

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th October, 1973.

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Acting Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Home Affairs); Hon. R. StC. WEEKES, J.P. (Temporary Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS, His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, (Temporary Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Hon. L. E.

SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A.(Econ.) (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

Messrs E. D. MOTTLEY and W. C. B. HINDS entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Hon. House for Tuesday, 17th July, 1973 and Tuesday, 7th August, 1973 are before you for confirmation. If there are no corrections or alterations, the two sets of Minutes will be confirmed. These Minutes are hereby duly confirmed.

DOCUMENTS PLACED ON TABLE

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to place before this Hon. House the Statement of Accounts for March, 1972 as returned by the Accountant General.

Also to place before this Hon. House the Report and Accounts of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank at 30th June, 1973.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

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

- (1) The Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for four months ended 31st July, 1973.
- (2) The Administration Report of the Comptroller of Customs and Excise for the year 1972.
- (3) The Annual Abstract Account of the Receipts and Payments of the Consolidated Funds, and other receipts and payments for the year ended 31st March, 1971.
- (4) The Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March, 1971.
- (5) The Statement of the Public Debt and Sinking Funds as at 31st March, 1971.
- (6) The Statement of Advances and Loans made from the Public Treasury and outstanding as at 31st March, 1971.
- (7) The Detailed Statement of the Revenue of the island for the Financial Year 1970-71.
- (8) The Detailed Statement of the Capital Expenditure of the island for the Financial Year 1970-71.
- (9) The Statement of Special Funds as at 31st March, 1971.
- (10) The Statement of Loans and Credits guaranteed by Government and outstanding at 31st March, 1971.

(11) The Report of the National Insurance Board on the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme for the period 1st January, 1972 to 31st December, 1972.

(12) The Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the National Insurance Board for the year ended 31st December, 1972.

(13) The Report on the First Actuarial Review of the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme.

Hon. R. StC WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Annual Reports of the Transport Board for the years ended 30th September, 1971 and 30th September, 1972.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

(1) The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) (No.12) Regulations, 1973.

(2) The Agreement on the Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives to Industry.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions (Value and Allowances) Regulations, 1973.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

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

(1) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$90,000, out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the

Estimates 1973-74 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1973-74, No. 16 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

(2) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$59,280 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1973-74 Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1973-74 No. 18, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$155,798 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1973-74 Part I -Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1973-74 No. 17 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

(1) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$478,774, 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. 19 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

(2) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$7,783 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. 21, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$720,459 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. 20 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Underground Water Control Act, 1951, and also a Bill to amend the Electricity Act, 1936. 12.15 p.m

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that the community centre at Belleplaine, St. Andrew, has not been put to its maximum use for several months now because of its bad state of disrepair?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state how soon this community centre would be repaired to facilitate the large population of the Belleplaine area?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that Leonard Heckles Road in Bay wood, St. James was scheduled to be done on the tenantry improvement programme in 1971?

2. Is the Minister aware that subsequently water mains were laid in the above-mentioned road?

3. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state how soon would construction on this road begin?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the playing field at Belleplaine is in dire need of attention?

Is the Minister aware that the grass on the playing field has not been cut for several months and that it poses inconvenience to the youths who make use of this playing field?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister take immediate action to improve the conditions existing at this playing field so that the youths of this area may make maximum use of this playing field?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that there is a large amount of food-stuff, especially the carbohydrate diet, planted in this country, the reaping of which will begin in November?

Is the Minister aware that if proper action is not taken to assist the farmer to market these crops, there will be large gluts and indeed spoilage of these same crops in the fields and the farmers would experience great losses?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister give consideration to restricting the importation of such foodstuffs for which these local products can provide import substitution?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that there is a tenantry road at Endeavour, St. James, known as Endeavour No. 2 Road, where several houses are sited?

Is the Minister aware that people in this area who own motor cars and other vehicles find it very inconvenient to reach their homes?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister take immediate steps to make this road passable, even if it means just grading the entrance, which is very rugged, and covering the road with marl as a temporary means to facilitate the inhabitants of this area?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the road in St. Simons, St. Andrew ends in a cul-de-sac.

Is the Minister also aware that representation was made by the honourable member for St. Andrew to him to join up the road either with Isolation Road, Belleplaine, St. Andrew or Babylon Road, Walkers, St. Andrew?

Is the same Minister aware that both St. Simons and King Street Roads are in very bad state of repairs?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state what action he proposes to take and when he proposes to improve the conditions of these roads, and to give the people of this area an outlet?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the bridge at Belleplaine has been destroyed by floods since 1970 and that after long delays little work has been done on this bridge which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister state whether it is his intention to accelerate the pace of the work being done on this bridge in the interest of the travelling public?

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that especially during the dry season, the residents of St. Simons and King Street, St. Andrew experience grave shortages of water and indeed at some times the residents have no water at all?

If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister consider supplying water to this area via Turner's Hall Wood, or as an alternative, installing a booster pump with a tank of adequate capacity in the area as a means of solving the water problems of the residents of this area?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are Notices of Motions standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Thomas, but he is not in his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Underground Water Control Act, 1951, be read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Electricity Act, 1936, be read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

RESOLUTION RE THE DEATH OF MR. LINDSAY ERCIL RYEBURN GILL

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before the Business of the House is commenced, I should like, at this stage, to pay tribute to the passing of the late Lindsay Ercil Ryeburn Gill, a former King's Solicitor - and I think the last King's Solicitor - and a prominent practising Solicitor for the last 30 odd years. He was the head of one of the largest firms of Solicitors, or Attorneys-at-Law as they are called today I refer to the firm of Messrs Cottle, Catford & Company, which has been prominent for over one hundred years.

As far as the late Mr. Gill is concerned, I have had the privilege and good fortune of knowing him intimately as an Articled Clerk in 1932, many long years ago, when he himself was then an Articled Clerk. I was in the office of a very distinguished Solicitor, the late James Christopher Gooding, and Mr. Gill was an Articled Clerk in the office of Cottle, Catford & Company articled to the late Mr. George Evelyn. I had intimate associations and collaborations with Mr. Gill for many long years.

I must say that, as an Articled Clerk, he was one of the most outstanding we have had for many years. He was always very outstanding, knowledgeable, amenable, kind and cordial to all of his colleagues. He adopted the same attitude after he was qualified and was practising. He was one of the kindest men, I think, to people of all classes irrespective of their colour, class or creed. He was one of the best men I have known practising in the legal profession. He was kind, knowledgeable, useful and always gave a helping hand to those who needed it. As a practitioner, he was definitely outstanding, and after qualifying he became so involved in his profession that he did the bulk of the work at Messrs Cottle, Catford & Company owing to his popularity, etc.

He served in this Assembly, Sir, for a few years. He was not a politician as such, but a man with his popularity could always have secured a seat if he wanted to. He served in this House of Assembly from 1948-51 when he was a member for St. Andrew, and he won that seat very easily, too. If he were that way inclined he could, probably, have served for a longer period than three years. Probably, he was too involved in the practice of his profession, and I, certainly, do not blame him for making that decision. I repeat that he was one of our outstanding Solicitors, and his name will go down in history in that respect. 12.25 p.m.

As a young man he lived in St. Andrew and was very popular there. I do not think that there is need for me to say any more. Glowing tributes were paid to him at the Church of Holy Innocents yesterday afternoon, I believe, by Cannon Pemberton, who delivered the eulogy, and the church was filled. To his sorrowing relatives, his widow and children, I think it is right to express our sincere sympathy. At this stage I beg to move that this Resolution be passed, and sent to his relatives:

"RESOLVED that the Honourable the House of Assembly place on record its profound sympathy at the death of Mr. Lindsay Ercil Ryeburn Gill, a former Member of this House for the Parish of Saint Andrew.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his sorrowing relatives."

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I think that I would be failing in my duty, if, on behalf of the people of St. Andrew whom I have the honour to represent, I did not join with the Leader of the House in expressing condolence for the people of St. Andrew who were so ably served by the late Lindsay Ercil Ryeburn Gill. He will most be remembered by the people who live in the favourite part of St. Andrew - in my favourite part of St. Andrew which is Walkers. I can remember the assistance which he offered to the people not in his capacity as a politician, but in his professional capacity, to enable them to acquire land at Walkers when that plantation was being sold out; and he will long be remembered by the residents of this district - that is not to say that he will not be long remembered by the residents of other districts - but he will be remembered by the residents of this district in particular.

He has played a very important role in the development of St. Andrew, and on behalf of the people of St. Andrew, I should like to express sincere condolence to his sorrowing relatives, and corroborate all that has been said by the Leader of the House and Acting Prime Minister. I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in expressing sentiments on behalf of the Members of the Opposition. It is a rather awkward position for me to say something about someone whom I really did not know. I have only heard of the late Rex Gill as a solicitor and a partner in the firm of Messrs Cottle, Catford & Company, and I can say that he lived in the parish of St. James which I have the honour to represent.

From the remarks which I have heard, from the Hon. Leader of the House and Acting Prime Minister, and from the sitting Member for St. Andrew, I am sure that all I can do on this side on behalf of my colleagues is to offer the sorrowing relatives our deepest sympathy and to sincerely hope that what good he has done in the past will live on behind him.

I therefore, Mr. Speaker, would like to associate myself with the remarks from both hon. members who spoke before me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would like from the Chair to associate myself with the glowing tributes spoken in honour of the late Lindsay Ercil Ryeburn Gill and to extend condolence to his family. I would ask hon. Members to signify their assent to this Resolution in the customary way by standing in their places for one minute in silence.

Members stood in silence for one minute. MOTIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and representative of the constituency of St. John, be granted three months¹ leave of absence with effect from 1st October this year. A letter has been written and signed by the Prime Minister, but the House was not in session. The Prime Minister had the courtesy to write to the Speaker asking for leave of absence.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Acting Prime Minister in carrying out his duties as such will tell us what this three months leave of absence is for. I think that a period of three months' leave from his office of Prime Minister would need more explanation than just saying that he is asking for three months' leave. Is he sick?

I can only go by the newspaper reports which people at times claim are misleading. Three months' leave of absence where? For what purpose? I would be very grateful if the Acting Prime Minister would explain this. I would think that the Hon. Prime Minister would be drawing his full pay. I think that the last Minister who was absent said that he was going to attend a conference of the U.W.I, when we were discussing the Estimates. I would be very grateful if the Leader of the House would give us a greater and more detailed explanation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is soliciting some sort of information. I would read the letter as it stands and deal with the other points subsequently. The letter reads-

"Dear Sir,

Owing to the fact that the House of Assembly was not in session at the time of my departure from the Island, I was unable formally to ask for leave of absence or to make a motion of this effect in the House.

I am now formally applying for three months' leave of absence from my parliamentary duties from Monday 1st October, 1973.

I am

Yours faithfully,

Errol Barrow."

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

May I just remind the hon. member that we cannot pry into a Member's private business. If the Prime Minister wants three months' or six months' leave of absence, he will get it. (Mr. CRAIG: You always adopt that policy in here.) The hon. member is out of order. If he wants to ask any subsequent questions, I will give subsequent replies. 12.35 p.m.

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

Mr. E. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, I have been asked by the hon. Member for St. Michael West to apply for six weeks leave of absence for him with effect from today, and I would move that this leave be granted with effect from today.

Mr. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, there is only one item on the Order Paper under Government Business and this is in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, and, it is to move the passing of a Resolution.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the Hon. Leader of the House for a very long time - for several weeks - and during that period, do you mean to tell me that they could only have one item on the Order Paper for all those weeks while we were away from the House?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Give me a chance. Mr. Speaker, I want to know whether he is prepared to give Members of this House their customary time for Private' Members' Business....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

But, Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Give me a chance. Mr. Speaker, he would not give me a chance to open my mouth.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, by all means the hon. Member can ask the question. I do not intend to prevent him asking the question. It is true that there is only one item on the Order Paper. There could only be one item on the Order Paper because only one was on it when we left. There are about fifteen or twenty items which we have in hand to be dealt with but we will only introduce them today. We only left one, so we find only one. During the time we were away we prepared more items but we only place on the Order Paper for today one which was on the Order Paper when we left, so you see we have more to do,

but we do not intend to deal with these others until the next sitting of the House. So, Mr. Speaker, Private Members' Business could have its place today. Mr. SPEAKER The Leader of the House has given the assurance that Private Members' Business will be done today.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I think that in order to do this he will have to suspend the Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is what we are waiting for.

Mr. CRAIG:

Why doesn't the Hon. Minister get up and move that the Standing Orders be suspended so that we would have time to deal with Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I will move that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended.....

Mr. CRAIG:

We'll get up and do it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

But do you not think that we must dispose of the Government's Business first?

Mr. CRAIG:

No, Sir; nothing like that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I appreciate the point being made by the Leader of the House but I think he knows that when we finish Government Business the Sitting would be automatically concluded, and that is why....

Hon. C. E. TALMA. In accordance with the request of the House I move that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended in order to deal with that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before the motion was put we were about to start the sole item under Government Business.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, there is a certain portion of land located north of the National Stadium which has been lying unused for quite some time and application has been made to the Government to lease this land to a company - Key Homes (Barbados) Ltd., - for the purpose of carrying on their business, the distribution of lumber, which is the business in which they are going to be engaged. The company has asked for five acres of land and the Government is proposing that this land be leased to them - - Key Homes (Barbados) Ltd., - for a period of five years renewable on the option of the applicant, and the rental is \$12,000 per annum.

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

Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, we believe that there is nothing wrong in leasing this land to Key Homes (Barbados) Ltd., in view of the fact of what the Minister has said - that the land has been lying unused for a very considerable time. 12.45 p.m.

Our chief concern here today is this. We believe that the Government has come here seeking the House's approval so that the land could be leased, but I wonder if the Minister is aware of the fact that the land under reference is already in possession of Key Homes Limited, if the Minister happens not to be so aware, would it not be in the interest of all concerned for the Minister to make it abundantly clear and place himself in a position to be able to tell this Hon. House that upon the signing of the lease and the handing over when the time comes for handing over the land there would be no question of encumbrances or anything of the kind to inhibit the possession by Key Homes Limited or the parties concerned?

I believe that what the Minister should address his mind to is this. The Hon. Chamber should not allow itself at any time to be used as a rubber stamp; that is what we want to make abundantly clear. In other words, we are saying that Key Homes Limited is already in possession of the land, and we are also saying that they could only be in possession of the land consequent upon the agreement or some sort of authority from Government to take possession thereof, and Government well knowing they have 18 and that they would be able to put this thing through today, Key Homes has gone through and has begun to carry on construction and what not. I am to wonder if all this does not in itself approach something near to a breach of the privileges of this Hon. House. We cannot under any circumstances consider that we in the Opposition are being fairly treated in a matter of this sort, not to lease the land and then ask us to be mere rubber stamps at this end. We cannot be a party to this, but we want to make it clear we have no objection whatsoever to the land being leased to Key Homes Limited or to any other concern for that matter to carry out any sort of business where Barbadians are going to be employed and where expertise will be made available to teach Barbadians some sort of skill which will be of some benefit to them in the long run.

We understand from the note given here that there is going to be a lumber distribution centre. I wonder if we are not to witness in the conduct of the business of this firm competition against the firm known as Long Life Timbers. In other words, whether or not the activities of Key Homes (Barbados) Limited will be somewhat like the activities of Long Life Timbers where they seek to treat timber with a view of preserving its life, and where people are called upon by the lumber merchants to pay additional prices for something that they do not know whether or not they are getting, but they have to accept that they are, and I believe that the time will come when Government will set up a Ministry primarily concerned with consumer protection and these things will be gone into more intricately with a view to protecting the public.

We have nothing against Key Homes or Long Life Timbers, but all we have seen up to the present is that lumber is carried into the premises of Long Life Timbers and brought back out, distributed to the lumber merchants for retail at the various outlets in the City and elsewhere, but we have no guarantee whatsoever, and the same thing might very well apply here, that we might see lumber going to the

premises of Key Homes Limited and just moving out and we are to accept it and pay an additional price for it merely because the lumber has been carried to the premises and moved out again. We are to accept that it has been treated with a view to prolonging the life of the timber. We are asking, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister to give us some better explanation as to what has really gone on at the premises. Is it part of the lease for Government to enclose the five acres for Key Homes Limited? If not, who has put up the enclosure? This goes to bear out the point I had made earlier that somebody is presently in possession of the five acre lot we are dealing with, and surely we believe that the Minister would be in a position to explain something like this to this Hon. House.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, personally, I have no objection to the lease of land to any company for the purpose of carrying on the business of lumber distribution in an effort to build homes for Barbadians, because we on this side of the House for many years have been saying that the Government's policy with regard to housing has fallen short of the needs of the community as a whole, and therefore where a private company such as this is carrying on the business of providing housing for Barbadians I would see no objection to leasing the land. My only concern in this matter is that the parcel of land in relation to the National Stadium leads me to ask one question, and that is that the situation of land in relation to the National Stadium and the leasing of the land for a period of five years with an option to renew for a further five years would indicate that the Government has no plan for carrying on any further development as regards the sporting complex at the National Stadium. 12.55 p.m.

Perhaps, we are labouring under the failure to have a Development Plan provided for us, and we do not know whether it is the intention of the Government to carry out any further development in relation to the National Stadium and the development of a sporting complex. At one stage we were told that it was the intention of the Government to build, I believe, on this same site, a swimming pool and other facilities which would improve the Stadium. I wonder whether the Minister can throw any light on this, or can tell us whether the Government has any intention of developing this area as a sporting complex. I am not against this Resolution, but I should like to have some additional information.

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution. As I understand it, this land forms part of a large portion of land - I think it was owned by Codrington Estate. The land was formerly used by Sunfarms Ltd. It is now in grass, not the approved type of grass, but shrubbery, flowering plants, and so on. I am wondering whether the Minister of Lands will give consideration to having this large piece of land passed on officially to the I.D.C. so that they can utilise it for certain purposes.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I ask what this has to do with the Resolution?

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, it is part and parcel of the land formerly known as Codrington Estate. I prefaced my remarks by saying that I understand it is part and parcel of the....

Mr. SPEAKER:

You are out of order; you are dealing with a completely different matter.

Mr. EDWARDS:

I am dealing with land originally owned by Codrington Estate, and the land with which we are dealing refers to part of that original complex.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not going to accept your address if you are going outside the terms of this Resolution. I want you to speak within the terms of the Resolution.

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak within the terms of the Resolution. I am saying that I support the Resolution to approve of the lease to Key Homes (Barbados) Limited of the parcel of land situate at Codrington Estate which is now vested in the Government. What I am asking is what is going to be done with the remainder of the land. Will it be leased to Key Homes (Barbados) Limited for providing food for the people of this country? That is a legitimate question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You are quite out of order. Please take your seat!

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I will take your advice because I do not want to be sent out.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, it is quite true that this land is vested in somebody, as the hon. Member for St. Peter has said. Lands, of course, are always vested in somebody, but these lands are not only vested in somebody but they are in the possession of the persons in whom they are vested. The lands under discussion are vested in the Government, and these lands are still in the possession of the Government. (Asides.) Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether hon. Members want to deal with this matter by way of question and answers.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order!

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker under the powers of the Vesting of Property Act, all property which Government intends to dispose of by way of a lease must first receive the approval of this Parliament. The position of the lands north of the Stadium is that the company known as Key Homes (Barbados) Limited have asked for permission to set the lands in order before the lease can be released because, as they claim, there was a shipment of timber on the way. The lands are still in the possession of the Government. (Asides.) Do not tell me that, because certain works have been carried out in that area, the lands are vested in somebody else! Work can go on people's land either authorised or unauthorised, but that does not take the land out of their possession.

Mr. Speaker, the Company sought permission to put the lands in order pending a formal transfer of a lease, and we gave them permission to do so. They were specifically told that any work done on the lands would be done at their peril; Parliament had to approve the lease of the lands, and if Parliament did not approve the lease of the lands, then they could not get the lands. The fact that work had been done on the lands cannot force Parliament to do anything. If the Parliament decided that, today or at any stage, these lands should not be used by the Company, then the Company will be penalised for the work which they have done on the lands. The work that the Company has done on the lands has been done at their peril, and that is the position.

With regard to the question asked by the hon. Member for the City, I should like to point out that the lands under discussion were never vested in the Stadium Corporation. The lands vested in the Stadium Corporation are lands running from the Stadium Road to Bush Hall Road and include the portion now being used by the Pistol Club. The question of the Stadium making use of these lands never arose, and these lands were never vested in the Stadium Corporation. There are large areas of lands vested in the Stadium Corporation which will be used later. You have Combermere School in the North and IDC land in the south.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

Mr. CRAIG:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 1 be the first Order under Private Members' Business.

Mr. CRAIG:

I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION RE NO CONFIDENCE IN

THE GOVERNMENT, ETC.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Item No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition, and it is to move the passing of the following Resolution "Be It Resolved that this House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government in Barbados and calls on the Prime Minister to resign or call an early General Election." Item No. 1. is now the instant Order of the Day.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, notice of this Resolution was given on the 10th July, 1973. For one reason or another the Resolution has not yet been debated in the House and it was represented to me not very long ago that it should not be proceeded with in the absence of the Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, my answer to that would be that the Resolution was here since July and no Member of the Opposition is responsible for the Prime Minister not being here. He has chosen to desert the sinking ship for a month, two months or three months, and a promise of further months thereafter. 1.05 p.m.

It is he who has run away and abandoned Barbados with its economy in its present stage, and with public discontent, with the lack of initiative, the lack of management, the lack of efficiency and the lack of everything that the public of Barbados has come to expect from its Government.

At the time when notice was given of this Resolution the Budget was not very far behind us. The cost of living was rising and the economy was stagnant. Barbados was going nowhere and has been going nowhere for some years, and if it is possible to go nowhere at an accelerated pace, we have been going nowhere at an accelerated pace. Now I am going to select, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the issue that affects Barbadians and to which Barbadians give more consideration than any others, certainly in this year 1973 - the issue of the cost of living. It is every Government's duty so to manage the economy, so to control prices, so to make supplies available to the public as to ensure that the cost of living, if it cannot be kept entirely stable, at least is kept within certain reasonable bounds.

This year 1973, the first nine months to the end of September, has seen the greatest rise in the cost of living in Barbados ever to take place since statistics have been kept in this Island. The index went up during 1972 15 points. Already this year it has gone up 24 points, from 163 to 187. The cost in the price of food which rose 19 points last year has risen in the first nine months of this year to 24 points.

If you want to take an example which in the course of this speech I will project is very vital to the economic health of this Island I will refer to the construction industry which is reflected in the housing category which includes water rates, wages of carpenters and masons and the price of various timbers, shingles, galvanise and paint. This has gone up by no less than 42 points in the first nine months of 1973 and has now doubled what it was in 1953 when the index started.

The cost of housing has risen by 42 points. The Government is encouraging all of this by a blind adherence to an economic treaty which is proving incapable of binding the West Indies together in the way that those who gave support to it expected. A blind adherence to this treaty is in a large measure responsible for the increase in the cost of housing in Barbados.

As hon. Members will know, importers claim that they cannot supply goods to the public. They claim that sometimes they are unable to supply goods at certain prices, but that a supply will be forthcoming if the price is raised. This is not true in respect of the importation of cement. We are faced with a high cement price out of proportion to all that we were accustomed to in Barbados and at the same time there is a severe and dangerous shortage of cement.

Mr. Speaker, I have dealt with housing for some little time. In any economic system there are certain fundamental industries upon whose proper management depends the health of the economy as a whole. In certain countries, perhaps, it is the steel industry. The steel industry itself depends on the motor car industry which is the greatest consumer of steel in most developed nations. That is not the case in Barbados. I have suggested before, and I will suggest again to the House, that honourable Members must sit down and realise that our basic industry, the industry which creates economic expansion in Barbados, is the construction industry.

It is not the increased number of tourists in Barbados that govern any increase in the economy. What is important is the building of new hotel rooms. You build up to a certain capacity, you may have a pause and then you have to increase that capacity, and it is house building which also increases the prosperity of Barbados. This industry reached a peak in 1969, but has been going down ever since and now we meet a situation where successive economic reports laid on the Table of this House have revealed that the rate of inflation has exceeded all expectation. 1.15 p.m.

Certainly, Sir, the situation which exists as far as inflation in Barbados is concerned at the present moment is a situation which no Government can tolerate Yet the Prime Minister said sometime ago that inflation is a good thing for the economy. Sir, this is based on a misleading idea of economic theory. Barbados is a country which needs an expansion of the economy and a lowering of its unemployment.

Sir, for a long time - thirty years at least - North American countries and some other big countries have learnt how to manage the economy as a remedy for combating inflation, but in Barbados the situation is that inflation runs hand in hand with unemployment. There is still a lot of unemployment in Barbados. Youths leaving school in Barbados cannot expect to get a job as soon as they leave school; in many cases they have to wait until they are 18, 19 or 20. In many cases they may not be registered for National Insurance at all and they may not come within the ambit of those who have to make unemployment statistics. So the position is that inflation remains in Barbados and unemployment expands, so I do not see how inflation could be regarded as a means of solving our unemployment problem, if the Prime Minister believes that inflation can do some good for Barbados, the sooner the Prime Minister is removed from the Head of the Government, the better.

Mr. Speaker, how does it help us if five years ago you could go into the supermarket and buy an item for say, \$5, and now it costs about three times as much. It is sufficiently evident to all of us who go into the supermarkets, as the Prime Minister does, that goods are more expensive and it is no use trying to deceive Barbadians by getting on television or otherwise and telling them anything different from the facts, as the Prime Minister does. This is something to which we have to give a great deal of thought. So, Mr. Speaker, there it is. We have inflation.

Now we also have in Barbados, at the present time, a situation tied up with inflation - tied up with the construction business and with the difficulty of people having to maintain their homes. We ought to have a situation which the availability of funds - Mr. Speaker, I do not mind speaking but I am getting constant noises by way of the microphone. I can only continue to speak if the microphone is put in order. The microphone is coming on and off, and I will have to ask that it be put in order. I am getting noise in my ear every now and again, and I cannot continue.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Clerk will ascertain the reason and see that the microphone is put in order,

Mr. ADAMS:

Very well, Sir. It is very distracting.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, your microphone seems to be working. He can borrow yours, Sir.

(At this stage the microphone was put in order)

Mr. ADAMS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. In 1967, this House dealt with a Rate of Interest Act to remove the ceiling from the Rate of Interest in Barbados. 1.25 p.m.

Since then, different institutions have been given power to charge what rates of interest they like, and I do not think that anyone could deny that our traditional patterns of borrowing and lending money have been disturbed and distorted since 1967. This has come at a time when the entire monetary situation in the world is also itself disturbed, when the traditional dominance of the United States dollar has been broken in international terms, when other currencies have men and proved themselves stronger than the dollar. There are also a number of outside factors surrounding this issue. There are some countries where you can get a higher rate of interest than 8%, you could not get any more than 6 1/2% or 7% in the United States for example, but this was certainly not the case in Barbados.

Bermuda is not a popular analogy to draw here, yet I have before in this House pointed out that Bermuda has been able to maintain a lending rate of 7% and an average borrowing rate of 5% and therefore could have been in a better position than Barbadians. As a matter of fact in Bermuda there is a demand for Government loans, and the Bermudians have been pressing the Government to undertake a public debt. Until recently there was no public debt or income tax in Bermuda and the public is asking for this now because the rate of interest on Government loans was attractive. Bermuda has certain features, not possible to reproduce in Barbados admittedly, but in Jamaica for a very long time the Jamaicans were able to control the rate of interest, and I am suggesting that the solutions, which have been sought in Barbados, are solutions which can have no relevance whatsoever to the conditions of the Barbadian economy at the present time.

I have often in here flogged the horse of too much consumer spending, and this is a summing up of the mismanagement of the Government over a period of two years. The need of Barbados at the present time is for investment funds, especially in Barbadian enterprises, to enable them to carry on constructing, to enable them to finance businesses, and to the widest extent the very cost of living in Barbados depends on importing firms not having to pay too much interest on their overdrafts. The level of Government spending, bearing in mind the unevenness of the cash flow over the years, depends on the Government not having to pay too high an interest on its overdrafts. When there is no money in the Treasury - and this would occur at some time especially during the month of April, and I do not think that the Acting Minister of Finance would deny this - the figures are not published as far as I know, and the rate of

interest on importers' overdrafts is high, all these things, pull Barbados in a direction opposite to that in which we have to go. In Barbados the only thing that makes the rate of interest high, in my submission, is the external factor, and, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of solutions which we can apply to such a situation.

It is said that for investment we must have high rates of interest, otherwise people will take money out of Barbados. For years and years I have opposed any tightening up of exchange control restrictions in Barbados. I believe in freedom and I also believe that if you want to bring money from outside you have to give people the opportunity of repatriating their money, otherwise they will not bring it in the first place, but, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Minister of Finance seriously to consider whether the amount of money coming into Barbados and the amount of money going out of Barbados does not lead him to the conclusion that one of the solutions to the high interest rates in Barbados could be some further and greater control upon the movements of funds in and out of the island. In Great Britain Barbadians are not allowed to export as much money as they wish to Barbados. Exchange control restrictions are now in force in Great Britain relating to parts of the sterling area which have no counterpart in Barbados at the present time. I would like to know if the Government is convinced that it is in such a good financial position that it can still afford a policy which Great Britain, the controller of what for a long time was the most used source, has abandoned, and where Great Britain despite that, feels it can no longer go on maintaining this practice, whether Barbados can still afford it vis-a-vis Great Britain. What I want to know is that the Government is aware that such solutions exist. Does the Government understand that a high rate of interest is a dangerous and desperate situation to be prevailing in Barbados?

The question of consumer spending, Mr. Speaker, cannot be pushed too much. In Barbados we cannot go on financing the importing of consumer luxury goods into the Island at the expense of investment monies within the Island. There are a number of economic questions which I want them to go into, and I think the Acting Minister of Finance will by now be familiar with them. If it is accepted that Barbados needs investment, then Barbadians must be encouraged to invest and an economic climate must be created in which Barbadians can do this. I am suggesting that this is not the situation in Barbados fit the present time. The particular measures which I have not yet seen implemented and which I look forward to seeing shortly have not yet been grasped or understood by the Acting Minister of Finance, because he has made the statement that although you have to pay more now if you have money to put into the bank you can get more for it. That only means that the poor will have to pay more while the rich will get more. That is all the Minister is saying when he makes a statement like that. 1.35 p.m.

It is good because the rich will be made richer and the poor will become poorer. That is how the matter was introduced by the Acting Minister of Finance. The Acting Minister of Finance has never been strong in logic. He took a statement which I made at CBC out of its context and proceeded to say several things. I will assist the House with the history of that matter. In the course of a Press Conference I said to members of the Press that it was September when the second income tax payment should be going into the Treasury and should be full, but I was in a Department the other day where several civil servants

could not get their iponey and I could not understand that. This was put over T.V., and the Acting Minister of Finance made a statement in connection with the matter. He said that the statement by the Leader of the Opposition was completely untrue and that there was no substance in it. He then went on to prove line by line, inch by inch, that everything I had said was true. (Asides.) Let the Acting Minister deny it.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard about nurses and school teachers, and even a magistrate said that he was not going to sit until he got his money. I was not pursuing the point. It was a minor point in a Press Conference, but the Acting Minister of Finance has taken me up on it and he has proved in his Press Conference that it was true. (Asides.) If he can say that a measure is justified because the rich will get richer and the poor will get a little poorer - I never thought we would have lived to see this day - then I hope the Prime Minister will come back and do his work. The attitude he has adopted by going away at this crucial moment and leaving things in the hands of the hon. Member for St. Michael North West is an indictment on this Government and a good reason for hon. Members supporting the motion before the House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move the question of Caribbean integration. Again, if there is something which I think both sides of the House will agree with, it is the present state of Caribbean integration and the present state of association between the former territories of the West Indies Federation and their neighbours in the North and South through CARIFTA. Lawyers are now at work trying to find ways and means for the withdrawal of certain countries from CARIFTA, which is now gradually becoming a sort of dead-letter. It was intended to run for a year or two, and it has found itself in a position where it is running into trouble. (Asides.)

Mr. Speaker, every now and again the Prime Minister does disservice to himself, to Barbados and to the West Indies by the utterance of some very dangerous, hasty, intemperate and ill-considered remarks. He has been against the sugar industry for years and years, and he finds himself pulling against those in his Party, in the Government and in the Ministry of Agriculture, who realise that sugar is still playing a part in the economy of Barbados. During the Federation debate he did a disservice to everyone in this Island by saying that what Barbados needed was some more improvement and some more blood and fire. Now he has recently done a very serious disservice to Barbados and to the West Indies by speaking of the bandits who are in control of certain Caribbean Islands.

Mr. Speaker, it is noteworthy that, whenever a leader of a Caribbean Island denies that he is one of the bandits, the Prime Minister either says that he did not mean him or allows the denial to remain. Mr. Bradshaw is not a bandit, Mr. Gairy is not a bandit, and Mr. Mitchell is not a bandit. We now have to look at the attitude of these countries, led by bandits or non-bandits, to the statement made by the Prime Minister. I was approached by a businessman who told me that his Company has been doing \$500,000

business in the Eastern Caribbean, and that for 56 years his Company has never sent a 'salesman down to the Islands who had come back to Barbados without an order. He quoted that figure to me, and I believe he gave a similar figure to the hon. Member for Bridgetown. A salesman was greeted in St. Lucia a few months ago with the statement that bandits had no money to spend, and no order to give him. That is the experience of a businessman, Mr. Speaker, I dare say he will find ' ways and means of making his money from other sources in St. Lucia in the fullness of time, but the statement to which I have referred has given a bad impression about Barbados, and the Government, and it is a reflection on the people who are in the House of Assembly who support a Government of this nature.

Mr. Speaker, there should have been an unqualified apology for the expression: "The bandits who are in charge of the Eastern Caribbean Governments." There should have been apologies to the distinguished gentlemen concerned, because we may find that there are also a number of bandits in Barbados. The Prime Minister should have taken into account the old biblical saying "First remove the beam from thine eye before you attempt to remove the mote from others." The Prime Minister must remember that he knew of the corruption within the Government of Barbados. 1.45 p.m.

In this context, Mr. Speaker, I am not referring to the hon. Member who was a former Minister and who is not now in his seat. The Prime Minister was referring to a different instance altogether. Why does not the Prime Minister introduce integrity legislation into Parliament by way of a Prevention of Corruption Act? Will I have an opportunity to deal with certain matters which I left with the Clerk of the House? I now ask for leave at a later stage to give notice of them. (Leave granted). If the Government is determined to control banditry, if the Government is determined that no Minister or Parliamentary Secretary or otherwise will be able to accept favours because of his position, the Government should introduce legislation accordingly to let Barbados hold its head up again.

Mr. Speaker, I will return to economic plans at some stage, but I want to deal with the news media of this country because I think that a lot of what I am talking about would have been avoided if we had a sufficiently independent Press, television and radio broadcasting system.

If there was a sufficiently high level of journalistic initiative - I will qualify that because I believe that there is a lot of journalistic initiative in Barbados. I believe that there are a lot of young journalists who, given a free hand, would give us the kind of journalism and the kind of radio service that we deserve. I believe that it is at the editorial level that the heavy hand of repression lies on these organs of information. Barbados is unfortunate to have only one daily newspaper. That newspaper itself is owned and controlled from abroad. Lord Thomson has told me himself years ago that it was not his policy or the policy of the Thomson Newspaper to be against any Government in power anywhere.

This is unfortunate, in my view, because in Barbados the managers and editors of that newspaper cannot look with a straight and direct eye to those to whom they should be responsible, namely the public of Barbados. All newspapers have to hedge to some extent when dealing with finance, but it is not financial reasons that make it impossible for the Advocate-News to fulfil its duty to the very hilt. They have to look back over their shoulders to the overseas interests that control them because they fear that they will be the first casualties. Since they have seen the Gale's newspaper sold and a Gale fired, no one has any confidence in the security of his tenure as a journalist and it is a very serious and unfortunate situation. When we consider the independence of the great newspapers of the U.S.A., like the New York Times and the Washington Post which showed fearlessness and determination in attacking all that is wrong in the American Government, the newspapers which are not afraid to say that the President is guilty of unethical practices and that the Vice-President is guilty of stealing, we realise that these newspapers could not exist in Barbados under the present conditions of people being able to telephone the Editor of the Advocate and complaining about this or that. I have been guilty of it myself, but only when it was necessary.

The Democratic Labour Party knows that it will not suffer from this. If the Prime Minister addresses a branch constituency meeting attended by eleven people, four children and six dogs - a constituency branch meeting in St. Joseph - they know that they will get a full report in the Advocate News telling what a big crowd attended and how \$ X thousand was contributed by the St. Joseph constituency branch. If that amount can be contributed by that branch, it must consist of very rich people. However, this is a vote of "No Confidence" in the Government and not in the St. Joseph branch.

I had the experience recently when a meeting of our constituency branch was to be held at Orange Hill, St. James, I attended the meeting and I addressed the meeting. The day after a report was sent in and the Advocate said they were not reporting small meetings like constituency branch meetings. The Government is not entirely to blame for that. That is the way that things are.

About Rediffusion I have less complaints. Perhaps I hear it less. I am satisfied with the cultural presentations on Rediffusion to which I have more access, and the Rediffusion News seems to be more balanced than that of C.B.C. I do not wish to praise Rediffusion too much lest some talk of their licence comes up. I do not wish to praise them too much bearing in mind what the Rediffusion House Reporter does to me sometimes on Rediffusion. As regards C.B.C., no one can be satisfied with its state. No one can be satisfied with the state of a Corporation that has to change its Chairman with such regularity. No one can be satisfied with the situation in which the Minister of Education - surely the most suitable person to be controlling C.B.C. finds it impossible to continue with his portfolio because of personnel changes and shifts which he felt were not the best for the continued progress of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Sir, in this connection, I am also dealing to some extent with the Government Information Service although I would say that despite all efforts the Government Information Service operates at a very low level; but it does not lend itself to the excesses of partisanship that C.B.C. lends itself to.

Where C.B.C. is concerned, I am not blaming the news gatherers, but the nature of the situation when the General Manager comes in with a slanted story concerning the Leader of the Opposition and presents it as something that must be published. 1.55 p.m.

Is the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation merely there to represent the views of the Democratic Labour Party and the Government or is it supposed to be doing a job for all Barbadians - to present news in a fair way. Some years ago I worked with the British Broadcasting Corporation and I am in a position to know that they dealt fairly with all sides, so little obeisance was paid to the Opposition and to the members of the Government. I can remember an instance of a Minister arriving to make a statement and they would not even let him enter the car park because he did not have a ticket which was necessary for parking his car. Could anybody consider in the context of Barbados that if a Minister said "I want to go to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and abuse Adams", would they allow that? Can anybody conceive that the whole system of Telling the Nation and the Press Conference is intended only as a means of publicising the Government as a party, the Ministers as politicians, and not indeed and in fact presenting the Government as something that is working for Barbados? Can anybody listening to the news of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation doubt that their aim is to present the Government's side and not the Opposition side? I am not making any threats now but I am going to say this; when you put on uniform to go to war you must expect to be shot; you must expect to be treated as a soldier and remember that although a soldier in uniform may command respect, anything can happen; he could still be shot out of hand. Let them make what they wish to make out of that analogy. When it comes to the Minister of Tourism I respect him a lot. He is a soldier in uniform; I cannot ever complain of having heard any political partisanship from the gentleman in question. But when it comes to the underhand politics conducted by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation that is where this Government is falling down seriously. It happens in many countries; the British Broadcasting Corporation is very fortunate. It happens in many countries, that the Government seeks to control the Press and radio. Certain Governments that have controlled the radio entirely have gone down to bitter defeat. President DeGaulle of France was one of those who controlled the radio completely.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is why I am giving this hint to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I am saying that you may blow the trumpet of a political party now but when the public gets bored of the trumpets you blow, down you go. Since 1971 the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was partisan; they were partisan during the election but not drastically so. You could see people in that Corporation attempting to be fair, but it is in recent times that you have seen the ethical standard of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation go by the board. It is since the new Minister has taken over that the Board, or whoever it is, has been unable to control the Corporation in these particular respects.

Mr. Speaker, this House is supposed to be suspended around this time. Standing Order No. 6 has been suspended,

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 2.05 p.m.

On Resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER:

The sitting is now resumed. Private Members' Business will continue.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, before I resume, I wonder if I could ask the House for leave to give certain notices; I was not present at the appropriate time.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Would you not prefer to do it at the end of your address?

Mr. ADAMS:

If I have the leave, I will know it can be done at the end of my address.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would suggest you wait until you end your address.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I was dealing with the organs of information and the general trend of information by Government at the time when the House took the suspension for lunch, and it strikes me that this is a matter which I should return to because I wish to give one or two examples in explaining the genuinely positive aspects of the relationships between Government and information, and I do not mean just the Government Information Service, in a community such as ours. The Government has an especial duty in a small community to use the organs of information and to approach them in such a way as to make sure that the ultimate democratic process is not going to be impaired. This is really the point I am making. It is so very easy in a small community for democracy itself to vanish; it is not everybody who can view democracy in its true sense without some regard to the party spirit which runs deep in all of us, otherwise we could not support one party or the other with these instincts that lead us to support a side in a game or lead us to support our Party in politics, and I think sometimes that these instincts could be brought to bear on the present Government arrangements in their Information Service.

It seems to me that the Government Information Service run's on a permanent basis of dealing only with innocuous subjects. They are described as subjects of public interest of one sort or another, but very little that is controversial and about which the people are entitled to hear the benefit of two sides of a question ever seems to be put out by the Government Information Service I think C. B. C. carries out some of the functions that I would prefer to see the Government Information Service do, and although I have to return to this very briefly, it is not only in respect of the Opposition or the politics of Barbados that I think C. B. C. falls down. Even on that subject I have not really exhausted it, we complain on our side that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation finds it very difficult to give us the sort of publicity that any country is entitled to expect the Opposition to have. You can set this against things that you hear regularly on C. B. C. You will always find on C. B. C. that the Opposition in St. Kitts, the Opposition in Guyana, and even the Opposition in Trinidad gets a very full report, but never the Opposition in Barbados, Yesterday on C. B. C. news I heard a full report of a public meeting in St. Kitts by an Opposition which does not have a seat in the House at all as far as I know. A political leader, who has never had a seat, had his speech reported at length, but I believe there is a policy at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation not to report speeches made at public meetings in Barbados. They can report them if they are made in St. Kitts by as ineffective and meaningless an Opposition there can be since it is not represented in Parliament, but then cannot report it from Barbados. In the political storms in Dominica, the Dominicans heard the fullest possible account of their activities. I even heard on C.B.C. today a fairly long story about four stamps which Dominica is going to issue, but something of

importance said by a public figure in this Island in the House of Assembly, or indeed much of what may be said today, is not going to be broadcast on C.B.C.

Dr. Jagan's statements made in Guyana are prominently featured in the Advocate-News and constantly reported by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. He gets more publicity indeed, Mr. Speaker, than some of the Ministers of Government far less the Opposition here in Barbados, and the Government cannot think it is running a proper information service upon that basis. I wonder, again dealing with C.B.C., how the people, who read the news, select it. No other radio station in the world in the middle of the war in the Middle East where there is serious conflict, could report a whole day's news exclusively in terms of one Israeli who got hit by a metal splinter in his head over Damascus, but that was only one side of the war. What sort of news people are doing this? I believe that the Government should upgrade at the earliest possible opportunity the position of the news staff on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. You cannot expect any better of them if you do not treat the particular organs in the responsible way they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, other areas of confusion which this Government has visited on Barbados include in my view the whole aspect of Civil Aviation, the Airport and the system of bringing in tourists". We have been hearing in the House of Assembly over many years that the airport is to be developed. First of all, the Prime Minister spoke of as double runway system, this, that and the other. It was rumoured that a new airport is to be built in St. Lucy these rumours that you never get any information about - you hear it is going to be put' on a plantation which was bought specially for the purpose by private individuals, many of them connected with the Government Party. Oiiie hears nothing about whether these rumours are true, they are just allowed to float through Barbados unchecked. Nobody gets up and says in the - House what interest he has in such and such a thing or that it was brought at such and such a time, the only person I have ever heard come in the House and say anything about any interest he had was the hon. Member for St. Andrew, You hear a lot about the money to be spent in building the Airport. Apparently it has been proved difficult to raise funds, apparently the plans have been changed at the last moment, apparently a much more modest Airport expansion is being carried out than had at first been contemplated. It is certainly not true what I see ascribed to the Minister of Tourism, but this must be one of the few occasions that the Minister of Information has really lived up to the expectations and functions of his Ministry, perhaps next time a financial statement has to be made the Minister of Information might vet it first, but Seawell Airport at present is not, Mr. Speaker, in my submission a satisfactory entrance into Barbados. I do not mind what is said about the new facilities. The point which people complain about at Seawell, is the difficulty of getting past the first check when they leave the aircraft, the difficulty of getting away. I do not know who is satisfied with the taxi system, I really do not know who feels that the taxi system is perfect, we have been looking for years in Barbados for a general plan of communications and integration of buses with taxis. Many plans get put forward, nobody takes note of them seriously and I can only express distrust at what I see in the newspaper this morning, that Seawell is going to be so rearranged that if you meet a passenger with a private car that passenger will have to walk that much further to a private car than if he was taking a taxi. I do not see why it should be so, I am not against the Seawell taxi men receiving benefits since they have to use the airport more than private persons, but why should it be more difficult for passengers who arrive at the airport in

their own transport to get away once they have got there?

I also want to question the Government on the runway extension and what is now being done. The runway is being extended, I understand, by 1,500 feet, but my information in so far as technical information is available is that the runway extension at the present time is being built up to a standard which I think is the old 14 inch concrete standard which is not going to be acceptable in a few years' time because a fully loaded commercial aircraft of the jumbo jet type weighs over 700,000 pounds and the airport is only being constructed on the 14 inch standard at present. 3.15 p.m.

This is important information. This is the stage where you have to attack the Government Information Service again. Is Seawell Airport really being built to meet the requirements of the most modern standard, or is it being built at a standard which will find in a short time does not meet the highest international level? All of these things the public should know. There should have been a Seawell Airport Plan laid before us. When the Democratic Labour Party was in the Opposition no money would be voted for Seawell Airport unless Members has been given a considerable amount of information.

Mr. Speaker, we are being constantly asked in here to vote money to spend on- things when information is deliberately withheld from Members of the House. We have had the experience of the Common Market Treaty which the Prime Minister dealt with at a Press Confernece and said that it had already been laid in the House. I do not know if it is a contempt of the House to say that a document has been laid in the House when it has not been laid. Sometime subsequently I saw the document.

Mr. Speaker, we were asked to vote for the Customs Tariff the biggest document which has ever come before us, and it was set in fine type. We were asked to vote for that without having an opportunity to consider the Treaty which formed the basis of that particular exercise. Some people call that "contempt for the Opposition." I call it, perhaps, the Prime Minister's contempt for his own Party. He has shown that contempt by going off now at this most bitter and crucial time in the history of Barbados. He has gone off at a time when Barbados is facing its worst financial and political crisis since 1937. (Asides.)

It has been said that we are better off now than before, but you can look around and see that we are not better off. I want hon. Members to consider that prosperity is relevant not only to what you had before, but it is relevant to what you see around you. I want hon. Members to think of what our expectations in Barbados should be in years to come, because time marches on and we have to move forward. We have moved forward, but are we better off in relation to our expectations? That is what our present economic status has to be measured against. A few years ago persons without motor cars could look forward to buying motor cars; persons without houses could look forward to buying houses provided by the

Government in 1955 and 1956. What can we now ask Barbadians to look forward to in economic terms? What is being held out to Barbadians in economic or political terms at the present moment? (Asides.)

Dealing with the question of the political position, I do not think that anybody can be impressed that: there is any unanimity in the structure of the Governing Party at the moment. One Minister has got out of the struggle, whether willingly or unwillingly we do not know. This is what the public would like to know. We want to know what next will happen. (Asides.)

Mr. Speaker, I have not yet seen any step taken by the Government to diminish unemployment. I have only heard a promise by the Prime Minister that unemployment will be finished by 1976. Some hon. members may remember the statement made by the Prime Minister that we will have full employment by 1976. If there is any truth in that statement, I hope that there will be full employment by that time.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister also promised to have \$100 million in new construction during this financial year. I am waiting to see that because there is still \$80 million or \$85 million in new construction to be carried out before Christmas. I am prepared to wait until the Budget comes up for consideration next year to prove that these things are no more than promises. I do not believe that there is any hon. Member in here who is unaware of public discontent at the present moment. Public discontent has been growing for the last two years. We in the Opposition are constantly being asked. "What are you doing in the Opposition?" I have heard that so much that I have got accustomed to it now. (Asides.) It was the electorate who put the Members of the Government here to run this country. There is no point in asking what the Members of the Opposition are doing. We are here to oppose "We are elected to come in here and point out to the Members of the Government that they are doing wrong things.

Mr. Speaker, when we oppose certain things in this Chamber, we are told that we are frightening investors away from Barbados. Are we really doing that? I have said that the Government is unable to meet its financial commitments - I do not want to use the phrase that the Treasury is empty. (Asides.) I hear from the other side that the Treasury is not empty, but it has an overdraft. 3.25 p.m.

When we in the Opposition point out this to them, we are told that we are scaring away foreign investors. It is they on the other side who are scaring away foreign investors by not having a dynamic enough policy for economic progress in Barbados. I asked the Minister to put his hands on his heart and ask himself what have I done today or this month to held economic progress in Barbados. The Ministers are now concerned with trying to answer or appearing to answer or not answer every little thing they hear from the Opposition. Only when they hear somebody say something they can answer Some of the

Ministers are proving to be more apt members of the Opposition by their reaction to things. When I consider the performance of the Government, I have to say in the words of the poem -

You will have to get all the words from the poem to get the full meaning. The Minister of Education perhaps can help you.

In attacking the Government the burden of my speech is an attack on the lack of economic development, on economic stagnation over a period of time and increasing inflation and the continued deficit in the balance of payments.

No country could afford to import at the level at which we imported had it not been for the fact that we are kept afloat by the sterling exchange transaction. When we have our own currency we will see what will happen in the fullness of time. We cannot afford it, in my view. When the Government says that these things are a part of general world conditions they must also understand that the general world conditions that they are talking about are coming to pass in countries where there is full employment and where economic expansion has to be held down to prevent inflation. You cannot compare like with unlike. The Government has the solutions to these problems put before their eyes, but they appear to be incapable of grasping these solutions.

I have spoken about the construction business. Far from following a policy which would lead to an expansion of the amount of money in circulation, the Government has taken steps which have had the direct effect of allowing the price of building materials to go up by 25% in nine months. The Government has to direct its attention to a means of alleviating this situation. They have come up with the idea of allowing interest rates to float. I know that bank managers have cancelled the idea of putting a ceiling on deposit interest rates. Not a thought of any of these things has crossed the mind of the Government or of their financial advisers, nor is the Government seeking to do anything in order to assist Barbados to rebuild its stagnant economy. No such step is taken.

I started with prices and I will end with prices. I do not see how any country in the world where the currency is not being devalued or revalued, and where it has been fixed for all this time, where wages are not going up every day as inflation is going up weekly in South America in order to meet the increased cost of living - I do not see how any country can allow a .24 increase in the cost of living in nine months and the Ministers say nothing. I just do not see it.

I referred to this question of devaluation. I think I had better expand on that. In many countries the cost of living goes up more than in Barbados, sometimes by as much as 150% a year; but coupled with that is always a currency transfer. When prices went up like that in Chile the currency was devalued four times on separate occasions. That is what these countries have to do in order to secure themselves when the cost of living increases. I do not want to see the Government of Barbados put with its back against the waU, to such an extent that we have to follow South America economics.

I do not want to see the Barbadian dollar devalued day by day and week after week. I do not want to see that after a month it is worth only 80 cents, but we are moving inevitably in that direction. We are moving in that direction because of these cost of living factors, and it is at this time that the Prime Minister has abrogated his responsibility to go to the University of Florida. I have sent to the American Embassy for a reference book to find out what courses are taught there, and I am told that they give degrees in basket-weaving. Is it the time for the Prime Minister to leave Barbados for a period of months? I believe that there was some reference to a flock without a shepherd. What greater example of a flock without a shepherd could we see than with the present D.L.P. regime? Mr. Speaker, taxation is high, Government spending is high, economic development is low, new investments is practically non-existent, inflation is high and Ministers' salaries are high. We do not know where we are going in Barbados.

The hon. Member for St. Michael South West used to heckle. He does not heckle any more. There is more against him than against the hon. Member and he is facing me very directly. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados is going from nowhere to nowhere and then reversing and going back to nowhere. I do not believe that this Government is going the whole way anyhow. Certain Members of the Government after long careers in Parliament have received distinctions and honours. I will not anticipate that they would allow these distinctions and honours to be tarnished by holding on and finding themselves in the same position as the Democratic Labour Party finds itself at the present time.

Now, Sir, there are a few things that are very important to remember in all these circumstances. I will just mention by the way - I am sure hon. Members will bear in mind the instance of the missing photographer and films, although I do not believe any hon. Member of the House is anywhere to be found on the documents of this missing photographer, but I cannot guarantee that Members of the Government do not expect a Watergate affair in Barbados or the Christine Keeler and every other political scandal that has happened in recent times. But Mr. Speaker, Members of the Government should ask themselves, 'what have we done to deserve such lack of confidence as is being shown in us at the present time?' Sir, the motion before the House reads "Be it Resolved that this House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government in Barbados and calls on the Prime Minister to resign or call an early General Election." Mr. Speaker, if Members feel that what I have been saying is not based upon

both a proper analysis of the plight of Barbados and upon the public lack of confidence in the Government, let them call an early general election. I know we are ready for it,

Sir, in closing I would just like to set the record straight in respect of the arrangements of business for the passing of this Resolution, A number of things have been said in the Press and in letters exchanged between the leader of the House and myself, but I want to set the record straight. I wrote a letter to the Leader of the House asking that two days be set aside as Parliamentary time for the debating of this motion. I have never had a reply. I have never had the courtesy of a reply to this letter. The Leader of the House met me by the Speaker's Chambers one day and he said.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Resolution has nothing to do with that. The prbcedure, and the relationship existing between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House has no substantive part of this Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS:

I do not have any particular wish to refer to the courtesy of the Leader of the House, but what I am saying does have some bearing on this. It has some bearing on this and 1 would like to continue.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Well, you will be irrelevant for some time.

Mr. ADAMS:

More recently, Sir, the Leader of the House.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. Member would give way. On a point of order, Sir. I stated to the hon. Member that ample opportunity would be provided, just as it had been today. Can the hon. Member say that he has not had the opportunity? He had the whole day to say what he wanted to say.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

I do not think he wants me to continue much longer. The important point is, that a motion of no confidence is now before the House; this is a motion of no confidence and if you do not give hon. Members notice that something is going to be done, we cannot expect something as important as this to be done properly; so at this stage I am going to move that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed. I am moving that further consideration of the Resolution be now postponed.

Mr. CRAIG:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I gave hon. Members on that side the opportunity to reply; if they did I would have my reply to make Sir, if they do not wish it to be postponed, it is quite all right. They may be finding themselves in trouble.

Sir, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass. 3.45 p.m

Mr. CRAIG; Mr. Speaker, in seconding the passing of the Resolution before the House I would like to open my address by refreshing the memories of hon. Members with the remarks made by the late Sir Grantley Adams when the news reached him in 1961 that his Party was removed from office and that a new Government was formed under the leadership of the present Prime Minister, at that time, Premier. The reply which it was reported was given by Sir Grantley at the time was that the country had fallen into the hands of a bunch of irresponsible persons. It has taken some 12 years for this to come true, and if there is one clear indication, Mr. Speaker, that his words did not fall to the ground, it is when we look at the front bench of Government this afternoon. We have had the resignation for personal reasons of the former Minister of Agriculture and the running away of the Prime Minister. Whatever led up to the resignation of the former Minister of Agriculture, which we are not quite clear on yet, Sir, and which in the fullness of time we will all know, is enough for any Member on this side to support this Resolution, and if the others on the other side have the courage of their convictions and can put aside monetary rewards and let their political integrity remain where it should be and forget the new brand and type of politics that the present Government has brought to this country, they would be doing this society a good turn.

I have one single regret, and that is to know that the Leader of the House, a gentleman for whom I have the highest respect and who has served both Parties faithfully, has ended up with a Party of bandits. Not one single person could point his finger at the out-going Government during its term of office or could have ever accused it of corruption at any level. I am told that there was a case against a Mr. Cox about a chattel house which was removed from Seawell Airport and was found on Weymouth grounds, but I am also told that when an inquiry was asked for, the then Premier of Barbados had the chance to bring a vote of no confidence and to produce whatever evidence they had. We had a cast iron case in here against the former Minister of Agriculture for corruption in his Ministry and it took almost four or five months after the election for the Auditors General's report to come out to prove that our case was a clear cut one and even at that point the Prime Minister of Barbados did not even have the guts and the courage to call on the Minister to resign or to have a general election since we had charged them of corruption and a clear cut case was proven by the Auditor General. This is the brand of politics they have brought to Barbados, they have not brought peace and happiness to the souk of the country, they have brought about a vicious type of politics. That is what I have experienced since I have been in here. They have saddled the country with a high cost of living which has been very well explained by my colleague who is quite capable of explaining the financial situation of the country, and they have brought about a policy which is doing this country no good.

There are lots of people in Barbados who cannot get jobs unless they have a Government passport, and they have encouraged civil servants to join their own political Party, while all along we knew that a Civil Servant had one duty to his country and that was to serve the Government in power. People said civil servants were afraid to speak out before, but they were not afraid, they knew that they had to serve any party in power faithfully. Nowadays there are civil servants in this country walking around with Government passports in their pockets for the sake of being pushed into jobs, and we know of one who is a director of a hotel on the west coast, but I am dealing with the policy of the Government, I am not dealing with him as an individual. They have saddled the country with crime, they have brought about more hardships on the old age pensioners than they have ever had in their entire lives. I do not know how one can think of paying an old age pensioner \$8.00 per week when a pound of beef costs \$1.60 and a shell of sea eggs costs one dollar. With all the economic experts at the disposal of the Government there is a clear cut case of mismanagement by a tired, broken down army with a few young soldiers hanging on, some of them like the Acting Minister of Finance - with nowhere to go. Without that party, God help him. He cannot go out there and scramble for his daily bread.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no need to speak like that.

Mr. CRAIG:

I am speaking about the entire policy of the Government, its Ministers and its back benchers. You have a police force with police who tell you they are supporters of the Government Party. We are not saying they should not be in a position to support the party of their choice, that is their constitutional right, but we feel that in the interest of the entire society, the civil servants and the police should be removed from politics openly. This is the type of situation which has been created in this country, and worst of all, at the eleventh hour, the Prime Minister has left his country to go on vacation, but it is rumoured that he has gone to lecture at \$1,000 U.S. per week and I would like to know who is drawing his pay here, because he is apparently holding two jobs. 3.55 p.m

All of this is information which I was about to get from the Leader of the House today. From the 7th August this year we went into recess and only one single item of Government Business has been placed on this Order Paper after a period of 10 weeks.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Only one item was left on the Order Paper.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, if that one item had not been left over, there would not have been anything on the Order Paper. I am glad that the Minister corrected me. They have brought down a few statements and a Resolution or two. I do not believe that the situation, as it stands in this country today, merits the continuation of the Government in office. I am going to call on the Leader of the Opposition to create a crisis on the hands of the Government. We are not going to let all of you sit here and ease money out of the Treasury month after month without doing anything for the welfare of the society.

For several years they were talking about the extension of the Airport and the Harbour, but all of these things were ideas drawn from the Barbados Labour Party. We knew that during the jet age it would be necessary to extend Seawell Airport and the Deep Water Harbour. If there are two jobs advertised in tomorrow's newspaper for cashiers, you will find several girls with ordinary level certificates fighting to get the jobs. Nevertheless, the members on the other side will say that this is a period of dynamism.

You, Mr. Speaker, will know of the hardship thrown upon poor people in this country by the introduction of the Land Tax Act, but nothing has been done to relieve the poor people of such hardship. My colleague, the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, will explain certain things to the House when he refers to the difficult times ahead for agriculture in this country. With regard to tourism, we can only wait and hope for the best. I have always said that tourism is a money-spinner and a fickle industry. If tomorrow President Nixon introduces legislation to prevent American tourists from bringing out money,

then you will not get American tourists coming to this country. If Mr. Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, does the same thing, then we will not get tourists from Canada. This is an industry which we should support, but we should not put our faith too heavily in it. It is an industry which can collapse overnight.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague mentioned something about an empty Treasury, and you will find that the Government was unable to pay its bills to commercial firms in Barbados. I have evidence to prove that. (Asides) That is the type of behaviour you will get from those on the other side, Sir. Small shopkeepers are being forced out of business one after the other. Shopkeepers will tell you that they are being forced out of business daily. When I pass through St. James I am told by the shopkeepers in that area that they are being forced out of business.

Mr. Speaker, boys and girls in the garment industry are working for \$16 and \$17 a week. This sort of thing has been done in conjunction with the Government and the boss of the Labour Union who is working in conjunction with the Prime Minister. They bring ideas from developed countries and • give them to the people in this country to use. The biggest mistake that could have been made in any part of the world would be to give the portfolio of Minister of Trade to Branford Taitt. He has given us more evidence of that than one could ask for.

My colleague said earlier that people have asked him what Members of the Opposition are doing in this House. We would have to bring them here to see what goes on in this Chamber and how we are treated. When this Resolution was first introduced in this House, the Prime Minister said that we need not debate it and that the matter could be put to the vote immediately. (Asides.) The biggest mistake the electorate could have made was to give one political party 18 seats to rule over them. It is just like putting 36 guns into the hands of 18 Indians, after getting them drunk. Mr. Speaker, it is only a matter of time before things come to a head. We have our friends in all areas and at all levels in this Country, and we know that it is only a matter of time before the snake turns on itself. 4.05p.m.

It is only a matter of time before these disturbances that are drifting down from the other territories will drift towards Barbados. People will not sit down day after day. They must fight back at some time and they will fight back at the right time. I hope that when they fight back it will be at the real bandits. The real bandit in the West Indies is the Prime Minister of Barbados.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member should be made to withdraw that statement,

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, the person to whom I made reference is not in his seat. I feel that the Prime Minister is a bandit and I will say it publicly.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Please withdraw the word "bandit".

Mr. CRAIG:

If you ask me to.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I insist.

Mr. CRAIG:

A coward. That is what he is.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is also unparliamentary.

Mr. CRAIG:

I also withdraw the word "coward". If he is a coward I withdraw the word "coward". You may know a little more than I do. He had failed to tackle the banks in Bridgetown on the high interest rates, which policy is crippling a lot of these young people around here, this easy credit and high interest rates.

I know that these are hard things to say. Anyone can attack me from a public platform I am capable of defending this statement. If you encourage someone in something that is bad for them you are not helping them

I feel very strongly on this whole policy of lack of policy on the part of the Government. I feel very strongly on this attitude of the Government towards the people of Barbados. I feel very concerned, Mr. Speaker, when I realise that Barbadians seem to be the type of people who are docile. You know, Mr. Speaker, that the conditions existing in Barbados are not such that any Prime Minister should have left this country. Bradshaw, Williams and Gairy occasionally take chances because the latter has said that he had convicts to take care of the society. We should have some here to take care of the Prime Minister.

He has the audacity to get on T.V. and say that he is a man in the street. I will challenge anyone to say that he is not the only Prime Minister in the West Indies who owns a private jet aeroplane carrying the initials E.W.B. and costing \$US 87,000, and he is a man in the street. If that is how a man in the street is living, I would like to be a man in the street because I must be living in some alley. He is the only Prime Minister in the West Indies who owns a six-seater jet, and that is a man in the street. That is the man who now deserts his country at this time. I say that he should be in Trinidad or Haiti or Chile. Either Barbadians are the best people in the world or he is really rude.

I listened to him telling the nation. Now I would like to throw out a challenge to him. I would like the Minister of Information to set up a confrontation between the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition on C.B.C. and let both of them tell the nation together, or have a Press conference with the two of them. It will be steel meeting steel. You can only tell the nation when you have a Press conference.

Take the Minister of Information. He cannot answer an important Question but he is always between some landship in Barbados. The Minister of Tourism and Information is always up between a landship. He is the Vice-Admiral. In Barbados you see school buildings going up in the air. A sum of \$30 million is spent on education. That is more than the revenue of some of the islands, and still we cannot produce a Barbados scholar. It did not only happen once; this is the second time and before that you were only producing one or two. When the Barbados Labour Party was in power the Island was producing five Barbados scholars; so the policy is wrong.

I would appeal respectfully to the Leader of the House to set an example and bow out gracefully with that degree of dignity which he has. They may not make him the Governor-General of Grenada even if he has been visited by the Chief Minister of Grenada in the absence of the Prime Minister. I sincerely hope that I will live long enough to see that his labour does not go in vain. Lead the others and step out first. Do it gracefully. I have great respect for you. Do not go down as one serving on the ship of bandits.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Resolution moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is to the effect that "Be it Resolved that this House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government in Barbados and calls on the Prime Minister to resign or call an early General Election." Sir, under the present rules of the House I do not believe that it is possible for any one Member other than the mover of this Resolution or the Minister speaking in reply, really to deal adequately with the policies and non-effective policies of the Democratic Labour Party. I would be the last to stand in this Chamber and state that the Government has not done anything for the advancement of this country socially, politically and economically, but I think the time has come that the Government is not making that effective contribution that is necessary for the economic and political and social development of this country.

Sir, there may be a number of reasons for this, and I think the basic reason is that the Government which came into power in 1961 as a Government with social policy has drifted away during the period of time from that socialist policy. Not so long ago we had in this Chamber the Leader of the House telling us with regard to the importation of rice into this country, that the private enterprise in Barbados would do a far better job than the Government can do; and this is significant because it shows that the Government Ministers themselves do not have confidence in the Civil Service. We heard from time to time very serious attacks being made on the civil servants in this country. Some may be justified, some may not be justified; that is not for me to say; but it is another idea that has slowly crept into politics in this country and it is one that would prevent a lot of young people in this country who would be prepared to make an effective contribution to the political development of this country, from entering into politics.

Long ago it was said that all lawyers are liars; that was said of all lawyers but today in this country almost every single individual to whom you speak about politics says about politicians that all politicians are corrupt; and this is a very serious indictment on the political status of this country. I am not pointing my finger today at any one Member of this House or outside but what I am concerned with is the fact that the attitude to politics and politicians today is at such a low depth that every one says "All politicians are corrupt" and this will have serious repercussions in the future because it will prevent many young people who are in a position to make a contribution to the political development of this country, from entering into politics, because they do not want their names to be saddled with this remark and to be told that they are corrupt or anything like that, and therefore as I see it, first of all one of the problems facing the Government of this country in a crisis is the attitude of people of politics.

Sir, we have seen over the past few years a number of civil servants coming before the Courts with serious charges and this is something that did not exist years ago. This idea of corruption has now become a way of life, and no matter what any particular individual may say, it is the attitude of the people of this country that politicians today in Barbados are corrupt, and that they are only in Barbados for what they can get out of it, and that is why the young people in this country are growing more and more and getting more and more disgusted about politics in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I say that, not pointing at anybody or accusing any member present of corruption, but what I am concerned about is the attitude that exists in Barbados today - that people believe that all politicians are corrupt.

Now Mr. Speaker, I want to deal first of all with the actual policy of Government and with the question of housing. As I had occasion to say today, we are very concerned in the Barbados Labour Party about the lack of housing facilities provided in this country, and although there has been a change in recent years, and indeed particularly since the present Minister has taken over, and although we can see that the Government is making an effort to deal with the situation, the aspect of housing that concerns me today is the substandard housing facilities provided within the city of Bridgetown. Anyone, who does any sort of research, would look at the plan of the Democratic Labour Party for 1972, and at the Development Plan of the party for 1965 or 1966 and then again at the Development Plan of 1969, and at their manifesto, to see that as long ago as 1962 the Government identified the Emmerton area of Bridgetown as part of the housing which needed improvement for the people living in this area. 4.25 p.m.

As long ago as 1962 the Government in their Development Plan recognised this, but there is no money provided even in this year's Estimates for any massive attempt at slum clearance to provide proper housing facilities for the residents of the City of Bridgetown. This is so not only of the Chapman Lane area but of almost every single part of Bridgetown. There are absolutely no proper housing facilities provided, and although the Government may be providing housing for a certain income bracket they are not providing the housing required to meet the needs of the poor people of Barbados today. Not all the reports of the Housing Authority will clearly show this, and indeed the last report says that from the inception of the Housing Authority in 1956 there were 13,000 applications for houses and just over 3,000 people were given homes, so that in itself is an indication that the Government is not really meeting the requirements of the people as far as proper housing is concerned.

I would admit that to provide the proper housing facilities in Bridgetown is going to call for a lot of money, but I believe that if you belong to the World Bank and these other organisations this is the sort of assistance that is needed by way of loans to clear the slums of Bridgetown. We hear from time to time that the Government has said they are providing more services in terms of water, light and other such services than were provided by the Barbados Labour Party. This is true, but what is equally true is that the services which are now being provided - and not being provided for those persons who are in dire need of them but for the new developments in areas like Sunset Crest - are not being provided for the people who live in the City of Bridgetown. These people still need proper roads, proper lighting, proper water and everything like that, so that even though you may find that you are developing certain areas, at the same time you are leaving other areas behind, and this will in due course prove to be a tremendous

social problem in this country, because the young people in the substandard areas with bad roads and no water in this day and age are not going to be content for very much longer to live under such conditions when they look around and see the massive private developments going on.

What is happening in Barbados is that a wide gap is being created between the middle class people and the working class people of this country, and with it also is being created a serious social problem with which this Government or any other Government will have to come to grips in due course. It may well be that these young people are becoming extremely disillusioned with the Government and their attitude towards them. Half an hour does not permit one to deal effectively with any aspect of this, but I want to pass on to another aspect of Government policy. As I was saying, the young people of this country are becoming disillusioned with the whole attitude of Government. They are becoming disillusioned because on leaving school they are not finding the jobs they need to earn a proper living; they are becoming disillusioned because the proper climate is not being created so that they can be gainfully employed. If you pass by the Plaza Cinema or the Empire Theatre about half past three or a quarter to four any Thursday afternoon you will see the number of young men coming out from the 12.30 or 1.30 show. What are they doing in the cinema at 1.30 on a Thursday afternoon? Is it because they do not want to work, or is it because there is no employment for them? It may be a combination of both, but I think mainly it is because there is no employment for them. The education the bulk of them receive at some of these schools is substandard, and because of this when they leave school they cannot get proper employment because they are incapable of doing certain jobs. They lime around the place, play dominoes, go to 1.30 shows, and I would seriously like to call upon the Government to ban 1.30 shows in this country, because not even the school children should be there except during vacation.

It is not right in a country the size of Barbados to have these young men going to these 1.30 shows to watch karate pictures, but the Government speaks about full employment by 1976. I have no doubt they will have full employment then because the conditions now are such that very few will want to work because they are in the habit of leaving school and seeing people in front of them not getting work and they join the long line of the limers. In 1976 you will have full employment of those who want to work because you are creating conditions in this country which will have serious repercussions. It may not be this Government, that party or this party, but in this country you are creating serious social repercussions. I say this by way of a warning, that whenever a country becomes disillusioned with its leaders you find a situation as you find in Trinidad today. When people become disillusioned with their leaders, those who are in a position to show them better, to give them a guiding hand and to provide proper employment, you then get a society of disaster. 4.30 p.m.

This is what is confronting Barbados today. Do not let us look around and feel that everything is good. Do not believe that because small houses contain T.V. sets and other items - the banks are lending money to people to buy these things - that everything is good. If we believe so, then we will be fooling ourselves. Let us look at the social problems in this country. If we mention anything about black and white, we are reminded of the Offences Against The Person Act which was recently passed in this

House. What I should like to see created in this country for those young people who have left school and cannot find employment is a sort of National Youth Corps whereby the Government could take some of the lands that are not being used and make arrangements for such persons to be trained as carpenters, masons, mechanics and so on as we are faced with a short supply of certain categories of workers.

There should be a scheme whereby the young people could be taken off the streets for at least two years and put in a camp where they would be given not military or para-military training but training that would make them capable of performing the necessary skills that are now lacking in our labour force in the Ministry of Housing. We must have a National Youth Corps so that they will be able to assist us in the event of our having a national disaster. This is what is needed in Barbados, and we must take these young people out of their present despair.

Mr. Speaker, I am not the spokesman for finance, but it is obvious to everyone in this country that there is need for a new economic policy to guide this country. The attitude that has prevailed in the 1960's because of the obvious growth of the tourist industry will now have to be changed. We are now finding that, with the levelling off of the industry, there is no injection of money into the industry and the Government, for the first time, are faced with an economic problem. During the 1960's the Government did well because sugar and tourism were doing all right, but today there is a crisis facing this country.

Mr. Speaker, what new policies have the Democratic Labour Party introduced to help this country in its economic crisis? Do not believe that there is no economic crisis in this country? This may not be the only country that is facing an economic crisis, but we are concerned with this country at the moment. We are asking the Government what they are doing about this economic crisis. I can refer to an important matter. There is a shortage of housing. I know that the Minister will be the first to say that the Government is already spending money from the National Insurance Scheme in order to improve the housing situation, but I wonder whether this is all that can be done. When I look around this country and see Insurance Companies taking the bulk of the money and sending it to the parent companies in North America to improve the standard of living of the North Americans, then it makes me think whether the Government is concerned about the conditions under which some of our people live. I would have thought that the first thing this Government would have done would be to insist that 96% of the premium income produced from Insurance Companies be re-invested in this country so that Barbadians would be able to borrow money to build their homes and would no longer be told that there is no money in Barbados from which to make loans.

Mr. Speaker, what do we find? The same premium income that goes out of these Insurance Companies returns to Barbados in one way or another via Trust Companies to be loaned to Barbadians at a very high rate. This is where the Government has fallen down. I am not an economist, but I would have

thought that one who professes to be an economist would have done things in the interest of the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, another problem confronting this country is the high cost of living. The Minister of Trade, in reply to a question asked by me in this Chamber, said that he was aware that the 3-tier system of distribution was creating hardships on consumers in this country. Since 1972 the Minister of Trade and the Prime Minister were aware that the 3-tier system of distributing foodstuffs in this country was creating hardships on the consumers, and yet nothing has been done to relieve them of such hardships. The Minister of Trade said that a comprehensive study of the problem was being undertaken; but while the green grass is growing, the horse is starving. While this comprehensive study is being undertaken in this country, not only the poor people but the rich people are crying out that the cost of foodstuffs is too high. What are the Members of the Government doing about this, except to tell us that they have no control over the cost of things coming from foreign markets?

Mr. Speaker, although we have been very critical about the three-tier system of distribution, we find that, whenever the Minister of Trade has to issue a Price Control Order, he allows from his mark-ups so much to the wholesaler and so much to the retailer, but the Minister seems to believe that he cannot do without the Roebuck Street merchants. I am not a believer in this archaic 3-tier system of distribution, and the sooner it is removed from this country the better it will be for all concerned. 4.45 p.m.

The Government of this country in an effort to lower the cost of living must stop looking at the traditional North American markets for trade, and if it is necessary look even to the eastern blocs and see if it is cheaper to trade with them. Let us get away from this idea of trading with the North American markets. There is need for a new approach to trading in this country, an approach that the Government is not looking up to. I believe that my time is up, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You have two minutes more.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time has come when the Government of this country must clearly define for its overseas investors the areas in which they will be allowed to participate. What is happening in the tourist industry must never be allowed to happen here again. You had foreigners coming here from overseas who were allowed to invest in flats as opposed to hotels. A flat may bring in some capital but it is certainly not labour intensive as opposed to a hotel. The Government must stop allowing people to come in unless their investments are both capital and labour intensive or Barbadians will suffer.

There is a newspaper advertisement in these areas. These things which are strictly out of the control of Barbadians should not be allowed to come in. It is not a question of driving away foreigners from this country. For too long has the Government been sacrificing the people of this country on the altar of foreign investment. The criteria must be the interest and development of this country. The interest of the workers must come first and not the interest of the businessman and the interest of the foreign investor.

I will finish by saying that the Government has drifted far away from any belief in socialism. Not even in their utterances do they pay any allegiance to socialism I would like to see bold Government policies dealing with the economic problems that confront this country, and most of all erase from the minds of the people of this country the idea that politics is a corrupt thing and that politicians are corrupt. Let us bring back politics to the level that it was at in the days of the plantocracy. Why is it that now there are all Barbadians in here, politics has sunk so low?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is indeed difficult for me to make any speech in this Parliament on the agricultural performance of this Government after the many speeches that I have made since we dealt with our annual budget. It would appear that the Government has never understood or formulated any agricultural policy which would benefit this country. Since 1970, Mr. Speaker, I have been calling on the Government to take a radical look at agriculture and what it means in respect of the livelihood of the people of this country. Every year this House has been privileged to hear of a new agricultural policy in relation to Barbados, but anyone who knows anything about agriculture will tell you that you cannot create agricultural policies from year to year.

You must have a fundamental agricultural policy which might be revised in the light of circumstances, but any time that you change your policy from year to year it means that you simply do not know where you are going. This has made itself absolutely clear within the last two or three months in this country when your Chief Agricultural Officer has gone and your Minister of Agriculture has gone. It would be unfair at this time to overload the House with criticisms in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture; but there are certain things which might be said, and I will say a few things this afternoon.

I have said before that the Government has not been keeping pace with the changing times where agriculture is concerned. It was forecast over three years ago that there would have been a grain shortage throughout the world. It was only this year after I came to the House that you heard the former Minister of Agriculture talking about planting grain to the extent that we felt that something was being done. This should have been done years ago.

I have spoken about the high cost of imported food in this country. I have had no adequate reply from the Government as to what is happening to agriculture vis-a-vis imports. I have also spoken about the quality of tourism in relation to agriculture. I have come to this Chamber and spoken of the knowledge which I have whereby large hotels in this country were importing all the foodstuffs they needed to the detriment of the farmers of this country. Nothing has happened.

The ex-Minister of Agriculture confirmed my views and beliefs when he asked questions today about his own Government's policy on importation which will work to the detriment of local Barbadian farmers.

I heard nothing about tourism, but the Government is working such a policy that the Minister of Tourism had to meet with the taxi drivers and told them not to take notes. We have heard about criteria. How will they fit in with the general pattern of agriculture in this country?

The ex-Minister of Agriculture has come to the Chamber today and agreed with me 100% that our marketing facilities are very bad. Has the small man in agriculture received any assistance from the Government? I say no. All this is happening at a time when the country will have to import \$4 million to \$6 million more in foodstuffs than was imported last year. Can you say that the Government is helping the farmer when weedicides and pesticides have been levied on in the Budget this financial year?

Can you say that it is helping the farmer when I heard at a meeting last week that the B.M.C. which was set up to help the farmers - can you say that the B.M.C. is helping the farmers? No, Mr. Speaker. When I said that there are price controls for the small man in Bridgetown and the small man in St. George, but that there is no price control for the B.M.C. it was said that I was lying, but it is known that the B.M.C. is getting in some instances up to 100% markup.

The small farmer is left outside the whole operation of Government. The farmer will find that he is the man who is carrying the subsidy. He is subsidising the whole Government and the nation to his very detriment. 4.55 p.m.

We heard about a subsidy on animal feed; that was removed this year. We heard about a subsidy on

rice; that was removed this year. You need to pursue a policy of agriculture which is beneficial to the country. If you have an import policy which means that the farmer gets less than he is able to produce, it means that you are over loading your import bill at the expense of the people of this country when the reverse can take place.

Mr. Speaker, what is the Government doing; We in the Barbados Labour Party have been asking for quite a long time that the Government should take a serious look at the whole agricultural policy, and at the fishing industry as well. The Government came to the House not too long ago and spoke about the shrimp industry but when you consider how the Government is operating this scheme you will see that the people in this country do not stand to benefit much from the industry. You have to look out for your own people first before you look out for other people, and this is what the Government has not been doing for a very long time because if this was the policy of the Government we would find that the people would be able to grow a sufficient crop and our import would be less than it is today.

Now, I know the Minister of Tourism will defend the hotels in what I am about to say now because I would stress that a levy should be placed on certain goods used by the hotels. If you go to Germany you cannot go and say you want Barbados' sweet potatoes; you eat what they have to offer. Sir, the tourist come to Barbados for its sun and sea bathing and all it has to offer and they should be made to eat what we in Barbados can offer. So I am saying that a levy should be placed on beef steak and other items that the hotels bring in. Now take for instance the comfith project. I would like to know how the comfith project is going to help the man in the street. Why is it that up to this day there is not a man in the street who can get a pound of anything produced by the project on which he can raise his cattle? So I would like to know how the Barbadian is going to profit by the comfith project and when.

Another question I would like to ask is this. Are we utilising our sugarcane for the benefit of the Canadians or Barbadians? As far as I can see the people outside stand more to benefit from projects which should be operated to benefit Barbadians. Today the farmer is making just three or four percent on his money, when you consider the present land tax with which he is saddled. How are we to survive? We are all going broke. Anybody can see that we are going broke, and I blame the Government for this situation. Where is the farmer standing? I have already called for the setting up of a body to look after the needs of the farmer and I hear talks between this person and talks between the next, and at the same time the farmer does not get any increase in prices.

Again, the Government has arranged to send products from this country and this is being done in a way to bring no benefit to Barbadians. Not long ago the farmers sold onions and got twelve cents a pound but it was not four weekes afterwards that the consumer in this country bought onions back at 60 cents a pound. (ASIDE: 90 cents a pound). I am told sometimes at 90 cents a pound. The agricultural policy needs changing. Again, sweet potatoes are being sold at 45 cents a pound. You developed a yam

industry based on the fact that the plantation owners or small land owners would grow yams in order that they be processed but you will find that at the end of the season the yam factory would scarcely have received a pound of yam. So this scheme is going through the eddoes. What is the Government's policy? We will find that in another few months we shall all be knocking at the door of starvation, and you can lay the blame fairly and squarely on the Government.

Let us look at one aspect of trade. 5.05 p.m.

My colleague has said that he disagrees with the three tier system, and I have heard the Minister of Trade say the same thing, but the Minister must go a step further if he wants to control the cost of living in this country. He must look at the way firms operate in Barbados and also at the manufacturers' agent who gets at least 5% for every order which is placed in Barbados. He does nothing really but he is the manufacturers' agent, and these are the things that must be looked at by the Ministry of Trade. The Ministry of Trade must also look carefully at its idea about what is good and how the farmer must operate in order to make a living. We must have adjustment of prices on both sides, you do not adjust one side and tell the other side to wait, because this will discourage the farmers. The Government's policy must be one where it will help both sides of the industry.

Turning to agriculture, Mr. Speaker, I could talk on this for the remainder of the day but I have promised that I will not criticise either the ex-Minister of Agriculture or the present Minister

- especially since the latter is not present today

- but it would be a good thing for this country if the present Government would get up and go outside and let us have a Government which is really able to run this country.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I believe this in moving this vote of no confidence in Her Majesty's Government the Opposition does not want to point out to the Government how the affairs of this country should be administered. We in Opposition do not have a duty to teach them how to manage the affairs of the country, but what we have to do is to look most critically at what they have failed to do, their sins of omission, and see how we can relate them to the sufferings of the people. Their sins of commission would not in any measure escape our notice, and I for one share the view of the hon. Member for St. James because you cannot begin to understand how the poor people of this country are crying out for

somewhere to be housed and somewhere to provide shelter for their children. I understand the Government in its last efforts at providing housing somewhere in the area off Warrens has created even more problems for the people of this country. People have been told by the Acting Minister of Finance that they have to pay down \$7,500 in cash if they want one of these houses but this at the same time does not include the purchase price of the land, because the people have been told that the lots have not yet been surveyed and things of that sort. I want to repeat that it is the Acting Minister of Finance who told the people this. (Hon. P. M. GREAVES That is denied.) The Minister will have to deny it for the sake of the records, not because I am not speaking the truth, the Minister did tell the people so. It only goes to show that the Government finds itself in the role of some of these hard oppressive business people we heard so much M about when they wanted to get into office, but they have now joined the ranks of the oppressors because these houses were constructed for the benefit of the poor people, but for them to occupy them they are told they must find \$7,500 in cash. The question of the ownership of the land comes later.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite all right for the Government Members because the nests of these Government Members have already been feathered; that is how it appears to us. The Prime Minister has his aeroplane, so what does the fellow who is flying high has to care about the fellow who has to be sleeping about on the balconies of some of the shops in Baxter's Road? We have got now to think for ourselves because the Prime Minister can now turn his back on these people and leave them in their present predicament. Most of them are starving, thousands are jobless and thousands more are naked because of the standard of living which has been foisted on them and they cannot keep up with it under any circumstances whatsoever. Trouble is in the offing, the young people of this country are all frustrated and some of them have taken pattern from the Government Ministers. You cannot blame the people of this country, they believe that what a Government Minister can do is right for everybody else to do. That is how our people think. What has the Government been trying to do to change these things? They set the pattern.

Let us turn for a brief moment to the question of education. For the millions we are spending on education we know what we are not producing, but we have to look at the behavioural patterns that we see exhibited along the streets and in the business places by the young people who are now coming out of our schools. 5.15 p.m.

Look at the new patterns of behaviour that are accepted by the young people? They do not conduct themselves properly; they walk into places, carry on as they please; they do not respect God, man or the devil. What is the Government doing about all of these problems? These are some of the problems that are facing this country. With regard to the question of unemployment, who can deny that the Government has fallen down in every phase of activity so far as providing employment for the young people of this country is concerned? We have the I.D.C., the industrial estates and so on, but have we really done anything tangible?

Mr. Speaker, the Government has taken civil Servants and brutalised their careers. They have used civil servants to produce corrupt and bogus figures for all sorts of things -nonsensical things which have no semblance of truth time and again. They have demoralised civil servants. Today our civil servants are so demoralised that they do not want to do certain things but, of course, they have to serve the Government.

Mr. Speaker, you will find that not one Member on the other side can get up and defend what I am about to say now. We are told that the Treasury is not empty. I do not know whose pocket is full, but the Treasury is not bringing forth enough money to pay school teachers at the end of the month. There are school teachers who have not received their salaries for the month of July. Some of them have not received their salaries for the month of August. Some of them were paid during the month of September for August and September, but they have not been paid for the month of July. Some of them have been told they they will get the money due to them later.

Mr. Speaker, the Government is running the country like a poor man who tells his wife to look in the butter tot and see if there is any butter there. If there is any butter in the tot, then he will tell his wife not to buy any butter before the following week. This is exactly how the Govenrment is running this country. The Government has been making jackasses of Members of the Opposition. We come here and vote money for various Departments to carry on the affairs of this country merely to find that some of the Departments have not been able to spend half of the money allotted to them during the whole year! Some Members of the Government come here and talk about appropriating millions of dollars when they do not have a half-cent to spend. They were very happy when the cement shortage came about in this country because it was a face-saver for the Government.

Mr. Speaker, before there was a cement shortage the Ministry of Communications and Works had laid off 456 workers and there was no money in the Treasury with which to pay them. When the cement shortage came about and they had to lay off some more workers, Mr. Speaker, you can understand what was the true position.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES rose.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is he rising to interrupt?

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

M. Speaker, on a point of order, I think I should draw to the attention of this Honourable House the fact that the workers at the Ministry of Communications and Works were laid off because of the shortage of cement.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order; you can make a separate speech later. Let the hon. Member continue with his speech.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Acting Minister of Communications and Works admits that the workers were laid off.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You know what a point of order is. If you are rising on a point of order you must refer to a breach of some Standing Order.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the efforts the Acting Minister of Communications and Works has made to explain things. It so happens that when he became the Acting Minister of Communications and Works those members had already been laid off. He is now telling us that after he became the Acting Minister of Communications and Works some more workers were laid off because of the shortage of cement. I repeat that 456 workers were laid off because there was no money in the Treasury with which to pay them.

Mr. Speaker, it is all right for some of us to be told in the newspaper about how much money there is in the Treasury and so on. We are very lucky people. I believe that the merchants in Bridgetown are very kind to the Government. The merchants in Bridgetown and the banks are supporting this country financially. I remember the Prime Minister denying the fact that Barclays Bank had refused to loan the

Government money some time last year. Barclays Bank carried out some sort of research and they told the Government that they could not carry them any more. Mr. Speaker, they have been spending a lot of money and the Government has now found itself on sinking sand.

Mr. Speaker, do you believe that a Prime Minister and Minister of Finance would meet the Press and tell them that he did not know that income tax refunds were long overdue. People have been telephoning the Income Tax Department daily asking about the refunds due to them. The Prime Minister seems to be too far removed from the officers in the Commissioner of Inland Revenue's Department.

I know that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue is not a dishonest man, and I am sure that the day he finds people pestering his office for refunds he will draw the matter to the attention of the Minister of Finance and let him know what is the situation in his Department. They had to let the Minister of Finance know how much money they had been receiving monthly and so on. 5.25 p.m.

They have sent notices to every Government Department telling them that they must engage in the barest minimum of expenditure. In other words, do not buy an exercise book with twelve leaves if you can possibly make out with one with 11 1/2 leaves.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Gallery must behave in a proper manner.

Mr. HINDS:

That is the kind of thing to which the Government of this country has been reduced.

I will have to touch on the question of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board and the health of this community. Look at the litter all over the place! Nobody seems to care. They allow their own party hacks to enter, in to an agreement with the Barbados Workers' Union which is causing the Government to pay out more money. I will not say that because up to the present the scavengers have not been getting the pay due to them for working on Saturdays and Sundays. There is an amount of money due to the scavengers for working Saturdays at time and a half and Sundays at double time.

Can you tell me that a Government which has any interest in the health of the nation would allow the

streets to be littered like this? We cannot tell them now to liquidate the Board and give the work out on contract. We cannot tell them to revert to Local Government. I warn them now this afternoon to get this litter cleaned up before some epidemic situation comes about because in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital there are no beds available to anyone.

If you are dying you cannot be accepted into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. They are summoning doctors today to go to the bedside and if you are nearly well, if you can possibly leave, the doctors ask your family to take you so as to assist in making some other bed available. I challenge any one to deny this statement.

With all this litter about the place, with the Government refusing to pay the workers or being unable to pay the workers, what is the position in this country? Where do we stand? All we are doing now is saying every now and again that Canada is going to lend us so many millions. Mr. Speaker, we can borrow for as long as we like, but paying has got to come some day. While we are borrowing some people are flying high in aeroplanes and the working people of this country are starving and buying potatoes produced in St. Vincent at 40 cents per pound.

What is the Government going to do? We are calling on the Government to resign. There is already enough Party strife within the Party. I do not want for a single moment to cast any aspirations on anyone on that side. If you go to the plantation owners you find that everyone is crying out, look what has happened to agriculture. I thought that people were talking about grasshoppers and the things that are flying about. Mr. Speaker, I am appealing to, the Government for the sake of all of us and for the good of this country, to resign. All the Members of the Government could find wild boys on the street and start plaiting their hair. People have lost control of themselves. The Ministers of Government have lost control of their senses and of everything that would make for the good of this country. Mr. Speaker, there is one answer to it all - we say, resign, resign now. (Cheers.) 5.35 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, at this stage, subject to whether or not the hon. Member wants to speak this afternoon - I do not think the hon. Member for Christ Church West wants to speak this afternoon - I move that this House do now adjourn. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 30th October, at Noon.

Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I gave hon. Members the opportunity to speak on this and hon. Members declined the opportunity to postpone consideration on this debate, and the motion for adjournment is made when the motion is before the House. There cannot be two motions before the House at the same time. There is the motion that this House has no confidence in the Government. At this stage they are running from the blows that have been delivered and they cannot face a vote far less, and that is why they are now calling for an adjournment. The motion is out of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA; On a point of order. I beg to move that further consideration be now postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

That motion cannot be put on a point of order. That Sir, is out of order. He cannot move that further consideration be now postponed. He is making a joke.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The motion for the adjournment is quite in order.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Therefore by implication the motion which was under discussion will be left over.

Mr. SPEAKER; The motion moved for the adjournment until 30th October is quite in order.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order. This is a classical example of what we have been saying the Government of this country is like. I am sorry that we have not yet reached the stage where we can have a live radio programme of what goes on in Parliament. Look how many Members they have on their side, and the Government is ready to have this matter postponed. We gave them the opportunity to come back this afternoon and they said 'No'. They voted against it and now they are asking for the adjournment for two more weeks after spending nine weeks outside to do nothing. Why don't they give back the taxpayers their money. This is what you call robbery with violence.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would like to draw your attention to Standing Order No. 17(1) Adjournment of the House. It reads "A Minister may move "That this House do now adjourn" at any time after the conclusion of questions at any sitting."

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I would have thought that that would relate to the question put at question time and not to the question that the motion be now put, as in the case where you say "hon. Members in favour of it please say 'Aye', hon. Members against it please say 'no'.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is still unresolved.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I think the correct way is that you move that further consideration of this debate be now postponed and when that question is resolved, then you put the question for adjournment.

Mr. ADAMS; We have in previous Parliaments a ruling on the word "question"; this question can only refer to the question put on the motion before the House. A Parliamentary Question at Question Time is different from a motion that further consideration be now postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Nothing has been said to move me from my decision. The standing Order is quite clear. The motion moved by the Leader of the House is quite in order.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am not seeking to question your ruling but in this case I think that before the motion can be made that ,the House do now adjourn there must be the Question that further consideration of the Resolution now before the House be postponed'. It must be made by specific motion. It can only be postponed if there is a substantive motion to postpone it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

In order to regularize this matter I beg to withdraw the first motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member has withdrawn the first motion.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I do not see why we should accommodate the Leader of the House. We have another Member on our side who is ready to make a contribution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, you will remember that that particular Member was not in his seat at the time when he could speak so he could not be ready now; he can speak on the next occasion.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the House has asked that the first motion be withdrawn, but he has not asked the leave of the House to withdraw it. He must seek the leave of this House to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The motion has been withdrawn.

Mr. HINDS:

I have to respect your ruling, Sir, but I still maintain that leave has not been sought.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I am somewhat surprised that the Government is seeking to have further consideration of this motion postponed because I would have thought that with a no confidence motion hanging over the head of the Government, they would be ready to bring this matter to an early conclusion. Here it is, today there was one item of Government Business on the Order Paper. We have been on vacation for nearly three months; we have come here today at noon. Only one item was under Government Business, when the Leader of the Opposition wanted to postpone it the Government was adamant against it. 5.45 p.m.

We find now that where notice has been given that on the next occasion when the House meets there will be at least eight Items of Government Business, we are going to be told that no Private Members' Business will be done because they will come in and suspend the Standing Orders. Here it is now that we have time to complete this debate, you find that the Government is running away, fleeing like the guilty, where no one is pursuing them. They are running from themselves, running away from bringing this debate to a conclusion. Is there no one in the Government with any confidence to stand up and answer the charges levelled in here by the Opposition today? Must they go back to the Ministries and have the Permanent Secretaries write their speeches for them in order for them to answer the Opposition? Why is it that they want the adjournment at this stage? I heard one Member deal with the front bench Members of the Government, and it makes me wonder now whether what he said was true, that not one of them has the guts or the courage to get up and answer the charges levelled at them by the Opposition. What the Prime Minister said at one time is equally true today, Mr. Speaker, that you could as well put it to the vote now because they have the numbers, but I would ask them to let us finish the debate today because I know on the next occasion Private Members' Business will not be dealt with and the whole purpose for asking originally for two days will be defeated. We asked for this so that we would have continuity on this debate, we sought leave earlier today to postpone consideration but here it is, the Government does not now want to conclude it.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Speaker, I know the Leader of the House is a very reasonable person and we are aware of the fact that the two most important Ministers are in their seats in this caretaker Government, and would have the material at their disposal to reply to the Opposition. The Acting Minister of Finance and the Acting Prime Minister are both present and are capable of defending the Government. We can spend the time here with them because we know they are in a position to answer the charges. There are only six of us over here and I am appealing to the Leader of the House not to postpone this Resolution but to complete it this afternoon. We are confident that along with the Acting Minister of Finance, the Leader of the House can refute these charges and conclude this debate, so he should not postpone it at this stage and I am appealing to him not to do so.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I merely want to say this. No Member of the Opposition can tell us what strategy to use in doing Government Business or the business of the House in general. It is our strategy to adjourn at this stage so that we will have an opportunity to study some of the good speeches made, some of the bad ones and some of the indifferent ones.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am one of the hon. Members who spoke and the hon. Member is referring to indifferent speeches. I am taking objection.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is a most unfortunate use of language but he did not categorise anybody.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I withdraw that. We want to deal with this no confidence motion seriously and it is for that reason we will study the speeches made very carefully and see what substance they have in them and reply to the various points raised. We do not want to give any wrong impression, but the matter will be dealt with at the highest level and it is for that reason that we are going to study the speeches made.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, we moved this Resolution of no confidence in the Government in all earnestness and with every ounce of sincerity we could muster in our little corner over here, and I for one never thought that the Acting Prime Minister would have agreed with me or with my Party this afternoon, but when he says he has to go away and spend 14 days and 14 nights to study what we have said in order to come back and answer us, it puts us in a funny position. It puts this Hon. House in a funny position because six of us on this side can get up and deliver speech after speech without reference to anybody else. They refused to adjourn after the Leader of the Opposition had spoken, but now it is their turn to speak all 18 of them have to study what the six of us said in 14 days before they can answer us, Is it not more in keeping with Parliamentary procedure that they should provide us with the other things that matter as well? When we come in here and are handed documents at the last minute to deal with them, is this what you call fairness to the Opposition? Is this the way Parliament is being run? The Acting Prime Minister told us in order to answer, he must take 14 days to study the speeches. Mr. Speaker, in your capacity as Speaker, protecting the rights of the minority, you should not entertain such a motion because the Acting Prime Minister himself has told us that five of us over here are capable of dealing with 18 of them but they must go away now and study the speeches in order to answer. We say this is unreasonable. They come here sometimes with documents and ask us to deal with them immediately, when we ask for at least one week to study these papers, they vote against us, but this motion was on the order Paper since 10th July, 1973 and the Acting Prime Minister is telling us that in order to answer the accusations of the Opposition, they must take notes and go away to make up a case. You know, Sir, that in the Criminal Courts, you do not take 14 days to go away and make up a defence, you have to answer as soon as the prosecution's witnesses sit down. 5.55 p.m.

We are prosecuting today. When you are prosecuting you do not adjourn to give the defence an opportunity to go home and cook up answers. This tells us that the Government is incapable of dealing with the accusations; they are incompetent and unable to defend themselves. Must we wait and allow them to prepare a new wicket on which to bat?

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I have been in Parliament for several years, and I have never before seen such a sad state of affairs. Why is the Government afraid to deal with this Resolution before the House? This is a two-faced motion. I really cannot find any other epithet to qualify it. This Government has two feet both pointing backwards, and they are incapable of even expanding crabwise. We have been told by the Leader of the Government that the Government needs time. I take that to mean that when Members of the Government get up in this Chamber to reply to questions that they have to get officers to write their answers for them.

I understand that the Prime Minister was here Sunday. Are the Members of the Government saying that they do not trust themselves to reply to the charges laid by the Opposition? Is there any greater example of a Government that has no confidence in themselves to reply to a debate introduced by the Opposition? (Asides.) I am asking all Members to vote against this motion so that the substantive motion can be dealt with.

For instance, the Minister of Education has gone through this entire session without heckling, or showing his disapproval, and his behaviour was exemplary. There are other Ministers who can speak. I have already said that a number of people have asked me, "What is the Opposition doing?" The answer to that question is that the Opposition is here to keep the Government on their feet. (Asides.) They are hoping to get the Prime Minister to come back and pull them out of this situation because of their inability to pull themselves out. The Prime Minister is not capable of pulling out anybody from this situation. The Prime Minister has put them in this position. He has gone away to some university which has not yet graduated anybody. It was founded last year. The Prime Minister will, no doubt, welcome the opportunity of getting away from what, by now, he has discovered is a non-existent International University.

Mr. Speaker, it is only after making a careful examination of the Government Benches that I realise why, like little puppies flogged along by the lashes of the Opposition, the Government wish to put their tails between their legs and run away. If the Government still has the gall to vote for this motion, then I will say: let the civil servants write your speeches. Begone to your betters. Get other people to write something for you to come in here and read. I am sure that no hon. Member on this side has had to get anybody to write his speech. Even if they vote for this motion, when they come back do not let them think that there are no more whips and scorpions waiting for them in the Opposition. There is one other Member to speak, and I have the right of reply. Do not think that they will escape the lashes by running away. (Asides.) Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Finance says he will start now. I will sit and hear him. I have never heard him in court, and I have never heard him make a speech which anybody has prepared for him.

The question that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing as follows:

AYES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr LOWE; Hon. R. StC. WEEKES and His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN - 8.

NOES:

Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. H. deB. FORDE; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY - 6. 6.05 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I am now asking leave to give notice of my Questions.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are Questions in your name, and Resolutions, and a Bill. I will have those first.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1952.

I also beg to give notice of the following Resolutions: -

RESOLUTION RE THE DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS

"Whereas there is a need in Barbados for Legislation providing that all Members of Parliament, Senators and holders of public offices including those of Prime Minister, Minister, Leader of the Opposition or Parliamentary Secretary be compelled to disclose their assets when taking office or a seat in Parliament and thereafter periodically until they cease to hold such office or a seat in Parliament;

Be it Resolved that this House calls on the Government to introduce Legislation to this effect at the earliest opportunity."

RESOLUTION RE THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

"Whereas the Prevention of Corruption Act 1929 is no longer an effective instrument for the control of corruption in Barbados at the present time, since the said Act does not punish or prevent corruption by persons holding the office of Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or Members of Statutory Corporations;

Be it Resolved that this House calls on the Government forthwith to modernise and bring up to date the law relating to prevention of corruption by passing Legislation to prevent or punish corruption by all such persons as aforesaid referred to."

(Aside): How about the Leader of the Opposition?) if there is a desire to add the name of the Leader of the Opposition to the second motion, Government is quite welcome to do so.

FIRST READING OF BILL

I beg to move that the Bill of which I gave notice to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act be now read a first time.

Mr. CRAIG:

I beg to second that.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, there are two questions.

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister: -

Is the Government aware that the crew of a Russian scientific training ship arriving at the Bridgetown Harbour earlier this year were subjected to restrictions on their movements not normally applied to the crews of ships of countries with which Barbados is at peace, and is there any policy of imposing these restrictions on citizens of the Soviet Union or any other country and if so which, and what is the reason for behaving in this manner towards the citizens and ships of any state with which Barbados enjoys peaceful and friendly relations?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister: -

When does the Government intend to publish the new edition of the Laws of Barbados, promised for the last five years?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn, until Tuesday, 23rd October, 1973, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. P. M GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance attached to the Resolution discussed earlier, I would like to move an amendment to the motion of the Leader of the House that the words "23rd October" and "12 noon" be deleted and "17th October" and "3 p.m." be substituted therefor.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I beg to second that.

The question that the amendments be made was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows: -

AYES:

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

NOES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN; Mr. W. R. LOWE and Mr. E. E. GREAVES - 8.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, the 23rd October, 1973, at 12 o'clock noon. 6.15 p.m.

