

THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 6th November, 1973.

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA. C.B.E., (Acting Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P. Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr.

E. D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., 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); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A.(Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Honourable Chamber, for the 11th July, 1973, 16th October, 1973, 23rd October, 1973 and 30th October, 1973, are before you for confirmation, and unless there is any objection, these Minutes will be confirmed.

There being no objection, these Minutes are duly confirmed.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay Message No. 2/1973 from His Excellency the Governor General to the Honourable the House of Assembly - The Message reads

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Scott, he will be absent from the country from the 8th to 15th November, 1973 on a short visit to Britain to attend the wedding in London on the 14th November of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips.

2. Under the provisions of section 30 of the Constitution the Honourable Sir William Douglas will be appointed to be Governor-General's deputy.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

1. The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1973.
2. The Training Report for the year 1st April, 1972 - 31st March, 1973.
3. The Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1973,

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

1. A Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1973. and
2. A Resolution to grant the sum of \$49,805 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1973-74, Part I -Current, as shown in the

Supplementary Estimates 1973-74, No. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution

The Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Gall Hill, Christ Church, for the purpose of constructing a road to connect the Gall Hill and Silver Hill Housing Areas.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

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

The Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1973."

BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Hire Purchase Act, 1959.

Also a Bill to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1966.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. MOTTLEY:

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

RESOLUTION RE BROADCAST OF DEBATES AND PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS

WHEREAS there is need for a wide dissemination of political ideas;

AND WHEREAS there is no proper coverage by the media of Debates in the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to involve the people in the politics of the country at all levels;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House appoint an all party Committee to make recommendations on the broadcast of Debates in the House of Assembly and Party Political Broadcasts in general.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware that the Public Bath and Latrine in the Pondside and "The Concrete" in King William Street are in a state of disrepair?

2. Will the Minister take immediate steps to have this situation remedied?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware that there is a utility pole on the playing field in the Farm Housing Area?

2. Will the Minister take steps to have this Pole resited?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Will the Minister state :-

(a) The number of male and female pigs, cows and sheep slaughtered monthly at the Abattoir during the period January 1972 to September 1972 and January 1973 to September 1973?

(b) The net weight recovered from each category of animal slaughtered during the relevant period?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-Mr. BOLDEN Will the Minister state-

1. The monthly number of hatching eggs imported into the country during the period January 1972 to September 1972 and January 1973 to September 1973?

2. The number of pounds of poultry meat produced monthly in the country during the relevant periods?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state:

1. the number of persons in the age groups 16 -21 years, 21 years and over who are listed on the register with the Labour Exchange during the period of June 1972 to September 1973 as being unemployed;

2. the number of persons placed in employment during the relevant period;

3. the percentage of employable population which is now unemployed;

What steps are being taken by the Government to increase the employment possibilities in the country?

Mr. EDWARDS entered the Chamber and took his seat

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

In view of the statement made

(a) that Guyana's rice crop will be short by 50% through heavy rains and/or spoilage and;

(b) that the price of rice paid to the Guyana rice farmers should be increased;

Would the Minister state:

what steps have been and/or will be taken

1. to secure adequate supplies to this country during the next year;
2. to increase the volume of rice held in stock over the relevant period and
3. to ensure regular and even distribution of this commodity to all consumers?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state whether or not the Government has abandoned its plans of carrying out repairs to public tenantry roads?

If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state how soon Government intends to carry out repairs to Blackman's Tenantry Road in the parish of St. Joseph?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state what steps have been taken to date to provide St. Joseph with a community center and a public playing field with all the necessary equipment?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister;

In view of the current and future food shortages which are likely to occur throughout the Caribbean area during the next year and the need to increase our agriculture production, would the Minister consider the removal of all duty and other taxes now levied on fertilisers, grass and weed killer chemicals and pesticides for agricultural use?

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat. 12.20 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

(a) Is the Minister aware that diesel fuel is likely to be in short supply during the next 2-3 months?

(b) That any such shortage will seriously affect the fishing industry of the island?

Will the Minister state:

What steps are being taken to ensure that fishing boat owners will be able to obtain their fuel supply of diesel over the next six months?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To ask of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that with the increase in the number of farm animals in the country there will be a heavy demand for feeding matter?

(b) Is the Minister aware that Alfalfa is one of the richest grasses in food value for livestock?

Would the Minister state: (a) what steps are being taken by the Government to improve and increase the fodder grasses in the country?

(b) Have any trials been carried out on Alfalfa grasses, if so what are the results of these trials?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

In view of the number of dairy cattle imported in the country during the past five years:

1. Would the Minister state what steps are being taken to increase the number of Veterinary Officers attached to the Ministry of Agriculture?

2. Would the Minister consider the employment on a part time basis of those Veterinary Surgeons residing in the country who are willing to assist farmers in veterinary work?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state:

(a) The number of Co-operative Societies registered with the Department of Agriculture?

(b) The number of members registered with each of the organisations?

(c) The dates during the last six years when tire accounts of each organisation were audited?

(d) The dates during the last six years when the audited accounts were published?

Would the Minister consider setting up a committee to investigate and report on the operations of these Co-operative Societies?

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that for several weeks many individuals and businesses in the Country have been unable to obtain fresh milk?

Will the Minister consider carrying out an investigation into the milk industry to find out the following:-

(1) The quantity of fresh milk required for national consumption during the period 1st November, - 31st March, 1st April - 31st October yearly?

(2) The quantity of (a) skimmed milk (b) condensed milk imported into the country during the relevant periods?

(3) The quantity of milk produced in the country during the same periods?

Mr. SPEAKER:

A single question standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. EDWARDS:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) in May this year, local hatcheries have propagated \$189,000 worth of broiler chicks?

(2) that a survey by the Ministry of Agriculture revealed that the local consumption of poultry, excluding backs, necks and wings can be satisfied by a montly propagation of \$176,000 worth of broiler chicks and that this figure includes substitution for legs, thighs and breasts by quarter chickens and also the thousands of pounds imported monthly for Kentucky Fried Chicken?

(3) the poultry farmers are experiencing financial difficulty and are in need of protection?

(4) the Agricultural Credit Bank has for some time now been chary of making loans to small poultry farmers on the ground that the economics of operating small poultry farms could not be justified to the bank?

In the light of the above will the Minister (a) make a statement on the position of the poultry industry in Barbados?

(b) assure the poultry farmers that markets will be found for their produce at economic prices to them?

(c) take immediate action for the establishment of a central poultry processing plant especially for the benefit of the small farmer?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Questions standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. George North.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware that money due to Sugar Workers from the Provident Fund has not been paid for at least four (4) months?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister investigate this matter and take the necessary steps to remedy the situation thereby relieving the suffering of the sugar workers?

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works

Is the Minister aware that (1) the Bairds Village Road in the parish of St. George, which links up Mddleton to Drax Hall is the only means of communications; (2) the said road poses a threat to pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic due to its bad state of repair?

Will the Minister take appropriate action to have the necessary repairs done to the abovementioned road at the earliest opportunity?

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology

Will the Minister take all the necessary steps to ensure that the owners and Managers of plantations in Barbados plant a greater percentage of acreage of the arable plantation land in food crops?

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works

Is the Minister aware of the fact that the residents of Bridge Cot in the parish of St. George are without water for several hours daily?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister take all the necessary action to improve the situation?

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works

Is the Minister aware that there are numerous street lamps in the parish of St. George, and other rural areas that do not burn at night?

Would the Minister bring this fact to the attention of the appropriate authority so that the necessary corrective action may be taken?

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, can the Leader of the Government indicate whether there will be a general election very soon?

Mr. SPEAKER:

You are completely out of order and you know it. Questions standing in the name of the hon. Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr.- Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware that street lights are needed in Bedford Lane and Gill's Road in the City of Bridgetown?
2. Will the Minister take the necessary steps to remedy this situation immediately?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. How many National Development Scholarships have been awarded by the Government?
2. Will the Minister state (a) the subjects for which scholarships have been awarded (b) the number of persons who were awarded scholarships in each subject?
3. Will the Minister state whether any survey has been carried out to see the needs in respect of each subject?
4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the affirmative, will the Minister cause a copy of the report to be laid in the House?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is it the intention of Government to provide a pavilion and Cultural Centre for the residents of New Orleans?

2. If the answer to No. 1 above is in the affirmative, will the Minister state when?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware of the need for proper drainage in the New Orleans area of Bridgetown?

2. Will the Minister state what steps, if any, the Government proposes to take to remedy this situation and when?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware of the need to provide proper roads in Chapman Lane for the residents of the area?

2. Will the Minister state whether the roads in Chapman Lane are included in the road building programme for 1973-74?

3. If the answer to (2) above is in the negative, will the Minister state when the Government will provide proper roads for the residents of the area?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

1. Is the Minister aware of the need to provide proper housing for the residents in the City of Bridgetown especially in the areas of Chapman Lane, Bulls Alley, Cat's Castle, Hutson Alley,

Greenfield, Lightsfoot Lane, Church Village and Nelson Street?

2. Would the Minister state (a) what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to alleviate the situation (b) how soon does the Government intend to take such steps?

3. Would die Minister state whether there are any funds provided in the Estimates for the year 1973-74 to improve the housing of the residents of the City of Bridgetown? 12.30 p.m

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state the number of persons at present registered to vote in each Constituency?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

1. (a) How many children attend Grammar Schools?

(b) Would the Minister state the number at each school?

2. (a) How many children attend Comprehensive schools?

(b) Would the Minister state the number at each School?

3. (a) How many children attend Private Secondary Schools?

(b) Would the Minister state the number at each school?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Hire-Purchase Act, 1959, be now read a first time.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1966, be now read a first time.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I have not consulted with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, but we propose to continue along the pattern which we have been following. We will do Government Business, and then consider the "No Confidence" motion.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 6

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

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. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 16

RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$90,000

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, we will proceed with Item 1.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

The Resolution for the sum of \$90,000 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$90,000. It is a new Item under Capital Estimates of the Ministry of Education, and, as the Addendum to the Resolution states, the Barbados Workers' Union is undertaking the construction and establishment of a Labour College on an area of land at Mangrove, St. Philip. The Government is proposing to contribute the sum of \$90,000 B.C. towards the capital cost of the project.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is well known that the development of human resources constitutes the greatest economic input that a country such as this one can make towards the total national development, because in the absence of national resources in abundance, we must concentrate on our people and make them as efficient as possible in terms of the economic and social activities which they carry on from day to day.

This Labour College proposed by the Barbados Workers' Union, and on which construction work has already commenced -I believe it was on the 23rd August of this year that I had the privilege of participating in the ground-breaking ceremony - as the Union has advised the Government, is for the purpose of carrying out an adult education programme and for providing subjects on a curriculum which will include the history of the labour movement, collective bargaining, leadership training, introductory economics, co-operatives, industrial relations, social security, job evaluation, financial management, and

a number of other courses which will be of importance to the workers of this country. No one will gainsay the need for an efficient labour force.- one which is dedicated to the concepts of productivity, hard work, a fair day's work for a fair day's wage; one which at the same time is conscious of its rights and responsibilities and is able to ensure that harmonious industrial relations are present in this country.

The Government already makes a contribution .towards private educational institutions in this country at the secondary level where salaries of some teachers in Approved Schools are provided; where subventions are given towards the educational activities of these Approved Independent Schools, and where bursaries are provided for students to attend those schools. At the tertiary level, through the Industrial Development Corporation, the Government makes financial contribution towards the work of the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity.

I expect that the Barbados Labour College will be to the workers what the Institute of Management and Productivity is to the employers. In other words, while the employers of those in management positions in this country get training within the framework of the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, the workers of this country will get their training through the Labour College being established by the Barbados Workers' Union. It is for these reasons, Mr. Chairman, that the Government proposes to make a capital grant of \$90,000 towards the cost of the construction of the Labour College which is estimated at some \$783,433. 12.40 p.m.

It should be noted that the Government also proposes to make an annual subvention of not more than \$10,000 towards the recurrent cost of this Institution, and the recurrent cost is estimated at approximately \$92,800, and in terms of additional assistance to this Institute, it should also be noted that by an Order made under the Customs Act of 1962 on 24th March, 1970, all articles and equipment imported on behalf of the Barbados Workers' Union for this college and not intended for sale afterwards, are imported free of customs duties.

In making this type of commitment, and in agreeing to provide the financial assistance which I have just outlined, the Government has indicated that a number of places in the Institution should be made available to Government employees, in as much as it is considered that some of the courses offered would be quite suitable for employees of Government, and has indicated also that a place on the Governing Body or the Board of Management of the College should be made available to a Government representative from the Ministry of Education; and I am happy to say that the Union has accepted these two requests.

I, therefore, Mr. Chairman", have very great pleasure in proposing this measure for assistance to this

College to this Honourable Committee, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, in seconding this motion, I too should like to say that I am very happy to see that the Government is making a contribution to a workers' institution. We have other institutions of higher learning to which we also make contributions and invariably it is the middle class and sons of working class people who also benefit from that contribution; Slid anything that the Government can do to improve the quality of the education of workers and make industrial relations more meaningful, and educating, people to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay is certainly commendable.

I want to make another suggestion. We find that in Trinidad there is the Cipriani Labour College and in Guyana the Critchlow Labour College. I hope that this College in Barbados will be called the Sir Grantley Adams Labour College because I feel that his contribution to the Trade Union Movement over 17 years should be perpetuated, and I think that as the Government has put him on the currency, he should be remembered by means of this Labour College because I think that one of his greatest contributions has been in the Trade Union Movement in Barbados. We have had our political differences, and we may have differed on the score of politics, but I think that the strength of the Trade Union Movement today, its stability and its contribution to the economic progress of Barbados is due in no small measure to the contribution made by the late Sir Grantley Adams in seeing that they started out on the right foot. I hope that the workers have the guts to demand that it be called the Sir Grantley Adams Labour College.

I honestly feel that we in this country must begin to pay tribute to those who have contributed to the development of Barbados. I did not wake up one morning and find Barbados here. Over the years all sorts of people of all colours and creeds have contributed to the development of Barbados and we must begin to pay tribute and acknowledge - whatever our political views may be - that people other than ourselves have contributed to the development of Barbados, and I am asking the Union in a full sense of responsibility, in naming this Institution, to consider whether as a matter of magnanimity, a sign of bigness, a sign of approbation, the appropriate name for this Institution should not be the Sir Grantley Adams Labour College.

If this is done, then this Institution would not only gain, as far as I am concerned, the approbation of this Honourable Chamber, but of the entire community, but will be a token that we in Barbados are prepared to pay tribute where tribute is due and to acknowledge, in the various fields, contributions made by our national heroes.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must first of all say how pleased I am to find it coming from the hon. Member who has just sat, a Minister of Government, making the suggestion as to the naming of this Labour College. I believe that that could also be said by any of us here at any stage, because it is common knowledge that the working class movement - or you may even put it in this way - that the workers came to life in this country under the late Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, and we cannot be small at all times. We have got to do what is fair and just at some stage of our lives, and in this particular instance I feel that if the suggestion thrown out by the Hon. Minister is taken into account it will enhance the good name of the College and go a long way in bringing the workers steadily along the path which he set for them as long as 1937, a year which means so much for all of us here.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that this Labour College will not be seen to degenerate into just another academic institution in this community. We look forward to the establishment of this Labour College to bring the teaching of the dignity of labour. We look forward to the Labour College placing a very considerable emphasis on the cultural side of the life of people in the manual occupations, and I hope, Sir, that it would serve to develop the personality of the worker himself so that he would no longer be ashamed of the task that he is performing as long as he very well knows that he is giving an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

I am sure, Sir, that each and every Member on this side of the House, and indeed of the whole House, would be glad to know that we are going to have an Institution of this sort in our midst. We welcome what the Hon. Minister of Education has had to say with respect to Government workers, but we feel that when the idea of the Institution came about nobody was so silly as to think at any stage that it would not be open, or that its doors would not be thrown open to all members who are represented by the Barbados Workers' Union in the various occupations. 12.50 p.m

I hope, Sir, that the Labour College will be one of the institutions that will teach workers not to glory further in the idea of masters and servants, that it will not make each worker to feel that because he is a master of the task which he is performing, that he is not to be subjected to the other discipline of some head of department or some head of a project whichever it may be; but we do hope that the Labour College will perform a very important role and that it will fill a true need that exists in this community amongst the working class people particularly, and we hope to see that it fills that need to the benefit of industrial relationships and all that goes with it for the benefit of this nation as a whole.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 18

A Resolution for the sum of \$59,280 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

M. Chairman, this Resolution for the sum of \$59,280 as the addendum states, is in order to meet Barbados' share of the estimated cost of \$270,000 Jamaican dollars to permit the University of the West Indies to engage architectural services in respect of an application which it proposes to make to the Inter-American Development Bank in connection with expansion projects at the University of the West Indies. Over the past three or four years the university and its committees have been giving consideration to the question of expansion in the several faculties and institutions which make up the university, in order to ensure that that institution can more readily meet the demands for trained man power at that level made upon it by the several contributing territories, and a number of areas for expansion have been identified in the fields of medicine, engineering and agriculture, in the fields of tourism and hotel management, and in the development of research programmes, in order to ensure that the university itself would have a steady supply of quality staff to carry out its programmes.

Other areas for expansion indicated are librarianship at Mona and St. Augustine campuses as part of the general degree programme, Biology and Zoology to full degree level at the Cave Hill Campus, training programmes in accountancy at St. Augustine and Mona, and training in the languages, and the establishment of the audio-visual centres as well as courses in publicity media and in the development of public relations. These are programmes which have been, as I said, discussed and given general approval within the councils of the university in order to provide trained man power to the region as well as to meet the demands of the young people in this region for opportunities for higher education within the region.

Barbados' share of the cost of the architectural services necessary to prepare the application for submission to the Inter- American Development Bank works out at some 9.1600 per cent of the overall cost of the project which is estimated at some \$270,000 Jamaican dollars. Normally the contribution of this country would be 8.0395 percent but certain contributing territories have indicated that they are unable to make any contribution towards this particular expenditure and hence the costs for this particular project have been distributed between the Governments of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados, with Jamaica paying a sum of \$137,754 and Trinidad and Tobago \$170,514. Those are Jamaican dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I am certain that this measure will meet with the same ready approbation on both sides of this Hon. Committee. We in this country are committed to the regional university and we wish to see it continue as a vibrant institution, and expansion is part of the progress of development of a vibrant institution. I am therefore very pleased to commend this Resolution to this Hon. Committee and beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74

No. 17

A RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$155,798 WAS CALLED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$155,798 out of the Consolidated Fund. This is an omnibus Resolution and it deals with the Governor-General, the Services Commissions, the Cabinet Office and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. 1.00 p.m.

In moving the passing of Head 1 - Governor-General - Item 17 - Furniture and Fittings in the sum of \$3,350, I think the note explains it, but the position is simply that the provision of funds is requested to allow the purchase of 15 stacking, tubular metal chairs, and 12 folding metal tables to be used at tea parties and other outdoor functions such as investitures, presentations and similar functions. From time to time it has been difficult for the Governor-General and his staff to obtain suitable chairs for such functions.

In the case of the lawn mower, it was found to be unserviceable by a Board of Survey.

I beg to move that the sum of \$3,350 under Head 1 - Governor-General - stand part.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 2 - Services Commissions - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

In so far as these Items are concerned - Items 21, 22 and 24 - it has been found necessary and expedient to have more or less a full time Chairman of the Public Service Commission. He is called on to work for about six or eight hours everyday and he has additional duties to perform over and above his normal duties in presiding over meetings of the Public Service Commission. Certain powers and duties have been delegated to him and it is necessary for him to be a full time officer.

If hon. Members would like me to give them a run-down of his additional duties, these would include the power to make acting appointments to offices held by heads of departments and other offices above the level of Assistant Secretary, excluding the offices of Director of Finance and Planning (Permanent Secretary) and any other office carrying the same salary as Permanent Secretary. He has also the power to make appointments to the posts of Senior House Officer and Registrar, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Mental Hospital in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer and the Hospital Director or the Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital as the case may be. Also the power to make acting appointments to the posts of Consultant and Senior Consultant, Queen Elizabeth and Mental Hospital in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer and Hospital Director or Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital as the case may be, the power to make permanent appointments to offices carrying a maximum salary of \$9,000 per annum. He is also required to deal with such posts as Senior Veterinary Officer, Government Analyst, Assistant Analyst, Senior Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Officer, Principal Nursing Officer, Senior Laboratory Technologist, Chief Dispenser, Assistant Matron, Senior Assistant, Senior Nursing Officer, Senior Health Sister, Matron District Hospital, Radiographer, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Dental Hygienist, Senior Medical Officers of Health, Assistant Medical Officer of Health and so on. His duties are manifold.

The position is that he is called on to perform a substantial amount of work and it is felt that for his added responsibilities and his time he should be compensated. It is also felt that the time has come when we should have the entire matter reviewed and that his post should be full time. In the case of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, he receives a flat salary of \$600 per month, and in the case of the other officers, they receive their fees proportionately. In the case of the Chairman of the Police Service Commission \$200 per month, and in the case of members of all three of the Commissions a fee of \$15 per meeting. If there is any other additional information required I would be quite willing to furnish it.

I beg to move that the sum of \$8,000 under Head 2 - Services Commissions - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, the Opposition has no quarrel whatsoever with extending the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and the Chairman of the Police Service Commission, or indeed members of the two Commissions concerned. I would like to go on record as paying tribute to those several gentleman who can be found to carry out so onerous a list of duties as the Minister was unable to continue reading; so long is the list, at such a very small salary per month at a time when everyone is crying out for immense salaries. It is very gratifying to think that there are still people in Barbados who do such good service for so relatively trifling an amount as \$600 per month. They are willing to work and to shoulder the very great responsibilities involved in looking after the appointment functions over so wide a range that the Public Service has so indicated to the Committee to do. 1.10 p.m.

We in the Opposition are not in a position to urge, and certainly at this time are not willing to urge, extravagance upon the Government, but we do not see any element of extravagance whatsoever in this part of the Resolution as it has been put before the Committee.

The question that Head 2 - Services Commissions - in the sum of \$8,000 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 16 - Cabinet Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this is a very unfortunate matter. It is a question of compensation to be paid in respect of the loss of an eye in a very bad accident which occurred at a school. The Hon. Minister of Education, probably, may feel that I am trying to steal his thunder. I saw "Cabinet Office", and I thought it was my Resolution. He is in his seat, and he can fill any gap.

Mr. Chairman, on the 17th February, 1972, one Alexander Hinds, a male pupil of Buxton Primary School - he is only 8 years of age - was accidentally struck in the right eye when the Headmaster was administering punishment to another pupil, and the blow turned out to be more severe than was anticipated. He was given the necessary medical attention but, unfortunately, the blow was very damaging indeed. The matter went to Court and the father of the child, Mr. Darnley Hinds as the next friend, sued the Headmaster and joined the Attorney-General in the usual manner.

The Ministry admitted liability. The damages were gone into and compensation to the first plaintiff, Alexander Hinds, for the loss of his right eye was \$16,000; compensation to the first plaintiff for pain and suffering \$2,500; compensation to the first plaintiff for loss of pecuniary prospects \$1,500; compensation to the second plaintiff \$10. The total damages for the first plaintiff amounted to \$20,000; for the second plaintiff \$10, and the taxed costs \$2,347.35. Interest is due on the amount because this matter has been pending for some time, and this Government has taken the appropriate steps to facilitate matters. This matter should have been dealt with two or three weeks ago, but it could not be dealt with owing to the lack of a quorum. The amount required is \$23,277.75. I do not care to elaborate any further. It was a very unfortunate accident, and I hope we will not have cause to come here for compensation of this nature in the near future. The sympathy of the Government is extended to the child and his family.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, this Item gives rise to certain matters of principle that go far beyond any sympathy which may be extended by the Government, - and with which the Opposition, naturally, would join, - to this unfortunate primary school pupil. For some time now we have been warning Government that the

sums customarily voted for costs and for compensation in Supreme Court matters to which the Government may be a party are too small for the likely damages awarded.

With any other litigant, if a judgement is obtained you go and you levy upon the property of the person against whom the judgement is given, or you take whatever steps you can to collect the money. It seems to me that there is some difficulty, or some reluctance on the part of Attorneys-at-Law to take these steps against the Government. I believe that there would be, perhaps, an outcry if the property, or the private motor car, or the furniture of the Attorney-General were levied upon to satisfy judgements, although, in my opinion, this is a matter not precluded by law. Great discomfort is caused to successful litigants and to persons who were awarded costs against Government Officials and against the Police in these matters, and sometimes for a year or longer these matters hang fire and persons are unable to obtain their damages because the vote has been exceeded.

Now, these particular Heads of Expenditure are not Heads which can be subject to unauthorised spending. There is no possibility of a Department saying that we have a vote of \$100,000, so let us go ahead and spend it all in the case of compensation for damages or compensation arising out of the Supreme Court matters. It is only the Supreme Court and the judgment which can unlock the door to a substantial vote. I am urging on the Cabinet and on the Estimates Committee to include a large vote in future - something in the order of \$100,000 - which will not be spent unless the Court so orders, but if the Court so orders the vote should be there to satisfy the judgement within a reasonable time.

Insurance Companies, if they do not satisfy judgments in running-down cases, are liable to be reported to the Controller of Insurance and may lose their-licences to carry on insurance business. The general insurance fund is under no such potential penalty, as I understand it. I have already stated that other persons, if they have property and they lose a case in Court their property is likely to be sequestered to satisfy the costs awarded. The Government should not be in that position.

There is another Resolution coming up of a similar nature in which, as I conceive it, it would be improper for me to speak because I am one of the persons involved; therefore, what I have to say I wish to say on this Resolution. It is time that the Government voted a large enough sum of money to cover the potential damages to be paid. Much of it will lapse in any given year, but there is nothing wrong with that. This item in the Estimates is not one to be looked at as other items involved with ordinary departmental expenditure. It is a waste of the House of Assembly's time, or the Attorney-at-Law's energy, of Departmental Officers, who are called upon to reply to the letters, and of the Attorney-General's Department which is called upon to advise on matters like this. Have a proper vote, and all of these petty frictions that have been arising will not now arise. I believe that in the Registry there are at the moment a number of levies upon the private property of the Commissioner of Police and other Government Officers who are liable only because of the failure of the Government to estimate enough

money to cover these matters.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I know all about this matter from the legal side of it. I am not discussing the merits or demerits of this case. What I want to urge on the Government is that I have heard the hon. Member for St. John, who is the Prime Minister, say in this Chamber already that he has asked his staff to look at the question of a limitation of one year where actions have to be brought against the Crown. He said that the Crown should stand in the same position as any other litigant. 1.20 p.m.

All I would like to say is that I hope that Cabinet would look at other bits of legislation now. There are two factors which are important now. The first is litigation against the Crown. You cannot bring a case against the Crown after one year. The second factor is under the Fatal Accidents Act where if somebody dies you cannot bring a case after a year. I have heard the Hon. Prime Minister say in here that we should look after these. I would like to say that we have a case which went before the Court - I know the facts, but I am not discussing them - I am dealing with the question of litigation against the Crown and I hope that Cabinet will look at that aspect on the Government's side. If they do not look at it now they will end up with so many other cases against the Crown unresolved.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to join with the House in expressing the very deep regret of the Government at the particular incident. It certainly did not arise out of any brutality on the part of the headteacher of the school. He is one of the dedicated headmasters and he has spent a life time in his profession, and I would like to assure this Chamber that it is a case which has caused considerable torment to the headteacher and to the staff of the Buxton Primary School as well as to the Ministry of Education and myself.

I would like to assure the member for St. Thomas that the Government will certainly consider the points that he has advanced and examine them to see if there can be any more speedy way to meet legitimate claims for compensation which may be made from time to time.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I rise merely to say that I support the view expressed by the Minister of Education with respect to the headteacher involved. I happen to know the headteacher myself and I am to say that the matter, as far as I know, was purely an accident. The headteacher is one of those who belong to the old school, so that when he goes from this scene, when people of his upbringing and education depart

from the scene, we do not know what will become of education and of the teaching profession in this Island unless other people come along and take their places.

However, I am satisfied that it was no question of the headmaster doing more than was necessary in punishing a child in a normal manner, and as I understand it, the unfortunate lad happened to look back and he came into collision with the end of the strap and I am sure that the headteacher himself was very cut up and very sore. It has struck him very forcibly since its occurrence. I can tell anyone that he regrets it very much especially due to the fact that he is nearing the end of his teaching career.

The question that Head 16 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 39 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that the Minister of Health is in a healthy mood today. He wants to see what the Opposition is good for. He will see. Now, seeing that \$59,000 is asked for, to pay the Telephone Company, one would come to the conclusion that the Government is buying shares in the Telephone Company on behalf of the taxpayers. Nothing of the kind.

What the Minister should have done, rather than merely rise and say I beg to move that the Head stand part, was to have told us how this \$59,000 is due to the Telephone Company. I am telling the Minister, if he does not know, that the greater portion thereof has become due as a result of numerous officers being recruited for the Hospital and having been given houses in which to live according to the terms of their contract, and they will not pay their telephone bill. What they have been doing is running up a lot of overseas telephone calls, not for the Hospital, but private calls to their friends, and this is costing \$59,000 out of the taxpayers.

I am sure that this is something that the Minister himself should have let this House know. He should be in a position to let us know what steps he proposes taking in the future to see that there is no recurrence of this ill behaviour on the part of the members of his own profession.

Now, Sir, the Minister of Health must know that. The Hospital authorities have been having no end of trouble with some of these doctors that have been recruited from abroad from time to time. Furniture has been provided for them and the furniture leaves before some of them leave the houses. They have crated up and shipped overseas furniture that belongs to the Barbadian taxpayers. The Minister must know again that an alien doctor who has been living at one of the Enmore houses - when he left all four legs of a chair were also missing. This is furniture on which the doctor and his friends could sit, but when the doctor left all four legs of the chair were gone.

This is no joke, Mr. Chairman, and the Minister should be in a position to tell us about this and let us know what steps are being taken to see that we do not have a recurrence of all of this. We have had a case of a doctor here who received his pay on 26th July, and without telling anyone at the Hospital, he took up a job in the Trinidad Medical Services on 28th July - two days after. Then, when the Hospital authorities went to the quarters that he was occupying, they found his girl friend telephoning him in Trinidad adding to the taxpayers' expenses, carrying on their own business.

We know that some of them are very ill behaved and they threaten to resign if you resent their bad behaviour. Some of them even in the Mess Hall that is provided for them give all sorts of trouble. A meal is provided at the cost of \$1.00 and they would not even pay for it. These are people who have gone to Universities and Institutions of higher learning and who are carrying on this type of behaviour. I want to hear that the Minister is au fait with what is going on in his Ministry and what steps are being taken to remedy the situation. 1.30 p.m.

Sir, Note 6 says: "The sum of \$7,000 was provided under this Item as a revote for the purchase of an ambulance but the price has risen to \$8,447.39 owing to increases in first cost and freight charges. The deficit of \$1,447.39 is now due and owing to the Chief Supply Officer."

Now from what I can gather, Mr. Chairman, this note which we have here does not seem to tell us exactly what is taking place at the hospital. I do not think there was a request for an ambulance at all. I believe I am right in saying that this note refers specifically to a station wagon. There is an old blue

station wagon on the hospital premises; it takes the shape of an ambulance because it is an enclosed vehicle which the Chief Supply Officer has been using from time to time getting about the institution and so on, but this has now been written off. This is what has been written off and not an ambulance, so one cannot understand how the note could be telling us about an ambulance when in truth and in fact the request as I gather is not in respect of an ambulance. I would like to hear what the Minister or the Leader of the House has to say in reply - whoever cares to reply on these matters - because you must admit that it is very bad on the whole if the Committee is given information which is not correct in these notes. I would like to hear something on these small points I have made mention of.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I have examined Note 6 under Head 39, Item 14, and I take the view that for some time Barbados has been experiencing quite a bit of difficulty with its ambulance service in cases of emergencies. There was some time ago - I think it was the former Minister of Health who indicated this - that the ambulance service at the hospital would have been upgraded to provide a better type of service, and we of this side had contended that the service at the hospital was used for, not the real purpose as emergency services, but they were used for taking sick people across the country - those who could not get home after spending the very long hours which they do spend in the Casualty.

We find here, Sir, that in Barbados we are not growing with the times because it is the Police emergency service which we seem to depend on much more in cases of emergency and I would think that with the great influx of tourists, and the great number of vehicles on the streets, so many road deaths - I think only today I observe that there were up to 36 - the many accidents which we have on the streets, and the emergencies which the police have to go and pay attention to, I think the time has come when the Government must look at the idea of having a central emergency ambulance service separate and distinct from that of the hospital and from that of the Police Department. I believe that with trained personnel and a central ambulance service set up at some point where it would be best suited to the specialist who would look into this matter I think this would go a long way in assisting many of the victims who have to suffer when there are accidents and things of that nature.

Sir, we know the Fire Service is called upon at times to cut away the doors of vehicles for the purpose of getting out passengers who lie there in pain, and I would think that if the Government would examine such matters, with their limited financial resources - at this, the very low ebb of their political career - they could give a matter like this great priority. I saw only quite recently where there was an accident because of a collision between a bus and a motor car and it was two hours before you could get an ambulance from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Then when the police came, you found that the police, and the hospital service, came at the same time. I would therefore like to see the Government investigate and go into a service of this nature which I believe would be a great help to the present circumstances which now prevail. This is a very small contribution, Mr. Chairman, but I think that looking at where an ambulance is written off for \$7,000 and you have to replace it, I think the Minister whom I believe is a person that would listen to suggestions would give a suggestion of this nature from this side of

Parliament his immediate attention.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, as I sat here and listened to the hon. Member for St. Peter I got the impression that somewhere in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he has taken up residence. He seems to have some .detailed information about what goes on in that institution. I am not saying that it is correct.

I would point out that there have been problems, as the hon. Members has stated, relating to the use of the telephones provided by Government in the homes used by doctors; but I think the hon. Member would be erroneous to assume that all the money asked for her in this vote is to defray the cost brought about by these unwarranted telephone calls. The money here is specifically for the purpose of paying increased telephone rates which have come about this year, and not only the Government but also ordinary members in the society have been called upon to pay these increased telephone rates. 1.40 p.m.

We have proposals which I think will eliminate a substantial degree of this misuse by doctors of telephones provided by Government. I would also like to assure the hon. Member that he has not stated anything here today which is unknown to me either in my private capacity as a doctor or as Minister of Health and Welfare.

With regard to Item 6, I would like to agree but for different reasons that the word "ambulance" used here is not the right word. Usually the word "ambulance" is used in the hospital and outside in a very loose manner, and many of the vehicles referred to as ambulances are in reality buses for the conveyance of patients to and from the hospital, they are not - to use the Barbadian term - "true-true" ambulances.

I would also like to point out that we already have plans drawn up and approved for the setting up of a centralised ambulance service separate and distinct from the transportation service which goes on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the conveyance of patients to and from the hospital. I would also like to remind hon. Members that only this year we passed a Resolution for the money to set up this central ambulance service, the orders have been placed and we have to wait until the ambulances arrive. Until they arrive we are not in a position to do anything apart from waiting. To the hon. Member for St. James I would like to reiterate that we are now awaiting the arrival of these ambulances for the setting up of a separate and distinct ambulance service which would.....(Mr. HINDS: You are wrong about these ambulances.) Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member is interrupting me.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

What is the point you wish to elucidate?

Mr. HINDS:

It is in respect of the ambulances and what the Hon. Minister of Health is trying to interpret in respect thereof. As I pointed out here earlier this is not in respect of an ambulance for carrying out sick persons, this is a vehicle for carrying out stationery, chairs, the housekeeper when she is going to the various flats to carry linens and that type of thing and not for the sick persons. Undoubtedly the Minister does not know about this.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that I am talking about a centralised ambulance service where we are awaiting the arrival of these ambulances and until they arrive we will not be in a position to put into operation these plans that have been drawn up. While the hon. Member was returning to this Chamber I was making reference to Item 6 and I have no intention of repeating myself. I see absolutely no reason why the hon. Member should seek to interrupt me, he has told me nothing of which I know nothing about already, and I will repeat for the benefit of the hon. Member that the use of the term "ambulance" is very wide and loose and - as a Barbadian would say - it covers a multiplicity of things. I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

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 Resolution for the sum of \$155,798 do now pass.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 NO. 22

A Resolution for the sum of \$32,800 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution, this amount is needed in order to revise the salaries and wages of the non-established and household staff of the High Commissioner's office in the United Kingdom with effect from 1st April, 1973. This is in keeping with the general principle that the level of salaries paid to such staff at Overseas Missions should reflect current rates for comparable jobs in the host country. The last revision of salaries for these categories of personnel was agreed on 2nd March, 1972 and took effect from 1st October, 1971. The purpose of the 1971 revision was to bring the salaries into line with the current rates payable for comparable posts in the United Kingdom, and more particularly with the rates payable in the British Civil Service with effect from January, 1971.

The cost of living has risen sharply in the United Kingdom since 1971 and this has been reflected in the salaries in the British Civil Service both in January, 1972 and in April, 1973. It is proposed, therefore, Sir, that the salaries of the non-established and household staff of the High Commissioner should be revised to take account of these factors. The proposals are for increases based on a new approach whereby increments in the salary scales would be at 5% per annum and thus more realistically related to economic realities than has been the case in the past. A built-in check on the system would be a triennial review as a result of which an adjustment might be made if the rate of inflation had exceeded or fallen short of the estimate.

The position is that although it is not based on the British Civil Service rates as such it is imperative for an adjustment to be made and that increases be given the non-established staff of the Barbados High Commission in keeping with policy and in keeping with the increases which everyone received this year as from 1st April. 1.50 p.m.

The current provision in the 1973-74 Estimates for Non-Established Staff is £21,833.33 or \$104,800, and for household staff £3,000 or \$14,400. The estimated cost of the increases for the financial year 1973-74 would be Non-Established Staff £5,770 or \$27,697, and the household staff £1,060 or \$5,088, making a total amount of £6,830 or \$32,784.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, this brings me back to the Resolution for \$8,300 for the Embassies Overseas. I have to agree with that outstanding and brilliant West Indian Economist, Sir Arthur Lewis, who, apparently, is still convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt that the West Indies, not only Barbados, cannot control their External Affairs individually. Ever so often we find ourselves in here voting large sums of money for our Embassies and Missions overseas, which we are satisfied that this country, like some of the other Caribbean countries, cannot afford. Unless we settle down and accept the theory suggested by Sir Arthur Lewis, then I think we are heading for even greater disaster.

During the last session, we discussed a certain Resolution in here If you, Mr. Chairman, were not in the Government at that time, I believe that you would have supported the Opposition when we had to vote a large sum of money for the purchase of a house for the High Commissioner in London, and to this day it is, apparently, unoccupied. We have the spectacle year after year of large sums of money being voted by this Government to run these Missions and we, personally, can see no great benefit coming from anything these Embassies and Missions Overseas have done. They may be able to show benefits in years to come, but I daresay that in the past seven years no one can safely say that he has seen anything productive coming from them

I am still satisfied and convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that, until we in the West Indies can pool our Embassies and Missions together, we are slated for disaster. I have to support this Resolution for \$32,000 which is before us for Non-Established Staff, but I would hope that in the not too distant future the West Indian Missions will be under one roof in the interests of the Caribbean Territories.

The question that Head 25 - Ministry of External Affairs - for the sum of \$32,800 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for one hour until three o'clock.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Sitting is now resumed. When the Sitting was suspended, the House was in committee of Supply

and to that it now reverts.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Before we revert, I wonder if the Leader of the House could give some indication as to when we will reach Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is only one more Resolution with which we propose to deal this afternoon. It is for the sum of \$478,774 and after that has been considered we then revert to Private Members' Business. This is the only one we propose to deal with under Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do wish that the Government and Opposition could discuss the time table and matters affecting the running of this House out of the Chamber. It is quite unnecessary to have a question put from the floor and to have it answered from the floor. This is the whole point of having a Leader of Government Business and a Leader of the Opposition. Obviously there is no liaison. (Cheers.)

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 19

THE RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$478,774 WAS CALLED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$478,774. It is an omnibus Resolution which deals with several Heads. The first one is under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division. This Item is for the sum of \$13,288 and it is for providing temporary staff in order to accelerate and assist the sending out of demand notices and in organising the Rates and Taxes Division to put it on a proper footing.

Now under Item 11, Temporary Staff, the sum of \$10,640 was provided in the current Estimates 1973-74. At the 9th August, 1973, an amount of \$10,102.51 had been expended from the vote leaving an uncommitted balance of \$537.49. Two temporary posts of Clerical Officer were created for the Rates and Taxes Division for the period 15th April to 30th June, 1973 and they have been approved with effect from 1st July, 1973 until further notice. Again, with effect from 14th May, 1973, one temporary post of Executive Officer has been approved for the purposes, inter alia, of serving on the Land Tax Relief Board, and it is necessary to provide an amount of \$3,200 and \$5,000 to pay the emoluments of the officers in the two temporary posts of Clerical Officer and Executive Officer respectively to the end of this financial year.

Further, Sir, land tax demand notices for the fiscal year 1973-74 are expected to be issued shortly and it would be necessary to engage the services of nine temporary clerical officers for two and a half months to assist in the collection of land tax. The sum of \$5,625 is required to pay the salaries of the nine temporary Clerical Officers. This makes a total of \$13,825. Deducting the balance left in the vote, \$537.49 from \$13,825, it leaves a total of \$13,288.

As hon. Members will recall, approximately 40,962 demand notices were issued as on the 9th October, 1973 with a gross yield of \$4.6 million. As on the 5th November, 1973, the sum of \$688,830 has been collected. The rate remains at 1% site value. The position which I should like to draw to the attention of this Committee is that out of these notices issued in 1972-73 approximately 10,000 have not yet been settled for the following reasons: some are tenancies, other are objections to site valuations and area of land and new developments; and in order that no hardship will be created on land owners the issue of demand notices in respect of these three categories was withheld until such time as settlement is reached.

Hon. Members will further remember that pursuant to the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning in his budgetary proposals in May, 1973, regarding the collection of arrears of land tax, steps were taken to ensure the collection of arrears by the employment of bailiffs and other persons. As a result of this, during the last week of October, approximately \$562,838 has been collected.

This is just a little background to the entire situation. If there are any other relevant questions, I will try to answer them.

I beg to move that Head 9 for the sum of \$13,288 now stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG:

I would like to draw the attention of the Leader of the House to get his Members in to form a quorum. You could not form a quorum if we stepped out and then you will say that we will not help you. I am drawing it to his attention. Let his Members come in here. You have 18 seats and you could form two quorums.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I hope that the high sense of responsibility which he has evinced here today would be constantly in our midst.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The question is...

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the Leader of the House very attentively indeed. Now, it is about time that the Government stop fooling the taxpayers of this country. Employing temporary staff here and in other departments will not answer the questions in any respect. The first of April is tax date. You are now sending out the second tax bill. It is time that the third tax bill be in the hands of the people, but the Government is unwilling to let people know because when they sent out the first tax bill even the Minister of Finance led the people to believe that on the second one they might not be necessarily rated at 1% in the same way; but we find that it is there.

The whole point is that the third tax bill should be going out. That is what we should be dealing with now. What are we doing about the third tax bill? Let us get things as they really should be.

I have listened to the Hon. Minister on this question of employing temporary staff and what not. No department likes to know that it is being enquired into or is being investigated in any respect, but I am talking, I am urging the Government to investigate the Rates and Taxes Division. We are discussing the question of staff for the Rates and Taxes Division. They employ staff who, as I have said on a previous occasion, have been known to take away what we know as special receipt books. They receive money,

some for receipts for as much as \$720 for one receipt and the book has disappeared. The person or persons responsible for this have received notification that when they deposit money at a certain point they will get these special receipt books back.

That is the kind of thing I am asking the Government to investigate. These are the kind of people who are still in office. People in these offices can hide about and steal people's special receipt books. They have to get rid of the receipt books because they are carrying away the money, and then they are being blackmailed that if they deposit money at a particular point they will get back the 'receipt books and all that kind of thing. People are nervous as ever. Other people who are working with them are a bundle of nerves. This is a part of what is ruining the Rates and Taxes Division. Apart from this, there are a lot of people employed in the Rates and Taxes Division who would not speak the truth if God Almighty was to appear before them in person. They cannot speak the truth under any circumstances. The present Collector of Rates and Taxes will find it extremely difficult to deal with some of these people whom he will find attached to his staff. I do not know how he is going to deal with the situation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what we have got to concern ourselves with, amongst other things, is that we have been hearing about these bailiffs bringing in this amount of money. The Leader of the House has just told us that \$562,838 had been collected. We are not denying this; but there are other questions which the Government must act upon. Members of the staff have told the Collector of Taxes, the Government, the Ministry - they had to tell the Ministry - that they have been acting in a particular manner to save embarrassment - to save the Government and to save the Rates and Taxes Division from embarrassment- by sending out to collect taxes from people who have already paid their taxes. 3.10p.m.

People who are working in the Rates and Taxes Division have said this. If we find this, Mr. Chairman, coming from amongst members of the staff, is not this something to open the eyes of those responsible to spur them into action? You will find that there has been no control in the past over the action of some of these people, and I am telling you now - and this is from Attorneys-at-Law who have had to try to get certificates from Rates and Taxes Division - delays have been created and we are saying here now that their Vote Books are months upon months upon months in arrears. What are we going to do under these circumstances? Employing additional staff, temporary staff and whatever you may like, is not the answer to the problem. We have got to weed out once and for all these people. Let this Government not rest on its laurels (ASIDE) Your laurels are 18 in number and you avoid facing up to issues; but we are asking the Government now to take the initiative from members of staff of the Rates and Taxes Division who themselves have had to cry out and say "we have had to take this particular course of action to save the Government and to save the Rates and Taxes Division from embarrassment by sending out bailiffs to people to collect taxes which the people have already paid." This is a serious matter, Sir. It is alright for us to hear that the bailiffs have brought in this amount, the bailiffs have brought in that amount, but we maintain that there are people in Rates and Taxes Division who are getting drawbacks from these bailiffs. No bailiff is going to admit this but if an enquiry were instituted tomorrow the evidence can be brought forward to prove that this is so; and Mr. Chairman, there is worse than this that is going on in

Rates and Taxes Division. Something worse than this. Presently the acting Collector of Taxes is in the position that no cooperation can he expect to get in truth and in fact. None. And the reason is clear; because he is not the type by his training, upbringing and his dedication to work by his honesty of purpose; he is not wanted in the Rates and Taxes Division, hence the difficulty that he must encounter. I am urging upon the Government to prove the Opposition wrong this time. Prove us wrong by instituting an enquiry into the operations of the Rates and Taxes Division and let members of the public who have paid their taxes and who have got their receipts - let them all come forward; let people know the kind of pressures.

Sir, you will find that the Rates and Taxes Division have been sending out notices to people telling them of their arrears of taxes over a period, but what you will find, the hereditament number that is on the form that is sent out today is not the form on the receipt to those people that they have paid their taxes already. There are people in the department who are trying to confound the work of the department, to cover up themselves. Why keep them in there and torment the poor taxpayers who have already paid their taxes? Why? But, Mr. Chairman, as long as you hold the passport of the Democratic Labour Party you can rape, rob, steal, take and carry away, and everything is alright. You can still get into the heaven of the Democratic Labour Party...

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Rates and Taxes are part of the Civil Service. How could he make such an outrageous statement when he knows that appointments to the Civil Service are made by the Commission? Be fair. Do not make those allegations which you know to be untrue.

Nt. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

That is a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I say that...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No hon. Member is going to tell me when I must say what is a point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

Sir, the hon. Member is imputing improper motives to me, saying I am making statements which I

know to be untrue. I am asking you to make him withdraw them. I object.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member must withdraw the remarks.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I withdraw them. I also ask the hon. Member to,..

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You must sit. You must both sit. I have asked the Hon. Member to withdraw the remarks.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Member for St. Peter must withdraw his remarks because he has said on the floor of this House that once you hold a Democratic Labour Party card you can do anything. I have withdrawn my remarks and I am asking that he withdraws his also.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The expression used by the hon. Member for St. Peter is offensive to the Democratic Labour Party. It is offensive to the Government of this count try. 3.20 p.m.

(Shouts from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. HINDS:

You are definitely losing your senses now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is no Democratic Labour Party in here, this is the Government of the people of Barbados, therefore when something is said relating to the Democratic Labour Party, I hear it not. The hon. Member will proceed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I was not permitted to complete my statement. I said that it was offensive to the Democratic Labour Party and to the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to hear the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, one of the things I think that has plagued the Rates and Taxes Division to some extent has been the recruiting of inexperienced people to deal with matters that are of a very serious nature. I believe that an entirely new approach has got to be made to the problems of this department if it is to serve the public in the way it should.

There are still in some of our paying offices, particularly, here in the City, occasions when people are discouraged from paying their taxes. Only this morning a taxi driver complained to me that he was going time and time again to the Rates and Taxes Division to pay his licence only to find long lines of people there or a limited number of staff present to deal with this, and people are tempted to spend the money when they go to the Rates and Taxes Division and there is no one there to receive it. One does not expect to leave home and go to the Rates and Taxes Division to find no one waiting, not at all. If it is a department of Government and there are thousands of people who must attend this office to make their payments, but we are saying that there is no provision made on certain days and at certain peak hours to cope with this situation. It is known that there are times when Civil Servants and others have to go during their luncheon period to pay their taxes and one has got to be able to cater to that type of situation from time to time.

We are urging upon the Government to accept what we are saying about the Rates and Taxes Division and about any other Department of Government and to investigate because we do not want any of the things which we bring to their attention to continue. We want to see the public served, we want the department to stop sending to people for taxes that have already been paid, and we believe that in view of the fact that members of staff have on this occasion found it necessary to draw it to the Government's attention this in itself is enough upon which the Government should and could act under the present

circumstances. I am not suggesting that we do not have to vote money to pay temporary staff, but I want to urge on the Government to examine the whole structure of the Rates and Taxes Division in the face of the Land Valuation Department, what that Department is doing and relate it to what must as a result come about with Rates and Taxes and staff Rates and Taxes with people who know what they are doing. If you take a lot of new comers to deal with the public you know the delays which will be occasioned during the first few weeks until the people become familiar with the work they have to do. We want the people to serve the public in such a way as they should be served. I am not saying that the public must be served in every way they think they should be served but we want to see better service for all concerned.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I want to correct one thing while it is still fresh. The hon. Member for St. Peter must not mislead the public of Barbados. No appointment to the Civil Service is made by any Government.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation, Sir, I never at any time said that an appointment to Rates and Taxes or to any Government Department is made by a Minister or by any Member of the Government, but the Hon. Minister would know that some of his former Ministers have said here that if you have a passport of the Democratic Labour Party it is an assurance that you will get a job. His own Ministers said that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, he got in this House and said in full view of the public - and I hope that the Press would not be so misguided to report it - that as long as you have the passport of the Democratic Labour Party you have a licence to rob, defraud and do every kind of thing. Let us get the constitutional position. In the Civil Service of Barbados - and this is a source of embarrassment to Ministers because the public think that Ministers can give them jobs - in the Civil Service no i Minister can make appointments. (Asides.) I am dealing with the temporary staff and who will appoint the temporary staff.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, the Hon. Minister said that he is making a speech as a lawyer on the Constitution of Barbados, but what is before us now is a Resolution for \$13,288, not the Constitution of Barbados, we know it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I thank the hon. Member.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I thank him too, but are you tell me I cannot say how that temporary staff is going to be appointed under the Constitution of Barbados? I want to get the public of Barbados educated because they are being misled all the time. In order to be appointed to any post in the Civil Service you have a Public Service Commission appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, and if the hon. Member for St. Peter says that a Democratic Labour Party's card is going to get you into a Government office, it is an indictment against the integrity of the Commission.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe our problem is that we are dealing with a lawyer, but there are lawyers and lawyers. The Hon. Minister has misquoted me all along, and if he does not have any contribution to make to the Resolution, he should let others speak, but he must not get up and misquote me all the time and take things out of context.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

What I am saying is that the public must understand. This debate is going down in Hansard and future generations will read that the hon. Member for St. Peter said that a Democratic Labour Party's passport means entrance to any Government job. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

You are now saying that the people of this country are unenlightened!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I say that there are a lot of people in Barbados who are unenlightened in the niceties of Constitutional law.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Do you want to hear me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

All members will sit!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, you must...

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, after advancing from 1961 and the people are still unenlightened, is it not time to throw them out?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Absolutely no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I wonder if the hon. Member for St. Joseph thinks that he can speak the English Language better than I.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I have never yet claimed that I was the first Attorney-General of an independent Barbados.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

How can you claim that, when you are not? It would be a false claim. I can claim it, because I was. Do not talk nonsense. I say that to the people in Barbados the word "Government" means so many things, and therefore they are not schooled in the niceties of Constitutional law. Therefore, when they hear the hon. Member get up and make these wild and irresponsible allegations...

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I take objection to the hon. Member saying that I make wild and irresponsible statements. I have been elected to this House like the hon. Member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

It is not unparliamentary, as far as I can see, in these Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS:

Is he a wild and irresponsible Minister, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order!

Mr. HINDS:

I can deal with him; this tongue can reach out to him

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I probably believe that both of you will deal with the Chair, or the Chair will deal with both of you. I am asking the Hon. Minister to speak accordingly to Standing Order 28(2) "A Member must confine his speech to the subject under discussion and may not introduce any matter irrelevant thereto." Let us get back to the Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am clearing the point, Mr. Chairman. I am not arguing against the matter, it has been brought by the Government, so I am bound to support it, but when they get into this Honourable Chamber and you find allegations made against you as a Member of the Government, which bears no relation to anything which is the truth, which is completely false and is only uttered for political propaganda purposes, then I cannot sit down and stand for that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I like to listen to the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. He has been the first Attorney-General of an independent Barbados, so he likes to lecture us on the constitutional niceties, but the hon. member, who claims to be a lawyer, sometimes takes leave of his senses. If he is really a lawyer and not an...

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order; Mr. Chairman. Is that offensive?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Not offensive.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Is it not insulting? Mr. CHAIRMAN Not insulting either.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, he does not understand Cabinet Government. The hon. Member for St. Andrew stood up in this very Honourable Chamber and said that if there are jobs going in the Government and two people come to him one with a "passport" of the D.L.P., and the other one without, then the D.L.P. member gets the job. That is the policy of his Government. If we are now dealing with temporary staff, Mr. Chairman, all the Opposition is trying to do is to point out to the Government that the temporary staff, probably appointed under the method enumerated by that side, is not carrying out its duties. That is all we are trying to say. 3.40 p.m.

I do not want to speak about the D.L.P. The people outside are speaking about it. Everybody is speaking about it. When it comes to the Rates and Taxes Division, Mr. Chairman, people have been taxed from the time the first tax bill went out under the new system. There have been objections raised on areas that are wrong. People have received two tax bills for one area. They have been taxed for land which they never owned. They have been taxed for land which they once owned but disposed of years ago. They have put in objections where they thought assessment was not reasonable. None of them has heard anything, but the second tax bill has gone out.

Now, Sir, something has to be wrong, because you cannot send out a second tax bill where the first has been queried, and the Hon. Minister cannot jump up now and relinquish his responsibilities and tell you that it is now the Civil Service Commission that is responsible. They run the Government.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation - I never said that the Civil Service Commission was responsible for sending out tax bills. The Member is talking about sending out tax bills and is accusing me of saying that the Commission is responsible for sending out tax bills. I said that the Commission is responsible for appointing the Civil Servants who send out tax bills, not that the Commission is responsible for sending out tax bills.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I never said that. As I said earlier, sometimes the Hon. Minister takes leave of his senses. I have just proved it. He cannot at one time uphold the Civil Service Commission which appoints the staff and at the same time say that it is their job, get on with it, and do not speak to me. He is the Minister responsible and if he understands Ministerial Government it is his duty and responsibility to see that the Department that falls under him functions according to how the Government wants it to function. The Minister is trying to say that it is the Civil Service Commission which appoints temporary staff and that he is the Minister responsible and is not responsible. You cannot have it both ways. We are saying that the department is not functioning as it should. We cannot go and ask the Civil Service Commission anything. We cannot call them in here and question them. We have to question the Minister responsible, and the Minister is now saying not to ask him. Why don't they take leave, go away, leave the country to people who can run it? That is the whole answer to it, because all of them including the first Attorney General of Barbados - now he has been taken from out of law and put to deal with rock stones. (ASIDE Six of us can run the country. Six of us ran all of you from outside here two weeks ago.) We are dealing with the Government and this temporary staff. Mr. Chairman, if they have 18 seats and six can run them out of here it shows how low we have reached; but I would advise those people, who have received second tax bills and the Government has not cleared up the first, not to pay. You cannot put all of us in court. You do not have enough gaols. You do not have any money to build more. You cannot even give six refunds. (Hon. F. G. SMITH That is how you are asking people to break the law?) Yes. You have just said that the people are not aware of the technical niceties. After progressing from 1961, according to you, the people are still ignorant.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of correction. I have not said that the people are ignorant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is no point of correction.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of correction or elucidation, the Member is misquoting me. Can I sit down and put up with it when an hon. Member is deliberately misquoting me?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like you to elucidate the matter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am saying that I have at no time in this House said that the people are ignorant. Not that I fear what the Member will say in 1976. I said that when you are dealing with matters of Government, dealing with nice constitutional problems the people of this country - even some lawyers like the Member for St. Joseph, who is talking about Cabinet Government and does not understand what it is all about.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

I would not like to experience Cabinet Government under that Government, but although he has experienced it he cannot even understand what it is all about, because he is confused in his mind.

He has already said on platforms that the people of this country should not pay rents in the housing areas. His own Government is now collecting rent from the people right, left and centre and throwing them in court. Let us look at it a bit further. I heard the Hon. Prime Minister stand up here and say that you should now appoint people to the Government Service who have one "O" level certificate; but if the educational standard is also falling down and has been falling down for the past 10 years, you have to employ them. If they have progressed in such a fashion that they have slipped back, who is responsible?

Now, that the whole house is falling down on top of its head, the Minister is saying do not blame me; I am the Minister. He does not patch roads. Two weeks ago, the Acting Minister of Health said that the people whom they appointed were now driving them. Ask him to answer that now. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I was not here, how can I answer something that was said when I was not here?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will ask the hon. member for St. Joseph.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

Not to intimidate him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking you to return to the Resolution for \$13,000.

Mr. BOLDEN:

All right, Mr. Chairman. Mr. CHAIRMAN Strictly with that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

What I would like to see the Government do is to admit that things have gone wrong with them. Put the tax situation right. Take for instance the situation today where people who are selling land find it difficult to get the land sold. You have to queue up to get a tax certificate. It means that something is drastically wrong in the department, and the Minister should sit down, listen, and admit that things are wrong instead of abusing people on one side and then using high class English. When we analyse it he is saying that the people are idiots.

He should listen and understand what we are saying. Things are bad in the Rates and Taxes Division. I would like the Minister to listen carefully and try to straighten things up because if people get dissatisfied and do not pay their taxes the Government will be in more serious financial trouble. That is all I am asking him to do.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think that this Resolution provides an opportunity to have a close look at what has happened since the coming into being of the new system of valuation. I wish that I could share the optimism of the Leader of the House and Acting Prime Minister that certain aspects of the arrangements made for the collection of taxes do not create any hardship for rate payers. I said that I wish I could share his optimism because he has pointed out that in the case of some people who have lodged objections it is an undoubted fact, according to him, that no more tax bills should have been sent out this year to those persons; and so he concludes that there is no hardship. I would like to say that this is too simple an explanation of the true position.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt the hon. Member. I am on a point of order. I am being misquoted. I referred to categories of tenancies, objections to site value and new developments. I said that no new hardships would be created because the issue of demand notices on the categories mentioned would be withheld until such time as a settlement is reached. I am not saying that no hardship is being experienced. I referred to the three categories that are being gone into and in which we are trying to avoid any hardship.

Mr. FORDE:

It is just that speech that I am taking issue with. Instead of explaining, I think that the Minister has compounded the offence, if I may put it that way, of which I am complaining, which is that he said that by omitting these three categories, the Government is not creating any hardship for these persons; but I am going to put out to the Minister that under the Land Valuation Act and the Land Tax Act, these persons, in relation to the last tax bill, have put in objections, and the objections that have been made under the Land Valuation Act, have not up to now been heard. In many cases they have prepaid their tax and I believe that the sweetener of a 10% discount if payment is made within 30 days and 5% if made within 60 days - that sweetener has been used in order to entice the people who have filed objections to pay their taxes. 3.50 p.m.

A lot of people also understand the Act as placing an obligation on them to prepay their taxes even in circumstances where they have taken legitimate objection to the valuation being made. I would contend most vehemently that it is a bad principle of legislation where you have placed an obligation on a taxpayer to pay even if he has a valid objection, to also omit from the Act any obligation on the Government to pay him interest for the period of time that his money is being used by the Government. Let us face that fact. It is not right to say there is no hardship. What about the people who have objected for almost seven months now and their appeals have not been heard in this country? We have seen the speed with which the second Valuation Bill has come out. Indeed I believe that the Bill was in the hands of most people on November 1, asking that taxes be paid within 30 days to get discount of 10% or 60 days to get a discount of 5%. And I can understand the Government's anxiety on this - the cash flow is tight despite what the acting Minister of Finance said last week, so that the Government has obviously been putting pressure on the Collector of Taxes to hustle on the tax bills for two sets of taxes in one year, but equal pressure has not been put by this Government to get the Land Valuation Appeal Board working, and the Government must not adopt these tactics. It is wrong; that is the point. I am appealing to the Government to get the appeal machinery in motion. If it is necessary to have the Chairman working and pay him a proper salary; the equity of the circumstances justifies this, and machinery should be properly set up, properly serviced and made effective in this country.

I can cite many instances in my constituency and outside my constituency where people have been assessed for larger areas than they have. Let me say that in some instances, the Commissioner of Valuation has himself tried to rectify the situation without having to resort to the Appeal Tribunal. But there are other grounds on which many people have appealed and up to now no dates have been set for the hearing of these cases, so they cannot pursue their other rights in the High Court on points of law, or indeed to any further Court of Appeal; but I would guess that in 90% of the cases, the Government had the money in the Treasury, which has been used. Can this be fait Government? That is all I am asking. And I cannot accept from the Minister, with respect - and I pay him the greatest respect both for his seniority and the seriousness with which he takes his work - I certainly cannot accept from him that this is not a position of hardship for the people who are affected by this set of circumstances. I want to ask the Minister to tell this House how many objections, how many applications for relief were made under Section 19 of the Land Tax Act, 1973 and how many of them have been adjudicated by the Tax Relief Board to date. I would have expected that the Minister would have given us some facts on that.

Sir, I would also like the Minister to let this House know how many objections have been made under Section 13(1) of the 1973 Act on other grounds and how many have been disposed of by the Tax Relief Board. I believe that Board had functioned in some cases but not in all the cases. And under the Land Valuation Act Section 17 I would like the Minister to tell me how many objections have been made, how many have been withheld, how many are still pending, why are they still pending, what machinery has been set up to deal with them, and what expedition has been shown in relation to them. When that information is forthcoming then I could expect that this Resolution will have a reasonably easy passage.

Now, Sir, we must ask that the public be served properly both by the people who are working in the departments although they have been under tremendous pressure both in 1972 and this year, and also be served by an equitable functioning of the legislation which Parliament has passed. If the Government sits down and does not appoint its Valuation Board, and does not see that it is functioning, the Government is guilty of one or two things - an act of commission, which in my view is bad, or a deliberate act of omission - deliberately not doing anything because they cannot afford to refund money. I want to know which one is it.

Sir, I want to raise a point about the wrong numbers on hereditaments. This year we passed in Parliament an Act which gives retroactive validity to assessment on people for interest in relation to taxes owing to the Government prior to the coming into being of the 1973 Act, and the Government is now seeking to collect in some instances what it alleges are arrears of tax due back in 1968 and in some instances prior to 1969. In a lot of these cases, the demand notes can be objected to in a Court of Law on the ground that they are statute barred - the times have passed. A lot of people do not know this But I am not even going to complain about that because where taxes are properly due I think people should pay up their taxes. You have a Government to run. What I am objecting to is the fact that in some instances the new valuation roll number is being used in relation to old assessments. Let me give you an instance, Mr. Chairman. In my constituency, one old lady in 1966-67 paid \$10; in 1968-69 she is now being told she did not pay taxes of \$79, but in 1969-70 her assessment was something in the region of twenty odd dollars. When I investigated the incident on her behalf I noticed that the valuation roll number does not correspond, but she has a threatening notice sent to her. 4.00 p.m.

I would ask the Officers to exercise a bit more care because they are making errors in this respect, and that lady should not be put to the trouble - in her case there is no expense because I look after my constituents on legal matters without charging them fees - but there may be many people who might be put to legal expense, when they cannot afford it. These are things that I believe that the Department should take note of and if it gets any spare time, it is overwhelmed at the moment, it should try to rectify them and get going properly.

Finally, Sir, I believe that two sets of taxes to pay in one year is going to create hardships for some people, particularly in this year. Already some people are crying out because of it and I am asking the Government certainly to have a close look at this aspect of the matter not only in relation to pensioners but to other people who are suffering as well. I would also suggest that the Tax Relief Board should take this into account and perhaps in some instances if the legislation permits, I have not researched it on this point, but Government should make arrangements, where it is satisfied that genuine cases exist, for payment of taxes by instalments, having regard to the unusual circumstances which have occurred during this year.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. Member who has just sat down, the hon. and learned Member for Christ Church West, there were 5,000 applications for relief, old age pensioners included, and about 600 cases have been dealt with. The Board was appointed in May this year and has had several meetings since. There are 7,000 appeals pending which have to be dealt with, but the Board is actually functioning.

I think that answers some of the questions raised by the hon. Member, but in a matter like this which is so far reaching the hon. Member could probably ask subsequent questions and get full replies.

The question that the sum of \$13,288 under Head 9 - Ministry of Finance (3) Rates and Taxes Division - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. MORRISON, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND and Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES - 9.

NOES:

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS and Mr. H. deB. FORDE - 6.

Head 17 - Prime Minister's Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head which deals with a special allowance for the Head of the Civil Service in the sum of \$307, the position is that the current Estimates, provision of \$1,560 was made to meet expenses under this Item but this amount only provided for one month's special allowance in the case of an acting appointment, so that the person presently acting, Mr. C. B. Williams, will only be paid up to 9th December, 1973 because sufficient provision has not been made for the year. I beg to move that Head 17 stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions - was collod.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 36 stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think this is the second time today that we have been called upon to vote money for the University of the West Indies, and I believe that on the first occasion we were given a long list of reasons to justify the subvention. I would expect the Minister, after having heard the statement made, in his usual style to justify this vote on this occasion. Let me first say that the University of the West Indies is an institution which the Barbados Labour Party and the Opposition support, but this is so because it is perhaps one of the hopes and perhaps the most serious hope for rationalisation in the area of the political form which we have. My Party makes no bones about the fact that we support wholeheartedly unity for the West Indies, but the University of the West Indies demonstrates in many ways the frustrations of a divided West Indies, and that is, I think, one of the tragedies of the 20th Century West Indian nation, because the cost of the University is becoming increasingly over burdening to the taxpayers of the area

for the simple reason that West Indians have not yet learnt to rationalise their institutions on a sensible and logical basis having regard to the financial resources of the area, and more and more are being asked to subsidise the duplication of departments simply to pander to short term political gains by having a university present on every Island. 4.10 p.m.

I believe that the politicians of this generation in the West Indies will go down as a set of cowards who are afraid to grapple with the problem of rationalising the structures in this area to give proper, effective, and inexpensive Government. I am sorry if I speak very strongly on this matter, because we are being asked today to vote another \$233,000 as our share of the increased costs of staff. I believe that the amount for some of the smaller unit Governments is on a similar line. I do not know what is the full amount for the Associated States, but I am sure the Hon. Minister will give this. This money is coming out of the taxpayers of the West Indian territory. University education in the West Indies, which is by and large free in almost every faculty, is now getting to the stage where the taxpayers must query whether we are getting adequate returns for our money.

I should like the students on the various campuses to recognise that we expect them to perform much better than a lot of them have been performing, not only academically but in terms of service to the community. I should also like the lecturers, who believe that the campus is a place only for agitation and confrontation, to recognise that unless that agitation or confrontation is constructive that it is a very heavy price to pay for this type of subsidy.

I am not satisfied that in many areas the University of the West Indies is giving of its best in terms of returns to the public of the country. I am not satisfied that the research that is going on in some areas has been as highly productive as we should expect it to be. I hear of a food crisis in the West Indies, and I have seen no innovations in agricultural engineering, which are relevant to this part of the Third World, and on those campuses there are a lot of Third World ideas in theory although not in practical terms. I believe it has proved almost impossible to produce one engineer who could devise some form of machinery, for instance, to help reap the arrowroot of St. Vincent. We had to look to the British to lend us technical assistance in this field.

Some years ago, we looked at cassava as an alternative crop, and we had to look to the Germans. What has happened at St. Augustine where the Faculties of Agriculture and Engineering are at the same campus? What is the relevant research being done in these fields? I am going to appeal to the people who guide the destinies of the Universities to recognise that their primary duty now is to produce the goods and not merely to create confusion. Let me, in passing, acknowledge that there are some areas in which' advancement has been quite good. I can think that there have been a lot of activities in the terms of teacher education. I believe that we are getting some assistance in curriculum planning. I believe that we have had some contribution in relation to the Carifta and now the Caribbean Common Market

Research, and particularly the Governments of Guyana and Jamaica have benefited considerably from the research being done by people like Norman Cerwar and Allister McIntyre. The other Faculties seem to believe that their only function is to sit, down and probably contemplate, as they did of old in the fuedal Universities of the medieval ages, without making concrete proposals.

Mr. Chairman, this part of the Third World cannot afford the luxury of a University that is not producing material relevant to the Third World, because people are daily becoming very hungry and very angry about advancement. We want to know what the people at St. Augustine, particularly at Mona and at Cave Hill are going to do to have an impact on their community. We are not going to vote against this Resolution, but we cannot but look with some sort of difference at lecturers who will hold up the whole process of University education and their research by striking in circumstances, where they knew that the Governmental process, which takes some time to produce, must work its way before the actual cash was available for them.

I am not in any respect anti-trade union, or against collective bargaining, but if some of the University people must be taken seriously, then we expect them to set a better example than they have set in some instances. I am not too long from the University myself, Mr. Chairman. I have been one of the fortunate people of the Caribbean in this respect who has had an opportunity to get a university education, but I pray God that it will not confuse me to the extent that I think it is the all and end all of life. I should like to remind some of the learned Doctors, etc., on Cave Hill Campus that they need to be realistic and remain part of the people and not a special class for special consideration today.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

rose-Mr. BOLDEN Mr. Chairman, I must thank the Minister of Education for giving way, because I really want to hear him answer me when I am through. Some time ago I came to this Chamber and complained about the role the University of the West Indies had been playing in our community. I am saying that I am dissatisfied with the performance of the University of the West Indies. I have heard a man say before that the next time the Cave Hill Campus sends down the brigade to demonstrate in Bridgetown, put them in the Law Court, and let the Law Court sit at Cave Hill. At least we will begin to put a bit of sanity into the University.

Mr. Chairman, in every other country I know of, the University have been able to look ahead in the future. They have used their technical staff to tell the public at large and not the Government - they have been independent of the Government or the Opposition - what current situations are and what the future will be. We in Barbados together with our West Indian counterparts are facing a serious food shortage. The University of the West Indies, as far as I am concerned, is not playing its part. When the American Universities, the English Universities, and the Russian Universities saw that there would be a food crisis in this world, I would have thought that the University of the West Indies would then have decided on

crash programmes to educate the people and to instruct them into the best method of getting themselves out of a situation which, probably, they themselves have not brought on. There should be crash programmes in agriculture, dairy farming, poultry farming, soil sciences, etc., All of these things are badly needed in the entire Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman, if you go to the United States you will find that every University, every little sub-College has classes open so that people from the age of 16 to 60 can attend, learn and understand some subject. Some are Diploma Courses and some are non-Diploma Courses, but at least these institutions are giving education and ideas to people to help themselves. Instead of doing that, the University of the West Indies is bent on producing as many Arts students as the University will hold in its total population. That is what the University of the West Indies is producing. In addition to that, within the last year, the University of the West Indies, in my opinion, has now become the centre of the destructive rumblings. Every week the students are going on strike; the Lecturers are going on strike, and the Non-Established Staff are going on strike. 4.20 p.m.

I would like to say something to the students. I would like the Governments to be big and bold. These students who are at the University on the taxpayers' money must be made to understand that the day you go on strike your period is ended. If their parents had to pull money out of their pockets and pay for them at the University they would not decide to go on strike. They are not harming anybody but themselves and the taxpayers who are paying for them

Let us forget the politics in this game now. Let the students know. I was not fortunate like the hon. Member who has just sat down. No Government has ever paid for me. If half of them understood and had felt the pinch that many of us had to go through, if they were in Britain where white people did not even want to see them, they would understand what privileges they have to be able to go to their own University and wear the University gown.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that I want the students to understand and I want the lecturers, professors and doctors up there to understand to get out of politics. I am going to call a name now. There is one Mr. McClean who says that he is an economist; but he does more political writings than anyone else. I wonder if he thinks that his political writings will tell the people of Barbados how to grow more potatoes, or tell the Ministry of Agriculture how to produce more food in this country. I would like him to divert his attention to what is necessary for the people of this country to produce more food and then tell the people how they can cut their cost of living.

The Universities of the world have always stood clear of political questions. In Britain a judge delivers

a judgment in a case, and four months later a University Professor comes out and analyses that judgement for certain specific purposes. I would like the Ministry of Education to tell us what the University is doing in certain vital things. A few months ago the Government brought down legislation to control weedicides etc. We heard that they were advised by experts. I said then that I had not seen any writing coming from the University which enhanced our agricultural position. The Minister told me that people from St. Augustine, from England and from all around the world were telling us what to do. They keep on asking for more money. Even today you were asking for more money to develop the structural qualities of the University. If they are asking for more money, the University should be used 24 hours a day. If the lecturers want more money, let them understand that they have to produce.

I have always understood that when a man goes to lecture at a University he has a dedication for teaching, but it seems to me that the role has been changed. They go there, sit down and write. If you look at education generally, every time, you get the report that nobody has got a Barbados Scholarship this year. Has the University analysed our situation and told us what is going wrong? Every morning we hear that the canteen staff is on strike, and that students are on strike. The taxpayers are paying money for people to go on strike.

I want to see something productive coming out of the University. I want to see crash programmes started in things like agriculture and mechanical engineering, things done that we want in the Caribbean now, something to take young people off the streets. I do not want to hear about money, money, without results. I want the Minister to see about that.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution which is before us is for \$233,072 to supplement the Item which is Item 6, Head 36(8) - Scholarships, Grants and Subventions. It is to meet a request which will be forthcoming from the U.W.I, for funds from the contributing Governments to enable the University's teaching and administrative staff to obtain salary increases.

I do not think that anyone can deny that there is a case for increase in salaries for the academic and administrative staff of the U.W.I. There have been increases for other workers in territories in the Caribbean region, and this is a legitimate claim which must be met.

The amount of money, as far as the original proposals put up by the Committee on Salaries which was set up by the University, are concerned, was estimated in 1973-74 at \$3,853,005, in the second year \$4.4 million and in the third year a sum of \$5.11 million. Of this share Barbados would be paying 8% of the sum or \$3.8 million which would amount to \$233,071.74. I would like to let the House know that these

are proposals originally put out by the Salaries Committee which was headed by Dr. Cato of this country. Since then discussions have been going on, and I believe that the final bill will be somewhat higher than this one arising out of negotiations and a free bargaining process between the University and the Committee.

The purpose of this Resolution at this time is to ensure that when the request comes in from the University for increased funding, this Government will be able to meet as speedily as possible the request from the University. It will however, or it may however be necessary for me to come to this Chamber again and ask for additional funds in order to meet the full amount which we require for the University.

I do not propose in any way to answer any questions that have been put out as far as the functioning of the University is concerned. The University is an independent body set up within the region, and the officers of that University, the staff of that University, are quite capable of explaining what the several faculties and institutions have been doing. What I do wish to state, however, is that we cannot have it both ways. The hon. Member for St. Joseph cannot on the one hand ask that members of the University staff should try to enlighten the community and should try to speak on matters within their competence or matters falling within their particular sphere of responsibility, and then at the same time, accuse the University staff when they come out and speak on matters within their competence. 4.30 p.m

The name of Mr. Wendell McClean was mentioned by the Member for St. Joseph, and, this is an instance where you have a member of the university staff speaking on economic matters of which he has competence. So you cannot ask that members of staff should speak out and then when they speak out, maybe because what they say is not acceptable to the ears of certain members over there in the Opposition, you say that they should not speak.

I certainly will not be supporting any call from the university to carry out any crash programmes in agriculture or whatsoever it may be. I believe that programmes of that type may better be carried out by other agencies and institutions within the region. For one thing if you look at the salaries bill, the cost will be very high and this is a matter which we will have to face at some stage - the high cost of running the university. And, Sir, it might be possible for courses of diploma level or lower levels to be put on by other institutions rather than by the university, but I would like to state that the University of the West Indies A within the framework of the resources that are made available to it is making a solid contribution to the life of this region. I would like to agree therefore, and I welcome the statement coming from the Opposition benches, that they support the University of the West Indies and that they would like to see it continue and even operate at a much more efficient and productive level as far as the region is concerned. We support that, and I think this particular Resolution before us is one which should be supported, and as I said, in time we will have at some stage to look at this question of the cost

of the university, because the salaries are getting out of proportion to the levels operating in this country. Indeed, you may get a position in which Barbados as one of the larger contributors to the university may find that the university staff is much better paid than maybe the wealthy lawyers in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to deal with any other matters raised in this debate because as I said, the university staff is quite capable of answering the questions that have been raised; but I certainly welcome from whatever forum it may be, persons in this country speaking out on the university of the West Indies as they see it.

The question that the sum of \$233,072 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 42 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head for the sum of \$232,107 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - I will like to give some background to this Committee, As hon. Members are aware, the Guyana Rice Marketing Board has supplied Barbados with 41,520 bags of rice between January and July 1973. For the subsequent period it was necessary to import rice from the United States of America since the Guyana Rice Marketing Board announced its ability to supply 30 per cent of the rice only for the period June to September 1973. The commitment, Sir, on the rice imported from Guyana; DaCosta & Musson Ltd, \$82,328.22, General Traders Ltd, \$3,814.15, T. Geddes Grant Ltd, \$103,236.87, and the rice imported from U.S.A. a total of \$944,102.43, making a total of \$1,133,501.67. The available funds amount to \$901,494.85; supplementary necessary now is \$232,106.82. An amount, Sir, of \$82,328.82 had to be paid out of this current estimate, or subsidy, because it was late for the last financial year, and apart from that, there is the increased cost of the importation of rice from the U.S.A. An account for the sum of \$82,328.22 which represents the subsidy payable on 18,370 bags of rice imported by DaCosta & Musson Ltd, was received towards the end of the last financial year. It was not possible at that time to pay this amount since no funds were available under the vote. 4.40 p.m.

With effect from 15th February, 1973 the Guyana Rice Marketing Board increased the export selling price of rice from \$23.25 E.G. to \$28.06 per bag for first quality rice, and from \$27.15 to \$31.94 per bag for super quality rice. The price of rice has therefore gone up and owing to the drought, it was unobtainable. It was only after the short fall in the supply of rice from Guyana that the Government agreed that rice could be imported from the U.S.A., and it was estimated that the amount of subsidy required to maintain the retail price of 15 cents per pint would be \$862,500. The accounts have now

been received from the rice importers and the total estimated cost of the subsidy is \$81,602.43 in excess of the original estimate. There is also the question of the exchange rate which has increased and many other factors which are well known to hon. Members.

As far as rice is concerned it is expected that we will receive rice from Guyana shortly. At one time there was a drought and then there were heavy rains, so the elements had a great deal to do with the shortage of rice, but the Government's policy is to try to keep rice retailed at a reasonable rate so that the average person would be able to buy it and so it will be 26 cents per pound from now on. Those are the facts as far as rice is concerned. We have no control of the element, there is either a drought or too much rainfall.

I beg to move that the sum of \$232,107 under Head 42 - Ministry of Trade and Commerce - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, one would have expected from the Leader of the House when introducing this Resolution a comprehensive statement about the Government's policy as regards the importation of rice into Barbados. I would like to begin by telling the people of this country not to accept the statement of the Minister of Trade that 2,000 bags of rice will be coming to this country shortly and that that means there will be an end to the rice shortage in Barbados, because this is what the Minister was trying to put over, as I understand it, to the people of this country. I think the time has come when the Government must stop ruling; by deceit, because the Minister knows very well that 2,000 bags of rice would suffice for one week and one week only, because the weekly consumption of rice in this country is something like 2,000 bags plus packaged rice. If it does not come on Thursday or Friday we expect that by next weekend there will be no rice. What is the Government planning to do about that? Are they going to sit back and wait till the end of November until another supply of rice comes from Guyana? Must the people starve in the meantime, while some of the ministers, especially the Prime Minister does not care about the people of this country because at a time like this, he can absent himself for three months, and yet you tell me that this is a Government which has the interest of the people at heart. I would have thought that the Minister in making his statement on this Resolution today would have outlined quite clearly what his Government's policy is and how they intend to deal with the rice shortage in Barbados, because the 2,000 bags will only last for one week.

What must the people do after that? Are we to revert to the situation that obtained in this country for

the last six weeks when there was virtually no rice? As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, the last time rice was imported was some time in July. What has been the policy of the Ministry of Trade in this respect? The 30,000 bags of rice which were imported into this country would have lasted for four months, but do you mean that the Ministry of Trade must wait until there is a shortage before it takes action? They knew that the 30,000 bags would have lasted for four months, but what steps did the Ministry take to ensure that at the end of that four months there would have been an adequate supply of rice in this country? Absolutely nothing. No steps were taken by the Ministry of Trade to ensure that there would have been an ample supply of rice in this country, and I challenge any Minister to get up in here and say whether other people in Barbados, not only the Roebuck Street merchants, applied to the Ministry of Trade for licences to bring rice to this country and were refused. If the Minister has something personal for one Roebuck Street merchant I do not think the people of this country should be made to suffer as a result- If the Roebuck Street merchants can make the Minister look like an idiot every time issues on food arise in this country, the Minister must not make the people suffer because he wants to get back at a particular merchant. I do not even know if the country has a Minister of Finance at this stage, but that will only show you how little the Government thinks of the people of this country. So little do they care that they refused to grant licences so that the people could get rice to eat. The Minister dealt with one merchant because perhaps it was to his advantage to deal with him but what of the other people who applied and were refused? Why were they refused? Let us stop practising Government by deceit and stop fooling the people of this country. A hungry man is a dangerous man, and the Government had better wake up because the first time the people of this country start to feel it that is when it will become very serious. 4.50 p.m.

It is when they realise, for the first time, that what the Barbados Labour Party was saying about the Government is true. During the last few months, people were asking what the Opposition is doing about it. We are not only going to say that we told you so, in 1971, We are still going to assist the people of this country.

Mr. Chairman, the system of importing rice into this country - the one which the Leader of the House said is such a wonderful system - as I understand it, is that there is an Inter-Governmental Agreement whereby the Guyana Government is supposed to supply Barbados with 8,000 bags of rice every month. Instead of the Government being in a position to know when there is likely to be a rice shortage, and instead of the Government being responsible for the importation and distribution of that rice, the Government abdicates its responsibility in favour of four merchants in Bridgetown and allows them to be the sole importers of rice in this country.

Mr. Chairman, a simple analysis of the law of supply and demand will tell you that at no stage will the merchants of this country ensure that there is ever too much rice in this country, because, if that is so, the cost of rice will drop. They will ensure that at no stage is there too much rice so that the cost of rice will remain at an astronomical figure. That is what is happening because the Government has abdicated its responsibility to the people of this country by allowing merchants in Bridgetown: DaCosta and

Musson, Geddes Grant, A. S. Bryden, and General Traders to be the sole importers and distributors of rice in this country. That is the major factor for the shortage of rice in this country.

Mr. Chairman, if the rice that was imported in July could last for four months, we had a statement in here by one of the Ministers that there is always a four to six weeks' supply of rice in this country. If that statement is true, then it would mean that the rice imported in July would run out at the end of October, and there would have been a four to six weeks' supply of rice in this country. If the Government is aware of this, then it means that the merchants in this country were hoarding rice and the Government has done absolutely nothing about it. The Government should have been prepared for a situation like this. (Asides.)

It was the Minister of Home Affairs who made that statement in here in June, that there is always a four to six weeks' supply of rice in this country in addition to any rice that comes into the country. What has been happening during the last few months? Where is this four to six weeks' supply of rice? Do you mean to say that the Government sat down and allowed the merchants to hoard the rice in bonds, after abdicating its responsibility to the masses of this country? Mr. Chairman, the Members of the entire Government seem to have taken leave of their senses. From time to time they talk about socialism; they beat their chests and say I am a socialist this and a socialist that, but I know that the Ministers are not seriously concerned about the rice situation. I believe at one stage there were seven or eight Ministers out of the Island who were able to get an adequate supply of rice, while the poor people in this country had to be fighting to get rice.

I see a shop in Peterkins. For years I have been passing there, and never at any one time did it have more than five people in it. On Friday last week I saw that the shop had about twenty people in it. That shop had rice. Why did not the Government investigate that sort of thing? How is it that one merchant has all of that rice at one stage while other people are starving for rice? I passed there Tuesday night about 9.30; people were in the shop and others were outside lining up in order to get rice. That is the only shop at Eagle Hall that had rice. (Asides)

Mr. Chairman, I am not like the Minister who went to Paris or England and had Uncle Ben's rice to eat. I was in Barbados all the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would advise the hon. Member to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. MOTTLEY:

What we have seen during the past few weeks and now see is an attempt by the Minister of Trade to deceive the public of this country by saying that 2,000 bags of rice are coming, and giving the impression that it can last for a long time. The Leader of the House in June said that the consumption of rice in this country is over 2,000 bags a week plus packaged rice. We have not yet heard about the packaged rice. What does the Government expect the poor people to do? What is going to happen next week? The significance of his statement is that he does not say when the next shipment is coming. Of course, this was done to appease an editorial written in the newspaper.

Mr. Chairman, you have an association like the Barbados Consumers League saying that the Minister says rice is coming to the country. Instead of the Barbados Consumer League calling upon the Government to make a proper statement as to the reason for the rice shortage and to have the matter investigated, they have merely said that rice is coming to the country. This rice shortage did not come upon us suddenly. We discussed this matter in here in June this year. If the Minister of Trade had been doing any proper planning, we would not have been in this position. The Government would have planned properly, and they would have known that before the end of the 4-week supply it would have been necessary to take steps to obtain rice to ensure that an adequate supply of rice would have been in this country at all times.

Mr. Chairman, everybody in Barbados knows that rice is the daily diet of most people in Barbados, and the Minister of Trade should have taken steps to ensure that we had an adequate supply of rice. All of this is due to the fact that the Government had abdicated its responsibility and handed the matter over to four merchants in Bridgetown and they did as they liked. However, you will still hear certain Members of the Government coming here and telling us about socialism.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have said all that I had to say on this rice problem when there was a previous debate on this matter in the House. I think at that time I pointed out that the amount which the Government was requesting to subsidise the rice was not enough. I said at that time that Trinidad had voted over \$7 million to subsidise the rice coming into that country. The Minister then retorted that the rice sent to Trinidad was of a lower quality and we were getting rice of a better quality in Barbados. In the circumstances, it would mean that it would be necessary to have more money for subsidising rice in Barbados.

I believe that the time has come when the Government should set up what I would call a Department of Research and Productivity. I think that is what is urgently needed in this country. Its functions would be to watch imports and exports; it should publish monthly papers so that not only Government

Departments, but business houses can know what is happening in the country. If this was done we would not find ourselves, quarter after quarter, in a situation where you hear that there is a shortage of rice. I heard an hon. Member in this Chamber today ask the Minister what he is going to do to increase the number of acres which are planted in foodstuff. 5 p.m.

There was a period of time, Mr. Chairman, when people used to give sweet potatoes to the pigs. It was only country people like me and you Mr. Chairman, who used to eat sweet potatoes. Today it is the reverse. If you get them, you pay 45 cents a pound for them and you cannot get them because those that are imported from St. Vincent are expensive and the latest report is that St. Vincent is now banning the export of sweet potatoes.

Those are the problems facing this country. It is not only rice. You hear that you cannot get macaroni although you hear that there is a; macaroni plant in Barbados - two of them. You cannot get English potatoes. You cannot get sweet potatoes. You cannot get rice. Some time ago it was corned beef. Something is basically wrong and the Government has got to take a serious look. The Government has got to work diligently now even if they work all night long to find a method of determining when things are going to be in short supply and when there is going to be a glut.

What I want to say at this point is that the Government should look into it because as the Member has said, rice is the staple food of almost everyone in the Caribbean. When Dr. Jagan came to Barbados and wrote a long letter in the Barbados Advocate advocating that Guyanese workers and farmers should be paid more, that was a signal warning that the entire Caribbean was going to face a shortage of rice coming out of Guyana. I think that every Caribbean Government should take a serious look at what is happening in Guyana and whether Guyana can produce the rice that they have contracted to produce.

They must take up the position that we must see after our people first and see that they are not held up to ransom by the Guyana rice farmers. I think the Government has got the answer because if you could not get rice in the war years you were told to turn to potatoes and breadfruit. Now you cannot get potatoes. You cannot get macaroni. What will the people eat?

Already, Sir, there have been reports of people entering potato fields and digging potatoes. This is how the last riot started. I hope that Government is not calculating on another riot. The Government has to do something about it. I think they should set up a department that can forecast what is going to happen. I have said privately and I have said publicly that it has been forecast that there will be a grain shortage again around July next year. That is all I can say because all the people will suffer together. Not only those who voted for the Dems but those who voted for the Opposition. The small shops will shut down

and when the small shops go the big shops will not be able to distribute. You see what happened with the milk plant.

Mr. CRAIG:

M\ Chairman, I would like to make a small contribution to this debate. I think I am right in saying that not since World War II has this country been faced with the shortage with which it is being faced now. There was a period during World War II when the cause of the shortage was well known - when boats bringing items here were torpedoed or diverted or something of that nature. In this instance it is not a war, it is the Ministry of Trade and the Minister himself who no one can deny has been a square peg in a round hole.

The Minister himself does not understand what is going on, and I believe that it is unfortunate for him to have been living in the U.S.A. for a period of years and coming back here without any kind of knowledge of the situation that prevails here in Barbados, and refusing to take advice from those people who have been dealing with the importation of goods to this country almost from time immemorial. No one can deny this.

I am not one of those people who will sit down and subscribe to Bridgetown merchants making any great profits. I do not think that in this day and age they could get away with-it, if the Government is alert; but I am saying that if they have had the practical know-how for all these years in a business of this nature, that they are in a better position to direct the Government as to what is the position with the policy pertaining to the importation of food into the country.

We have heard quite a lot about the rice shortage. Now we hear that there are a few people, some people saying in an interview that rice was not good for them. It is not a question of what is good for you but what you can afford to buy. If you think of the old age pensioners, for instance, and the small pittance that they get, you will see that they can hardly afford to buy rice. What can they eat? They will only eat themselves. It is O.K. for those who can pick out canned goods in the supermarket, but one has to consider those who cannot afford the price of those goods,

I believe that you have gone out of that business. I am sure that your shelves look like if a rat had gone through them simply because of the policy of the Ministry of Trade. I am sure that you cannot go into Bridgetown and order goods for the customers that you have served all the years, and the majority of them are agricultural workers.

What is even worse, I am told that there is going to be a shortage of macaroni. (ASIDE: There is one already) I am speaking about the production of ground food which the Government of Barbados fought the Barbados Labour Party on, telling the people about agriculture, about bringing them back into the fields. We were not talking about growing canes but about the development of agriculture to ensure that the country could feed itself up to a certain point.

Mr. Chairman, the situation will be worse. There will be an influx of tourists in a few days' time. It is all right for the big hotels to be able to import food, but when you have the small man who is not in a position to purchase like that, the blame must rest squarely on the shoulders of the Ministry of Trade because they are not prepared to take advice.

I am not one who will say that I will salute the merchants in Bridgetown, but you must give credit where credit is due. What I am saying is that these merchants are in a position to advise the Ministry of Trade as to what is to be done to supply food at all times.

I am told that there is going to be a shortage of sugar. We are told that Barbados is a sugar producing country. Now that we are going through a food shortage, the man who has been elected as head of the country is not concerned, but is at some university cooling out. He is drawing one set of money here, and one set there.

We on this side will get into that. I cannot understand. I have been trying to find out how many men in the street own a private aeroplane that is worth (U.S.) \$87,000, As a matter of fact, I am sorry that his senior assistant is not here today to hear this debate on the Resolution before us. Not one of them is in their seats. I believe that the Minister of Communications and Works has come in, if no one else. He has a deep sense of responsibility to this country. 5.10 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what is the position? I am sure that the Leader of the House is not in a position to make a statement - a clear cut statement - as to what would be the position of the country pertaining to the entire food shortage within the past months. I heard Senator Taitt, the Minister of Trade, last night in a half-baked television broadcast - all he is concerned with is a Mr. David Seale said this and Mr. David Scale said that, and, Mr. David Seale is in a position to know because he was brought up in it - and you bring some text-book Minister of Trade and push him up in Bay Street, and today the people in Barbados are the ones suffering under the text-book politician you have up there. It is regrettable that his Permanent Secretary cannot guide him as the Permanent Secretary makes it perfectly clear to those who interview him that "the matter does not rest with me." The Minister should be ashamed to hear that the

Hawarden Bridge was coming in here but it brought in motor cars to race at Bushy Park first, before we could get some bags of rice on a ship. Mr. Chairman, if he is a responsible person and understands the position, and there is rice available, he would have got Carib West to fly in a few hundred bags of rice in here every day at least to alleviate the present rice shortage in this country. But, oh no! He is awaiting a boat which may never come and it does not look as if it is ever going to come, because we have been hearing about this boat for the past six weeks. The only boat I think he could be thinking about is the Daerwood.

I would like to hear the Leader of the House make a clear cut statement on this Resolution, as to what is the position with the entire food shortage in this country. We want to hear this. You spoke only about rice but are you aware of the fact that there are other items on the shelves of the supermarkets that will soon be completely off? Are you aware of this? We want a clear cut statement from the Leader of the House since he is the person who presented the Resolution.

It is my advice to the Government to select an advisory board comprising the Roebuck Street and some of the other Bridgetown merchants who import foodstuff into this country - an advisory board to assist the Minister of Trade in the interest of all concerned. I am not concerned whether they are white, if they are blue or if they are black. I am concerned with the present situation and I sincerely hope that it does not worsen. That, Sir, is my little contribution to this debate.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to get into the debate on the rice shortage in Barbados but I would like to make two points; one is, that we have in Barbados today any amount of instant yam in the first place, and there is a great number of acres planted in potatoes soon to be reaped. We have heard a lot about food shortage and increased food production and things like this, but I am not one who is going to tell the planter to plant this and plant that and eventually I have sacrificed them on the altar of the price marketing situation in Barbados, because you have to be realistic. Agriculture is one of those hard and whole time jobs where our farmers have laboured in many instances without very much reward. We are now asked to subsidise rice from somewhere else but if there is one place that money should be put in this country, it is in the agricultural sector. We need to subsidise our farmers. We need to understand the difficulties under which they labour, and the diminishing costs. In producing vegetables in this country, the farmers are beset with various problems, diseases and insects, and unless we give a realistic approach to our situation in Barbados, we are not going to solve our food problem. It is difficult to ask farmers to produce under these circumstances. When the farmer has an abundance of vegetables at the wrong time, the price is such that he cannot make a profit. It is just like the fishermen who catch a lot of fish during the fishing season; it is easier sometimes for them to restrict production to get a fair and comfortable return for their labour than to have things in abundance, because they are the ones who feel the pinch.

The attitude of Barbadians to people, who work in the field, is ridiculous. We must understand that the fisherman and the farmer provide a very basic service to the people of the community. These are the people who have to feed you yet the attitude towards these people is not the best. They are relegated to the lowest class in society. Society does not look at the farmer nor the fisherman; they are more or less of no class in this community, if we are to give them their rightful place in this community as human beings who are doing a very essential service to the people of Barbados, they have got to be recognised first, they have got to be encouraged with what they are doing and they have got to be given the necessary assistance by way of easy credit facilities, mechanical aids to production, and they have got to get free fertilizers; all these things must happen, but we cannot ask people to produce under the present conditions. 5.20 p.m

They have got to get free fertilizers and free inputs of seeds, but we cannot ask people to produce under the present conditions where the cost of production is so high and when you get high production costs, the level of profit is low because of glut. These are situations which have been hitting the agricultural sector for the past two or three years, and except this Hon. House co-operates and helps the Ministry to get on its feet we are going to be faced with even more food shortages. Increased production will not ensure that more food is available, what we need is to have processing plants and they must be established very quickly in order that we can have an abundance of certain commodities. We should have storage facilities so that we can preserve some of our crops for future use. We have been hit by the drought last year, and that is why we could not get potatoes but I am sure there is an adequate amount of potatoes planted this year and we will have a very serious situation in a few months' time when there will be too many potatoes and the price will dissuade the farmers from planting. If we do not pass some restricting order we will find the farmers will have to sell their potatoes dirt cheap and not get any return for their labour. These are things we must understand, and except we make proper provision for the marketing of our farmers produce we are going to sacrifice all our farmers at the altar and we will be pricing ourselves out of the markets altogether.

The same situation obtains in the poultry industry. The increased cost of feed without a corresponding increase in the price of poultry makes the poultry farmer go out of business because there is a great difference between the cost of the feed and the price at which he should sell his poultry. These things are giving the small farmer and the small poultry producers trouble, I intend to co-operate with the farmers of Barbados and ask them to plant more food, but we need to know where we are going and we cannot ask people to work hard on the land and then get low returns for their labour.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister who has just sat down has warned this country that greater starvation faces us. All he promises is over production of potatoes, and all that has happened is the same thing which happened in the days of Dr. Saint when people were saying that if one got wet one would spring. The people of this country now find themselves sandwiched between ignorance in the Ministry

of Trade and confusion in the Ministry of Agriculture; there is no mistake about this. I heard the Minister of Agriculture say how the farmers are being strangled because of the present price structure and from one thing to the other. I share his view in this particular respect, bearing well in mind that he has it within his hands along with the Ministry of Trade, and that his Government had it now for more than 11 years to remove the situation with which we are now faced in very many ways, because they could have made preparations for their processing plant. I have heard so much about this plan, we were all so ready to start this plant that I thought we would have been processing human beings by now. One only has to wonder if this person who has disappeared has not been so processed. The people of this country want rice and want it badly. I heard someone say that we do not produce rice in Barbados, but what we must produce in Barbados is this, people who know what to do about the affairs of the country.

You can imagine the Minister of Trade walking into a business place in the parish of St. Michael and the people greeting him telling him they hoped he had brought along a little rice in his pockets for them. Do you know what his reply was? Rice what! Then after a little conversation, they tried to put before him the situation as it really exists and he said that the people must have something to talk about, that they should not mind rice because rice was not important. Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Trade does not know that rice is important to the people of this country I am asking the people to rise up and do something, take some firm action whatever the result and let the Minister know they want rice and that they must be fed. The Minister of Agriculture said that producing food locally is not going to solve the situation and the Minister of Trade tells you that importing is not going to solve it. Exactly where are we going? I heard the Minister say he knows where he is going.

Mr. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I said that increased production does not necessarily mean that increased supplies of food will be available.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have nothing against the Minister of Agriculture, I appreciate that he has just gone into his Ministry but this Government had the same Ministry for 11 years or more and if they had any long term policy, the people of this country would not be faced with the situation of having to import potatoes from St. Vincent and pay 40 cents a pound for them. Moreover, the potatoes from St. Vincent are rotten. We are even now paying 40 cents a pound for our own potatoes. Government understands this, that it was the Members of this Government, some of the leading people of this Government, who did everything to prevent an increase in the price of balanced animal feed. They did not want this increase to come too soon after an election and they delayed it for a long time until the people decided not to produce any more balanced animal feed, but by this time the people had to start cooking rice to feed the pigs with it. As soon as the pigs started to look good, down came a man called swine fever. If it is a case that we have been getting this amount of rice that came here in July, this 30,000 bags, I want to ask what kind of sense this Government has. 5.30 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works gives the Government a good lot of advice. We are satisfied that there must be hoarding of rice somewhere in this country. I am now hearing from some of the Members of the Government, "I agree." Cannot they agree in the Cabinet to get the Police, the U.S. Navy, the army, or whoever it might be to do what is necessary to carry out a search to find out where this rice is in order to relieve the situation? What are the Members of the Government doing about this matter? We do not want you to say "I agree" here. We want you to agree in the Cabinet and let us see action for the benefit of the masses.

Oh my God, Mr. Chairman, the people in this country are suffering. They cannot get potatoes, they cannot get rice; corn meal is now 26c a pound. Is the rice to be sold at 26/ a pound, too? We did not produce much corn last year, but I still see some people going to grind corn to make conkies. (Asides.) This is nothing to laugh at. The people are starving and hungry. Added to this is the fact that the Government has been laying off vast numbers of people from Communications and Works and other Departments.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is absolutely nothing to do with this Resolution.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am talking about feeding people, but if a man is not working he gets hungry more often than a man who is working. A hungry man is an angry man, and that is what I am warning the Government about. The Government does not seem to be particularly concerned about these people. Mr. Chairman, you have heard about the four merchants who are importing rice in Bridgetown. Somebody has to import the rice. We voted \$862,000 some time ago to pay a subsidy on this rice. Has that amount of money been paid to the people to whom it is due? Is that not the major problem why the "Oakdeane" could not sail out of port? Do you know that if the freight is not paid the boat will not sail? Although we have voted the sum of \$862,000 to pay the subsidy, the "Oakdeane" or no other boat can sail from Guyana to bring rice for the starving people in this country. The Government is not particularly concerned about the plight of these people in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Trade, says: "That is nothing to worry about. The people must have something to talk about." That is his attitude to this matter. I am saying that the Government is provoking the people of this country to violence. The Government by its action, or lack of action, is provoking the hungry people to violence in this country. We are asking the people to bear it for so long. They know how long to bear it. Mr. Chairman, how long is too long when it is so corrupt and bad? It is too long now, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we have a weekly consumption of 2,000 bags of rice, but that does not take into consideration the packaged rice. I remember the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs reminding us some time ago that Government was making provision to take care of the hurricane season. He said that there would be a stand-by supply in the case of a hurricane. Do not put up rice for a hurricane and let the people die. The hurricane is over, so bring out what you had put down for the hurricane and let the people get some rice. Bring out the rice so that by Friday or Saturday every house in Barbados can have rice on Sunday. Do not call it the Democratic Labour Party Sunday rice, or the Barbados Labour Party Sunday rice, call it the people's rice for Sunday. That is what we are asking for. Do not mind which political party gives it, but we want to know that the people are getting rice. It looks as though this Government is trying to get the people disgusted with eating rice in the same way as it tried to get them disgusted with keeping pigs. The Government must make a different approach to this whole problem. There is no point in trying to take the taste of something out of the people's mouth unless you have something else to be used as a substitute.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot get macaroni. If you did not have rice and you had macaroni, you could still make a dish with something else and make everybody happy. You cannot get macaroni now. I understand that there is some confusion over macaroni. The one company that is making the two grades at the Pine feels that it would be more profitable to produce one grade and set it at a high price than to produce two grades and sell one at a low price. It seems to me that the Minister of Trade is not familiar at all with what is going on in this country. Take the case of dry peas. The Ministry of Trade made provision for the importation of dry peas by the bag to be sold at so much a pound, and the people imported dry peas and sold them in a package. They made schedules for the importation and sale of canned foods at so many ounces, and the people imported things that have no relation to ounces whatsoever. When the schedule refers to ounces the people are selling the things by the pound.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder what kind of stomach the Members of this Government have. What kind of sense do they have? How can they be associated with a Minister of Trade remaining in office like this? (Asides) You cannot bring this Government into disrepute no matter how you try. When a Minister of Trade feels that feeding the people is not important, then God have mercy upon us all. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, we are appealing to Members of the Government to realise that the mass of the people of this country are human beings. That is first and foremost in this matter. Except for the people that they encourage not to work and are still drawing money weekly for not working - apart from that few, the majority of Barbadians are hard working people, When a man works and he goes home, he expects to have a meal. 5.40 p.m.

It is true, Mr. Chairman, that doctors have from time to time found it absolutely necessary to warn our people against eating too many starchy foods, too much rice, too many potatoes, too much yam; but when you take a little of this and a little of that, and when you consider the necessities of life, the necessity of the situation - do not put the time limit on me now. Mr. Chairman. I am going to wind up now. What we are saying, what we are asking the Government to see right now is that they have it within their hands to keep rice in the country for the people to eat. If not, the people will be called out to demonstrate. The people will have to come out and demonstrate for rice, for food.

Mr. Chairman, the people of this country are not now far from 1937. They are ready to shed blood for food. That is a suggestion that I give the Government of this country - the people are ready to shed blood for food.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is where the hon. Member completes his contribution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, we have just listened to a very impassioned speech by the hon. Member for St. Peter. I would like him to know that this Government which has been in power since 1961 has been concerned and has been able up to this year to provide adequate supplies of the food about which the Opposition is quarrelling and complaining. This is a situation that has arisen for the first time in the Government's tenure of office, twelve years since the Government has been in power.

Let me first dispose of this nonsensical approach of the Prime Minister running away in a time of crisis. The Prime Minister has been performing his duties since 1961 except for a break between 1966 and 1968 and has been Leader of this Government since 1961 and has taken this Government into independence in 1966. Ministers do not get regular holidays on the basis of Civil Servants.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, anyone who is aware of the stress and strain of running independent countries in need of development, and of the need for providing employment for its people will appreciate that the Leader of any Government is certainly under heavy strain and that the Prime Minister must take a break which he deserves from the politics which he undertakes. This is not a peculiar situation. Mr. Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore went to British Columbia and lectured and did the same thing. I was present in Singapore when Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Lee Kwan Yew suggested to the Prime Minister that after being Head of Government for a period of time as long as he had been, he had got to watch the situation where he might overtax his brain and that he should take a break from the hazardous

task of running the country. Do not let the people of this country get the impression that the Prime Minister has run away. He deserves a holiday, and the country should be grateful that with the 18 seats they gave him, we are capable of running this country in his absence, having the Ministers of the calibre we have.

Mr. HINDS:

What has this to do with.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

What has the hon. Member got up on?

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN I think it is a point of interruption.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Let us get the record straight.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I submit that the hon. Member is being irrelevant, and that is a breach of the Rules. This is a Resolution for paying bills of the Government.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I am saying from the depths of my heart that any country which would grudge the Prime Minister, after the contribution that he has made to this country, a break from his duties to refresh his energies would be an ungrateful country. I say that without fear of contradiction.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order. Is the Minister telling us that the Prime Minister is recharging his energies to

retire?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

That is a point of nonsense. I want the people of Barbados to know that they must be grateful to people who have advanced their condition, improved their quality of life and made it possible for Barbados to be one of the small, young and vibrant countries respected throughout the world; and the Prime Minister richly deserves a holiday and a break and the people of this country should be only too glad to give him the opportunity to recharge his nerves.

This question of running away is so ridiculous that it does not deserve any further comment from me. I am proud that he has gone for the simple reason that I think he deserves a holiday and the country would be better off after his return. The country should be glad that he has taken this break in order to come back and serve his country with greater vigour. This argument about running away is nonsense. Running away from what? Ministers do not get holidays. A Minister works until 10 o'clock every night in the interest of this country. Are we to be so ungrateful as to deny the Prime Minister a holiday?

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am moving from that point.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Sir, this is a Resolution which deals with a sum of money to subsidise foodstuffs. Mr. Nixon's lawyers defended him too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Absolutely no point of order. I want all hon. Members to understand that I have given the Opposition sufficient latitude on this matter to speak relative ;to the Prime Minister being out of this Island. A

Member can reply and I will hear nothing irrelevant to this matter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Just today I paid tribute to Sir Grantley Adams. I go straight down the line. I give Jack his jacket. The people of this country ask for two things, an honest Government and a peaceful way of life. This is what the Opposition will have to understand- The people are being told in an impassioned speech by the Member for St. Peter that this shortage is a big crisis and that the people must march and tear down. I am glad that the people of Barbados are not that foolish or licorish.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation. I have not said that the people must tear down. I have not said that they are licorish or stupid.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Imagine in a country like this the Member for St. Peter is inciting the people that because a temporary shortage of rice they must be so.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I must take objection. He is imputing improper motives to what I said in this House. He has said that I am inciting people to tear down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

In the Chair's estimation, there is absolutely nothing improper in this particular statement because to march is also to tear down. (Mr. HINDS ASIDE You are talking about March, the calendar month.)

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

If I were outside, I would have to pass that statement on to the Director of Public Prosecutions. (ASIDE Threatening an hon. Member now?).

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking the hon. Member now...

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want you to ask him. I will go and put my hands in his swallow pipe and tell the people of St. Peter what I did and get back my seat.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You will have to go outside and do it.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, this is a serious debate and when the hon. Member says that if he was outside he would pass the statement to the D.P.P. or whatever he said, he is imputing that the hon. Member is committing an offence.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I hope that my time is being noted and that I am not losing time through these stupid comments.

Mr. BOLDEN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Let the hon. Member take his seat. I am on my feet.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the whole world is suffering.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, he is imputing that I have committed a criminal offence in here. I am asking to have him withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is no criminal offence committed, neither is he imputing that.

Mr. HINDS:

He said that if he was outside, he would pass it on to the D.P.P.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, the former Attorney General may be so ignorant as not to understand that the Public Order Act applies in here and if you are guilty of a breach of it here you are just as guilty as anywhere else. In my respectful submission, if the hon. Member said that if the other hon. Member has said something outside, he would pass the statement to the D.P.P., he must be saying that he has committed a criminal offence. 5.50 p.m

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Absolutely no point of order. I am prepared to hear the hon. Minister speaking on the Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the whole world is suffering from a shortage of food. There is a famine where hundreds of people are dying, and cattle are dying like flies. Ethiopia today is suffering from a shortage of food, so that the International Committee has to divert food to these countries and countries that have a drought. Ethiopia is having a drought through which thousands of people are dying. You should see pictures of them in the English papers. Apart from that, throughout the world, even the great America is short of meat and a million and one other commodities. On the Indian subcontinent they are suffering terribly there. So do not let us fool the people of Barbados that Barbados is the only one. We are part of a global world shortage of food. America furthermore has shipped much of her grain, on an agreement, to Russia. Canada has signed an agreement with China to ship wheat to China. So do not keep your mind glued to this 21x14 country. Look at it as a world situation where Barbados has to import food.

In addition to that, there is a famine in Africa. We had to import rice from Guyana, and when Guyana thought she was going to get a bumper crop, the rains came and there were floods. So what happened? Was the Minister of Trade in Barbados responsible for the floods in Guyana? Don't you see, Mr. Chairman, there was a combination of circumstances apart from our not getting direct and straight forward answers from Guyana which created a situation in which this Government has had to act? Now the people must know this; a Government that can pick up \$900,000 at this time of our economic position and subsidize rice from America, is that the action of a Government that is uncaring about the rice situation in Barbados? We came down to the House and we got through a Resolution in all its stages

to subsidize rice from the United States of America in July to the tune of nearly \$900,000 - nearly \$1 million. Will a Government that can take that action to keep the rice within 15 cents a pint -. is that the action of a Government which doesn't care if the people eat rice? We sought out and we did everything to get rice for this country. But let me tell you what has happened in Barbados - and they know it too - because at the time there was a row, and an increase for poultry feed and other food which was selling twenty something cents a pound, and because the Government in its interest for the people decided to subsidize rice at 15 cents, some of the poultry keepers and the pig keepers took the 15 cents rice, par-boiled it and fed animals with it. Let the hon. Member for St. Joseph deny that. They did it.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, he has mentioned me, I will deny it. I will tell the truth about it if he wants to hear it, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, they bought the rice at 15 cents a pint instead of buying the animal feed for the pigs and other animals, and he knows it. He knows therefore that the rice which the Government brought in to feed people during the four months period, not only was it hoarded but - only two days ago I heard a supermarket in Oistins advertising rice - you can get a bag free if you buy something else, and he had rice in Oistins - Hill's supermarket came over the radio advertising rice. So that is the position. And I am a rice man; I like rice. There is no rice for John Brown but if you are their favourite customer they will carry you around in the back and sell you a pint or two.

This Government has been in power eleven years and this is the first time you all in the Opposition opened your mouths about rice. The people in Barbados have to realize two things; that Barbados is not an Island unto itself; Barbados is part of an international and, not only monetary, but also commercial unit.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

And this now completes the allotted time. 6.00 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS:

I first want to deal with the financial aspect of the Resolution. There is no doubt that the Government had gravely miscalculated the amount of money needed to subsidise the rice when it first brought down the Resolution to the House. It is a well known fact that one of the things that has been making the merchants in Bridgetown and many other persons say that there is no money in the Treasury? is that the Government has been unable to meet its commitments to the rice importers by way of subsidy. It is to

my knowledge, I have been so informed by more than one rice importer, that rice has arrived, the importer has found it impossible to sell the rice because the Government has not paid the subsidy and the importers could not see their way in the circumstances to meet commitments of supply if they were not guaranteed by subsidy from the Government. I hold no brief for any importer, whether it be Geddes Grant, DaCosta or whoever, the gentleman who is responsible for the importation of rice at DaCosta, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, is one of the outstanding supporters of the Government and also one of the outstanding complainants in this matter.

I certainly hold no brief for any of them, but this is a point I must mention. The Government should have understood at an early stage that the dislocation occasioned by the difficulties of the Guyana rice farmer was going to be of longer standing than it first planned for. We have a very inexperienced man at the Ministry of Trade, a man inexperienced in the ways of Barbadians, a man inexperienced as far as I can judge in consumer tastes and a man inexperienced in running a Ministry. I am not satisfied that his interests are sufficiently exclusive and sufficiently motivated to make him an adequate person to head the Ministry of Trade at the present time. Two Ministers of this Government, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Health, in their previous incarnations as Ministers of Health and Home Affairs both had failures of administration of far less importance, of far less gravity and of far less significance to the people of Barbados than has the Minister of Trade, but the Minister of Trade remains the favourite son in office, no matter what mistakes he makes, whom he alienates, what casual statements he makes on television and what casual attitudes he takes towards the grave responsibility of the Ministry of Trade at a time when everyone in Barbados is crying out about the cost of living. The primary effect must be in that self-same Ministry of Trade. I am fortified in my arguments this afternoon by the speech made by the Minister of Agriculture who I do not now see in his seat. It is gratifying to know that when a fresh mind is brought to bear on a problem that all the arguments which the Opposition has used over a period of many years, combined with a sound knowledge of very elementary agricultural economics, is produced to the House by a Member on the Government side.

It is an obvious truism what the Minister of Agriculture has said today about glut and shortage and everything else. That is what I believe we learn in the initial stages and it is gratifying to find that he has learnt it. I have never heard the former Minister of Agriculture showing such signs of a grasp of what was really at stake, but it is not sufficient to have an elementary knowledge of agricultural economics. More than 12 years ago under the Barbados Labour Party the same arguments were produced in here when it was then thought necessary even at a time when over 200,000 tons of sugar had recently been produced in Barbados, there was then sufficient foresight on the part of our Minister of Agriculture to understand that Barbados needed to diversify its agriculture, it needed a domestic food production and it needed a marketing corporation to handle the problems of glut, shortage and marketing, and so the Barbados Marketing Corporation was set up in 1961, but the administration has entirely been carried on by the Democratic Labour Party. Its faults are the faults of the persons who are put there by the Democratic Labour Party. Its successors, if there are any, no doubt are the successors of those same persons, but the only person I have ever seen in print or otherwise praising the Barbados Marketing Corporation is a person who is one of its Directors and claims he speaks as a private citizen. I just want to say something, in praising the previous Barbados Labour Party Government I am speaking as a

member of the public and not as the Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party nor as its political leader, and I am praising the foresight of our former Ministers of Agriculture, but I will say this, I believe other persons have also praised the same foresight, especially in connection with the administration of fishermen, but that is in passing.

The Minister of Agriculture has said that the farmers have overproduced potatoes but will have to sell them dirt cheap because they have nowhere to store them. This is a direct attack on the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I do not speak in here often on agricultural subjects, but that is not to mean that I do not read about them and try to understand them, I represent an agricultural constituency. I believe there are 20 sugar plantations in St. Thomas and of the factories one makes sweets. We know well who are interested in agricultural produce, that the greatest problem of all in connection with the production of food crops is the problem of marketing, the problem of giving the producers a fair price for their crops in making sure they are sold to the public at reasonable prices. To do this you have to do certain things. You have to make sure that you concentrate on those crops which either are going to be produced in small enough quantities at the times when they are needed for your own or available markets, or you have to concentrate on the crops which can be stored by a central marketing agency and sold to the public at suitable prices when they can be released. It is useless to produce crops which are going to rot and are incapable of being stored. The Government removed a very useful tool, in my suggestion, in connection with food production when they took off the compulsory planting of acres of plantations in food crops. I am not going to dwell on that at any length, but in my opinion if there are difficulties now, part of the difficulties arise from that.

The second point is this. There is a great push to produce small vegetable crops. All the green vegetables and tomatoes could, I am informed by the technical experts who should know, be produced on between 500 and 1,000 acres of land, in other words on two good sized plantations, but you must have a marketing body which can deal with them. For the Minister of Agriculture to come and say in elementary economic terms that we suffer from food difficulties because of alternating glut and shortage is only to say that there is nobody in Barbados who has learnt the first lesson of crop marketing. We have a former Minister of Agriculture who immediately he leaves office can put down questions here in the House about the development of pigs, the development of poultry and the necessity for feed lots and the production of animal protein - a very dangerous way, in my opinion and according to what I am instructed and advised - in a country that does not produce the animal feed, of attempting to produce animal protein. The Australians who in the middle of this world shortage of food have proved themselves thoroughly able to produce immense quantities of animal protein on grazing without resorting to feed lots may be the persons to whom you have to look in the present situation, but that again is only in passing. If you have a Minister of Agriculture who so little understands food production problems that immediately upon leaving office he has to be attacking his successor with questions along certain lines, how can we have any confidence in a Government that does not understand the food distribution problems which it has to face in Barbados at the present time? 6.10 p.m.

The Minister of Agriculture has not been in the House very long otherwise he would know the weight of debate that we have brought to bear - especially by Senator St. John - upon the necessity for more processing plants in Barbados which can handle both animal proteins and vegetables. At the moment I do not know of any attempt anywhere to deal with the problem of buying large quantities of root vegetables and preserve them by canning them as is done in so many other of the Carifta and Caricom countries.

I cannot say anything about the drought, sir, except to say that the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central - whatever Minister he is - is wrong when he says that Barbados has just had its worst drought that we have ever had. I have seldom in any speech - even one from that hon. Member - heard so many misstatements of facts as I have heard this afternoon. There is no world shortage of food. I can say that as a fact. There is a difficulty in the distribution of food in North America. All over Asia it is well known that the green revolution in India, Pakistan and South East Asia has produced agricultural crops out of all proportion to what has been known before. The United States Government has for over a few years been forced to pay American farmers not to grow wheat because there is no longer a demand for wheat from India, and this is one of the reasons why there are food difficulties in the United States. The difficulties have been occasioned by the sale of wheat surplus to Russia at very poor prices and the reduction in wheat production because there was no longer a need for heavy wheat export that had appeared some time ago. There was a miscalculation. The amount of grain in the United States fell drastically, and animal feed was affected because the same feed lots which the former Minister of Agriculture wanted to see in existence are so widespread in the United States that when there is a fall in the volume of grain available it immediately begins to affect cattle, and beef is still the favourite meat in America.

The Minister also said that Barbados is suffering from the worst drought. He began to speak of the Indian sub-continent. He spoke of Canada's agreement to sell wheat to China. As far as I know, that agreement is some years in the past and is spent. Whatever agreements there are now, are of much lesser degree, because there has also been a great agricultural advance in northern Asia as well. Indeed that has happened all over the Asian Continent; Russian Asia; India and Pakistan; China and South East Asia, contrary to what the uninformed Minister may have shouted to the House. There has been no such food shortage as has appeared on this side of the Atlantic. On this side of the Atlantic the food shortage is a price-affected shortage. There is less beef, and the price of beef has gone up. The Australians did not want to export all of their beef to the United States. The Government did not want them to do it and has imposed restrictions. The countries which had enough food to sell to North America are, in fact, under export restrictions.

Now, this is not the case in Barbados To come down to the mere facts of the Resolution, this is a simple case of Government mismanagement. The Government has misunderstood the need for rice; misunderstood the effect of its policy in connection with the planting of sugar; and we are suffering at all times from a very adverse balance of payments caused by dependence upon imports and imported

food. These things are, in my suggestion to the House, the basis of the present disturbance in food distribution.

I am not interested in hoarding and giving favourite customers and all of that. If there was enough rice to go around nobody could hoard rice. If the Minister wants to say outright that there is enough rice in Barbados and the merchants are causing a shortage, then let him publish the figures to show that there is as much rice coming in as usual. He cannot do that and, therefore, he must not try to mislead the public by throwing it upon Hill's Supermarket in Oistins. I hope Mr. Hill votes for the Minister of Agriculture the next time after he hears that. He must bring figures to show that the same amount of food is coming in as before, but the difficulties are being caused by the distributors. I believe that they are guilty of many things, but I do not believe that they are guilty of this.

Sir, this is money for outstanding commitments for the subsidisation of rice. This is really a case, Sir, of thieves falling out. All of these people are in it together, as far as I am concerned, with the Ministry of Trade. All of these are importers of rice: the DaCostas and Geddes Grant are all friends of the Government. These arrangements were made, but it merely happened that the Government has mismanaged things even more than usual and, therefore, at this stage this Resolution is necessary. I hope, Sir, that nobody will be fooled by the contribution especially from the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, if it were permissible by the Rules of this House, my contribution to this debate would rest simply on a speech which I made to this House on June 19 this year. At that time we were debating a Resolution for a sum of money to subsidise rice, and the Leader of the House in conjunction with the then Acting Minister of Trade, the Hon. Capt. George Fergusson, revealed certain basic statistics which were startling to say the least. I recall specifically that one of the statistics given was that on the 8th June this year there were only 450 bags of rice in the country. At that time, I believe, Members drew to the Government's attention the problems that were occurring in relation to ensuring an adequate supply of rice in this country. I do not believe that the Government took that warning, and I believe that the Government does not take the warnings of the Opposition seriously, either because the Government believes that it has the numbers, or because it mistakenly believes that it has all of the brain and of the common sense, and that it is monitoring correctly everything that is happening in this country. If it did not take us seriously then, it should now, at least, recognise that the time has come to take the food situation in this country seriously.

I am not for one moment going to accept that the presence of the Prime Minister in this House would have made one bit of difference to the situation. Everybody confesses that he is a tired man; he needs recharging; he is not functioning; he needs a much needed rest; and the result is that we have an

economic crisis, a food shortage, and a very stringent cash position. I do not believe that the Prime Minister's presence would have increased to any large extent the efficiency of this Government. It might have aided its inefficiency, so let the Prime Minister cool out and recharge his battery. But the Government must recognise that, if it is saying that there is a food shortage all over the world, it has certain obligations on it which it must perform properly and in time.

In June this year I said that one of the things that one must have in the Ministry of Trade is a proper monitoring system where you get the lights on from early telling you what is going to be the stock of food that is expected in this country over the period of a year. Collect your statistics. Collect them first in relation to the agricultural production in Barbados and the forecasts that are available from the Ministry of Agriculture. Collect them, secondly, from what is going to be available within the Caribbean area. Thirdly, look at the situation with your usual sources of supply; and, fourthly and most important, make a decision and get on with the job of looking for alternative sources of supply. This is no great mysterious way of monitoring situations. 6.20 p.m

I said then and I repeat, that the Government must recognise that there is a relationship between internal consumption and internal production and external representation because you must use your embassies properly in order to produce the information which will help you to keep up supply.

I believe that the Government is still failing in this respect and it is not doing its homework. It is not enough to keep harping on the fact that you have had the Government for 11 years and now you have a food shortage. You need a Government that must govern the country properly and it is begging the question to say that you are ungrateful. Certainly the Barbados Labour Party knows about people who are ungrateful because it did a good job up to 1961 and was thrown out. If the Government is not doing a good job now, they cannot rest on their laurels from 1961.

I am suggesting that all, is not well at all in the relations between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture, It did not take much foresight or political deduction on a matter of this sort. It is obvious that the two departments have not been working harmoniously for some time, and it is obvious that the placing of the B.M.C. outside the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture has led to strained relationships and that either Agriculture is not correlating with Trade or Trade with Agriculture.

It is also obvious, in spite of what talk we have had in this country for many years, that the Government's policy on diversification has failed, and failed miserably. What I liked about the Minister of Agriculture is that every time you got up and gave him an idea he got up and said that the Government was doing that.

What happens is that the Government is always talking about doing things. Barbados cannot rely on receipts from Tourism, spending heavily on the importation of foodstuffs for the simple reason that it will not be using its tourist receipts to the best advantage.

One of the reasons why we have been asking them to take a new look at Agriculture is that we recognise the necessity for Agriculture to perform efficiently. Senator St. John, when he was a member of this House, on many occasions made this point effectively. Although he has not regained his seat, I think that history must give him the credit that he showed more foresight than the Government has shown, and I urge on the Government and the new Minister to take a new look at agriculture.

The Opposition is riot saying that the people must revert to the former slave days or to the plantation economy which dictated that they were servants and nothing more on the plantations; but we have heard for years of a new look for the new farmer and a new type of producer who is interested in the country and what is being done.

I repeat that the Government's plantations have failed miserably. Plantations which the Government has acquired are at the moment white elephants. If any person in private enterprise had all that money tied up and got, a rate of less than 1% return he would soon be bankrupt.

Part of the failure is the failure of the Government's plantations to deliver. In the experimental field they are doing very little except for instant yam, and in terms of producing food they have done even worse. I would like the Minister to let us know what are the yields coming from Government plantations. How does the Government, with the acreage available, intend to cope with the situation?

It is not simply a question of over-producing in one sector and under-producing in another. It is a policy of not producing. I believe that the Government should address itself more seriously to this question and recognise that small farmers should be given more incentive, and not necessarily tax incentive.

It seems that we are prepared to see the Tourist Industry as an incentive industry, but we are not prepared to treat agriculture and housing as incentive industries when the needs in this respect are great.

I would also like to say that I am disturbed about what I understand is to be a change in the Government's policy on this question of subsidising foodstuffs. Every increase in the price of basic foodstuffs is an additional burden on the small man and the poor man in Barbados, more so than on the person who has more money.

Sir, if you look at the prices of food and at the food index over the last few years it is shattering to recognise that the burden has been falling consistently on the poor man's food.

The Minister has just made a statement that rice is to be sold at 26 cents per pound and of course if you accept that as a bland statement, it looks as if there will be some relief to the consumer; but that is not so. It is a hidden increase in the price of rice falling directly on the consumer no matter what words it is put in today. I am disturbed at this in the context where it appears that Cabinet has taken a decision that it is no longer subsidising the price of rice. The Government must recognise that they must tax the people in the higher income brackets, including parliamentarians, in order to relieve the hardship on those in the lower rungs of the society.

One of the ways in which they can redress the balance is by subsidy or by family allowances. How will we tax them? We will tax them so that we do not have capital gains on the very Barbadian man. Let me tell the Government how to tax them if you want. When you sell out plantations like Graeme Hall, the Bernsteins and the Moses do not make capital gains of over \$1 million that is not subject to tax. That is what I am talking about. They are right out there. It does not matter that they are members of the D.L.P. By next elections they may want to join the Barbados Labour Party. Middle Easterners are shifting people. They are desert people. That is how you have to tax them in this respect so that you are passing on the capital gains aspect in order that the people in the lower income brackets can survive.

You also have to increase your production, if you want me to tell you how. People seem to be scared when they talk about subsidies. In every country in the world today where you are having to relieve people in the lower sector you are either going to get direct tax on capital gains or alternatively you will get family income supplements which this Government has not introduced and which I seriously suggest they should look at for the benefit of people in the basic lower rungs of the ladder.

I am terribly worried about Government's decision to remove the subsidy on rice. I believe that it is a bad policy at this stage. I believe that if you are going to remove it completely you will have to come back and give family income supplements to people who have a lot of children and who are not earning what I consider a proper minimum wage.

Despite the advances made in wages in certain sectors of the wage-earning; economy and the contribution of the Union in this respect, there are still a large number of people who are scarcely reaching the subsistence level; and it is these people that we have to try and help. I am going to ask the Government to look at its policy on foodstuffs again. I do not believe that this is a case in which you can single out one person. I believe that the Government has failed on two major factors, regardless of whoever is in the Ministry. The first factor is on the broad aspect of agricultural diversification, and the other is on the broad aspect of monitoring its trade policy accurately and of pursuing avidly alternative avenues of sources of supply. In the result I think that the Government has abandoned the man who needs food subsidies and is increasing the price of foodstuffs and contributing to inflation. 6.30 p.m.

I hope we will reverse this trend and I hope by next year we will see that we can withstand any shortage which occurs in neighbouring countries like Guyana in this respect. I respect the Minister, but I will say that the Minister must stick out for incentives in agriculture in this country because in the future if we can reform agriculture so that we can produce our own foodstuffs, we will reduce our import bill and will be able to effect more savings in the economy.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, a lot of discussion has taken place here this afternoon, and to me a lot of it has been revealing. My interest in food, whether there is an abundance of it or a shortage of it, lies in my interest as a doctor, in the welfare of the people of Barbados, because no one has to convince me that many diseases can be induced by inadequate nutrition, and if people in Barbados are to face a situation where they cannot adequately nourish their bodies, then I would have to gird my loins towards looking after the diseases that may descend upon the people as a direct result of the inadequacy of food. At the same time I would like to point out that much of the criticism levied here is directed chiefly at the operations inside the Ministry of Trade; I believe also that it would be difficult for me outside my Ministry to answer directly many of the criticisms which have been adduced here. Sir, I believe quite strongly that there is a need in Barbados for Ministers in the Other Place to be able to come and defend their Ministries when direct criticisms of the operations of their particular Ministries are made, or maybe, there ought to be some Parliamentary Secretaries in here to answer directly these criticisms. I can defend the policy of the Government and I would like to state quite emphatically that the policy of the Government is to ensure that the people of this country have adequate food at all times.

I know like many other people, that there is a big difference between making statements and getting action. In fact, I notice very strongly from my Ministry - and I am one of those people who do not like to talk unless my survival is at stake - I believe in action; and very often nowadays it is very difficult to get action on many things. Attitudes of people in Barbados have varied over the times. I am not deploring this. I realize it as a challenge that has to be met by all politicians whether on this side or on the other side, to deal adequately with the change in attitude of the people in this country.

Without repeating what has been spoken here this afternoon, the thing that comes foremost to my mind is, what lessons can be drawn from this experience which is now going on in the country of Barbados. I am not one of those people who would like to suggest to the Barbadian people that they should rebel or that they should harp back on the days of 1937 and start girding themselves for a riot. I know that in that period innocent statements such as "tonight is going to be a funny day" have led to hard sentences being passed on people, and I know the bloodshed that descended upon the people of Barbados. I would like to admonish that any disturbances now in Barbados would put the development of this country back 15 or 20 years, so we have to look quite clearly at what positive lessons can be gained from this experience.

It is clear to my mind that we will have to look carefully at the situation in the neighbouring South American country which supplies us with most of our rice. We also have to look carefully at the production of food in this country and also at the distribution of food that is produced. And one would have to go a long way in stimulating or motivating the people of this country to help solve the problems which may come from a shortage or over-abundance of food.

There is a lot of debate which can ensue as to where you should or where you should not place subsidies. This Government has taken steps to remove the subsidy on rice but I do not want people to deduce from that that we are to increase the pressure unnecessarily on the man at the bottom. I would like to make it quite clear that it is the opinion of my Government that it is better to subsidize your farmer at home rather than to be subsidizing the farmer in another country, and I can assure the hon. Members in this Chamber that the Government will be taking steps to introduce subsidies for the farmer in Barbados that will induce him or motivate him to produce more food more abundantly and also better quality of food.

Now as I said, people can argue one way or the other, subsidize this or subsidize that, but it is our policy that it is better to start subsidizing the farmer at home, and we have taken into consideration all that has already been aired left and right, about the position of agriculture in Barbados today, many of these factors have already been stated here today by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, and we have been moved by these considerations, but now we have taken the step that money and other incentives must be made available to the farmer in Barbados which would cause him to produce food abundantly for the people of this country. 6.40 p.m.

Another important lesson in my mind that we have to learn from this experience is that the people of Bridgetown who are responsible for commercial trade must start readdressing themselves to the importation of foodstuffs from other countries. I know, because I have heard it, that a lot of people talk

in terms of importing from the traditional countries - Britain, the United States and some other areas - when maybe in other countries they can get the same quality product at a better price. I strongly believe that this is an area in which a lot of effort must be made both from the point of view of my Government and also from the point of view of the people in Bridgetown who do the bulk of importation of foodstuffs into this country, because to the other areas I believe we can look and get the same benefits from them rather than keep arguing about the traditional countries from which we import.

I would like to repeat that while it has been revealing to me this afternoon, I would like to stress that I can defend the policy of the Government which is to ensure that the people of this country get food adequately and at all times, but I would like to point out that many of the criticisms levelled here this afternoon have been levelled directly at the operation of the Ministry of Trade, and it is unfortunate that there is nobody from that Ministry here to reply specifically to that type of criticism. I believe that several lessons can be learned from the experience and I hope that all of us here this afternoon have learnt our lessons.

The question that the sum of \$232,107 under Head 42 -Ministry of Trad, Industry and Commerce - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the resolution for the sum of \$467,774 do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

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. A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of five Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the 5 Money Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday next, 13th November, 1973 at 12.00 noon.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.45 p.m.