handed me similar amendments which the members on his side had detected needed mplementation.

Well, I have the honour to inform the House that all of these amendments, with the exception of one, have been adumbrated by the new amendments which have been put forward. The Bill will now read, instead of "The Registrar shall not record any conveyance.....",

41.(1) The Registrar shall not stamp as duly stamped or as not chargeable with any duty under the Stamp Act, 1916 any conveyance of land or any lease of land for a period exceeding 3 years unless there is produced to him -

(a) a valid certificate issued by the Collector -

(i) Certifying that all tax due on the land has been paid or that no tax is due on the land,

(ii) bearing the date of its issue, and

(iii) stating a period from the date of its issue for which it shall be valid;....."

Then all of the other amendments, as far as I am concerned, are consequential amendments which have been found necessary to incorporate in these new amendments.

Mr. Speaker, there is another amendment to Section 47(1) which is repealed and the following substituted therefor -

"(1) All rates due and payable under the Local Government Act, 1958 which immediately before the commencement of this Act remain in arrear and unpaid shall upon such commencement -

(a) be deemed to be tax due and payable under this Act;

(b) be subject to the penalty and rate of interest provided in respect of tax by paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 28(3) of this Act; and

(c) be recoverable in accordance with Part VII of this Act"

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to see that the other side can, at least, accept recommendations from this side. As the late member for St. Andrew would have said, after long debates and arguments things usually come out for the good of everyone. The amendments are now in keeping with several of the amendments which we have suggested to the Hon. Prime Minister, and they have now been incorporated in the Bill. 1.05 pjn.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr LOWE in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 be deleted and the new Section 41(1) be substituted therefor.

Hon. G. G:

FERGUSON I beg to second that.

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

Hon C.E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 as amended stand part.

Hon. G. G, FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Clause 3 was called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman. I beg to move that immediately after Clause 3 the new Clause 4 as circulated be inserted.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without diviston

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the new Clause 3 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the existing Clause 4 be renumbered Clause 5.

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 Clause 5 stand part.

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 existing Clause 5 be renumbered Clause 6.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that Clause 6 as amended stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendments, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly. 1.15 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill as amended was read a third time and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting, subject to any matter of urgent importance which the Opposition may care to deal with.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, there are no real matters of urgent importance under Private Members' Business we wish to deal with today, the only matter is that we would request that Question Time be now taken ..

Mr. HINDS:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 77 which stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that due to the increase of traffic in the country, children going to and from school find it difficult to cross the road? If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister in order to preserve the safety of life, provide pedestrian crossings and/or crossing lights on the following roads

Constitution Road next to Queen's College; Martindales Road next to St. Michael's Girls School; Six Roads, St. Philip, next to Princess Margaret School; Waterford Road, St. Michael, next to Combermere School; Roebuck Street, next to Modern High School.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is as follows

The regulation of traffic in the vicinity of the schools through the use of (a) pedestrian crossings, (b) traffic lights and (c) traffic wardens has been discussed by the Ministry and Departments of Government concerned. The needs of the schools however vary, and this factor is being taken into account in deciding on the best means of control to be adopted in each case. The needs of other schools are also being considered, and action will be taken very shortly.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday, 31st May, at 2.15 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second

that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the customary arrangements for allowing the

Opposition to have equal broadcast time as the Prime Minister will be made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Because of the time of the day I do not think it will be possible to broadcast the speech live, but arrangements will be made for the speech to be recorded and broadcast on Thursday afternoon at some time to be announced. The Opposition will then have an opportunity to have their speech similarly recorded and broadcast for a similar period of time at a similar period of listening time. Those are the arrangements which will be made, but I hope they will not be like sheep without a shepherd.

Mr. MOTTLEY. Mr. Speaker, there is also one more point I wish to make. I wish to draw to Your Honour's attention page 79 of the Standing Orders, Rule 6, where it states: "Where a Select Committee does not report to the House in the period set out in Standing Order No. 61 (5) the House may commit the Bill to a Committee of the whole House and the Powers of the Select Committee in relation to that bill shall cease." I believe that this refers to Standing Order 62(5) because Standing Order 61(5) deals with the premature publication of evidence. I do not know what directions you will give, Sir, to have it changed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not sure that this is the correct way to go about it.

Mr. MOTTLEY; I just drew it to your attention so that you can take the necessary steps to have it amended.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is left to a decision of the House.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

It is a typographical error but there are Bills on the Order paper which have been sent to Select Committees and for which no reports have as yet been given.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am deeply grateful to the hon. member.

The question that the House do now adjourn till Thursday, 31st May, at 2.15 p.m was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 1.25 p.m