THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th December, 1974.

Pursuant to the adjournment the House of Assembly met at 12, 15 o'clock, p. m.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL. B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C. B. E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J. P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J. P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. E. p. MOTTLEY; Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C. B. E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B. A., (Minister of Housing, Lands Labour and National Insurance); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture Science and Technology); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B. A., M. A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community

Development and Sports).

Prayers were read.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDIE and Mr. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:
The Minutes of this Honourable House for Tuesday 26th November, 1974 and Tuesday, 3rd December, 1974 are before you for confirmation. If there are no corrections or alterations, these Minutes will be confirmed.

There being no corrections or alterations, the Minutes are hereby confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following

Rum - Quarterly Returns of transactions in Rum in the several districts for the quarter ended 30th September 1974,

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Speaker I am commanded to lay the following

Report of the National Insurance Board on the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme for the period 1/1/73 - 31/12/73.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C, E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning I beg to give notice of the following

Resolution to grant the sum of $2, 290, 200 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75 No, 16, which form the schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to authorise the Minister responsible for finance to borrow by the issue of Treasury Bills further sums not exceeding twenty-five million dollars and such sums as may be required to pay off at maturity Bills already lawfully issued and outstanding.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. C ADDLE:
Mr Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following

Resolution to grant the sum of $1, 042, 460, out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the, Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75 No. 17, which form the schedule to the Resolution.

ORAL REPLIES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 131 asked by the hon. member for Bridgetown is ready.

Also Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 169 asked by the hon. member for St. Thomas is ready.

Also Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question l4o. 256 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43, and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. You will remember that it was agreed that during the morning session we would deal with Government Business and in the afternoon continue with the Replies to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance's Budgetary Proposals. We will work until 2 o'clock and after that we will revert to the Reply by the Opposition and the members of the Government Party who want to speak. It is on that basis that I am asking that the Standing Orders be suspended.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPRINGER entered the Chamber and took his seat.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee o^ Supply,

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1974-75 No. 14

Head 5 - Judiciary - was called

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 5 - Judiciary I think the notes are quite clear. In respect of National Insurance Communications and Liquor Licensing Authority the increase is due to increased rates.

I beg to move that Head 5 - Judiciary - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

Head 26 - Ministry of Communications and Works - was called.

Mr. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, in years previous to this financial year the labour element for maintenance of Highways parish roads, guard walls, feeder roads, repairs and maintenance of tools and reinstatement of highways and roadways and cutting of cane tracks was included under the item itself. 12. 25 p. m.

This year for the first time the labour element in these items was taken out of the individual items and put in one block vote - the sum of $5, 628, 583. The amount of the labour element was arrived at by taking 40 per cent of the total vote.

In actual practice it has been found out that 40 per cent is inadequate since the basis on which it was arrived at was not accurate. The allocation under the item was $1, 833, 000. Actually expenditure at the 30th September 1974 was $1, 045, 985, leaving a balance of $787, 014.

Now, Sir, the average monthly expenditure was $174, 330. 88. Consequently the amount of $259, 000 is now required to supplement this item. With regard to casual employees, the allocation under this item was $300, 000 in respect of leave pay to casual employees. I am giving a breakdown.

At the 30th September, 1974 the total expenditure was of $268, 377, leaving a balance of $31, 623, the average monthly expenditure being $44, 729. 64, and therefore the amount required now is $236, 755 to meet the Ministry's commitments to the end of the Financial Year.

I would like to state here, Sir, that there are approximately 1, 900 casual employees in the Ministry who are entitled to three weeks vacation leave and two weeks sick leave on an average weekly salary of approximately $80 per employee.

Now, Sir, dealing with Item 26, the amount voted was $1, 222, 144. The expenditure to date is $717, 338, leaving a balance of $514, 806. The amount required now is $212, 600.

During this Financial Year the amount of $1, 222, 144 was provided to purchase material and supplies in respect of the maintenance of Highways, the resurfacing of roads etc. At the 30th September the expenditure was $717, 338 leaving a balance, of $504, 806. The average monthly expenditure $102, 889 and consequently the amount of $212, 600 is required to supplement this vote.

Sir, the heavy weight of expenditure in respect of this item is mainly due to the increase in the cost of petroleum based products, stone and sand, tools etc. arising from the world wide energy crisis. Using the 1st January, 1974 as a base date, the cost of asphalt has increased by over 100 per cent, the cost of petroleum by 150 per cent, the cost of rainforced steel by 60 per cent and the cost of stone products by 15 per cent. The cost of asphalt has risen from $20. 00 a ton to $50. 00 a ton, bitumen penetration from $72. 35 to $216. 00 a ton: emulsified bitumen from $3. 18 per gallon to $5. 90 a gallon.

Therefore you can see, Sir, that the cost of material has increased in some cases by 200 per cent, and therefore we need this amount of $212, 600.

Now I come to Item 30. The amount required is $180, 000. The amount voted was $345, 000 and the expenditure to date was $262, 499 leaving a balance of $82, 501. Therefore $180, 000 is now required.

During the Financial Year 1974-75 an amount of $345, 000 was voted under Item 30, Vehicles and Equipment, to cover the cost of gasolene, diesel, oils and replacement parts for the Ministry's heavy equipment and Vehicles, At the end of September, 1974 an amount of $262, 499 was spent from this provision leaving a balance of $82, 501 in the vote.

This amount would not be adequate to cover the expenditure for the balance of the Financial Year and therefore the amount of $180, 000 is required to supplement this provision. In 1972 gasolene was 68 cents a gallon, in 1973, 98 cents and subsequently $140 a gallon; and this year it is $2, 00 a gallon, an increase of between 60 and 70 per cent since 1972. 12. 35 p. m

Mr. Chairman, those are the facts and if hon. members are desirous of asking questions I am willing if

possible, to give the necessary information.

I would add. Mr. Chairman, at this stage, that I am asking that Note 6 be amended to read $212 600 instead of $12, 600.

Sir, I now move that Head 26 as amended stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I must say that the cumbersome way the acting Minister dealt with a bundle of figures that really do not convey much to us at this particular point of time, and what he has told us in the course of dealing with these figures. I believe makes the situation look grimmer than it really is. There are a few things about this particular Head - Ministry of Communications and Works - which call for very considerable concern however.

Mention has been made here of the question of maintenance of highways, parish roads, guard walls, surfacing arterial and feeder roads, repairs and maintenance of tools and the reinstatement of highways. I would say that the abolition of Local Government and the subsequent take over by the Ministry of Communications and Works of the control of road repairs to some considerable extent, I think, have eliminated or brought to an end the existence of parish roads proper. However, the point at issue is if as the acting Minister tells us, X dollars have been spent on this particular sphere of activity, is the Minister in a position to tell us whether or not he has got so much work done in return for so many dollars spent. That ought to be his first concern whether or not he is getting fair returns for the wages that have been spent on these projects, whatever they might be. If it is a case where he has not got adequate returns for the money spent he should examine the whole process to see what contributed to his not getting his work projects proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

We have from time to time on this side of the House drawn to the Government's attention the fact that they place workmen at a particular point to carry out certain repairs or extensions but the workmen arrive there before the tools; when the tools arrive there is no material for the men to use and when the material arrive it is in such short supply that they put in two hours or three hours of work and then have to wait for the remainder of the day or the following day before more material arrive.

I think it would be better if the Government found itself being able to concentrate more readily on its Asphalt plant or its stone crushing works or take hold of some of these bits of equipment that are hanging fire about the place, and assist them in producing, because if the Government assisted the crushing plant to be kept producing, then the Government's projects would not be losing as they have been losing in time that is being wasted, and, we believe the Government's money would be better spent.

After all, if the workers are on the site to work and there is no material to work with, then the workers cannot be blamed. Sometimes concrete arrives and it is not the quality and standard required for the particular job. There again the question of waiting until the new material arrives crops up, and all of these things deplete the money which was voted originally for this kind of work and as a consequence the Minister has to come and ask for a supplementary. Coming to ask for a supplementary is all right bearing in mind that the Government know that they have their numbers, but, we have not heard at any point from the Minister that they have carried out any type of research into what is taking place at any particular point, and that they have applied or attempted to apply any sort of corrective measures to reduce the wastage that we know is taking place in these particular spheres of activity.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that you have our road surfacing. This in itself is one of those undertakings which is very costly. It is a very costly undertaking; and if your road surfacing equipment is not kept under constant supply with material, there is a considerable delay; in other words, the equipment itself is under-utilized. Your manpower then is under-utilized and the cost nevertheless is running up. The cost of the project is running up because when you had estimated that this project would take six weeks, you find that it is taking seven, eight, nine, and possibly ten weeks because of circumstances which I have related in this particular matter.

We are satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that much of the blame for everything is going to be thrust upon the petroleum projects and the cost of this, that, and what not, but let us for a moment look at the cost of repairs to the vehicles and their upkeep. We well remember, Sir, that the Minister of Communications and Works when they were setting about to establish their workshop on what they call a proper footing, proper staffing and the like, we were given to believe that if they did not actually save money it would so function as not to cost us anything in the region that we had been spending in the past. 12. 45 p. m.

Are we in a position to hear from the Acting Minister now, since we last voted money to equip the workshop and have it properly staffed, how things are running there? Have we been able to reduce the loss of man hours, loss of material and equipment and the like? What is taking place in this undertaking? I am in a position to say, Sir, that nothing has really been done because some of the Ministers have not taken that point seriously. You will see here the note to Item 30 about spare parts for heavy equipment and vehicles. Some vehicles need spare parts but the heavier the equipment and the type of equipment

we" know they are referring to here, the less spare parts you have to buy. That is common knowledge. So we cannot solve quite clearly what they are trying to make of this $180, 000 that is required for spare parts and maintenance of vehicles. We want to be told in no uncertain terms that repairs to vehicles as referred to here are in reference to Government owned vehicles. We want to be assured, Mr. Chairman, that the Government workshop at the Pine is not depriving some other garage or work place of a job from time to time trying to accommodate a friend at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. That is something we want to see eliminated. We want each officer who needs his car repaired to find some garage in the city and pay the proprietor what he charges. If anything goes wrong with my car or the cars of hon. members over there, we have to pull our pockets and pay. I do not want to see continually certain people, because they work at the Ministry of Communications and Works, have their cars repaired at the taxpayers' expense when Government vehicles ought to be serviced and repaired and put back on the road.

I am willing to appreciate the fact that in all these undertakings you will find something going wrong somewhere, but nevertheless we would like to see it reduced to a minimum.

We have great concern over the question of road repairs, guard walls etc. There are numerous guards walls that need reducing and moving inwards for the benefit of the safety of persons using the highways, and with a view also of accommodating some of the types of vehicles that are presently on the road. We also need more feeder roads, and for the last time, if Government spends less than half of the money they are asking for, here at Archer's Lane junction with Highway I at Queen's Street, Speightstown, to reduce the threat to life that that poses, I would be very grateful. Every time there is a little rainfall it is a definite threat to passengers on Highway I and to the residents of Archer's Lane at St. Peter. We are to ask the Government to examine the situation there and see if something can be done to reduce the threat to life that that proposition poses.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I am very gald to see this Item before the House, not because of the fact that it involves further expenditure of public funds, but because of the fact that it provides me with an opportunity to remind the Acting Minister of the necessity for the urgent provision of proper roads in the constituency of Christ Church West. It is true I have written to the substantive Minister on this matter and he has explained that the increased cost and the amount of money which has already been voted can do less than it was doing before, but I could not allow this opportunity to pass without re-emphasising that it is in poor areas of constituencies such as mine that one finds the worst standards of roads; and whether this has been a historical fact or not, I believe that we must take urgent steps to vary this position. I regret to say that during the three years that I have been in Parliament, despite my frequent pleas I have had no relief coming to the people in these areas. I will re-emphasise the areas for the benefit particularly of the Civil Servants who must decide with the Minister on the priority list. They are Forde Road, particularly Bonnetts, Thomas Gap, September Square and the avenues in Kings Village, Brathwaite Gap area, Rockley tenantry road and Worthing View opposite the constituency represented

by the Minister for Tourism. It may be that he has a little bit more influence than I have, but it is very difficult to explain to people why one side of the road is treated a little differently from the other side of the road, and unfortunately we have not got a Local Government system, and obviously it means that the Parliamentary representative must now emphasise on each occasion the necessity for urgent repairs.

I am not going to plea for areas that have benefited from being in certainly what one can refer to as posh areas, although I represent some of these areas. They do not need any plea because as compared with people in Rockley tenantry road and Worthing View, they happen to be well off; and I have lived in the Hastings area in days gone by. But seriously, the hon member for Christ Church East when he represented this constituency has made similar pleas before The hon. member for St. Michael South East in pleading for the people in Clapham has also pleaded for the people in Bonnetts, and I am citing these as instances to show that their case has been a long suffering one and they have a long deserving case for a high priority. I have been told that the Minister may try to fix September Square on the next occasion, but I am asking the Government to see the necessity for helping people in this area despite the fact that they chose wisely and chose me to represent them. The Government should not hold this against them. The hon. member for St. Michael North West, I think, has managed to secure roads for the people in Pile Bay and they have not got as good a case as my constituents had all the years, and I am asking the Acting Minister to re-emphasise my plea. It is not for me. I have threatened that by the time the next election comes, if the Government does not fix these roads, I am going to go around and beg for money, fix them myself and defy any Minister of Government to make a speech in that area. (A VOICE: That would be trespassing.) Do not mind the trespassing; it is really a hard case 12. 55 p. m.

Honestly, Sir, this is a hard case. I have seen people in Rockley Tenantry where doctors have refused to go in to old people sick down there on slight downpour of rain; and I am inviting the Minister, if he likes, I will take him on a tour of the constituency and show him that this is simply not a question of begging in respect of people just for the sake of begging.

I have had one road fixed in my area and this was in the interest of the Unique School, which the Minister did. Other than that, the tenantry roads are in a bad state. I hope that the plea that I make will extend to other constituencies as well.

As I have said in this House before I would like to see the Government make it quite clear that people who own tenantries and who are developing them must have the obligation, wherever possible, to put down roads. In my constituency, in Rockley at present, tenants are begging for permission to purchase the land. If Government looks at the Tenantry Act, I hope in due course to get an application to the relevant quarters; but in these circumstances, certainly landlords should have an obligation to fix roads because the cost is passed on over a period of time.

It is because I believe that people must live in reasonable comfort that I am emphasising this. It is not what some members would call parish pump politics. It is to me fundamental for a person in representation to see that those whom he represents, if they are paying taxes directly or indirectly, should have equal facilities as are given to people in other posh areas. I know that the acting Minister, himself having been schooled in the fundamental principle of looking after his constituents, would recognise my plea as one that should be answered.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, on this particular item I would like once again to take this opportunity like some of the hon. members to make a plea for some of the areas in my constituency, St. Lucy. No doubt there is some concern over the way in which allocations are made particularly when one talks in terms of the kind of roads and number of roads which are going to be done and which are done in certain parts of this country.

I do not think that it is a fair situation where you find that there is going to be a concentration of road works in a particular area to the extent that you have workers who sometimes have to travel from as far as St. Lucy to Christ Church in order to be involved in road works there when there are crying needs right in St. Lucy.

I have over and over again made a plea for the roads at the Graveyard to be done and also the road at Higginsons. I think that hon. members who may have heard me make this plea may have become tired of the constant begging to have these two areas fixed. I would hope that the acting Minister would recognise the urgency and indeed the importance of these areas.

Like the hon. member for Christ Church West, I would also like to draw to the Minister's attention the fact that there are people in other parts of the country other than St. Michael and Christ Church who pay taxes and who are entitled to the kind of facilities which people in these areas get; because when taxes are paid they go into a common pool. Therefore we feel that when the distribution comes some of the crumbs should fall on the tables of people from as far away as St. Lucy. When you talk about crumbs you are talking in terms of the road works and other areas of communications which would make people feel and realise that they are not forgotten.

I would like Mr. Chairman, to also express concern at the paucity of this amount of $212, 600. I "do not know how much more this can do, but I would sincerely hope that at least the two roads that I have

mentioned would be among the future roads which this amount which is required to carry through the vote to the end of the Financial Year would be included.

I have been saying this for a long time, and I hope that we will be able to get some results. I hope that we will be able to see some genuine attempt and effort made to have the road at the Graveyard and at Higginson put right which would enable people who live in those areas to have the kind of facilities which people who live in other areas, in St. Michael and Christ Church, are getting. I hope that my words on this occasion will not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, as you know, St. George is centrally located. We have been rather unfortunate, and in some cases I believe that we are forgotten. There are many representations that have been made. I have made many pleas for both of us especially when you are in the Chair, and I do feel that we are just as much entitled to some of our roads done as anywhere else.

This is coming to a serious time in the affairs of every man in here; and I am speaking for you because you are not capable of doing it now. I feel that St. George has been left out for too long. We have got certain things. The Minister of Education has just reminded me of schools but the roads are bad.

People want to travel from St. Thomas through St. George to the airport. There have been numerous complaints. From St. James, most of the people from the West Coast go through St. George on their way to the airport. The taxi men have been complaining about the bad state of the roads, but all that we can see as other members have said, are roads being done in certain places.

Do you mean that only certain people are to get some of the cake? We in St. George want some of it too. Promises have been made to the people and some of them have not been fulfilled. I promised the people of Bourne's Village to get roads done. The Ministry has sent supervisors and they have measured up. That is all that has been done - measuring and measuring.

We have heard from the Minister that there is no money. Well, if there is no money, there is none; but they have come for this sum of $212, 600 as needed to carry through work to the end of the Financial Year. If you are going to ask for money, ask for money and let everybody get some of these road repairs.

I feel that in St. George we have not been getting any. I am speaking on you behalf, Sir, as well as on mine. I see in the notes something about parish roads. I have not seen a parish road, especially St. George, done for a long time. We have to go around like anyone else and ask for votes, and the people will tell you that you have not been doing anything for them. They will say you have been making promises and we have got nothing. I am making my voice heard today that we in St. George need some help in this road building programme. 1. 05 p. m.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND:

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to speak very long but I have heard other hon. members' speeches, and as a person who has been going around I would like to say that the Ministry of Communications and Works have been definitely trying, but one can try so much and for so long, but often it is not the Minister, it is not the Parliamentary Secretary; it is the team of workers who have to do the job; and from what I can see and from what I am experiencing a lot of money is being wasted in various departments and it is wasted because people have to do the work. The workers who are employed often do not recognize that this country is their country and that they have to put a lot of effort into their job; and I am wondering if the time has not come that the Ministry of Communications and Works should try and give their jobs out to private enterprise, so that by so doing it would help the economy of the country and it would help us, perhaps, to get the roads faster, because if we go on depending on the workers who government employ, these people when they work for the Government they go on holiday as it were. They take their time, they are not as interested as they should be, and, I have seen the sort of situation that exists, and I will say that it exists at all levels.

We who have been elected to Parliament are responsible to our constituents. These people expect us to get in the House of Assembly and plead to the various Ministries to give them the facilities that are necessary, to give them roads, water, light and all such things; but there are limited resources, and apart from having limited resources we have to rely on people, and the people again I say, are not conscious and serious that if they have to put in eight hours work it should be eight hours of truly dedicated work instead of two hours relaxing, two hours, maybe at a rum shop, and the rest of time just doing it any old how.

Last week I invited Parliamentarians to come with me and go into the areas and see what is happening. If the substantive Hon. Minister were here I am sure that he would partly agree with me because he himself has seen the attitude that exists among many of the workers. I really do not think that these people mean to harm or really mean to sabotage the Government as it were, but they have become complacent because they watch others who are in higher positions, elevated and getting along and relaxing as it were too, and some of these people who previously used to work hard have decided now, 'hard work doesn't pay, so what is the point; let us get as much money as we can, do little work and call it a day; ' but, who is paying for this; the taxpayers have to pay for this and we, the Government must take care of the taxpayers.

So we here who form part of the Government must put our heads together and try to help the Ministry of Communications and Works. I need roads in my constituency. Every member in here needs roads in their constituency. Many a day when it rains heavily my people cannot get out of their houses. I am aware of this. I have to go through areas when it rains and I have to tell the people that I will call the Fire Brigade and get the water drawn off. There are other areas where people have to do the same thing; but we as responsible Parliamentarians must be able to help other Ministries, if they would so let us help them.

The time has come that we cannot be just an Island to ourselves. We must be a whole body, a unit working together. Even when you come to areas like the Pine Housing Area and other areas that are developed by the Housing Authority, if these roads that are done in the housing areas were done by private contractors, these contractors when they are finished with the roads they should be able to give the Government a guarantee for the time limit that the roads would stand up, and then we should be able to sue them or make them repair the roads.

Maintenance is most important. We cannot go on opening new avenues, and building new roads, and do not keep up the maintenance of the old one we had previously. We must maintain the old roads and we must see that all people, regardless of their status, are properly serviced in this small community of ours.

Mr. F. C. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, on the question of roads, all of us have to deal with this question of roads. I have said this before and I will repeat it. I think the time has come when the Government should make a bold statement and the Minister should have a policy statement to make pointing out what are the roads that are going to be done in a given budgetary period, and let the people know then. You must take people seriously and state your position. Throughout the Island all of the members of the various constituencies are faced with the same problem, but all of us know that you cannot do all of the roads in your constituency at the expense of somebody else's constituency because after all it is a unitary state. It is not a parish. So, you talk about spending Central Government funds on all of the roads in Barbados. Now my idea about this is there is no point in any member from any constituency believing that he could tell his constituents 'I am going to get all the roads in my constituency fixed. That is nonsense. The days for that kind of parish pump politics should be ended.

What 1 would like the Minister to know that I would like published is a statement saying 'We are going to do so many roads within a given area in Barbados in 1974, 1975, and 1976. This can be

published and made a statement of policy that any person can see, and the people in the various constituencies could see, because I do not regard parish pump politics in anyone telling somebody that you are going to get a road fixed, as if a road is in your hip pocket that you can get a road fixed next week; or, some member of the House going and begging a Minister to do a road, as if the Minister is doing the road for you, or he is doing a road out of his pocket or he is doing a road for you as a personal favour as if you have some legal right to a road he fixed. 1. 15 p. m.

It would appear therefore that when the Minister fixes a road in a constituency you can put up a flag and say this is your road, and you can call it by name "Walcott Road", or "Greaves Road" or "Adams Road". That sort of mentality must not exist. Now the hon. member for St. Michael North East made this statement about work. People have always been jumping on the little people's backs in Barbados, the ones they can see: the cantonnier, the man working for 18 cents an hour. If you add up all the money that you pay him he is not going to prevent any road from being repaired or finished, but he is the man who had been cutting all the roads we know and doing them in Barbados from the time God made morning and at low rates. Let us be quite frank. There is no point in our proselytizing about how lazily or how hard people work because if I have to say something on this it would be very unpleasant. We live in an uneven society and people who are drawing large incomes must be careful when they are talking about work. Some of these people work very hard and I do not make any excuse for anybody so far as work is concerned. To motivate people generally about work means more than just telling them that they are not working. You have to make them understand why they have to work hard. People are going to work harder when they feel that by working harder they are all going to share in the benefits from what hard work is going to mean. It is not only a question of working in the roads, but wherever work has to be done.

When the Budget was being discussed in, here, mention was made of Germany. Germany is a classic example of why people work hard; they work hard in Germany because they are Germans and they are remodelling Germany. We have to make the Barbadian workmen feel that way about it. We cannot denigrate the workmen. We cannot make the worker believe that he is the culprit that is depriving this community of its benefits when in truth and in fact he might not be set examples by persons who should be better off. As long as you get in a society this inequality in incomes, as long as you find a man feeling that he has to work hard for 80 cents an hour or one dollar an hour and is being abused to get ten cents an hour more by everybody, while others can get $2, 000 and $3, 000 and this is regarded as a norm, you can expect him to feel that he is in the same society, where on die one hand you want to hold on to $2, 000 and expect a man to hold on to $20. I think it is time that we get clear in our sights these things that we are talking about and accusing these people of not working.

I do not know how it is that those of us who are supposed to be products of the working man emancipation have suddenly come upon the light that the man who has given birth to our political well being is the man about whom it is stated he is not upholding this community. I hear each time that the man in the street is not doing any work, he is a lazy so-and-so. How has he become so lazy now when

we have got in here and he is the man that sent us here in the kind of numbers we have in here? Had it not been for these lazy so-and-sos as we call, them, we would have been outside these doors looking in. If they are lazy, then they are not foolish because they are wise enough to select us to send us here. Now I think we had better get our sights right and begin to see where our representation should reside. If we are criticising our work arrangements in Barbados, we have to go a long way back. You should not expect a man who is working for low wages in a society where he sees some kind of prosperity around him to be the same man as one who finds everyone is working for relatively low wages and he is only part of the total society. If we find that he is part of the society that is called upon to do heavy manual work for low wages, but others are called upon to work and are; working for reasonable incomes that can maintain them, that is a matter that some of us will have to pay a little more attention to.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think I should labour that because in my view that is axiomatic. We. have a low income society and the majority of workers that we represent are working for low incomes. A paper came to me from National Insurance and it has evidence to show that the majority of people who have been laid off in the last month or two earn wages under $50 a week. Of the 229 people - and hon. members will have to go and read this because they received it - 189 were working for less than $50, and when it got over $50, the numbers were 10, 2, 3 and 4. That is an indication of your wages structure in Barbados. People are working for low wages, and these are the people who are building the roads; so I do not think we have to labour that too much. We all would like roads done in our constituencies, we know we cannot get them all done, but I would like to see a policy. I do not want to go to the Minister to beg him to put down a road. I would like to see the Minister coming out and saying that the Island i§ divided into twenty-four constituencies and this is his policy for repairing roads throughout the Island for 1975, and every person would see in his own constituency what are the roads that will be done from the money that is allocated for the preparing of public roads. I think that would go a long way in satisfying a lot of people about Government's policy in road repairs and reclamation of some of the bad roads.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the speech by the hon. member for St. Michael West might have been a good speech provided that the statements were not made in this Assembly on previous occasions which indicated that the Government or the Minister of Communications and Works had no intention whatsoever or would never accept the policy which he has put forward. I believe he was in his seat when the Prime Minister got up in this House and said that as from the beginning of the year he was moving all the road equipment up to his constituency in St. John and we have heard the substantive Minister of Communications and Works saying that he is making sure that the roads in his constituency are done because they cannot say he has not done anything for them So the hon. member for St. Michael West will understand why each and every one of us will then have to get on the floor and make a plea because we now have to plead.

It is so peculiar that at one stage I heard in this Chamber that there is a Committee of Government that

sits and determines what roads would be done at any given time and yet you hear other Ministers telling you when they are going to move the road making equipment to their constituencies to make sure that their voters are satisfied. 1. 25 p. m.

But I want to make a special plea because as the hon. member for St. Lucy has said, all people in all parishes or most of the people in all the parishes of this country pay taxes; but it would seem that those who live in the country districts benefit the least from taxes.

However you look at it, if you look at schools and you count the majority and quality of schools in this island they are all concentrated in the City area. When you look at the bulk of the roads that are being barber greened, those which have the least pot holes are in the St. Michael area.

But, Sir, let us look at places like St. Joseph. Bridges have been out from 12 to 14 years and nothing is being done. When you ask a question, they are waiting on Soil Conservation. When you get to Soil Conservation they are waiting on experts. When you get the experts, as the hon. member for St. Andrew has pointed out in this Chamber, the experts come and write a paper which is pigeon holed and nothing is done.

He remarked of having brought to the attention of the Minister a certain road in St. Andrew which the experts said could not be done. We told them to get some marl fill and put in it so as to at least give the people some kind of passage. When that was done they found out that simple marl fill in the road was the answer for repairing that road in St. Andrew.

I have asked something in respect of St. Joseph, but I rise on this particular occasion to say that Parks Road has just been washed out, I have constantly said that the experts in the Ministry of Communications and Works need firing, everyone of them, There are no maybes about that. They are responsible for the waste at the National Cemetery. The engineers of the Ministry were doing that.

They have been responsible for the new by pass road in Christ Church which has been widened as a result of the erection of the Coast Guard Station, and I can tell you that they have had to dig up a trench that was on that road at least three times.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that when you come to road building you have to know a certain amount about levels, drainage etc. The Government will never have any money as long as they keep certain engineers at the Ministry of Communications and Works, because when they were putting down this road the rain came down and the road was flooded out. It had to be dug up in order to dig a drain. It had to be dug up again to open a well mouth that they had closed. That is the Ministry of Communications and Works and its road programme. I am telling you because I pass there and I know that at least three times when engineers were working on the road, the road flooded out, the well mouth was stopped 'up and had to be reopened and the well redug. That is how Government's money is being spent.

Parks Road, has been washed out. The crop season is coming on and the canes from St. Andrew and St. Joseph must find their way to Vaucluse, and the bulk must pass through Parks Road. Do you know what they are doing now? They are resurfacing Parks Plantation road. The buses cannot pass the part that has been washed out, and all the houses in Parks Road will now be by passed as a result of the knowledge and brilliants of the Ministry of Communications and Works.

I would like to advocate to the people in that part of St. Joseph to stop paying taxes and let us have a little revolution. That is the only answer now because if the Minister or the Personnel Officer cannot take appropriate action against those who are wasting public money, somebody has got to take the bull by the horns.

If Parks Road is washed out, would it not be easier to get your engineers to reconstruct the road which is serving the people? But they are resurfacing Parks Plantation. The buses will come down the big hill and go up the big hill and by pass all the houses in that section of St. Joseph. You have to draw canes. The price of gasolene has gone up. The lorries will haul a less load because they have to go down the hill and up the hill to get back out,

I want to make a special plea to the Minister to go and look. If he wants to go at 1 o'clock or 5 o'clock in the morning or 12 o'clock in the day I will go with him and show him the folly of what is being done in St. Joseph.

I would like the acting Minister now to look at the roads in St. Philip his own constituency, which have gone from bad to worse. The Minister of Communications and Works has been surfacing roads in St. Philip during the crop season. The acting Minister cannot deny this. If you go through Brereton's Village? if you go through where he lives around Gemswick area every road that leads to a factory they have begun to surface in January or February when the crop season is on. It means that before you can get the gravel down the lorries pull it off and the roads are nothing but pot holes in that area of St. Philip. I live through there and I know, and the Minister drives through there and he knows.

It is time that a comprehensive policy on roads was taken. I am not going to blame any road worker or say that they are not doing their work because it is not only the worker who is responsible, and if you cannot give correct instructions, or clear instructions, the worker has got to be confused because he does not know what is going on.

What I would like to say to the Minister and the House in general is that it is time that a serious investigation be made into the Ministry of Communications and Works and see whether or not those responsible for engineering work and policy have got the ability and the technical qualifications to do the jobs that they are supposed to be doing.

It is no good coming here and talking about wanting more money for roads all the time. The question is; are we spending what we have effectively? In the long run, Mr. Chairman, what we are doing is making the population poorer. We are reducing our own standard of living to no avail because if you have to increase taxation in order to bring in Government revenue and at the same time you are paying it out and getting no results, that is tantamount, in my humble opinion, to throwing money down the drain.

I would not like to see any more money washed down the drain like at the by pass road in Christ Church. I would not like to see money spent in doing a by pass road in St. Joseph which, when it is finished, the people in St.

Joseph will have a bus service which is of no use to them. At the moment a lot of those people who go to St. Joseph parish church live in Horse Hill, and they cannot get through now. Whenever we hear about a funeral in that part of St. Joseph you hear that bus transportation will be provided from a particular point to the cemetery and back. Even the hearse can not get down to that section of St. Joseph now.

Mr. Chairman, it is about time that the people in the country get a little more than what they are now provided with, because sugar is providing the bulk of the capital of this country now, and these people who live in the country districts are employed in sugar, and it is about time that these people who work harder get a little bit more in the circumstances. It is time that these people get a little more attention, better roads, better schools and so on. 1. 35 p. m.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, upon this particular occasion it gives me great pleasure to be speaking after a speech made by the hon. member for St. Michael West because I find that his views and mine often coincide, but when I speak before him he finds it necessary to pick a criticism that may be more apparent than real. Upon this particular occasion I am not going to offer his speech any criticism because I think it is time that somebody in a responsible position gets up and try to halt this trend so determinedly engaged in particularly by two hon. members on the other side, one of whom has spoken today, and the other is the Minister himself, of seeking to throw the blame on the poor working people of Barbados for every lack of productivity that appears in the day to day working activity of our country.

Now an important key to justify what the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union has said is the speech of the hon. member for St. Joseph when he spoke of the road in Christ Church.

Now that road is not really a national scandal; it is not even a parochial scandal; it is only a district scandal. I travel on it two, three or four times some days and I can, not only justify everything that the hon. member for St. Joseph has said but I can add that I have spoken on either four or five occasions personally to the Chief Technical Director of the Ministry about it.

That road has been barber-greened twice in one year. It was entirely barber-greened and it was dug up again after being barber-greened, and relaid. At the time it was being relaid I told the Chief Technical Director that they were relaying it with a sink in the middle and that the fall in the road was sufficient for it to allow it to be drained - there was no need to drain it down. Around that time they then blocked the road as the hon. member for St. Joseph has said.

We had a big rain - I remember the day the rain fell; it scattered the engineers and the equipment; some of it I believe was flooded because where they had dug in the middle was a big sink and it was filled with water; cars could hardly get through, and residents had to make a detour. They then started to try to clean up the well. 1 do not know what they did, but the result was that adjoining land, which in the ten years that I have known the road had never been flooded, became flooded and remained so for some days if not weeks. They managed to throw the water off the road into somebody's land. I should not say 'throw it off' because it was still on the road, but they managed to get some off on to somebody else's land. They then built a road on the next door land - again for what purpose I could not see except to compensate the owner for the flooding which he had had to suffer.

They then tried to get the well cleaned out

- this was before the advertisement you saw about cleaning wells, which I understand is directly related to that well - they tried to get the well cleaned out and they finished off the road.

I pointed out to the Chief Technical Director that they had finished off the road but they had left the road surface level below the drain through which the water was supposed to enter the well. In other words, the water had to rise for a certain distance on the road before it could reach the outlet to drain it off. Now this is all a beautifully drained road, with a well. I have never seen water in it until the Minister of Communications and Works got to work on it, and I travel on it day and night, Sir. And yesterday they then barber-greened the road again

- it was almost finished by this morning - they then barber-greened it again, and the road level has been raised to where the water can now run into the well; but as far as I know the well is still not cleaned.

Now, you tell me, Sir. Whose lack of work has contributed to that state of affairs; now I saw yesterday a man in the early morning got on a barber-green machine and three or four labourers walked behind him with a barrow and shovel, and I passed the road several times during working hours, and everybody was working at all times. I did not see anybody in a rum shop, leaning on a shovel or anything. They knew they had to barber-green the road and they did it. Now whose fault is it? Is it not the fault of the professionally qualified persons who dp not understand how to drain roads in Barbados, rather than the fault of the workers who are on the road? How can you expect the workers to go and stand up in a foot of water or two feet of water to clear off the road all during September and October of this year when they were having trouble? But the day when they were showing that they were doing something which was useful, which was raising the road level so that it would not create worry - they did the work in one day. In other words, what the hon. member for St.. Michael West is saying about motivating people so that they would work, is necessary. I am only sorry that he does not remind us enough of the most important principles to be applied in the productivity of workers in this Island - that productivity is not a matter for the man who is carrying out the physical work alone. This Island lacks productivity because management does not know how to get the best out of people either in human terms or in physical terms.

You motivate people to get the best out of them in human terms and you provide physical environment; in other words, you give them the tools for the job to get the best out of them in physical terms; and I am not satisfied that the Minister of Communications and Works understands any of this in any sense. I am sick to death of hearing the cantonniers criticised for standing up and working. I am sick of it. As far as I am concerned, it is the Parliamentary Secretary who does no work; not the cantonniers. The idea of cantonniers "cutting grass by hand may be on the way out. Other employment more useful could be found for those people. The cantonniers know that the Government does not intend to destroy the grass, otherwise they would be out of work; that if the Government really wanted the grass removed they would either concrete the gutters or spray them much more, chiefly sufficiently often to destroy the grass, but the cantonniers see no effort being; made to do this. They are kept in employment, and I more

believe that it is the person higher up in the Ministry of Communications and Works who, if anybody, go in a rum shop. It would more be the foremen who carry cantonniers into the rum shop in order to get a drink bought but I am not lending myself to that. I am not saying any Parliamentary Secretary - of course, not you, Sir, in your days - has ever been seen in St. George or anywhere with a cantonnier during working hours. Not for one second would I suggest that; but that is only a digression; but it is an unfortunate and slanderous way to attack people, to say they spend two hours in a rum shop when on Government service.

If the Parliamentary Secretary has any evidence that anybody spent two hours in a rum shop she has a duty to report this to the appropriate authority; not just to come in here and repeat the statement. I am sick of these attacks on working people who are in no position to reply, who are in no position to do other than to sit down and accept it. Even in the old conservative days, the days obviously to which the Parliamentary Secretary, the hon. member for St. Michael North East wishes to return - even in the old conservative days you did not hear the people talking quite as aggressively and unpleasantly about the workers as you hear the hon. member. The only words that she left out, as far as I am concerned, on her attack on the workers, was the word that would have been used fourteen years ago by the planters; that is, 'nigger'.

I must say that I am even sick of hearing the hon. member on every occasion coming down unerringly on the side of the big man against not just the interest of the workers but the character of the workers of this Island. 1. 45 p. m.

The Minister of Communications and Works is a man of limited ideas and much talk. He can always be found to say that in Barbados we must work harder. Why doesn't he set an example of working harder? He has a long record of failure at Ministries both as Attorney General and Minister of Communications and Works, and any fluency and force which the hon, member displays in debate is no substitute for effectiveness and efficiency in the Ministry. As far as I am concerned, if you feel that the people in your Ministry do not work, you have a duty to start at the top and go down. Tell the Permanent Secretary to make the Assistant Secretaries and Technical Officers give a report on if they are satisfied with the work effort of the workers; not to go on and on seeking cheap popularity with the middle-class of this Island that is in any case getting more conservative everyday, seeking cheap popularity in increasing the conservative middle-class by attacking the workers. In the Barbados of Christmas 1974 not a worker can feel satisfied with his lot under a Government that has allowed the cost of living to rise 40 percent in a year and offers him a Christmas bonus of half month. What worker can be motivated under these circumstances? I am glad to see that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union occasionally lets the scales slip from his eyes sufficiently to put forward a powerful case on behalf of upholding the human dignity of the workers whom he represents and whom other organisations on this occasion may also represent, but more particularly of the people whom all of us represent in here, and it behoves every member to listen to what he says and think seriously and consider who sends us in here and whose interest we should be representing instead of abusing.

Mr. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I have sat and listened attentively to the various speakers and I heard the comments and criticisms, but firstly I will deal with the Leader of the Opposition. I think that he should be commended for a very outstanding political speech in here today. I know that the words have come from his month but not from his heart. He on numerous occasions. .....

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member must not accuse any hon. member of improper motives. I did not believe it was possible for the hon. member to make an insinuation of any sort far less the one which he is now making, and I must commend him on it but it is unparliamentary to say that somebody's speech is from the mouth but no^Jrom the heart, an accusation of insincerity. I have never accused him yet of trying to undermine a Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark that the "words came from his mouth but not his heart". You must not impute improper motives according to Standing Order No. 33.

Mr. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I presume that the words have come from his lips and not his heart.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

But I had asked the hon. member first to withdraw the words "from the mouth and not from the heart". They must be withdrawn.

Mr. R. StC. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, if it is your desire that I should withdraw, then I do so. Mr. Chairman, elections are still approximately two years off, but when I listen to the hon. member for St. Joseph I can only come to the conclusion that he is appealing to the people of this country and he has taken the opportunity to do so in this House of Assembly.

Now let us deal with roads. When we are dealing with roads, every representative finds it possible to

defend his constituency, and if I were not acting as Minister I too would have made my contribution. I say this because the hon. member for St. Joseph has mentioned the condition of the road in St. Philip. Now I am a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works and if I am there and the condition of the roads in St. Philip is in such a deplorable state you can imagine why we cannot repair other roads. We need funds and when you check on the revenue and expenditure and you see the amount which is allocated to roads, you can only come to the conclusion that until we can get a loan to assist us with the roads of this country, we will always have this particular problem. In my opinion with the cost of materials in these days, it will take approximately 100 years to repair certain roads from the rate at which we ire travelling. Sir, it calls for money and from the amount which is allocated to roads, it will take perhaps ten times that amount to touch some of the roads which we complain about from time to time.

When it comes to the staff at the Ministry of Communications and Works, they are appointed by the Public Service Commission; their qualifications are checked and rechecked and therefore the Minister cannot carry the blame because the particular engineer or engineers have not been doing their jobs well. It is regrettable that some hon. members find it possible and convenient to criticise the Minister who I am sure I can state unequivocally is doing a first class job in the Ministry of Communications and Works with the amount of funds at his disposal. 1. 55 p. m.

He cannot make blood out of stones The Minister takes a special interest in his job, and therefore any hon. member who has taken it upon himself to criticise him and say that he has been a failure in the Ministry of Communications and Works is making a misleading statement.

The time has come when we as members of this House must realise that the amount it took to repair two miles of road say five years ago can only repair a half mile in this day with the high cost of material and the high prices we have to pay for new equipment. It is the policy of the Ministry of Communications and Works to consider all the roads on their merits, and I do not think that it is fair to say that the Minister has taken it upon himself to repair all the roads in his constituency and not think of the others.

The staff, including the engineers, sit around a table and discuss the various roads and we arrive at certain decisions. It depends upon the funds which are available. We have to think about money, and with the resources of this country we can do no more at present; and I think that the time has come when the Government will have to consider obtaining a loan to repair the roads in this country or some of them so as to alleviate the hardships which the residents, and especially those in the rural areas suffer.

The question that Head 26 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 27 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the sum of money provided under Head 27 (1) Item 6, Office Expenses has proved inadequate for the purposes approved by this Hon. Chamber. It is therefore necessary to seek supplementary provision in the sum of $5, 000 for this particular Head; and this is for the purpose of meeting the increasing cost of maintaining office equipment, cleaning the office and the rental of a copying machine. These are all the normal expenses of maintaining an office, and I beg to move that the sum of $5, 000 under Head 27(1) Item 6, stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, under this Head, 27 (2).....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

It is Head 27 (1), Office Expenses.

Mr. HINDS:

All right. Head 27 (1), Office Expenses. Now, Sir, the additional provision is required to meet the increased cost of maintaining office equipment, cleaning the office and the rental of a copying machine.

I think that this is a good opportunity for me to draw it to the Minister's attention that a good number of the schools are suffering considerably by not getting the assistance they really require from the Ministry with respect to.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I think that matter is under Head 27 (2) relative to the schools.

Mr. HINDS:
All right, Sir. I am talking about the copying machine now under Education. There are many of the schools which from time to time have got examination papers and set papers that they would like to have Xeroxed. They do not all have stencilling machines and I wonder to what extent the services of this copying machine could be made available at times; and perhaps I might further ask What demand is made by these schools upon the services of the machine.

I know that the copying machine would be found to give yeoman service in an establishment such as the Ministry of Education, but here again I think that we are being saddled in many respects with the rental of these copying machines; and I believe that with these various departments having to rely on the servicing of these machines to such an extent, and paying such high rental, and with the high cost of the material that must be used with this specialised equipment, it should better be gone into and you will find that you will come up at some point somewhere.

It has been turning over in my mind, Mr. Chairman, that the copying machine which we have here at Parliament is now owned, I understand, by Parliament and I am to wonder if an establishment like the Ministry of Education, if their demand is for a similar type of machine to do similar work could not find out the actual cost of our machine and see if they cannot effect a saving in the long run by purchasing the outfit and getting away from this high rental cost After all, if you rent a machine for 40 years it is still not your machine, and there are other departments which I believe ought to examine the situation as practised here at Parliament and see what savings, if any, could be affected in this respect.

The question that Head 27 (1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 2. 05 p. m.

Head 27(2) Primary, Adult and Special Education - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, as far as Head 27 (2), Item 9 is concerned, here again the amount provided has proved inadequate and a further supplement of $2, 000 is required for musical instruments and other equipment. This is in order to satisfy the request which came from schools for musical instruments and for other

items of equipment such as duplicators; and this is on the basis of the request from the schools in cases where those schools have raised some funds and are expecting approximately 60% of the cost to be provided from this source.

These instruments and equipment are useful in the educational programme of the schools, and I therefore beg to move that the sum of $2, 000 for Head 27(2) Item 9 stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

Head 27(11) Government Industrial Schools - was called.

Hon. L, E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, as far as Head 27(11) Item 12 is concerned, there was an increase in the travelling of public officers, and the additional sum of money, that is, $1, 565 is required to meet the additional cost involved as a result of the increased rates.

I therefore beg to move that the sum of $1, 565 for Head 27(11) Item 12 stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I think the time has come when the Ministry of Education must re-examine the whole structure of this travelling, not only with respect to the Government Industrial School but all schools, because there is no denying the fact that in many of our country schools demands are made on the Headteachers and some of the senior assistants to call on the Ministry at head office from time to time, and they have to effect a considerable amount of travelling over the period of a term and they have got

to do all of this out of their own pockets. There is no provision made for travelling for these officers and I do not think that there are any incidental expenses that are voted to cover the teachers in this respect.

I would wish the Minister would give some sort of consideration to this because one has got to bear in mind that gasolene is no longer 68 , cents per gallon; it is now $2 per gallon. The wear and tear on a vehicle, the cost of spare parts and all this kind of thing have to be taken into consideration.

A teacher has a car for his or her own use and you find at times, no matter how dedicated a teacher might be, there are times when teachers have to take their cars and rush children from school to the doctor, and other incidentals like this come in. After all no teacher would refuse to convey a child to the nearest doctor, but it is known that the teacher whose gasolene was put into his or her car tank to last a week or two weeks or a month as the case might be can be used up because of these things, and all of these are inroads that you have to^ provide for in your schedule of things.

There is no provision whereby a teacher can be reimbursed for all of this. We are asking the Minister to re-examine the whole line of travelling. You can have an officer having to travel 18 miles to come into Bridgetown to call on the Ministry9 or to come into town for books, and some have got to come into town weekly for money to pay the janitors, and all this kind of thing, and they get no compensation; they are not reimbursed in any respect for all of this.

It is high time that the Minister, or the Ministry itself, re-examine the whole situation and let these people get some reimbursement; make some provision that if a teacher has got to come into town X number of times, he or she should be given some compensation for the gasolene or wear and tear on his or her vehicle.

The question that Head 27(11), Item 12, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 27(12) Public Library - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, here again in Head 27 (12) Item 7 the additional sum of $400 is required to

supplement the provision already made by this Hon. Chamber as a result of the increased rates of travelling which were recently approved.

I therefore beg to move that Head 27(12) Item 7 stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to be heard on what is really a matter of privilege, Sir, as well as order. A clear - not understanding - statement was made on the adjournment last week that at 2 o'clock the House would adjourn for its usual luncheon break and that on the resumption the Budget debate would be continued. It is now a quarter past two, the Reporters have been working all this time and marches are being stolen.

It is by the courtesy of the hon. member for St. James who should have been from last Wednesday addressing the House on the Budget - it is through his courtesy that we have got to quarter past two today doing Government I Business because we believed that the Government might have had Resolutions to help people get some money which should have come forward; but, we are not going to be steam-rollered over, and I am now going to stand on the Standing Orders.

Sir, the Standing Orders say that the only business that should be debated is the Budget, and at this stage something must be done.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
If the hon. member would give way for a moment. It is not a question of the courtesy of the hon. member for St. James. The courtesy came from this side because normally if we wanted to keep to the letter of the law and Standing Orders as such, your chances for replying have passed. All the chances have passed. The courtesy came from here. None of your members were prepared or ready to say one word. Well now, they are ready for this afternoon.

All we are doing is trying to get through a Resolution. In another five minutes it will be passed. All we

are doing is just that.

Mr. ADAMS:
He interrupted me, Sir. He asked if I would give way, and I gave way. I know the Speaker said that at any time we could insist upon the application of the Standing Orders. I do not mind what the Leader of the House has said. What the Speaker said is a matter of record.

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

The question that Head 27(12) Item 7 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 2. 15 p. m.

HEAD 27(15) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 27(15) - Community Development -was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, the request for additional funds of $2, 925 for Head 27(15), Item 4, is in order to meet the additional cost resulting from the increased travelling rates which were approved recently.

I therefore beg to move that Head 27(15) Community Development, stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 27(17) SPORT Head 27(17) - Sport - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, a similar reason exists in respect of the supplementary being requested for Head 27(17), Item 4.

I beg to move that Head 27(17) -Sport, stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution as amended do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A MORRISON, the Resolution was read a first and seconded time and agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, before moving the suspension I am asking for leave to amend a certain sum which I gave notice of. I refer to the Resolution for the sum of $2, 219, 200 of which I gave notice today. There is a typographical error and the correct amount is $2, 219, 200.

The second matter is Resolution standing in the name of the Minister of Finance of which I gave notice earlier today, and I am asking for leave to deal with this in all it stages at this sitting. This may not necessarily be today because it goes on tomorrow,

Mr. SPEAKER:
If there is no objection, leave will be granted to deal with the Resolution in all its stages at this sitting.

There being no objection, leave is granted. SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3. 30 p. m

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. On Resumption:

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Standing Orders have been suspended, and the arrangement reached with the Leader of the Opposition last week was to the effect that we will continue now with the replies to the Supplementary Budgetary Proposals of the Minister of Finance and Planning.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Then according to Standing Order No. 31.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before we reach that point, since I believe this is part of Private Members' Business and since we are at this time, I wonder if with leave of the House I could move the second reading of a Bill which would not take more than a couple of minutes because it would obviously have to go to Select Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member seeking leave? I understand the time allotted is for replies to the Budgetary Proposals, and that is the instant order of the day.

Mr, CRAIG:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition moved the Resolution taking note of the ^Emergency Supplementary Budget which carried proposals by the Minister of Finance and Planning, I had seconded the Resolution and reserved the right to speak, and I would now like to make my simple contribution within the limited time in respect of my colleague's motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people of Barbados no doubt have been saddled with two budgets; one was a regular budget which we expect the Minister of Finance to bring down every year to raise revenue to run the country; but because of what we on this side have called the bad planning and shoddy political planning and manoeuvring, this country is thrust into what can safely be called economic panic. I myself, Sir, just about eighteen months ago drew to the attention of this country that the country was on the brink of economic disaster. Some of my Parliamentary colleagues on the other side jeered and sneered when I said this because I am no trained economist, and therefore I could not have envisaged something of this nature; but it was only a matter of time. Only a few Thursdays ago the Prime Minister presented what one can safely call an emergency Budget. It has done nothing to assist our economic problems; it has only brought more pain and hardship, and the poor is going to remain poor while the rich will get richer.

Now I wish to make a few observations. In 1974 under the present administration Barbadians can safely say they are going through a bleak period, a period I believe as dark as 1938 when Barbados fought against the evils of political, social and economic pressures. They fought that battle and won up to a point. We have had a social revolution and a political revolution in some areas, but upon our shoulders still lie the burden of our economic problems. 3. 35 p. m.

When are we going to have this economic revolution? Mr. Deputy Speaker, probably we may see this in 1976 through to 1981 whatever party takes over the reins of Government; but I am sure that after 13 years that this Government have been in power we have seen no change and one can only conclude that the Government is lost completely in the policy of economic revolution.

Sir, what are the measures brought down by the Minister of Finance? Nothing that will reduce the cost of living and give the citizens of Barbados a rate of economic growth. We have seen two measures •- one a 29 cents a day for old age pensioners and secondly two months pay or two half months pay or a bonus for Civil Servants, something which the Government says is going to cushion the problems of the Civil Servants of this country while the 29 cents a day is going to ease the problems of the old age pensioners. A third measure deals with text books, and this will come into operation for the school year of 1975.

These are the measures which the Government have brought down to relieve the people of Barbados from their economic depression. The Government I think, had to raise $8 million deficit and one would have thought that the Government would have got about holding strain as they say. This is what I heard from the mouth of the Prime Minister - tightening your belt in order that they will be able to get revenue to offset the deficit which the Prime Minister claims was incurred because of inflation all over the world.

I would have thought that a head tax on departures at Seawell Airport could be increased. That an additional $5, $8 or $10 would have been a good measure; because if a man can afford to pay $500 or $600 to go away on a vacation, or if he can afford $300 or $400 to go down to the other territories to do business or if a firm can do this they could also afford to pay a higher head tax than what we have now for the purpose of bringing in more revenue.

I would have thought that if you are going to hold strain the example would start from the top, that one would have seen at least a 25 per cent decrease in the Governor General's salary and allowances; and that one would have seen a 25 per cent decrease in the Ministers' salaries and the complete abolition of all parliamentary secretaries' salaries and let them receive the same pay as backbenchers or members of the Opposition; and also a cut back of 25 per cent or 30 per cent, depending on how they work it out, to raise this $8 million. I would expect to see a cut back in the salaries of members of Parliament and to see Statutory Boards and Corporations with 12 or 14 members sitting down, reduced to at least six or seven. I would also have expected to see a cut back by at least 25 per cent in the Senate.

I would have expected that all of this would have helped the situation. Maybe, let us also say a higher levy on insurance companies, and a higher levy on the racing services. All of this, I believe, when added up would have been a tidy sum for holding strain. That is what we are dealing with. It is a "holding strain "budget, but we see additional hardships imposed on the people of the country with this 5 per cent sales tax. One sees that the level of productivity has to be reduced because the supermarkets and the stores are not equipped for the purpose of collecting this tax. I am told that the only supermarkets - true or false - equipped to collect this tax are Goddards and Simpsons. The Goddards empire.

I do not know if it is true or false, but what I do know is that you cannot put 29 cents into the hands of an old age pensioner today and then ask that old age pensioner to pay 5 cents sales tax when she buys two cakes of soap or two rolls of toilet paper or when she has to buy a piece of cloth from the coolie man; because he is going to put on the 5 per cent tax. I want to know if the Government is going to collect the 5 per cent tax from some of these Indian tigers. I want to know what system has the Government set up for this purpose.

I am not an economist. I am talking from the point of view of the man in the street. We are asked to cut back to raise $8 million; but what do we see? (a) the Government has even put the tax on medicines. Can you imagine an old woman or an old man going to A. A. Browne at the corner of Baxter's Road, or to Forde in Crumpton Street, and having to pay this sales tax on medicine?

I dare say that the Minister of Health is well aware of how some of these boys operate. Some of them, I am told, have an interest in drug firms and agencies and of course they prescribe the particular medicines. They are all good medicines, and when doctors prescribe the medicines you go at So and So to collect the medicines. When the old age pensioner costs $8 or $9, when she pays the 5 per cent tax on the medicine out of 29 cents a day that the Government has set up, what position will she be in?

We on this side have been asking for something like $15 a week for old age pensioners since 1968, but in 1974 the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the defender of the faith, the lover of the people, this Christian gentleman who every time that he opens his mouth quotes the Bible - "the Lord Giveth and the Lord Taketh" - this good natured gentleman can only give the senior citizens of this country 29 cents with one hand and take out a 5 per cent tax with the other.

You know, Sir, that aged persons always have some ailment. They have had to work hard. They are exposed to colds quicker than the younger people. If they cannot go to the hospital where they will be held up for a long time, they therefore seek refuge at the doctor. Where are we going? I would have thought that measures of the nature that I have referred to would have been taken.

I challenged my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition that the Government could not bring down a

single measure that would impose an additional burden on the people of this country. I said that the Prime Minister could not be that mad, although Lloyd Smith has accused him of being a madman on more than one occasion.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the hon. member should be made to withdraw that remark. On a former occasion it was definitely withdrawn. You cannot get in here and talk about people being mad.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I have been listening quite attentively, and the phraseology does not suggest that the hon. member was saying that the Prime Minister is mad. I expect all these things today, so I am listening very attentively.

Mr. CRAIG:

There is nothing wrong with the statement that I made. I will go further. Only recently the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union said that anyone who talked about a prices and income policy could only talking madness; and madness can only come out of the mouth of a madman. That is what the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union was reported to have said in the Advocate. I would never dare to say that the Prime Minister is a mad man. Who will give a mad man a certificate to fly an aeroplane?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That is not called for. Will you please continue?

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was suggesting measures that the Government should have brought in. I believe that a few more dollars on the motor vessels and schooners coming into the careenage, at least a few more dollars on careenage rates would have assisted us in our present position. 3.45 p. m.

I do know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have seen problem after problem. We on this side have warned the Government repeatedly of the role which they were pursuing. We drew to their attention that they were spending money in the wrong areas and that some day the honeymoon is going to be over and after the honeymoon the husband must prepare for his wife and children, but none of this has been taken notice of.

No longer are we seeing the concrete trucks - Burnup and Sims - we are not seeing the Ray side trucks blocking the road; none of that we are seeing now; and to quote the Prime Minister in 1966, you had the

artisans from Pico Teneriffe m the North to Paragon in the South on the ladders hanging on, and, signs saying 'Artisans wanted. Wanted, painters, plumbers, electricians. '

Today we do not see that. Sir, what we are seeing is that the artisans are colliding with each other going from north to south and from east to west in search of work, and not one single incentive has the Government presented in its emergency budget for the purpose of encouraging the building industry to survive once again in Barbados. No encouragement at all, Sir. Now look at the interest rate at the banks. None of this we have seen. And members on the other side cheer when we introduced 29 cents a day for old age pensioners.

Sometimes I wonder what is politics when I look at the Minister of Health; if we should really call a spade a spade or tow the line. Sometimes I wonder; because I know many of these views are the views which I believe the Minister of Health would express. You cannot impose upon the people in a society an additional tax burden. You cannot impose an additional tax burden on a people who can less afford it; that is, the poor, because the five percent tax is not for Manning Wilkinson and Challenor or for the Cotton Factory. It is for all Barbadians and therefore you have more poor people in Barbados than you have rich, and therefore the poor must become poorer because they are paying an additional five percent, and wages are not in keeping with the present cost of living. So all I can conclude is that you have increased the cost of living by putting on an additional tax on the people and I thought that measures of this nature which I have suggested here this afternoon would have been some of the measures which the Government would have set out to use so as to relieve the problems of the people in the country and yet raise revenue.

Sir, as far as sugar is concerned, I am not particularly au fait with that field, and my colleague the hon. member for St. Joseph, I know, will take great care of that; but I would like to make a remark. There is no doubt - and it has been an established fact now, unless something seriously goes wrong - that there is going to be a record price for sugar next year, and from what figures I have been able to work out, the Treasury in Barbados is going to have in approximately $80 million coming from sugar. I may be wrong but this is my simple calculation. At $3, 000 per ton - (ASIDE: $96m.) Yes. Ninety six million dollars. Well I say approximately $80 million from what I have worked out. So we are going to see the country washed down with some money next year. Don't fool; between 1975 and 1976; but this is what I am saying. Were it not for the famous cane blade statement the country would have been in a stronger position today to produce more sugar, but it is because of the famous cane blade statement that young people have turned their backs on the land, and today when you should be in a position to have more land with more sugar cane to produce more sugar to catch some of these world prices that you are going to have, you find members on the other side take some of the land and sell it out and make themselves millionaires; they say they are not millionaires but they are millionaires, and the people of this country suffer because of one or two persons on the Government side. One Minister can buy four and five plantations in a period of eight years. That is history, you know. I do not believe that Leacock and Bryden and Wilkinson and the crowd I used to hear about - and Tim Yearwood - they were not as cruel. No Sir. They would probably buy some of these plantations, maybe, every ten or fifteen years but these fellows are buying a plantation every two years and taking the same land and cutting it up, speculating,

and making themselves millionaires out of the people of this country. All of this is responsible for our economic problem. Not the importation of food or any such thing.

We have been suggesting all the time that you should encourage the people to plant some tomatoes and beans and some carrots and beets and some okras and corn which would help give a balance diet; encourage the kids to keep some sheep and goats and a few rabbits. That is what we were suggesting. But no. The country never accepted this. They were told that we had ordered 4, 000 hoes and 4, 000 baskets to carry dung into the fields, and obviously people are no longer interested in that type or that form of agriculture.

I wish to sound a note here. I hope that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union when he is in good form - to my mind, he is seldom in good form; he is a bit tired and weary; the shine is coming off the ball now - that he would take into consideration if he has not yet put it, the idea of encouraging the people to pay more money for green canes and try to stop this burning which the Government themselves have encouraged; because I remember that the Prime Minister was about here in an aeroplane, flying, planning how to out fires, saying he was going to be a firefighter. All of these fansy gimmicks. So if I have an aeroplane to go and out fires there is nothing wrong in lighting a fire so that you can see the Prime Minister outing the fire. That will be a real evening show. You would not have to go to the drive-in. Light a field of canes and you know he is coming to out the fire in an aeroplane. So that would be a lot of fun.

That show alone was to encourage people to help burn the canes in this country; and I am told that when you burn canes you reduce the soil value - I would not know the agricultural term but I would say, the value, or, the worth of the soil; the quality of the soil has been reduced and therefore your yield cannot be as great. 3. 55 p. m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the time has come when the Government of Barbados should set up a central sugar marketing board for the purpose of protecting the farmers' sugar. By that I mean that if you give them a guarantee that you are going to buy their sugar from them at $800 a ton or whatever it is, they would have no problem, but then you can through your Board set out to get the best possible price from any part of the world. In a nutshell when the days are bad you have to be with them and when they are good you have the whole hog. This is my feeling I will end on this note, as I said I would make my simple contribution within the limited time, that all Barbadians must join together hand in hand in the interest of all concerned with the lead coming from Government; they must set the example. They are the ones who call the tune and we have to dance to it. The members of the Opposition cannot be out there morning, noon and night on the streets demonstrating talking since we are denied the use of television and radio time to put our case. There is only an opportunity for television time once a year and that has faded away. There were only two left hooks to the Prime Minister's Budget proposals and the

Constitution debate and that was the end; all the stumps have been knocked from behind. There were only two confrontations and that was the end of the Prime Minister who is a natural political coward. I have never had any respect for him as an economist or a politician because I have always contended that he is an intellectual snob and has nothing in common with the poor people, and it is because of this that we have seen in no uncertain terms the 29 cents as a gimmick to fool certain people in this country that he is making a contribution to the welfare. It is a classic example that he is a heartless, merciless Prime Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would not like the hon. member to continue in that vein. I think he is getting a bit warm.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, he is not merciless, he is a hard bird to deal with; he is difficult to handle, My contention is that he has absolutely nothing in common with the small man. To remain in power he has to do something because he likes power. He has done nothing and that is an example that he should hang his head in shame for that 29 cents a day more when since 1967 we on this side have been fighting for $15 per week, but now in 1974 he seems to think that $2. 00 per week more is enough for them, but he has put a sales tax of 5 percent on them; so that he is giving them something in one hand and taking out even more from the other hand. It has always been felt, Sir, that I have been the defender of the senior citizens. Only yesterday I met an old lady 81 years old ambling her way up Fontabelle Road to Herbert House because she did not receive her $3. 60 or whatever it is per week for five months. It cost her bus fare. She moved from Fitts Village, St. James to live somewhere in Black Rock.

I feel, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that on presentation of the old age pensioners' card to supermarkets and stores, they should be ^xdmpted from the 5 percent tax on all items including medicine. I look forward seriously to seeing the lead come from Government in the cutback in their salaries and allowances which I suggested this evening, and I hope before the end of this sitting to see a Resolution corning to this effect. It is only then I would salute the Government and its Minister of Planning for frying to relieve the people of this country of some of the burdens which they are responsible for putting on their shoulders through shoddy planning and bad management over the past thirteen years. The honeymoon is over, Sir; it is now real planning. They are incapable of managing the affairs of Government year after year. What we know they are incapable of doing is using big bold threats over your head so that when you have to come and speak out, you arc fold you will be depressurised and removed. That is the sort of thing they sit down and plan not any thing for people's progress. It is no longer advance; it is beat the retreat, and the captain of die team must be shot at dawn for his political manoeuvres in this country.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the problem of inflation is one of the most difficult and distasteful tasks that any

responsible Government may have to •_tackle. Finding a solution to this problem is Hot difficult, but very often the finding of a solution to the problem is frustrated and made difficult by the4ack of political concensus to support the measures which have to be taken, and the display which one has seen so far in this Chamber in reply to the Budgetary Proposals strongly underlines that the task is made difficult by a lack of political concensus to support the measures which may have to be taken. Inflation is not in itself a bad thing; inflation within the context of the Barbadian economy is not a new thing. There are some people who are likely to feel that it has suddenly descended upon the country, but whenever a developing country seeks to Mobilise its economic resources by development policy, inevitably one gets inflation. Usually if it proceeds at a low rate not to disturb the general confidence in the stability of value of money, its efforts are primarily to redistribute economies. People contend that the upward movement of wages and prices can help to reallocate labour and resources and draw labour out of traditional subsistence sectors into the developing sectors of the economy. It is also argued contrary to what we have heard here at some time during this debate that the rate of inflation has to be much higher in a developing country for two reasons; in the developed country you find that the sophisticated financial system of the advanced economy provides many more facilities for economising on the use of money in the face of expected inflation. Secondly, the superior mobility of the resources of an advanced economy allows them much more manoeuvrability in readjusting certain sectors of the economy to offset inflationary trends in others. 4; 05 p. m.

In short, inflation is the price that one has to pay for the mobilisation of one's resources. This is not new because celebrated people like Keynes and people who follow Keynes, themselves have advocated this; and the reason why they have advocated this is that the workers and the peasants are considered to be only marginal savers, and the purpose of inflation is to reallocate money from the people who are marginal savers into the hands of the entrepreneurs and those who are considered to be better savers and who would save it and invest it.

Now, this may not necessarily be true because there are alternative theories to this; but the point one has to stress is that a developing country such as Barbados with its serious strains usually has to resort to a deliberate inflationary policy for economic development, because when it has to raise the money by the traditional fiscal measures it is unlikely to be able to raise enough money for its purpose; and there are many reasons and explanations which can be advanced to show that in a period of stabilisation, given that all things are equal, where you have to take resources which are currently coming in to finance your capital projects, you raise twice as much money in an inflationary situation than you can raise in a stabilised period.

Now all of these arguments have been put forward. I have recounted that while the development of Barbados has been going on, inflation has been going on because that is the price we have to pay for the mobilisation of our resources;, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with this, because this is expected and this has been supported by many economic theories which indicate that any developing country such as Barbados or countries in Latin America or in any part of the world which cannot raise enough money

by the traditional fiscal measures have to resort to deliberate inflationary policies to raise the money for development. Hence, inflation happens to be the price that one pays for one's development.

Now, Sir, a lot has been said about the measures which the Government should adopt to solve inflation. The important thing I want to stress here is that if one has inflation occurring in the country there are usually industries which come in to play because of the inflationary situation, and if one adopts measures to combat the inflation it is very likely that these industries will be forced out.

In addition to this, there are also goods and services which come into being because of the inflationary trend; and if one takes measures to combat the inflation - the type of drastic measures which are being advocated - one will find that the demand for these goods and services will dwindle; and one immediate outcome of the dwindling or the removal of these industries and the demand for the goods and services is a probable increase in unemployment in the country.

Therefore, when one thinks in terms of handling the situation of inflation in any country one has to be very careful, because many of the measures that are being advocated because people feel that it is politically wise to advocate these measures - if these measures are implemented at all one will find on the other hand that you are increasing your unemployment by tremendous leaps and bounds; and in any situation where people have been accustomed to a policy of development for some time it will become more embarrassing to people to wake up and find that they are undergoing unemployment when in reality they want to be employed more and more.

Now you have problems such as this in any developing country. Many of these problems are prompted very often by political expediency and political harangue; and the Government so far has been experiencing a lot of this political harangue; because when prices and so start to go up you get a lot of political pressures being exerted against the Government to give subsidies, to control prices and to give money to people not to increase their conspicuous consumption, but in reality to take care of the inflationary trends.

I would like to stress that there are as many solutions to tackling inflation as there are economic theories and economists; and no two economists agree; and because this is the situation, it is very easy for anybody who claims to have any knowledge of economics to criticise measures taken by responsible people as being to no avail and as being inadequate; but the only proof that these measures are adequate or inadequate is to see what happens when the various measures have been taken.

When one sat in this Honourable Chamber and heard the types of criticism being levelled, it is significant that a country such as die U. S. A. with all of its abundant human resources which we cannot hope to equal, has not been able to tackle the problem as efficiently as we hear some of the people in this country advocating. I wonder if it would not be a good measure in solving part of our problem to sell some of these intellectuals at a fair price to the U. S. A. because they seem to have such great theories and understanding of the measures that need to be taken to solve the inflation problem.

It is very easy to get up and make accusations against the Government, to say that the Government is doing nothing; but one has to realise that when one is responsible one has to be very careful in adopting many of the measures that have been advocated; because if one rushes in and adopts some of these measures, you find that you are only exaggerating the situation and putting the people more and more against you.

When one looks at the type of criticism levelled against the Government on this Budget, it is purely political. They are offering no alternative to what the Government has been doing. You hear marvellous things about inflation in Barbados at 40 per cent, and that when you analyse the report of the Central Bank it stated that the country had an induced factor of 25 per cent, and we seem to accept that all the inflation in Barbados is only coming out of oil; but very often what seems to be overlooked is the fact that oil in a country such as Barbados has a multiplying effect; and while the inflationary factor due to oil may be 25 per cent, it is a fact that it has a multiplying effect on the economy, and causes many other factors which are dependent on this important factor of oil also to contribute to inflation in this country.

Now, we have a very difficult situation. Nobody is going to deny that, nobody on this side; but the problem which is facing us is not one that will be solved by getting here and criticising the Government, and if the Government makes a decision criticise and say they should not have done that. The important thing is trying to face the problem of inflation and the bad consequences that can come about, and to bring the people of this country into a situation where they will be able to re-devote themselves and their energies to the question of modifying the bad effects of the inflation.

One has to face up at the present to the fact that there may be many reasons why at the present time there is a shortage of money in this country. When one analyses the economy one has to look at the question of more and more industries in this country getting duty free goods; and one has to look more and more at the question of taxes not being collected at the same level as say a year or more ago. One has to look more importantly at the rate of development that has occurred in the country.

When you look at the rate of development that has been going on in Barbados during the past years, it has been considerable; and if we cannot get this money from the usual sources due to tight money now in the market due to very high prices, one finds oneself in a situation where you have to take resources which are currently coming in to finance your capital projects; and this is a situation in which not only Barbados finds itself, but many other countries; and due to the hard borrowing on the international market they are forced to resort to the usual revenues to finance their capital projects.

That, Sir, is a situation in which we find ourselves, and this situation is unlikely to be improved unless the financial situation of the world outside of Barbados improves. We have to borrow money, and this is borrowing money at high rates. We are not the only people who have to borrow at high interest rates, and for some time that has limited our capacity to borrow.

, NOW, what is the solution to this problem? There are some people who said very strongly, and I share that view, that part of the solution lies in getting more international aid, more foreign aid, more foreign money coming into the country. This Government has been at pains to get more and more money into its economy so t^at we would be able to embark on a number of projects which would revitalise the economy and prevent unemployment from rising too steeply and put money in the hands of the people who want it.

We have development programmes for the harbour and for the airport. We have a development programme for sewage, a development programme for the Polytechnic and a host of these things; and we anticipate that doing these things will bring money into the country and help with the stabilisation of the economy.

Now a process of stabilisation in any inflationary situation is a difficult one. It is not as easy as the people who get up and talk and write articles would have you believe. Whenever a period of stabilisation comes about in any economy that has been inflationary for a period,

there must be a lag period. There must be a period in which it is going to appear that nothing is happening; and in that lag period when it appears that nothing is happening there is also the possibility that things may actually get worse. 4. 15 p. m.

There must be some time - maybe as much as a year or more - before the measures which have been introduced can take their full effect upon the economy to produce the results which one anticipates that they will take. It is very easy to get in here and say that the measures advocated in the recent budget are not going to produce anything. That is a matter of opinion. The proof will come as we watch the time go

by and see the economy re-adjusting to the new budgetary proposals.

When one looks at the question of the actual proposals which have been put forward, a lot has been said, but you can expect this in any situation where, as I have already stated, there is a lack of political concensus on the measures which have to be taken to stabilize the economy which has been running inflationary for a very long time.

Now when one looks at the question of the sales tax, a lot has been said. There are some countries that have it, there are other countries that do not have it; but one of the purposes of a sales tax can be to reduce, or to encourage people to reduce their consumption. Whether this is going to succeed in encouraging people to reduce their consumption is some thing that one has to watch or wait and see. One cannot get up and say definitely that it is not going to work, neither can one on the other hand say that it is going to work. On the other hand, what one has to look at very carefully within the Barbadian situation is that new measures in Barbados or new changes in Barbados tend to produce a certain degree of dislocation; and it is quite likely that the introduction of a sales tax into the economy of this country can produce temporarily a certain amount of dislocation because people are not accustomed to it and being not accustomed to it they do not know the methodology of implementations of such a sales tax.

Now these are criticisms which one can take but at the same time one has to bear in mind that it becomes the responsibility of a Government to monitor the situation and to make the necessary readjustments to ensure that there is a smooth operation of the sales tax measure, or, to go a step further. If indications prove in the future that the operation of a sales tax is provoking more problems than solving, then it is a responsibility of the Government to look very closely at introducing alternative methods to raise the same amount of money. And there are alternative methods. I would like hon. members on the other side to be aware of the fact that the Government is aware that there are alternative methods. But in weighing the situation one has to look at what you are going to introduce or the impact of the measures which you are going to introduce, because some of the alternative methods which can be introduced to raise the same amount of money are likely to be more unpopular and produce more dissatisfaction than the introduction of a sales tax.

I would like to stress again that whether or not the sales tax is going to reduce the tendency of people to consume more and more, one has to wait and see. If one is going to get up and just look at the question of a sales tax and say it is going to raise the cost of living, - which we will have to agree that it is going to do that, because that is not the intention, to raise the cost of living in the country; the intention of the sales tax is to reduce people's consumption; and one has to wait - given a certain period as I have pointed out, in any attempt at stabilization there is going to be a lag period in which nothing is going to appear to be happening - one has to wait and see if this is going to happen. If after the lag period has passed and one does not get the necessary results which one had anticipated would come out

of these budgetary proposals, it is reasonable to expect that the Government again has to make another effort and another effort is not far away because in 1975 there must be another set of budgetary proposals.

One cannot run away with the opinion that the present budgetary proposals under discussion are a replacement for the budgetary proposals that will come in 1975, and if there is anyone who assumes that, I would like to point out to them the fact that this is not the case; therefore one has to be looking at the performance of the economy between now and the next time the new budgetary proposals come around, to see if the measures which have been implemented now are producing the effect which had been intended, or new measures will have to be introduced.

When one comes to the question of old age pensioners, it is a very difficult problem. I share the views of the hon. member for St. James that I personally, - and I would say also for my colleagues on this side - that the question of more money for the old age pensioners must come; and I would like to draw attention to the fact that the increase in the old age pensions by $2 is not the end of it. I would like to stress that very strongly. That is not the end of it.

Do not think that I, for one am going to sit by and say that $2 is enough so leave it at that; but at the same time when one thinks in terms of increasing old age pensions for the people of the country who need it, one has to look at the question of 'where is this money going to come from, 'and until one finds an adequate answer to this question of where the money is going to come from one cannot rush in and undertake the type of measures which are being advocated by the other side, don't care how well meaning they may be.

The question of money is foremost in the thoughts of the Government and as much as can be said about the need to give the pensioners, may be even more than $15 a week, whenever you are done the question has to be 'where is this money going to come from, ' and this money is going to come from obviously one of three sources: taxation, grants or loans, and most of the money the Government gets comes by way of taxation.

So while it may be a laudable thing to get up and advocate that the money is not enough and that they need to be given more money, we also have to look at the question of getting the money seriously and whether or not one is going to resort to increased taxation against which the general public at large are revolting to bring the money to give to the old age pensioners.

When one looks at the question of drugs for old age pensioners, I would like to point out quite clearly to the hon. member if he is not aware, that as it stands now any old age pensioner in any part of Barbados can get his drugs free if he goes to any one of the Government dispensaries, and this has been so for a very long time. It is true that some of them do not go. I am well aware of that; that some of them do not go. Some of them go elsewhere and get their drugs, maybe because they prefer to pay for them or maybe because of some of the problems involved in the long wait, or some of the irritations which they may encounter at the Government dispensaries; but that does not deny the fact that as it stands right now any old age pensioner in any part of Barbados can go at any one of the Government dispensaries and get his drugs free.

So the question of having to pay a five percent sales tax on drugs is absolutely not true. They can get their drugs free, and when they get their drugs free they can - (ASIDE) I agree with the hon. member, 'at any drug store, ' - but one has to wake up to the fact that in Barbados a lot of measures that are being advocated do not depend on the Ministers only but depend on the people at large in the society.

I would like just by chance to tell the hon. member that already the Ministry of Health has been investigating the question of getting all the drug stores in this country to supply drugs, not only to old age pensioners, but to supply drugs to people who go to the hospital and have to wait a long time, but the type of reaction which one has been getting from those sources is not encouraging at all. So do not let us get this idea that the Government is opposed and therefore all the ideas are on the Opposition's side; and I do not think the Opposition should also fall into the mistake of feeling that everything that the Government does is wrong and therefore everything the Government does they have to get up and oppose and criticise, because the people in Barbados are not that foolish to assume that every act committed by Government is a wrong act. So if that is their contention, that everything d0ne by the Government is wrong and needs to be criticised, they also have to be aware of the fact that the people in Barbados are not that foolish to be swallowing that type of thing, and they may be doing their cause more harm than good by advocating such a stand. 4. 25 p. m.

If it is their contention that everything being done by the Government is wrong and needs to be criticised, they have to be aware of the fact that the people of Barbados are not so foolish to be swallowing that type of thing and they may be doing their cause more harm than good by advocating such a stand. When one looks at Barbados as it stands and talks in terms of growing more food, a lot of measures could be put forward to advocate why more food should be grown. There are simple arguments that can be put forward, agricultural arguments or economic arguments, but one has to bear in mind that in a society such as Barbados which has its history as y0u know going back to slavery and if one is aware of the problems of a plantation system and all its iniquities, you will find that in any country which has had this type of plantation system or latifundium type of system of land tenure, people look for any opportunity whenever it presents itself to fun away from agriculture^ because primarily in these circumstances the people who work on the agricultural land have been underpaid

deliberately by the people who own the land, and when you look seriously at the situation in Barbados, we do, not have any peasantry or any farmers in the true sense of the word; we have a bundle of land owners who employ labour to work their land and maybe rent some of the land or allow the labourers to live on the land. But the workers who work the land do not own the land and the type of iniquities which have been perpetrated in the plantation system in Barbados have not been encouraging.

Again when one looks at the development of any country, you find that the tendency is that when you develop people tend to move out of agriculture into other industrial sectors of the economy because they give more money, they get better working conditions and a host of other factors which are far more available to the worker than he gets in the agricultural situation. One can look seriously at the question of land redistribution in this country as has been looked at in many other countries, but certainly in Barbados the land redistribution system has not been as effective for a lot of reasons as it should be, with the result that we are left with a situation where the people who should be given the land to cultivate and make a living out of it cannot afford to buy it. This is the situation which exists in Barbados.

Now when one gets up and advocates strongly about agriculture policy in Barbados and growing more food and getting more people into agriculture, it is obvious to me that it is left to people like myself and some of the people looking like myself to go and get involved in agriculture to point the way. But then the man at the bottom can very well argue that you can afford to go into agriculture because you do not have to, you have an alternative means of livelihood, so you do not have to. The important thing that is facing agricultural development in this country is availability of labour for the agricultural sector of the economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to look seriously at answering this question. It may lie very well in the recruitment of people from the neighbouring Islands into the agricultural sector as we are now doing in getting people to come into the country to cut canes; but at the same time one has to question the righteousness of such an act when there are a large number of people in this country not working, under-employed and who could very often be doing some of the work which now needs to be done. So while it is nice to get up and repeat all the wonderful arguments which have been said over and over again about the need to develop agriculture, a very important factor which is being overlooked in the development of agriculture in Barbados is the unavailability of adequate labour for the agricultural sector of the community.

Mr, DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. member has three minutes to complete his address.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

When one looks at this seriously, one has to look at the whole mechanics of the operation of agriculture, not as at present, but in its past history to get a proper solution to this problem. The solution to the problem of agricultural development in the country is not one that can be obtained overnight. You have to get people back in agriculture, and it is not an easy task. It is very easy to get up and preach and advocate that people should grow more food, but very often some of the people who are shouting most about growing more food or eating more local food, when you observe, are importing their food from North America, and this is what the ordinary man outside knows and this could be no encouragement whatsoever to a man outside to grow more food when he knows that the people who are shouting so loudly and forcibly are importing their food from North America. This can be a strong deterrent. You therefore find that the problem of agriculture is not as simple as we hear from the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Sir, I would like to submit as I did in my opening remarks that the problem of inflation is one of the most difficult and unpallatable tasks that face any responsible Government and the problem of inflation is nothing peculiar to Barbados. It is a problem which is affecting every country in the world, and we have right next door to us the great United States of America and they have been seeking a solution to their problems without much success. Our problem in Barbados is not necessarily a lack of what to do; but our problem lies more often in the fact that there is a complete lack of political concensus to support the measures which need to be implemented to introduce a period of stabilisation in this inflationary economy, and as long as this lack of political concensus continues, we are going to find that people are not going to be impressed by the need to do certain things in this country to offset the inflationary trends, because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, every time the Government gets up and says something, we are going to find a lot of other political people, economists and others getting up and disagreeing. This again is reasonable because as I stated, as many as there are economists, there are solutions to the inflationary problem with the result that there is no concensus on what should be done to combat any inflationary situation. There is no set of principles, there is no set of solutions which can be applied to any inflationary situation. I have had the opportunity of listening to a discussion on inflation in die United States and one of the things that struck me was that all the outstanding economists in the United States on the panel disagreed about the measures to be adopted. If that can happen in a country where the development of human resources is at a far higher level than in Barbados, what can you expect is going to happen in Barbados where people often evaluate what they hear or what they read in. terms of the people that say or write it and not in terms of the actual substance in the spoken or written word. They are impressed more often by what certain people say than by actually what they are saying, and in this present situation the Government finds itself bluntly being harangued left, right and centre by a bunch of people who if they had the opportunity of replacing the Government are likely to do worse in producing a solution to the problem that now faces us than producing better results as they would like us to do.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not intend to speak here, but having heard the hon. member for St. James, I am going to read a speech he made in this Honourable House when we dealt with the revision of salaries.

Mr. ADAMS:
It is out of order to read from the official record of any debate that took place in the same Session.

Mr. WEEKES:
It is not this session.

Mr. ADAMS:
Ask him when it is5 Mr. Deputy Speaker. There has only been one session 1971-76.

Mr, CRAIG:
Let him read it. And read the one in 1966.

Mr. WEEKES:
This is a speech the hon, member for St. James made-

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, the hon. member cannot get up and say this is a speech. He must give the date when the speech was made in order for the House to know whether or not it took place in this session or the previous session.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
I am yet to hear the hon. member start the reading. We cannot decide what session it took place in because the hon. member has not indicated.

Mr. WEEKES:
The speech reads thus .....

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, the records must show where he is reading from. He cannot just get up and say he

is going to read a speech. He must refer to where he is taking it from.

Mr. CRAIG:
I am inviting the hon. member to read it. I never carried away the Chiming Bells money! 4. 35 p. m.

Mr. WEEKES:
House of Assembly Debates, Official Report of the session 1971-76. (Asides You cannot read it now.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Order please. The hon. member will not be allowed to read it. (Aside A big old man like you?) Since you have just made it quite clear, you are not in order to read it.

Mr. WEEKES:
I will not read it. Am I allowed to take extracts from it?

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order. He is not allowed to do that.

Mir. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Order. Will you please take your seat? You cannot refer to that. If you feel that you can paraphrase what anyone said, it is all right, but you cannot read it verbatim. Order please.

Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometime ago the hon. member for St. James tried to make out a case proving that the amount which we were voting for backbenchers was inadequate. He also claimed.. .....

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of order. May I draw Your Honour's attention to Order 28(11) which says "no member may allude to any debate of the same session upon a Question or Bill not being then under discussion except by indulgence of the House for personal explanation. " The hon. member can explain his own speech, but not anybody else's.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I am very grateful to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition because I have that very Standing Order here and it was just brought to my attention. As stated here, "no member may allude to any debate of the same session upon a Question or Bill not being then under discussion except by indulgence of the House for personal explanation. "

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in speaking on this debate here today I would like to say that it was pathetic to hear certain members make certain speeches. On numerous occasions those very members have spoken in favour of themselves.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Sir. Mr. WEEKES I have called no names.

Mr. BOLDEN:

But he is speaking of members of the Hon. Chamber. He cannot now try to escape by saying that he has called no names. Only two members have spoken today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. But that is in the plural.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Only two members have spoken on this debate, the hon. member for St. Michael North Central who is Minister of Health and the hon. member for St. James. If we are following the Standing Orders he cannot now refer to anything that these members have said between 1971 to date. He can refer to Gemswick and the road he had done in St. Philip up to his house.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

He can use that as a personal explanation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
That is not a point of order. The hon. member for St. Joseph has missed the point. The Hon. Acting Minister said "members". He does not have to be specific. Please continue.

Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, in contributing to this debate I would say that the Opposition, and especially the Leader of the Opposition, has been telling the public, and not only the public but the world, that the Treasury was empty. (Aside It is still empty)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Order!

Mr. WEEKES:
Now, they tried to destroy in my opinion, the economy of this island. (Mr. HINDS We do not manage it.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
The hon. member for St. Peter is not addressing the Chair. Let us have some order please

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, is it in order for the member to say that the Opposition is trying to destroy the economy of this island? We are listening to him because you go to a circus and listen to the clown; but is it in order for the hon. member to say that the Opposition is trying to destroy the economy of the country? It is the Prime Minister himself who came in and said that the Government needed $57 million. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. WEEKES:
By trying to prevent investors from coming to this country to employ people in industries so as to alleviate some of the unemployment we have in this country. When people from overseas read the speech of the Opposition it would do this country harm. They have been telling the world that we have no money. Yet, all Government employees were paid. All legislators were paid and they are still being paid up to today.

If the Treasury has no money as they have stated, and the Minister of Finance finds it possible or was obliged to return to this House with a Supplementary Budget to keep the affairs of this country running, what is wrong about that? With inflation throughout the world those of us who read the newspapers daily will find out that even the very rich countries cannot find a solution to this knotty problem. 4145 p.

m.

In the United States of America which some people consider a model there is no solution to it. In the United Kingdom where - we in this Government although we are independent the method and policy of this House is run on similar lines - and they cannot find a solution to the problem. They are a rich country, they are a developed country. Barbados is a very poor country and a developing one and therefore when we have to depend on big countries for 95% or more of our commodities, I defy any man to tell me that we do not import inflation, and therefore Barbados is no exception when it comes to big problems at this particular time in the world.

Throughout big countries we are reading . about redundancy. Thousands of people are being laid off daily and they are having all kinds of problems to balance their budget. Now for anyone to criticise the Barbados Government for the running of the affairs of this country at this particular;. time, that person could only be, in my opinion, nothing but a nit-wit. It is nonsense for anyone at this particular time with inflation throughout the world and no solution to the problem, for any person to criticise us coming in here with a supplementary budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us look at the facts. The cost of everything has gone up. The cost of running all the Ministries in this country; from toilet paper back up, you have to pay increased prices for those things, and when one considers that we only depend on sugar and tourism and when one takes into consideration the fact that for the past six or seven years we have not been getting the average rainfall, one must come to the conclusion that we have been doing remarkably well and that we are in a better position than many of the other countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one reads newspapers and find out the millions of people who are dying daily or yearly from starvation, I would say that we are fortunate. When one looks back from the inception when the Democratic Labour Party took over power, and see the improvement that has been made for the thirteen years, only pur detractors would try to mislead the community that we have not made progress in this Island at this crucial moment in the history of the world.

I am aware that we are having our problems but I still repeat, for those who have criticised the increase of $2 for old age pensioners, that we are paying the highest amount in the CARICOM area. We have no oil, we have no bauxite, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the tax is 5%. How many old age pensioners you know - and some of them depend on the $10 to assist them - how rnany old age pensioners you know would have to spend $100 so as to have to pay this $5 extra? Where would they get the money from? Food is not taxed and it takes an old age pensioner approximately five to six months, speaking for those

in the rural areas, to spend $100 so that they would lose this $5.

So to say in here today that we have given them with one hand and are taking it back with the other, is misleading, ...

Mr. ADAMS:
On a point of explanation, Sir, because I just understood that he has misunderstood something I said in my speech,....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Will the hon. member take his seat... .....

Mr. ADAMS:
All right. I would not worry to expose him. What he called us? Nit-wits? He is an authority on nit-wits.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
The hon. member for St. Philip may proceed.

Hon. R. St. C. WEEKES:
I must admit, Sir, that I am one who has always taken special interest in any Resolution which comes here before this House and which deals with old age pensioners. I for one moment am not saying that I would riot like them to get, perhaps, $20 per week, but I am saying that at the present time I am sure that the $2 per week will assist them in balancing their small budget. 4. 55 p. m.

The time has come with inflation throughout the world for all of us to be responsible legislators and not use this particular moment to flatter people to prove that members of the Opposition are geniuses, to prove that they can move Heaven and earth, to prove that they can create miracles. If the big countries cannot solve the various problems, what can we in Barbados do about it? This is the time for. us to cooperate, for us to concentrate on the land, and to do all that we possibly can to help ourselves, but to use this moment as a psychological one for political aggrandisement is making a mockery of democracy. (Asides) Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not interrupt the Leader of the Opposition when he was speaking,

and I am hearing asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
You are not to pay attention to asides; I will take care of them.

Mr. ADAMS:
I would like to apologise to the hon. member. My asides are well made in his interest because what I said is that within his limits he is very good, but he is far outside his limits now and he should sit down.

, Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I repeat, let us cooperate. Let us forget party politics; let us unite at this particular moment in the history of the world when problems cannot be solved; let us try to get our house in order by concentrating on things which will benefit the masses. The time has come for us to put our house in order and not to capitalise at this moment in the history of the country.

Now concerning the books which the children will receive, as a parent I am saying that parents will appreciate it that annually you have to pay more and more for these books, and I must say, not as a legislator, but as a parent that I appreciate what has been done to assist the parents. To those who from $700 back to the bottom of the scale will receive their half month an4 two weeks salaries and wages, I am saying it is. 'Still a consolation for them. It works out at approximately 42% to 5% and I am sure that they will appreciate this kind gesture of the Government. If you need money to run the affairs of the country, how can you pay out all the revenue which you receive. You have to keep mon^y in the Treasury to run the affairs of the country, and therefore I am sure that the Minister of Finance has done all that lies in his power so as to keep this country going, and instead of some of us criticising his supplementary Budget Speech, we should commend him for having the foresight to introduce such a budget at this particular time so that the economy of this Island will go forward. I do hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that those who find it possible to criticise the Government will see the necessity for all that has been done at this particular moment when not only in Barbados but throughout the world there is inflation and there is no solution to the problem at this time.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a debate that I will enter with a certain amount of lack of enthusiasm because a budget is a necessary concomitant in running a country. That is nothing new. I was away from this country and I heard we were going to have an emergency Budget, I do not have any knowledge of what the Cabinet does nor do I ask, but I realise there was only one thing in Barbados that would require an emergency Budget. It was not a question of international inflation because I do not like to be mixed

up with rhetoric and international slogans; it was a question of energy. I said many months ago that from the time the Arab countries decided that we were not going to get oil at the price we used to get it any more that we would have to pay more for oil. Unfortunately the developed countries did not believe that the Arabs had the strategy to carry it out; they believed they would have weakened and that by now oil would have been back to where they believe it should have been, and therefore the developed countries never produced any strategy to meet the Arabs.

As a person from a developing country, we cannot pretend that if we in Barbados produced oil that we would have been fighting against an increase in Barbados. The developed countries, the oil companies and the multi-nationals were getting oil cheaply from the Arab countries. These people have now grown some sense and want a new price; so there can be no quarrel about that; but the developed countries were not geared for it. As a result we are faced with paying more for a product that is very essential to our conventional way of life and this applies to everybody in Barbados now.

I must say that I do not subscribe to all that I have heard even from my colleagues about inflation and especially the last hon. member who says that there is no solution. If there is no solution, the whole exercise is pointless. If there is a problem we must have our own solution to deal with it. What I would say is that I do not think that Barbados can solve its inflation problem on an international standard basis. Barbados cannot solve its international standard based on what the United States or Britain does or what West Germany is doing, Barbados would have to deal with it in its own setting because it has its own circumstances to deal with. 5. 05 p. m.

I have read the Prime Minister's speech. He is not here. There are some things in the Prime Minister's speech that I would deal with if he was here. Professionally I do not agree with an incomes policy. I will give my reasons, not as they relate to Government's expenditure because Government expenditure is not only related to incomes policy.

But, Sir, to deal with what an incomes policy would mean to Barbados I would give one example to show that it cannot work in the same way as it would work in the Government. You have to draw a distinction between public finance and private finance. The Government, in financing the work in the public sector is financing the public sector from the profit motive private sector.

For example, a policeman who works for the Government is not in the productivity sector, and we cannot carry out a productivity exercise on a policeman on the basis on what a policeman is producing in order to justify an increase in salary; because he does not have to produce more prisoners or more convictions in order to say that his productivity has gone up. This is a service that he is rendering, and he

may be more efficient by having less convictions because he is doing better in a way because he is making sure that crime is decreased and he is therefore more vigilant.

You cannot measure productivity in services where it is not measureable. Even with the Ministers, you cannot measure the productivity of a Minister by how many letters he writes and how may decisions he makes because if he is a decision maker, it is a question of how important are the decisions and what those decisions would mean to the nation.

I will read what the Prime Minister said. He gave a breakdown of the three year agreement between the union and the Government and he proceeded to say against this background: "I cannot call upon the rest of the taxpayers to pander to the demands of an organisation which represents on third only of public sector employees. Self discipline, like charity, begins at home. There is going to be a policy on prices and incomes and wages, and we are launching this policy with the public service. "

Now this is a public statement. This is a Cabinet decision, a public decision. It is nothing to do with me as a person or even as party member. The Prime Minister went on to say: "The Government's position has been outlined to the representatives of the the National Union of Public Workers and Whitley Council and they have been advised that the Government cannot meet the Union's request at this stage. "

Now, so far as Government's position in the specific area of Government employees and the specific area of The National Union of Public Workers is concerned, I am not dealing with that because my union was not a pary to those negotiations, so I cannot enter into it. I am dealing with a wider sphere.

If there is going to be a policy on prices and incomes and wages - and I heard the Minister of Health speak about a solution - What do you mean by a solution? Barbados is a consumption oriented society because it is an importing society. If you do not consume you will collapse. It is a consuming society because it is not a manufacturing society. It is a society whose main industries, sugar and tourism represent the majority of the gross domestic product.

Let me give an example to show. In 1973 in the Prime Minister's speech he stated what happened to sugar. He stated that in Barbados they were lucky through his intervention in the selling of sugar on the World Market. The price of sugar on the World Market went up, and Barbados' sales gave an amount of approximately $58 million. This is what the Prime Minister said: "The criticism that the Government has done nothing to increase export prices is flatly contradicted by the receipt of $58 million for sugar sales as a direct result of my intervention in export sales strategy. "

Let me give you some figures now to show if you carry out an incomes policy in the sugar industry

and say that you will freeze wages what will happen. In 1973, last year the revenue was $37, 000, 783. The income has gone up this year from $37 million to $58 million which is $21 million more.

When we negotiated with the sugar producers we negotiated on the hypothesis that' they would get $40 million based on the then known price for sugar, because at the beginning the price was something like £61 and it went to £83 so that we negotiated on the basis of a price jumping from £61 to £83, and as a result it was estimated that we would get $40 million.

We have got now $58 million, $18 million more than what the negotiated figures for the distribution and the income in Barbados would have been. Now, the total wage Bill in Barbados is about $16% million, so you will have an instance in sugar alone where the labour cost is $16% million and you have a surplus over and above what you estimated. After paying off $16 million or making provision for $16 million you will have an amount of $18 million more.

Can anyone suggest to me in the circumstances now where you have a rising cost of living for these same workers who are not at the high level of the economy, they are not at any commanding heights, they are people working for an average of less then $60 a week. 5. 15p. m.

As it now stands the people would be able to distribute the $18 million among themselves.

Now in those circumstances how would you be able to ask any worker to live under an income policy that would prevent him from sharing in the fruits of this bounty; therefore instead of having a redistribution of the economy you will have stagnation because the worker will be asked to remain where he is and the residue would be utilised, not by him. That is why we say in these circumstances that our economy is too fragile for us to embark on the experiments that failed in the developed countries. Income policy failed in England and failed in the United States. They had to drop it in the United States and they had to drop it in England. You cannot come in a community where men are working for $40 and $50 a week and have an income policy.

The hon. member for St. Michael North Central, the Hon. Minister of Health spoke about consumption. What does he mean by consumption? A man at $40 a week or $50 a week as a wage, what consumption are you talking about where he is concerned? Water? One pair of shoes? A pair of pumps? Living in a rent house and owing a lot of money and cannot meet his commitments? Are you telling me that this is a man whose consumption you say you want to stop? If you stop his consumption you are

going to stop the development of the very economy that you want to stimulate. He is a man who is keeping the economy going because he is the man who, he and his wife have to go to the market regularly every month. So you have to be very careful.

Now this is no criticism of the Government This is a matter that concerns all of us, and 1 want to make it clear that there is not a Minister the Prime Minister or anybody in Barbados who has any greater interest in this country than have. I was born here and this is my country; but this is a budget with which we are dealing - the running of the country - because you must have an interest in how the country is running. You cannot allow a country to go bankrupt. A country is not like a shop that if it goes bankrupt somebody will come and buy it out. If a country goes bankrupt you get anarchy; so therefore it is everybody's business, if you have an interest in the community, to see that anarchy does not come about.

Now this is no Hallelujah Chorus. This is serious business, and I am very concerned, and my colleagues are also very concerned and we have to be interested in the distribution of the economy of the country, and you cannot redistribute the economy of the country when the man and the woman at the bottom are going to be restricted - if you are going to have a policy by which you say these people are not to move. The reason why the economy is as it is is because these people do not have any money. If you keep money away from them you will find things getting worse. So you have to find ways and means - you have to get money from other sectors of the economy.

Now a budget is not in itself a party matter. It is a national matter. I agree that you have to look, again, at the departure tax in Barbados. We have to see if there is room for tax in that respect because within the cost of an airline ticket the departure tax is fractional. It does not make any difference. The departure tax is less than the airport tax. I paid $16 U. S. to go from John Kennedy Airport to my hotel a couple of Sunday nights ago, and that is more than any airport tax. They pay airport tax in Belgium^ they pay airport tax in Switzerland and some of these other countries. Therefore there may be room for an increase in airport tax. This is only an example, but, I am sure that the planners will have to sit down and consider this.

Now there can be no denying the fact that consumption and a sales tax are going to effect the rank and file person who has to purchase, but at the same time - our airport tax represents a higher rate than our income tax so therefore, I am of the view, and this might be the view of the others, that taxation is never a popular element. Nobody rushes to pay taxes, but it must be remembered that just as the services have been going up in Barbados, so will the taxes be going up in Barbados. After all, we are not an income tax community.

I am of the view, Mr. Speaker, that there should be a brutal appraisal of the requirements in the public service, because I am satisfied that we have moved, from a colonial system in the civil service to an independent system but we have carried all of the old-fashioned trappings. 5. 25 p. m.

I am of the view that a brutal appraisal of the service as a service is necessary, not as a means of unemployment but as a means of efficiency, because there is a difference between unemployment and efficiency. It is a matter of spreading people into different areas. Sometimes you put too many people in one small office to work and therefore, although you have these people there they are not efficient because there is not enough room to work. So when you talk about productivity they cannot produce; but in services where you are dependent on the decisions of people, you have to give them good facilities. I am of the opinion that the Government can examine these things.

Now my main concern, Mr. Speaker, is the question of a redistribution of the economy. I have stated and I will repeat that the Government must come down and let us know what are the investments in Barbados and who are the owners of the investments, because if you have an incomes policy you have to deal not with wages and salaries, you have to deal with rents, dividends and with all of the other sources where you get income from profits. In a totalitarian state, Mr. Brezhnev can come down easily tomorrow with an economic policy and operate it because the total economy will be in the hands of the politburo; but in Barbados you have Shipping and Trading doing something and you have a multiplicity of small plantations. As I pointed out, the $18 million that the sugar industry received will be distributed to the plantations and controlled by a few people who will make the decisions. It is not like when you hear at election time that we have got 15, 000 peasants. The peasants are not going to control that; they have to line up and receive what the others have decided they will get.

The hon. member for St. James does not know me. I do not like to talk these things in this Chamber, but what I have forgotten he does not know yet. If he wants to cross swords with me to know if I have gotten too old, let him wait until any time I have to come and negotiate with him in his business and he will know how old or how young I am. That is the only way he will know. But I will say on the basis of the sugar, let there be no doubt that we have made our position clear to the sugar manufacturers, and we made our position clear on the last occasion to the Government when an increase was made what we expected the workers to receive, because you cannot come along in a sugar industry where you have ten sugar factories and decide you are not going to give them a proper reward and the people on the plantation an appropriate share of the accretions to the sugar industry. What would you do with the $18 million?

The Government at the beginning of the negotiations in 1974 decided that there was an increase and the Government took out $40 a ton; so they received a higher share than they had before as a portion for other purposes in that they could say that this would go towards some of the floating over the economy. That is why I said that houses for sugar workers should be a priority so that we can put people's hands to work. I know they had expenses, and I know that some of them may say that they lost money, but let us

be quite frank; you cannot come along in one year and expect to redeem all your loses from two or three years and then say to the workers that you cannot give them anything out of the 1974 takings. I will say to the hon. member for St. James that we have some idea of what the price for sugar will be in 1975. The price has dropped a little, but we expect we will get a higher price then £87 per ton. Now if you are going to get $90 million instead of $40 million, can anybody reasonably expect a sugar worker not to share directly in wages from that? Could anybody reasonably say that he will have an incomes policy that would debar that? That would be courting more than trouble.

I do not like to repeat the obvious, but what I am concerned about, Mr. Speaker, is that inflation in itself reduces the standard of living for the workers, and if you admit that inflation reduces the standard of living in itself, then you cannot by any other method multiply that reduction by anything that would hit them harder. You have to evolve a strategy within your own economy that would lessen that. So your whole fiscal policy must be based on areas and in areas that would not press too much on them. I do not like these vague general statements about matters. I like to be specific and I feel a specific matter we have in Barbados is that a budget becomes necessary when you are in a situation like this. A fiscal policy is for the person who is performing it, that is the Prime Minister, but it becomes public property, it becomes a national matter and the business of all of us to see it and discuss it because it is at this point that we have to pay for what it implies. The point that was made today and I hope it will be conveyed to the Prime Minister is that his statement on an incomes policy has not been spelled out, but I only drew a reference in sugar to show that if you carry out that policy in sugar it would mean that we would have to form fours and stand at ease and wait. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we could not promise anybody to wait for them to tell us how much more out of the $18 million or $20 million they were going to give us; we would be demanding some because we feel we have a right to get some of it.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, although there are what we could call some external factors such as the fuel crisis that have weighed heavily on our economic situation, I believe that the crisis has brought upon Barbados simply more inflation and by so doing it has increased our unemployment situation. 5. 35 p. m.

But in the whole, Mr. Speaker, there will be no doubt that as we go along and from what we have heard even from the Government benches we can satisfy ourselves in some fair measure that this is bad economic planning that has placed us in our present plight. We have had, Mr. Speaker, from the Prime Minister's own words on Page 8 where he speaks of sectoral performance.

He said: "There are no sectoral estimates of gross domestic product available for 1974 so far. Analysis of the latest foreign trading data and of commercial bank lending indications indicates that while the level of output in the manufacturing sector has probably increased, there has been no real growth in distribution or construction and investment has declined. "

Now against this background of what the Prime Minister has given us to understand, any planning that has been held up to us as having been attempted can only be regarded as a result of mere guess work, because it is based, as he has said, on nothingness. It would seem therefore that planning so far has been inappropriate and while he has also prided himself as a philosopher, we are satisfied beyond a shadow of a doubt that his actions, his attempts at planning are bad economic policy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that any attempt in budgeting as the Prime Minister has attempted from time to time at deficit spending, can bring, as we have seen over the period, nothing but untold harm to an economy such as ours. After all, the developing countries have proved this for themselves, and if they have made valiant attempts here and there, it has been proven to be bankrupt to their efforts; and we are saying that in an under developed country or a developing country such as ours, attempting to embark upon deficit spending to the extent that we have been embarking on it in recent years is just a false policy.

That is so because Government expenditure should lead to the increase of employment. When you increase employment you should provide employment for your skilled workers and to a larger extent for the unskilled workers in the community, because as we know, we have a vast majority of unskilled workers as compared with the few skilled that we have; and any Government spending should generate employment for the skilled in the first place and for the unskilled to some considerable degree.

But what has harmed us for a considerable time has been indiscriminate Government spending. That has worried us more than anything else Nobody doubt this or attempt to rebut this. I have seen that Government has fallen sadly and badly in setting its priorities right. That in itself is responsible in large measure for the chaotic situation in which we find ourselves at the present moment.

There is the question of the earning capacity of the unemployed, and what effects this must have on a situation such as now confronts us. We have to try to relate the effects of the employed upon the present situation and we have to come up at a later stage with the effects of the unemployed.

We have to consider what effects unemployment will have on a community such as ours. You and I know, Mr. Speaker, that it leads to an incidence where statistics will prove to us exactly whether we are receding or really advancing, and what are our prospects for advance in any particular field; and you will agree that wherever there is unemployment to any large extent, and particularly amongst young people, there can be no peace, no rest, no hope of peace or rest for the decent or hard working citizens in our community.

These are things that the Government must adjust its mind to. These are things that the Government cannot any longer dismiss or pass behind its back, because we have got to tell ourselves that the ills of this country are not minor ills at all; and if the fuel problem could even be solved, our ills would not pass away. The type of ills that we have require drastic remedies to cure them.

I have heard the Minister of Health state this in like terms although he was on entirely different premises from those on which I now stand. But, Mr, Speaker, I believe that the Government must set about to develop its agriculture. There is no gainsaying this fact. We have fallen down in so many areas. We have bent over backwards to accommodate the toursit industry. We have established a hotel school, but what do we produce there?

We cater to the industrial sector. We have set up schools at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic where we train young women to go into the industrial estates. We have set up the Barbados Community College; but Mr. Speaker, all of this shows the extent to which we have neglected agriculture.

I say that because up to the present the Government has not come down to us in any hope of establishing a school for agriculture to teach people agriculture in their own setting so that they can go into whatever avenue it might be so as to be in the position to demand something in return for their own imput. And up to this present moment the Government has failed in this particular respect. How soon are we going to see the Government establish a school for agriculture? 5. 45 p. m.

We cannot go on, Mr. Speaker, telling ourselves that agriculture is this and it is that, and, we have heard the Minister of Health telling us about our ancestors' days of slavery and how everybody now is running away from agriculture, but that is not true. We have people who would go into agriculture tomorrow if the approach to these people is the right one. If the approach to the problem is the right one we would get people to go into agriculture tomorrow but we are not going to get people to go into agriculture, as the hon. member for St. James has said, to be putting a dung basket on their heads or to be having a hoe and fork cutting and turning out manure and whatnot as in years passed.

We have got to provide entirely different methods for treating these ills in our community and in our agriculture sector as a whole.

There is the question, Mr. Speaker, of producing more food crops. Yes; this must be done at all cost,

we agree; but remember, there must be a very marked percentage of marketing expertise that would go hand in hand with our production to ensure that our farmers are not going to produce, and finding every farmer producing cabbages at one particular time, that there is going to be glut, and that he can get nothing for his produce at the particular time; that we have our farmers all producing tomatoes all at the same time, reaping all the same Thursday or the same Friday in the same week and there is no adequate return for the labour that he has had to put in,

We need marketing advice and we feel that no greater nucleus could be provided than through the BMC where there should be making available to all the farmers who are to grow these commodities that expertise to ensure that the farmer when he states what price he expects to get for his commodity, he can get paid, not at the price that he is demanding but at a price that is reasonable and that the produce can reach the consumer, with every person, including the middle man who would have to handle it before it reaches the actual consumer - getting some reasonable return for what they have got to put into the whole measure to meet the demands of this country.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot go on as we have gone on with this incessant borrowing on this kind of borrowing spree. Borrowing is one way of getting ourselves out of debt at a particular time, but having to borrow money to pay off old debts and to pay off interest on debts and all that kind of. thing is not really managing the economy of the country. I have heard a plea come out, Sir, from the hon. member for St. Philip South. His plea has been something like this: "We must all come together, we must realize that this is our country; let us be cooperative, let us unite at this particular moment, let us forget party politics, let us put our house in order and do not let us capitalize on the present situation. " I am to wonder who is it that has been whispering in his ears, who has been trying to use him to send out a plea to us on this side. But, Mr. Speaker, we want the hon. member for St. Philip South to understand that we have always been willing to cooperate. The Government never wanted any advice from us. We do not want to give the Government any advice at this stage. We definitely do not want to give them any advice at this stage, and I want here and now to inject this people are saying that we are criticising but we are not offering any alternative suggestion to this and that.

Sir, we are not here to tell the present Government how to remain in office. We are here to criticise them to a point and leave them there. We are not to go on to tell them how to find the answers to the problems. If we did, they would remain in office all their lives. We are not here for that. It is for us to see their ills and point out their ills to them; point them out before the public. When the time comes we will show the public exactly how we intend to deal with the problems.

However, Sir, the point is this; I have heard the hon, member for St. Michael West. He has spelt out in no uncertain terms his views on the freezing of wages, as hinted in the budgetary proposals of the Prime Minister. We believe, Sir, that what was mentioned had a direct bearing on the revenue that is to be derived from the coming prices of sugar. If this is so, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared although we might be told quite early that no suggestions from us are welcomed or wanted, nevertheless we are prepared to

throw in our weight, when the time comes, in seeing to it that the workers get their due since it is the blood and the sweat of the workers that have produced all of this money that we are getting in the industry. All of this increased revenue that we are getting from cane we have got to accept it that it is the workers who have borne the grime, who have toiled in the sun and rain and who have lived under sub-human conditions in our midst in order to produce all of this wealth.

Mr. Speaker, already preparations are being made - we hear how some $94 million is being locked forward to in 1975, how it is going to be spent and what we are going to do with it, but no plan, Mr. Speaker, has been made to provide extra additional or better housing for the workers, or anything whatsoever. 5. 55 p. m.

No mention has been made of provision for workers or for workers' children or anything of the kind. The promise of a few textbooks and what not we welcome, but what we do not welcome is this 5 percent sales tax. You will find that when a child goes to buy an exercise book there is no sales tax, but if he goes to buy an eraser, there is a sales tax and this is true if he buys a bottle of ink. Does it make sense? You might as well tax him on the exercise book as well. We have got this thing thrust upon the people and I believe that the Civil Servants who are left to work out the administrative end of it have got to review the matter and refer it back to the Minister of Finance because I cannot for the life of me see how the Minister of Finance could tell us that stationery is free but the little lead pencil, the ink, the eraser and the pencil sharpener that the children must use with the same exercise books and copy books must carry a sales tax. There is need for some adjustment at that particular level.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have got to seek to develop what we could call a viable and vibrant agro-industry sector in our midst. Very little has been done as you know by way of research. Throughout all the years with our sugar industry it is surprising that we have come along with our sugar factories grinding sugar for maybe four months of the year, and for the other eight months they do cleaning and washing down of the equipment; but no thought has ever been given to whether additional gadgets could be added at a particular point on these mills so that they could turn to the grinding of corn or cassava without destroying any of the centrifugals or other machinery for the grinding of sugar. Nor have we embarked in recent years upon the growing of corn to a considerable extent so that up to today when we are trying to produce animal feed in large quantities to reduce our dependence more or less on our imports, we do not have any established factory here for the handling of corn to be ground in commercial quantities. We have to depend on a gentleman in Roebuck Street who has a small place, but there has not been to any considerable extent the grinding of corn or any of these commodities as inputs into our animal feeds so that it would help us as we go along in our manufacturing sector.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that at page 4 of the Prime Minister's Budget Speech we were told about the slippage of the economy, and that there has been a repetition of the slippage experienced in 1972. Now it

is for three or four or more years that we have had this pattern of behaviour in our economy, but regrettably enough it has not been brought forcibly enough to the nation. Attempts have been made to cover it up from time to time but it is at a moment such as this when we can throw more than half of our blame on the oil crisis that we are now hearing that our economy has been slipping. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that we have got to apply long term planning to some of our problems, and in some measures short term planning has got to be applied as well. I support the view of a national fuel commission being established. This has been the platform of the Barbados Labour Party for a very long time now, but here again when the Barbados Labour Party offers any advice it is not accepted. We feel that this commission should be established to exercise governmental control over petroleum products and gas, and it should have as it functions the control of importation and distribution of petroleum products including bottled gas, control of development and distribution of local oil and gas resources, and investigation and development of alternative sources of fuel.

This brings me to the point, Mr. Speaker, where some research had been carried out in solar energy at the Bellairs Research Institute over a number of years. I think there are some other Barbadians who are presently in the Island who spent some time in the United Kingdom engaging in this type of development, and we believe that if sufficient encouragement were given to this venture that we might in the long term stand to benefit from a fuller development of the process of solar energy supplying some of our needs, and this could be done with the collaboration of foreign Governments and institutions. This would assist us in conserving and economising on all the energy resources needed locally.

Now I believe that a comprehensive approach at modernising agriculture on a national scale should be embarked upon particularly for the export of sugar. We believe that this is urgent and the sooner the better. We have no grouse with the number of acres of plantation lands that should be planted in food crops, but we would urge upon the Government to bring their own lands into production so that we can get something from them. I believe that we should see an increased amount of research in matters relating to education and marketing facilities to assist in agriculture and things of that sort. 6. 05 p. m.

Our educational system should be so geared as to provide and produce candidates or workers for all sectors of the economy, and particularly for those avenues where we are now experiencing a shortage of skills. You will understand that continuing to produce workers who, when they have their certificates, can find no way to fit into the industrial stream or the academic stream in any one particular sector of the economy would in itself produce inflation.

When it comes to our tax system, Sir, we need complete overhaul of our tax system. We find that the Government's revenues have been sluggish as stated on Page 10, I think, of the Prime Minister's speech; and surely one will agree that at a time such as this our revenue should be equally as flexible in this

period of inflation to ensure that it keep pace with our expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that with those few words I have covered enough ground as time would permit me; but I believe that if the Government would adhere to the proposals that we make from time to time from this side the plea that has come from the hon. member for St. Philip South would not now be necessary, because we have been offering it, and it was for the Government to take it for what it was worth.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, there are three areas to which I would like to direct my attention, and they are areas to which I think hon. members who have preceded me have made mention of and spoken on, in some instances at length. Nevertheless, I would like to go over some of these areas because I consider that they are important in our particular situation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that anybody would delude themselves about the crisis which we have at this present time; but I do not consider that it is a matter to be ashamed of because a crisis situation exists in a number of other countries. How we match the crisis which the country at present faces will to a large extent depend on the kind of solutions, the kind of analysis that is given to the problems which confront this country.

The point I would like to make in the first place, Mr. Speaker, is in reference to the statement which was made by the Prime Minister in his Emergency Budget speech where he said that we would very shortly have a National Productivity Council.

Now I am sure that you are aware that a call has come from another quarter repeatedly for some time about the need for the country to get down on a national basis to examine the economic situation which is facing this country, and which has been foreseen for some time. I am convinced that if the advice had been taken at the time it was given we would probably have had some solutions to cushion some of the shock which is being experienced at this time.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the establishment of a National Productivity Council - one sometimes has to be a little careful with the words which are chosen by these organisations as to whether the organisation will really be effective or whether in truth and in fact they are designed to solve any particular problem or come up with any kind of solution.

As I see it, the situation is a crucial one, and therefore every effort should be made as soon as possible to develop and get together a national conference to examine the economic situation. Hopefully, all the expertise in all the areas concerned in the economy should be involved in a conference of this nature; because we have a situation in this country where the Government talks about planning the economy, but in truth and in fact what we get is the Government planning for the public sector. There is little or no knowledge or understanding of what is going on in the private sector; and the private sector is a very important sector in the economy; and it will be difficult, as I believe experience has shown, to really plan in any effective or efficient way for the public sector when the planners do not know what is going on in the private sector.

It is for this reason that every effort should be made to get this national conference going as quickly as possible. This is one of the ways in which we would be able to have at least a broad discussion and get ideas from sources other than those from which ideas are coming at present. I am sure that a number of interesting and workable suggestions would come up. I would hope that action would be taken on this as urgently and as quickly as possible.

The Prime Minister made reference to the fact - at least he stated quite emphatically - that the Government will be embarking on an incomes policy. I have had my say on this, but I believe that for the records of this Chamber I should reiterate what I had to say, because I think it is important. It is nonsense to talk about an incomes policy in our situation in Barbados.

You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that the majority of workers in this country now work for below $50 or so a week. Now, I do not have to spell out to you or any hon. member what this means in terms of present day prices. Therefore, to talk in terms of an incomes policy would be something unheard of.

Added to that, when one talks in terms of incomes, it seems as if there is the mistaken idea that incomes relate only to wages and salaries. One of the things which I would like to see in this country, Mr. Speaker, is a genuine effort to really catch those people who are involved in the high profit making business, who are involved in making excessive profits on deals, but who always seem to be escaping the net of the tax collector.

Something has to be done in this regard. I think that we have got to get more understanding on the level of profits which are made in this country, and some control will necessarily have to be imposed in

this area because if we are serious about our objectives, about ensuring the welfare of the majority of the people of this country, then we have got to adopt a serious policy about income redistribution. 6. 15 p. m.

I do not think that we have been consciously pursuing this. In the organization to which I belong we have been doing our efforts by collective bargaining but this is just one of the ways in which income can be redistributed, but on a national level we have got to look at the picture in a much broader light and to devise ways and means of ensuring that the profits which people make and the excessive income that people get, that these are brought into the tax net and that we are able to control this kind of development; and I think that this is going to be very important.

So that what I said is, that as far as an income policy in our particular situation is concerned, I cannot see it working and I am sure that those people Who have profounded this theory are also convinced that such a policy would not work.

The other point, Mr. Speaker, to which I would like to make reference is on the question of Housing. The Prime Minister stated on the question of mortgage financing, that there will be an additional $2. 4 million which has already been approved by the Caribbean Development Bank for financing the purchase of houses at Wildey and Eden Lodge. Now I have been a little concerned at the development in this country and at the lack of concern for the rural areas in Barbados; and when you look around we see everything under development. But it is not so in this case; take for example this present housing development, or, the money that has been borrowed from the Caribbean Development Bank. Where does the housing go? Into the urban or the sub-urban areas. It is my contention, Mr. Speaker, that a much more serious look must be had at rural development, and indeed, at the housing situation in the rural areas.

We have heard about the increased revenue which sugar is going to bring next year, and the increased revenue which sugar has brought to this country on this year's crop already, but you find that of this money, very little of it is being used for the improvement of, or, providing welfare benefits for sugar workers. These workers are aware - you, Sir, represent a rural constituency and I am sure you are aware of this - they make a very important contribution to this country, but then you find that the benefits which they get out of the industry do not match their contribution.

We are talking and hoping that sugar and agriculture will solve some of our economic problems but how are we going to do this when by implication, by action, we are putting people away from the rural areas? As you are aware if you set up housing and build houses in the areas which are not rural areas

quite naturally people will move from the rural areas and go into those houses and then this will create a further drain on agriculture and on the rural areas.

I feel that every effort should be made to have a balanced situation - to have a balanced growth in our entire community. Let us not neglect the rural areas but let us bring some balance to the situation and, if we are going to be serious about agriculture, let us ensure that the kind of welfare and housing benefits which will be meaningful to the workers who are involved in this area of activity, that something of this nature is created where they will live and in their communities to make them feel that the Government really cares and that the revenue which is being gained from sugar and from agriculture is not then used almost exclusively for the benefit of people in a very small isolated sector of the country.

I would have hoped, and I hope, that there would have been efforts to create more employment opportunities. Now I see housing and housing development as one of these areas. You are aware that construction tend to be a very important area in our economic life and I therefore feel that if more attention is paid to housing, if more money is invested in housing development, then this would be a stimulus to economic activity, it would be a stimulus to employment opportunities and would be one of the solutions to some of the problems which we face in this country.

Some reference was made to import restrictions. I think the Prime Minister said that he would have liked to impose some import restrictions but because of the Rome Communique of 1974, it was felt that this would trigger off a world wide round of embargoes which would lead inevitably to a recession in world trade.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I would like to say is that Barbados' share of total world trade is so small that if we were to adopt more import restrictions, or have a greater import restriction policy, this would be nothing in the whole scheme of things as far as world trade is concerned, and if we find that this is one of the areas where we could solve some of our economic problems, well then by all means let us go ahead and do it, because I do not consider that this is really going to make much of an impression on world trade. I do not even believe, Mr. Speaker, that it would be realized or recognized. So let us go ahead and do it. We cannot tie ourselves down to all of these international agreements and these international situations which in the final analysis are going to make it more difficult for our people.

Now there has often been a call - I think a call from both sides - for the need to grow more food as one of the solutions to their problems. Again, I do not think anybody would disagree with his particular point of view. However, I have said it before and I will repeat again, that it is going to be very important, if we are talking about growing more food, to think about the system which we are going to develop to handle

and to market, and indeed to store the food which we are going to have, because a situation is going to arise in this country, if indeed it has not arisen already, where there is going to be much more food than we can handle here, and I am not convinced that we have the facilities for handling this kind of situation, and when you get a problem like this where people are encouraged by everybody to grow more food and then when this is done and you do not have the facilities for handling the excesses which will develop, then, Mr. Speaker, you can very well imagine the frustrations and hard feelings which are going to develop; and indeed, it is going to be difficult after that to convince people who were involved and who answered a national call, to go back and to be bitten a second time by growing more food; and I would like to think that we are very careful in our planning and in our marketing in this particular area because we do not want a situation to develop where there is going to be a glut and people cannot get their vegetables and agricultural produce sold. 6. 25 p. m.

We would not want to have a situation develop where there is going to be a glut and people cannot get their vegetables or agricultural produce sold, because this may well cause frustration and will probably create more problems and bitterness than has ever existed in this community. I would therefore hope that we would take the situation seriously, have a serious look at the situation and really make a genuine attempt to solve some of the problems which confront us today.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Speaker, I could not let this opportunity pass without saying something First I would like to say that I am one of the people who complimented the Prime Minister on the Supplementary Budget, but there are one or two things that my conscience tells me were not quite in order, and I do not want anyone here to think that because I am a member of the Democratic Labour Party and a Parliamentary Secretary that I cannot say what I feel is right for me to say. I would be failing in my duty if I did not speak clearly this afternoon and hope that what I say would be understood.

The Prime Minister is one that represents this nation. He has tried. He knew that we were faced with a big inflationary problem and he has tried in every way that he thought fit to see if he can ease the situation in this country, but even when we try and we think we are doing our best, most of the time we are criticised. Criticism is good. This afternoon I hope that a bit of what I may say would be constructive criticism. The Government needs money to run the country, therefore we must have taxes and I am one who believes that people must be made to pay taxes. I feel the more taxes I can pay the better off I am, and I would like to think that other people would really think the same way. But then, we have to look at another section of the society and it is those at the bottom which certain things in this Budget will more or less make them totter a bit. I believe that the Prime Minister, looking at one aspect, did not really see everything as clearly as it should be seen, and if I were in his place I would be in the same position because there are so many angles for us to look at.

There is inflation all over the world, and as Barbados stands, the inflation will be very high because we have to import the greater part of our foodstuff and other commodities, building materials etc., so in the face of high inflation, rising unemployment and falling real living standards, for as you know we are a non oil-exporting country that cannot escape from the evils as I mentioned, I had to take a very serious look at the Budget. When I heard the hon. member for St. Michael West speak on an incomes and prices policy, that is what I intended to speak on. I will however still say something about it because there are members here who may think that because I say that some people do not work as much as they should and produce as much as they should that I am against workers. With high inflation the first people that must be thought of for increases in income must be the low income persons. As it stands now there is a wide margin between the rich and the poor, and if we were to look at these people all the time and just give them a pittance, this country is going to be ruined. These people must be, made to produce, but they need an incentive, and what better incentive than money.

I have stated in here before that there are ways and means whereby we can motivate these people, but with the high cost of living, what can the small pittance which we give to these people in the lower bracket buy for their families? When we talk about the high cost of inflation and about policies, we are talking about people who have big salaries. I know that there is always criticism in here about politicians having big salaries, but I am one who is prepared tomorrow to sacrifice my salary for the lower income groups because I can see the difficulties that they face. I can see that if these people are not given more income that the Welfare Department of Government will have to pick up the pieces. Stagnation of salaries is not the answer. I think we must try to solve the problem of inequality, of getting the lower income people to reach a higher standard of living where they can be motivated to work and be more progressive and productive for the good of this country.

Now when I come to the 5 percent sales tax, Mr. Speaker, I would say that there is nothing wrong with it, but at this stage where consumers are heavily burdened, a five percent tax is, in my humble opinion, not the answer. 6. 35 p. m.

Yes, we can put on our taxes, but if it was 1 per cent overall on everything I do not think that the consumers would have been hit as heavily, or would have felt it as much as they are feeling the 5 per cent.

That is just my theory; but it does not mean that I am right. I am just looking at it as a consumer because there is a mass of confusion in the commercial sector as to how they would implement the sales tax. The Government might not have examined it, but it means that money will go out of the country. Can we afford lump sums of money going out of this country to purchase new cash registers or to repair new cash registers?

All of these things must be fully examined. I think that if these things had been fully examined before, or perhaps if someone had drawn it to the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister, then he would have sorted things out. I may be wrong again, but that is just my humble opinion. I am looking at all businesses having to buy new registers and having the confusion of holding up people at their counters when they are sorting out these things; and apart from that, there can be a loss in tax because there are small shopkeepers who do not even know how to implement the tax, and there are even big people who some way or other may become confused; but if we had a 1 per cent tax straight over the board on every item it would be so easy for the Government to take stock on all businesses, the big ones or the small ones, and that 1 per cent tax would be shown. Even if the Government did not want to do it that way, let the wholesaler take 1 per cent and then the retailer put 1 per cent on. This could alleviate a lot of headaches and solve a lot of problems.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am just a little fly in the ointment. I am just offering a few suggestions. Perhaps some may say that I should have offered these suggestions at some other meeting. Sometimes I try to meet the Prime Minister. He is a busy man; but I think that here in Parliament I can speak quite freely.

When it comes to agriculture, a lot of people have varying views, but no simple method by which agriculture can be stimulated, because they are several people who own small plots of land in front of their homes, at the side or the back of their homes, and these people should be able to borrow money or to be given some sort of financial assistance to plant little things that would give them some sort of produce. In the same way that we are campaigning and telling people about the health of the nation, the Ministry of Agriculture could do a similar sort of campaigning. Perhaps they have it in mind. I am not here to criticise and I am not trying to criticise. I am just trying to speak as any other citizen would speak.

Before I finish, may I read from the Prime Minister's speech? I want to compliment the Prime Minister very highly. He said: "Contrary to the views expressed by ill informed commentators, this has not been due to any wastage or extravagance but has been a result of increases in wages and salaries, welfare and pension payments to the aged and indigent and to the spiralling cost of materials and equipment which the Government has to purchase. " I know that this is true. A lot of money has been spent in this way. Money has not been frittered away as people would think or given to people to buy houses and all the sorts of accusations that may be made.

The Prime Minister went on to speak about restraining the rate of increase of current expenditure, for example a freeze on staff recruitment. That is true. The postponement of new programmes and the curtailment of new, existing programmes. This shows that the Prime Minister is serious.

He goes on to say: "As a result of these measures the rate of increase so far this fiscal year has been kept to around 18 per cent. Were it not for these measures it could not have been kept to that which is well below the current rate of inflation. "

Then there is another good point: "It must be emphasised that any further efforts to curtail current expenditure would be at the cost of the provision of vital social services, in Education, Health, Welfare, environmental sanitation etc. " Can we afford this? I say no. Yes the Prime Minister has his head right up to certain points. He means well and he is trying to look after the nation.

He knows that as far as the health, the education and the sanitation and welfare of the nation is concerned he cannot afford to cut back much more on these. These are vitally important to the nation. We must be able to see this and see it in the light that he has seen it. Sometimes I wonder in other respects where some of his advice about this 5 per cent sales tax with the resulting confusion came from. At this stage we cannot afford to have confusion.

We cannot afford it when we are bringing in such a budget. It must be a smooth process. It must go into action as smoothly as possible. We cannot afford to have the commercial people fighting against us, and the consumers thinking that we are not for them This Government is for all the people. We know that things will be exaggerated by the Opposition. They are there for that. If I were in the Opposition I would do the same. The Opposition is there to keep the Government on its toes, and that is one of the reasons why I am speaking because my Government must always be on its toes.

Can we let people think that with a crisis facing everyone we as Barbadians cannot look at our own situation and handle it to suit the Barbadian society? This is not a society like the American or the other ones. We are a people trying to find ourselves, trying to know where we stand. We must reconstruct the economy to give full and equal opportunity for all.

It is for us to have greater faith in our young people. We have got to examine these young people. We must look at them seriously because they are ever complaining that they cannot get work. What are they left to do? There are some who come to me and say openly that they will have to take other drastic steps.

Sir, the jails cannot hold them. It is a serious situation. We must listen to them and we must prepare for them especially when they leave the schools. How can we do it? By adopting other resources. The answer is to reconstruct the commercial sector. It has proven a force for stability in the past, and it can in the present and the future.

We must be able to come to grips with the problem and find out where and how we can get these people to understand that this is their country, not only the Government's country, but that it belongs to one and all. 6. 45 p. m.

That in this country there are people who need support; that without money the Government cannot stand. No matter what Government is in power, whoever, you put in power, money is necessary to run a country.

We have done ably well so far. We can do a lot better. Perhaps as a woman I may not be taken heed of, but I would like to say and say it clearly, and I am not ashamed of it. I was first a business woman. I know the art of business. My Government may not need me in business and I have come into politics, and I have studied and am studying the art of politics. I may not yet be a ripe politician but I know that I will develop to be a ripe politician because I love my country; I love my people and I intend, regardless of what anyone may say, to work for one and all. Class and creed and colour do not matter to me. As long as there are Barbadian people I intend to work for them. I would like to make the rich ones see that the time has come for them to link hands or share with the poor ones.

We need a more social, democratic society. The people must be social-minded. We cannot go on educating the young people and educating them to great height, and then when they come out of school and they go back to their home, what do they see? They have not got the right pattern in their home. We have got to help the parents - the father or the mother - regardless of where they work; if they work in industry or wherever they work, we have got to help them to understand that as much as they may have a union to fight for them - which is good, because several times, if there was not a union I know there are several people who would give them a pittance - but these people must be made to understand that hard work does not hurt anybody. A good day's work and an honest day's work is necessary for a young nation; and if we cannot work by the hour and it is better for us to work by the job, let us do so; but do not let us try and cripple a country because of folly.

I want to see the union, the commercial sector, the people, and everybody working hand in hand. I know that all people mean well for the good of this country, but I am stating clearly that I know that there are people in my society who are, so to speak, not in managerial positions but in lower positions who have been complaining to me that they need a strong hand; that they need to know where they are going.

Some will get in here and say 'you should not say this about the worker and you should not say that', but these are the workers who are coining back to me and talking. They need the truth. They do not want cheap politics any more. These people are thinking; these people are alive. We haw educated them and they are thinking.

These people want us to direct them in the right way that they should go.

Only this morning I was told by a driver who was on a lorry - he said: 'I sometimes cannot get my men to co-operate or to work; they go their own way. ' However, I am pleased to know that there are other people who can get theirs to co-operate.

In our society there are Barbadians who have come out openly and have said that they are pleased with the effort and the stand, that this Government is taking, because they need to know that people can direct them to do the right thing. They do not want to be misled, at it were. They do not want people to be going on giving them big promises, and politicians to be telling them: 'oh! don't do this because of so and so, ' because they want votes. They want the truth now. They want to support us but they want us to be honest with them. They want to know that if they are not working right, we will tell them. They want to maintain standards. These same people have told me that standards have fallen.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleading with my people of all levels this afternoon, to understand the Barbadian people. They are a people who want to do for themselves; especially when you come to those poor people, the ones in the small houses, and who are getting small salaries. These are the people who are making every possible effort.

I compliment the union and I compliment anyone who can think about them, but I say that we must tell these people what it costs to keep a nation; what it means to be a developing country. It means a sacrifice, a great sacrifice; and often this is not told to them.

Our people have a duty to their country and that duty is to preserve; not to destroy. We must modernize great aspects of our economic and social life and make intensive efforts to get our people fully involved in the economic and industrial life of our nation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, this may be a convenient time to suspend the sitting until tomorrow at 12 noon. I think that suggestion is agreeable to the Opposition.

Tomorrow we will continue with the replies in the afternoon session; that will be from 3 o'clock. The morning session will be devoted to Government Business as was previously arranged. We will deal with the Resolution of which we gave notice earlier today, and then we have two Bills also to be dealt with. 6. 55 p. m.

I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Procedurally, shouldn't we move that further consideration of this matter be postponed?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
There is something I am not quite au fait with. When an hon. member rises in his place to move that further consideration be postponed, that is a speech on the Resolution. In other words, when we resume the Leader of the House presumably will speak tomorrow. A person who rises to move a dilatory motion is speaking on the original motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I appreciate this.

Mr. ADAMS:
It doesn't matter. If he wants to speak he will speak. That is all right. It is only a procedural point, but

I remember we went astray once with the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. I believe, dealing with the hon. member for Christ Church East, he knows the Rules and believes it important to follow them.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 12 o' clock noon tomorrow, Wednesday, ll th December, 1974.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 7. 00 p. m.

On the resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, you will recall that I asked for leave to deal with a Resolution of which I gave notice to authorize the Government to -issue Treasury Bills to the extent of $70 million.

The Resolution, Sir. is quite clear. The Addendum reads that the Resolution seeks authority to increase the amounts which may be borrowed by the issue of Treasury Bills by a further sum of $25 million. The total sum will then be $70 million.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

BILL TO REPEAL THE BARBADOS GENERAL HOSPITAL ACT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health and Welfare I would like to take charge of a Bill to repeal the Barbados General Hospital Act, 1947-28

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons of the Bill are quite clear in that another Bill has to be passed to amend the Health Services Act. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill were called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BILL TO AMEND THE HEALTH SERVICES ACT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, the next item stands in the name of the Minister of Health and Welfare and it is a Bill to amend the Health Services Act, 1969-38. I move that that item be the next order of the day.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that. Mr. ADAMS What item is this?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Item No. 3. A motion has been made.

The question that Order No. 3 be the instant order of the day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to make an amendment which will permit the Minister to bring existing institutions before the commencement of this Bill under the influence of Regulations made under the Health Services Act, thereby enabling the Minister to make Regulations and other procedures or to set up bodies to govern institutions which were in existence before this Bill came into operation.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time,

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Speaker, I Beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and agreed to.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee

Mrs. EASTMOND. I beg to second that.

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

On separate motions of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE seconded by Mrs. EASTMOND the Bill was read a third time and passed.

REPLY TO QUESTION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, there are some Replies. In view of the fact that Standing Orders were suspended and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is here, if he wants to get a reply to his question he can get it now. It is Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 169 asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. Is that in order?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Is Government Business concluded?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Well, this is all part of Government Business. We are just about to conclude Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Would you make a motion?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:
Question Time is the instant order of the day. Reply to Question No. 169 asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister What plans has the Government got for completing the playing fields at Welchman Hall and Hillaby in the parish of St. Thomas promised at the time of the last election?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 169 is as follows -

Work on the Welchman Hall project was started during the 1973-74 Financial Year, but has been suspended pending investigation into ways of getting the job completed more economically.

Mr. ADAMS:
Is the Minister aware that since the preparation of that answer the work has very nearly been completed at Welchman Hall? The grader is working there today - and that it has been decided by his Ministry to abandon the work at the playing field at Farmers?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I am not so aware. 12. 10 p. m.

Mr. ADAMS:
Will the Minister take steps to see that future Parliamentary answers are up to date at the time when delivered?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 131 asked by the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not in his place; I therefore ask that the reply be laid.

Mr. SPEAKER:
If there is no objection the reply will be laid.

There being no objection and the hon. member not being in his place the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 131 is laid.

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 256 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, the same thing applies here, Sir. The hon. member is not in his place and I therefore ask that the reply be laid.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member being not in his place the reply is hereby laid.

Question time is now ended.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Government would care to recommit the matter of the Treasury Bill. It should be obvious to any hon. member that this should be done. If the Government is inclined to let me deal with the matter perhaps more shortly now I will be glad. Will the Leader of the House consider recommitting the Resolution?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The matter cannot be recommitted. I have already signed the Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS:

It does not matter, Sir.. I really would not mind giving what I am going to say in two parts dealing with the Treasury Bill now rather than later. It is in the hands of the House, but I really do not mind.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am not really in a position to accommodate the hon. member now. I would be acting ultra vires.

I am making a motion. I beg to move that we revert to the reply to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning's supplementary budgetary proposals which we had intended continuing this afternoon. There is nothing more urgent than that at the moment. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition cares to reply at this stage, we can probably wind up the debate today because one of our Ministers, or the Prime Minister himself, will give the final reply. The hon. member moved the Resolution so he has a right to wind up. If the hon. member cares to pursue that course it is agreeable.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, there is no other hon. member who wishes to speak, I take it, Sir, other than whoever cares to exercise a right of final comment rather than a right of final reply. A right of final comment, because I would not like it to be thought that my motion is not critical of the Government's adverse policy.

Would somebody move that Private Members'. Business be now taken and that Item 8 be the first Order thereafter? I make that motion.

Mr. HINDS:
I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend hon. members on both sides of the House for what I have sincerely and genuinely found to be very statesmanlike speeches put forward, as far as I am able to judge, seriously, in the general interest of discussing the economic state of this country, and, indeed, if this were a strict debating reply I would have to say that I would find myself unable to disagree with any of the speeches made, except that of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and the hon. member for St. Philip South; but I will have to go on to commend the hon. members for St. James, St. Peter, St. Michael North East, St. Lucy and St. Michael West for the, I would say, outstanding contribution which they have made in their different ways. As far as the speeches of those hon. members are concerned I really can find not only nothing to disagree with but I can find a good deal that was instructive and that was useful and was a valuable contribution to this debate.

As far as the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is concerned, I find it impossible to say the same thing. The hon. member has a speech about economics which he made on a number of occasions; indeed; apart from the Hospital and more recently, garbage, I think it safe to say that the hon. member made the same speech on every occasion, and shorn of the jargon and the verbiage, the speech is to the effect that inflation is a good thing.

If the hon. member does not find my saying, Sir, he misunderstands the interim-relationship of inflation and development. The hon. member told me in the gist of a private conversation that there are some economists who say that for development you have to have a 10% inflation rate. A study of the teachings of modern economists cannot persuade me of the necessary accuracy - to quote from one of our more prominent younger economists - the "necessary accuracy" of the hon. member's statement. The hon. member must be writing his own economic text book.

I will also invite the House and the public to ignore entirely the argument adduced by the Minister of Health in the direction of saying that the sales tax was introduced because it is counter inflationary and would cause people to buy less goods and therefore it is a good thing in itself. .....

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, I never said so. I never said that it is a good thing in itself. I think the hon. member is trying to masquerade his ignorance behind the facade of being the son of some great man and feel that being the son of some great man.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is entirely unconnected with the hon. member's point of elucidation.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I never said so. He should quote me correctly. I never said that a sales tax is a good thing.

Mr. ADAMS:

The introduction of complexes and chips on the shoulder of whatever sort are to be deplored in any debate, and I would invite the hon. member to go home and consider very seriously whether his arguments or any argument improve by discussing other people's fathers, mothers or other relations. 12. 20 p. m.

Any argument which I put forward in this House is based upon my thoughts, not upon the thoughts of my father., his father or anybody else. The hon. member said that the effect of the sales tax would be to reduce consumption, and this would have an effect on inflation and we will see when a Budget is brought in 1975.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

On a point of elucidation, I never stated that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You have already made that point.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Why does he keep on repeating that when I did not?

Mr. SPEAKER:

You have made your point of elucidation.

Mr. ADAMS:

If the hon. member does not understand what he said having heard himself say it, perhaps he will understand it better when he reads it in the official record. I would invite him to go and read his own speech and see if it makes economic sense at the end. The hon. member stood in this House and everybody heard him say that if the 5% sales tax was increased, the effect perhaps would be that people would buy fewer goods. (A VOICE Could be.) I agree with the aside of the hon. member for St. Michael North West, and I would advise the Hon. Minister of Health to take a little advice from the Minister of Housing in this particular regard. He may not think that he has good advice to give him in any other respect but at least the Minister of Housing at some times knows what not to say on economic subjects.

Now my summary of the hon. member's speech was that it was in favour of inflation, and I believe that the printed record will reveal this to be the tenor of what was said. Now this is great unadulterated economic nonsense. Inflation is a result of the Keynesian step that you had to take to reduce unemployment. It is not a cause of the reduction of unemployment. At one or two moments I thought the hon. member was going in the direction of saying that if you get inflation outside there must be inflation in Barbados in order to assist us to deal with the cost of imports. If he had said that, although it is really heresy to most economists, we would have to agree because most economists do not write about import economies. Most economists do not write about an economy like Barbados in which 80 percent or more of the gross national product is represented by the cost of importation, but the hon. member retreated from saying that and fell into a lot of grievous economic errors once more when he discussed inter-relationship of inflation in Barbados to employment.

The whole point as I have said over and over in this House is that we are protected against the worst effects of a wage inflation in this Island by the fact that most of the services and goods we buy come from abroad. The hon. member is well aware of that. The hon. member for St. Philip South I do not believe is in his metier, in his subject or in his depth at all, so I would not wish to pour any ridicule on what he said, but an understanding of that would also assist the hon. member for St. Michael South. In Barbados there are certain domestic steps which can be taken to reflate the economy. One of them is expanding of credit for construction. It is well known that construction is the great steam engine of our economy, and I thought I would emphasise as far as I could that this step has not been taken by the Government. The rates of interest have remained high and the Government is acceding in what the Prime Minister calls "slumpflation", but which people who know the word call "stagflation", and the Government is accepting it and is being governed by these considerations. It is not trying to insulate the economy more from the effects of overseas inflation.

Now over and over again we heard the hon. member for St. Philip South talk about world-wide inflation, how the Americans don't know how to deal with it, and therefore we cannot. The American inflation is down at 10 percent or 11 percent ours is at 40 percent. The Americans know how to deal with it well enough to keep it at 10 or 11 percent, and the English have managed to get it down to 13 or 14 percent, although the cost of living always tend to fall in autumn in temperate countries in the north. The English know how to deal with it well enough to keep it at less than half of ours. It is a world-wide problem and I am not blaming the Government because there is some element of inflation; I am blaming the Government because they have proved less capable than some other countries in the CARICOM area of keeping down inflation.

Now I heard the hon. member for St. Michael North Central talking about how inflation and prosperity go hand in hand. Why doesn't the hon. member go and open some of the old economic surveys and see that two periods of unparalleled prosperity in Barbados - one under that Government and one under this - the period of 1959-61 and the period of 1967-69 were both periods of great prosperity accompanied with very low inflation rates. There was a genuine wage inflation in 1967-69 but the price of goods went up by very small amounts over the years. There was a genuine wage inflation in 1959-61 and the retail price index went up by very small factors; one percent in some of those years and never higher than four percent. When the Minister says that you have to have inflation to have prosperity, he flies in the face of published fact. He applies theories - I do not know why they particularly appeal to him; maybe it helps him to inflate himself by talking about other people's inflation.

Mr. SPEAKER:

All these are personal remarks.

Mr. ADAMS:

All right, Sir, but the Minister got up and. said something about I think I am important because of my father. He must expect if he wants to be personal to be told some of the psychological reasons why he says the things he says too. I can be very personal and he is a better psychologist than me, I am sure. Anyhow, never mind that, Sir. The Minister ought to understand that the periods of prosperity in Barbados have gone hand in hand with low increases in the retail price index. We are now meeting a period of great depression in Barbados and it is going hand in hand with an enormous increase in the retail price index. Immediately it seems to me that you should ask yourself how to reflate this economy in terms of the purchasing power available to the citizens, and the first thing to do if you cannot bring down the prices is to try to put some money in people's pockets. This solution is ruled out in Britain, in Western Europe or in North America because you have a wage price spiral there We only have in my estimation, well not my estimation because again this is a matter of mathematical observation, a 20 percent possibility of such a wage price spiral, but the Hon Minister of Health so little understands what he is talking about inflation that he is praising the Prime Minister for the possibility that purchasing power is yet being further withdrawn from the public of Barbados by the imposition of a sales tax. Now that will not solve the true problem of the people of Barbados, and I would say this for the Prime

'Minister the Prime Minister never at any stage that I heard said that his tax measures were going to reduce inflation, and yet we heard a whole speech about it. He said that his tax measures were being introduced in order to assist the Government in its budgetary position. The hon. member for St. Philip South said that no Government can balance its budget The idea of balancing budgets, I will tell the hon. member went out when he was still at school. Balancing budgets is one of the most deflationary things you can do, and it causes unemployment. Nobody wants to balance a budget today unless the economy is so overheated that like Germany and even France you have to import workers from abroad because there are not enough people to do the work that has to be done. They are the circumstances in which you balance your budget.

I have never told the Prime Minister that he should balance the budget. 12. 30 p. m.

I have often said, in fact, that he is over collecting taxes for the amount of development which is actually being done. In other words, that he is getting too near to balancing the budget for a healthy economic situation in Barbados.

Now, getting back to the Prime Minister's own speech, I heard him speak about the condition of Government finances. He talked about inflation, and I have to say that he really agreed with what I have been saying about it, about the retail price index.

He gave accurate, so far as I can see, figures about the improvement in the balance of payments situation, at least the failure of the balance of payments to get worse. He gave accurate figures about that.

Sir, I never heard him say that the budget was brought in to deal with inflation. It was brought in, he said, to deal with the declining public expenditure and revenue position. I have every hope that the hon. member who replies, whether it be the member for St. Michael North West or the Prime Minister himself will deal with this, I would have thought that hon. members would rather have directed their attention to Government financing, to Government borrowing and Government revenue when they discussed the need for an emergency budget; because this is an emergency budget brought down in exceptional conditions to meet an exceptional situation.

Now, Sir, certain matters have come to my attention since I replied to the Prime Minister and originally moved the motion which stands in my name. I would not like to think that the Central Bank

withheld publication of its September figures for financial operations until after I had spoken; and especially I would not like to think that they withheld them because they are favourable.

The Government is sometimes known to withhold bad news, but this must be the first time that the Government has given the appearance of withholding good news. We heard a good deal from the Prime Minister about how bad the figures were, in deficit of $57 million; but two days after I made my speech the Central Bank published figures indicating that six weeks before the Prime Minister had an emergency budget things had taken a turn for the better.

According to the Central Bank the Government had its best September for several years, a surplus on Central Government operations of over $4 million where it had a deficit in August of $10 million.

I am inviting hon. members to see that this is the most outstanding example we have ever had in this country of panic at the top. I spoke of panic in my speech. How much more I would have spoken of it in moving this motion had I known that the situation for which the Prime Minister was seeking to bring in the sales tax had already been very nearly alleviated on the figures available to him but not made available to the House at the time?

Can hon. members who said that this Government must be in a terrible position with $8 million down in one month alone - can any hon. member believe that he would have had the same view of Government's finances if he had known that for the first time in several years September was going to show a surplus of $4 million and that revised figures would be produced to show that Government current expenditure was only $2 million away over nine months from Government revenue and that therefore the prediction of being $57 million out could not possibly be justified?

How is it possible that in nine months the Government was only $2 million out without the sales tax and the increased price in gasolene that at the end of the financial year, it is going to be $57 million out?

Now an interesting passage occurred in the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central. He said that it only remains to be seen when next year's budget comes in if the situation has got much better by then. The situation was already better before the sales tax was introduced.

I am accusing the Government of the fact that sales tax has turned out to be very probably unnecessary. That is what I am accusing the Government of, and I am accusing it on the basis of figures published since the budget and since my reply in making this motion in the first place. The Government's capital expenditure in September was only a little more than half of the surplus of Government's current revenue. In other words the Government made a handsome surplus perhaps the third in the last period in the month of September, but we really do not know what October is like where

this is concerned.

Now, in the light of this, Mr. Speaker, I would have expected that the Government would have sought to reduce its borrowing seeing that the current expenditure was not expanding; because if there was one absolute word of truth in the Prime Minister's budget speech, it was that inflation or no inflation Government's revenue has been rising as fast as Government's expenditure. He might put it the other way around, that expenditure is rising as fast as revenue, but if X equals Y, Y equals X.

In the light of that it would have to be correct to say that Government's revenue rose much faster since he made his speech. In the light of that I would think that the Government would not find it necessary to place any further load or borrowing on the shoulders of the public of Barbados, but in fact the Government wants to borrow $25 million more in treasury bills.

I do not know who is advising the Prime Minister. I have not seen or heard anybody who considers that Barbados is in such a good financial position vis a vis Trinidad, Jamaica and the others as to be able to continue paying the banks 3 per cent more for treasury bills than Guyana which pays 1H to 2 per cent more than Jamaica and 3 percent to 4 per cent more that Trinidad.

Why are we allowing the commercial banks to dip their hands into the public treasury to this extent in Barbados? Is the credit of the Barbados Government so bad? The answer could be put in two ways. It well might be, but on the other hand we have the power to compel the banks to take up treasury bills at 5 percent if we feel like.

Why are we going on and insisting up to October on paying the banks 8 1/2 per cent for treasury bills when in the same month in Trinidad the Government was borrowing money from the banks at 5. 41 per cent?

Why in the face of the increased need in Barbados for funds to be made available for home construction are we taking more liquidity away from the banks?

The Prime Minister said that the banks are in a good liquidity position now due to the exchange control and due to the other measures which the Government has introduced, a statement again of some truth. The banks are in a better liquidity position, but who is benefiting in profits? The ordinary people of this country are not benefiting. The banks are still asking 12 per cent, and insurance companies 11 or 11 1/2 per cent on mortgage funds, 3 per cent more than in the USA.

I cannot understand if this is supposed to be so necessary in Barbados why there is no influx of mortgage money from the USA to take advantage of the extra 3 per cent in interest. Why is this still continuing in Barbados? Why is the Prime Minister hesitating when he sees that banks are still paying 10 per cent on deposit rates and saying that this is the reason why they cannot lend at less than 12 per cent? Why is he hesitating?

Why does he hesitate now that he has the power to close off the Barbados dollar to outside influence? Why is he hesitating to bring down deposit rates and draft rates and the rest and make more funds available to businesses to finance the distributive trade which will have a favourable effect on the cost of living and make more funds available to Barbadian people to build homes and carry out other projects which will be useful in taking out some of the unemployment slack in this country?

Make no mistake about it Sir, there is a lot of unemployment in this country, and the Ministry of Labour cannot go on forever trying to fool people. You cannot go on trying to fool people that the labour force of this island is only 90, 000 people. That can only be based on a very narrow interpretation of "work force". I do not think that even Mr. Roach is ingenious in trying to convince people of this.

In 1973 the insured population through National Insurance was 127, 745 people. How many of them are still employed? It could not be 12, 000. On any basis it means that there must be 110, 000 who worked in 1973. A few might have retired and a few might have left the island; but there is no basis for saying that the work force of this island is not 100, 000 people, and when you look at that you must realise that unemployment is running at 15, 000 to 18, 000 people,

These are things that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union should be saying. He should have his research economists working on that. He has research economists. The poor Opposition only has the collective wisdom of a few of us and such advice as we are able to.

These are things which the Minister of Labour and the General Secretary of the Union should be investigating, but we have to point them out. In the face of that how can the banks be allowed to accumulate liquidity over and over again by lending it to the Government. There is a limit now of $70 million in treasury bills. 12. 40 p. m.

The hon. member for St. Michael North West will know the exact figures, I will see if I can find it here. Let us look at the figures for Treasury Bills.

I would like to go back to 1972. At the beginning of 1972 there were $14 million in Treasury Bills

outstanding. That was the Government's day to day liability. By the end of 1972 it had fallen by $11 million; it went down to $7.12 million; and now is the Government trying to put it up to $70 million? It stood at the end of October at $42 million in Treasury Bills being held by the Bank. All this is casual borrowing; all these Treasury Bills being stuck down the throat of the National Insurance Board when it could be lending more money to the Mortgage Finance Association, and create some development in Barbados.

I believe that 71/2% investment to be held by the National Insurance Board should be held in something productive. It should not be held in a Treasury Bill which is being used to pay civil servants. I heard some very amusing talk from the hon. member for St. Philip South about whether we say there is no money in the Treasury if the Treasury pays the civil servants every month. I believe the hon. member for St. Philip South has heard of an overdraft. Well I want him to tell me, if he has an overdraft does he say he has plenty money in the bank? If he is asked if he has money in the Bank and he has an overdraft of $15 million or $16 million, does he say he has $15 million or $16 million in the bank? If he has a maid at home and he has to borrow money every month from the bank to pay her, does he say he has plenty money?

If the Government has to operate continually on a deficit position, borrowing money every month to pay interest, far less to pay commitments to.... .....

Mr. WEEKES:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for St. Thomas has stated that I said that they have been saying that there is no money in the Treasury. I say it now; and therefore, from what he is saying today it is necessary to bring this supplementary budget before this House. It is necessary. If as he stated there is no money in the Treasury, consequently we have to bring a supplementary budget to get the money to run the affairs of the country. It is as simple as that.

Mr. ADAMS:

He shouted so loudly that I could not hear him, Mr. Speaker. He said that if there was no money in the Treasury it was necessary to have a budget. Is that right?

Mr. WEEKES:

From what he has stated here today and in the past, that there is no money in the Treasury, therefore taxation now will put money in the Treasury; so why criticise the taxation at this particular time?

Mr. ADAMS:

The hon. member is batting on a wicket with which he is familiar; simple context of logic, and I will deal with the simple context of logic. I am glad that he has shifted his position because I gathered in his speech that he was saying there was money in the Treasury; that we were lying. I am glad he is now putting a simple suggestion to me - if I say there is no money in the Treasury and I say there should be

money in the Treasury, then it is necessary to have taxation to put money into the Treasury. Good logic; but let him go back and answer this. Why was there no money in the Treasury? That is the point the hon. member must consider. Why was no money in the Treasury? That is the exact argument which the Opposition has been mounting - that the Government had entirely misunderstood what was going on and misread the economic signs. How can I have confidence that this is a Government that wants to bring down the cost of living when I hear a Cabinet Minister say that inflation is necessary to keep employment going. After hearing the speech of the Minister of Health how can I believe that the Government is interested in keeping the price of food down? He seems to believe that it is important to pay more for food so that people can get work. The whole burden of his speech as I understand it is that you must charge more for the food so that the people can get some work to do. That is all I can say; but in fact he would really understand that his argument contradicts anything that he has read about inflation. If he thinks about it he will understand that people will not rise in a given situation; they see employment increasing and they see the cost of living going up. They find a relationship between the two, so they assume that to have increase employment you have to have some element of inflation. They ignore all together the wizardry of Dr. Shack in Germany during the war; his wizardry during the war when the cost of living in Germany was reduced while at the same time employment was greatly expanding. They ignore that.

I believe that Dr. Shack went to Indonesia after the war when he was acquitted at Nurem-burg and made a fortune explaining to the Indonesians how it was done too. But all that is ignored. In most countries increased employment is accompanied by increased prices, therefore you think that to have increased employment you must have increased prices and that without the increased prices you would not have increased employment, and then you go one step further - like the hon. member for St. Michael North Central - and you say that to have the increased prices mean that you would have increased employment.

Well there are many illogical steps; you can take a lesson in logic from the hon. member for St. Philip South from the logic he has just displayed. 12. 50 p. m.

You then go one step further like the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and say that to have the increased prices means that you will have to increase employment. There are many illogical steps. You can take a lesson in logic from the hon. member for St. Philip South from the logic he has just displayed when you put forward an argument like that. I do not think that the aid and comfort which the hon. member has given the merchants in Bridgetown by saying that you must have inflation and that inflation means prosperity is a good thing at this stage. You have to try to persuade those who are making money out of inflation, because undoubtedly the retailers of Bridgetown and those who operate on mark-up and on percentages of any sort are making money out of inflation, to make some sacrifice, but the speech of the Minister of Health is only going to persuade them that they are contributing to the expansion of the economy. That is why a little learning can be a very dangerous thing.

Even before the Minister said the foolishness he said about my father, I made a little note as he was speaking - James. Is the Minister's historical knowledge sufficient to tell him what I meant, because just in case it isn't, James I was known as the wisest fool in Christendom. His arguments were always plausible, he was logical, people would listen to him and come away impressed. It was only when you went away that you realised that he talked fluent nonsense. I made that at the time of the Minister's speech. He is a doctor and therefore it is remarkable, as Doctor Johnson said of (a) a woman preaching, (b) a dog walking on his hind legs, that he should be talking about economics at all. I have to add I the Minister now and make a trilogy, not well done, but you are surprised to see it done at all: a woman preaching, a dog walking on its hind legs and the Minister of Health talking about economics; and because you see it done you think it is something interesting. I remarked to certain hon. members, in fact I think I put it the other way round, that I was sorry to see the hon. member for St. Philip South get up and talk as much nonsense as the Minister of Health.

Anyway, personal references I think we can call a moritorium on at this stage, and let the Minister be assured that I have never invited anybody yet to pay regard to what I say upon the basis that it is me saying it. I have never yet sought an audience of ignorant people to impress by big words and to think that because I may have had an opportunity of an education that I therefore know better than they, and I have never walked around with a class of people who are my intellectual inferiors deliberately so chosen so as to impress them to get a false reputation with the public of Barbados I argue with people who can argue with me. I do not talk with people to try to impress them to make them think that I am some kind of intellectual god. That is why I keep my arguments for in here.

Now I am not finding any fault with the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael West, and I am glad that he made the speech rather than making it necessary for anybody on this side to advert further to a question such as a prices and incomes policy and so on. I think his words were wise and well chosen, and I am glad that he - it is not unexpected I must say - has been able to break through this semantic nonsense of prices and incomes policy and recognise it for what it is, a way to try to keep down people's income in the guise of the national good. I am not aware of any country where a prices and incomes policy has been applied where for example on the grounds that a company is making more profit; you tell it that it must reduce percentage dividends. That is one of the great fallacies of a prices and incomes policy. You say there should be a restraint on dividends; they were five percent before so they must not be more than 5 percent, but a 5 percent of an inflated turnover and an inflated profit is more cash, and that is exactly what you are denying the workers, because we are saying they must not get more than a 3 percent increase on their wages, because the employers are getting the same percentage of dividends that they were getting last year. It entirely ignores that you are doing a very dangerous thing.

The hon. member for St. Michael North West questions who says that. The hon. member for St. Michael North West is unfamiliar with the prices and incomes policies of Great Britain and the United

States in all their ramifications. I would forgive him his ignorance of who says what, when and what about, but if I talk about an economic theory in here; I expect that those who are answering me if only sitting in their seats and interrupting are familiar with all its ramifications. I would ask the hon. member to go back to his books or magazines or whatever the case may be rather than interrupting a speech which certainly is not directed towards any speech which he has made. I am not suggesting that he has represented or misrepresented any aspects of the policy. I am trying to attack the prices and incomes policy and amplifying what the hon. member for St. Michael West has said, and I hope that what is being said will not fall on deaf ears in here.

If someone sits in his seat and chatters so that he cannot understand the speech of an hon. member, he will go out of here in the same blissful state of ignorance that he came in, and there are one or two people who perhaps are so placed that they should be trying to learn something from speeches such as those which have already been made.

I would also commend the speech of the hon. member for St. Lucy whom I do not now see in his chair, and I would very much commend the speech of a somewhat chastened honourable lady member for St. Michael North East whom I think made a very sensible contribution to the debate.

Mr. Speaker, I would have to end by saying this. A motion is before the House in respect of this matter. The terms of the motion are critical of the Government. The motion speaks of the greatest tax burden of all times on Barbados. No hon. member has denied that. The motion considers that the measures reflect most adversely on the general, fiscal and other financial management of the country. I have not heard any hon. member specifically defend it and I would invite whoever replies on behalf of the Government to turn to that. I do not believe that a case should go by default. The motion says that the measures will do nothing to reduce the effect of a galloping inflation. We are told by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central that we must wait and see, but no other speech has contradicted or controverted that. The motion says that it has done nothing to revive the flagging sectors of the economy. Nobody not even the Prime Minister suggested that their revival will come about as a result of the increased taxation, and equally nobody has spoken of retaining employment levels far less increasing them. So if the speeches were anything to go by, we on this side would be joined in the voting lobby by the representatives of the Workers' Union, the hon. member for St. Lucy and the hon. member for St. Michael West, and the hon. member for St. Michael North East, because nothing they said has disagreed with anything that was said on this side or in any way has contradicted any of the terms of the motion. If the hon. member for St. Philip South now having had time for reflection realises that his very complete syllogism is based upon the fact and can only be put forward upon the basis that the Government was badly managed before, he also should join us in the voting lobby on this subject. The plea of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central to wait and see what effect the measures have, as I say, I believe he knows that things were getting better before the panic button was hit, and he is saying give us a break for now and you will see, but it will not be the Prime Minister's measures that have revived Barbados, it will be a general improvement of the world economic situation which is already evident. I have never

heard yet that a sales tax improves the economic situation of a country. 1. 00 p. m.

I have never heard that yet. The Government paid no attention to the enormously successful conditions of world trade in 1967 to 1969, but here a little breath of economic catastrophe in the outside world is multiplied into a hurricane in Barbados and you hear that the outsiders have done it. When the outsiders do well and we get a little flow over, it is the Government that has done it. When the outsiders do badly it is they who are responsible. I have always liked to stand on my own two feet. If mistakes are made, say that mistakes are made.

A lot of scorn used to be poured on the old Government when it admitted mistakes once or twice. The Prime Minister should take heart from the public approbation which he got when he pointed out the mistakes that have been made in the Ministry of Health with the crematorium and when he pointed out the mistakes that have been made in connection with the sand harbour at Oistins.

The public were glad to hear the Prime Minister say that. It was not even the Prime Minister who said it; it was the hon. member for St. Joseph. I remember the Press carefully reporting the Prime Minister as saying that it was a failure when the hon. member for St. Joseph on his own initiative his own observation, took a look one day at Waterford and brought a question in here; and the newspaper reported how the Prime Minister had revealed to the House - he was not the person who revealed it, it was the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Anyhow, approbation fell on the head of the Prime Minister for admitting a mistake; but you know that there are 17 hon. members on the Other Side, because that does not include you, Sir. Seventeen hon. members who are saying nothing has ever been done wrong by this Government. It is all because of outside forces; but when things are getting better it will be this Government.

You hear a lot of hon. members say that the Americans do not know how to handle it, but it will be found out in the sales tax. I have never in my life heard that a sales tax is intended to revive a flagging economy, a sales tax devised to deal with the Government's cash flow position. That is a word beloved by the hon. member for St. Michael North West.

You are going to hear when a little more cash flows that this miraculous Government has made things better for Barbados. I am going to tell the hon. member for St. Michael North Central this. If we do not hear about a big surplus in 1975, we will hear that the sugar industry of this island was revitalised by the

Prime Minister's initiative by telling Mr. Erskine Ward that $700 is more than $300 - because that is what the Prime Minister is saying.

I do not believe that any politician in here can tell the sugar producers of Barbados that $797 is more than $320. I do not believe that any politician would have to tell them to sell their sugar where they could get more money for it. But you will hear that the Prime Minister is responsible for getting $3, 000 per ton for sugar. I have checked the Advocate story which has been subject to such denial and I am satisfied that this report came from a high Government source seeking to glorify and aggrandise the Prime Minister; and you will hear them say when they get a price for sugar, that the Prime Minister did not only grow the canes himself but that he saw to it that the beet did not grow in Russia or that in the European Common Market, the rain fell and prevented the European beet harvest; and you will hear when the money begins to flow back into the treasury a little bit that it is because the Prime Minister has pumped up the economy and made it more buoyant.

You will hear everything good coming from that side that it is due to the sterling qualities of hon. members on the front bench; but the public of Barbados are not going to be so easily fooled. When the verdict comes to be written, hon. members like the Minister of Health, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Education will find that the public is going to look less at them than it looks at the old and stalwart favourite like the Leader of the House who has sat through thick and thin.

These will be the ones characterised as members of a Government that carried Barbados into the worst depression it has ever known5 and the simplest things cannot be dealt with. As I was talking here, I was reminded of my plea to the Government to indicate the situation with the Christmas advance and income tax. A note was passed to me that a particular named public servant - I am not going to call his name to anybody - was supposed to get an advance of $300, and all the cash he got in his hand was $49 and all the rest was taken out in tax. I do not know if it is a general experience or what was the particular circumstances in which this happened. I just know that this information was handed to me and it can be checked on by the Press and by the responsible Ministers whether in fact substantial taxes are being taken out of the Christmas advances. I do not know, but I know that those in receipt of advances will judge in the fullness of time who are the deceivers and who are the true prophets.

I said in moving this motion that I did not wish to be a Cassandra because people do not like predictions that they do not want to hear and they like them still less when those predictions come to pass. But it will be found that what the Opposition has been saying over the last three years has been justified particular by particular. We have suggested some solutions no attention has been paid. The whole system of Government financing by pretended deficit has been attacked by me year after year, and as I said in moving this motion, it has now come right home to the Prime Minister that one year he started with a deficit and he ended with a deficit and had to come with an emergency budget.

What is worst of all as it has transpired since these proceedings, is that Barbados is actually beginning to find itself in a slightly better position; because as bad a position as the Government got us into in the first half of this year, it could not be sustained forever. Nobody is so bad, not even the hon. members opposite. When the Government was in a slightly better position this monstrous imposition was produced in time for Christmas to confuse Barbadians, infuriate them to my way of thinking or in an entirely unnecessary exercise of Government planning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge hon. members, those who find their consciences do not allow them to vote for the Opposition, to be tactful and abstain when the final vote has been taken in this matter, particularly the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, the hon. member whose very sensible speech so enlivened yesterday's proceedings. I would ask him not to go against his conscience, what must be his conscience if he could have made speeches such as this. Show the public that you are a man and show the workers that you are their representative.

I beg all hon, members to vote in favour of the motion now before the House which I now beg to move,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker at this stage I would wish to make a motion that further consideration be postponed because the Minister of Finance and Planning who is expected to make the final reply cannot be here. He has asked for Tuesday, when all the necessary things are done.

Mr. SPEAKER:

You yourself made a motion yesterday for suspension under Standing Order 35(2). The motion has to be moved by somebody other than the mover and seconder of yesterday's suspension of this very debate.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order. Once the hon. member has spoken, the only person who can speak is the person replying on behalf of the Government, if it is considered a Bill critical of the Government. Whoever moves the motion of further consideration has to make the' final reply. That is how I understand it. You have to put it to the vote now, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, I move that further consideration of this motion be postponed.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
I beg to second that

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, Sir The hon. member made a motion. Is he going to reply? If he is not going to reply he cannot speal because the Prime Minister cannot come her next week and speak if this motion goes through As you intimated to the Leader of the House las night only the person speaking can make tha motion, and if the motion is made by th Minister of Housing, he is the person who would have to make the final reply on behalf of th Government. If there are Rules, we must stand by the rules. The motion is still out of order for the simple reason that the motion cannot b seconded. 1. 10 p. m.

Now if the Minister of Housing purports to be replying, even if he is in a position to, make a notion, the motion cannot be seconded by the Minister of Tourism because he has no right to ; peak. Only one person has a right to speak after •he mover has spoken, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I do not agree with the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown. A debate can be adjourned from time to time. Therefore it seems to me that the House and the Cl^air, can entertain more than one motion for the adjournment at a particular debate; and obviously if a motion is to be in order it must be seconded properly, and the mover of this particular motion as I understand it, will not be allowed to speak because he has exhausted by his intervention his right to speak. So I think the motion is properly in order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
But I have ruled.

Mr. BOLDEN:
What you have ruled is that if the mover of a motion has replied, that anybody on that side is entitled

to get up, ask for further suspension.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
If you refer to Standing Order 29(2) A motion that reflects adversely on the Government, the Government has a right of final reply to the reply of the mover. In other circumstances this would have been the final reply on the part of the Leader of the Opposition. That is Standing Order 29(2).

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, may I just read this interesting part of 29(1), ...

Mr. SPEAKER:
I have already ruled.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:
If you look at it carefully Sir, you will see it states quite clearly "The mover of a motion may reply after all the other members present have had the opportunity of addressing the House and before the question is put, and after such a reply no other member may speak except as provided in Paragraph 2 of this Order. "

Paragraph 2 reads: "A Minister may conclude a debate on any motion which is critical of the Government or reflects adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer " Now, Salt says "a Minister". Not two or three Ministers can speak. Only one Minister can speak, Sir.

Now as I understand your ruling last night, when the Leader of the House intervened without purporting to make a speech to move that further consideration be postponed, you ruled that he could only make that motion if he was making a speech.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
That was not the effect of my ruling. That must have been misunderstood.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

At any rate, Sir. Mr. ADAMS Mr. Speaker, ...

Mr. SPEAKER:
Both hon. members take their seats. I will put the question.

Mr. ADAMS:
But Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
I have already ruled. Please take your seat.....

Mr. ADAMS:
But on a point of order, Sir. I want to speak on the question for further consideration.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
Please take your seat..... You may speak on the motion.

Mr. ADAMS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak on the motion, not for your ruling or on points of order or anything. I believe that hon. members opposite are in some difficulty because of the occasional caprice of the Prime Minister which has put them in a slightly, uncomfortable position today. In any properly organized political party, in Legislature where there was mutual respect for the Cabinet, the Prime Minister would attend a debate on the budget and be ready at the end of the debate to make his reply if he so wished. It is, I would call it, an indecency towards the decorum of the House for the Prime Minister to seek a special meeting of the House to make a reply to a budget in which there has been very little hostility.

I am really, I would say so once again, with respect to all hon. members - I say 'with respect' because I am not trying to be patronizing anybody - most favourably impressed with the tone of the debate on both sides in this matter. It has been a debate carried on, I think, with sincerity by all hon. members. The Rule says that the debate goes on for two sitting days. We have allowed some elasticity in that, as you yourself have pointed out, Sir, without suspending the relevant Standing Orders; but we have now come

to the end of two sitting days. We have now come to the end of the debate and according to the Rules the debate must now be concluded.

It is unprecedented in this House, both in terms of fact and in terms of propriety, in my submission, for a Minister to seek more time to reply to a perfectly simple and ordinary debate which the rules provide shall be completed in two days immediately after the proposals are introduced. The Rules say. two days, and we are now being asked for consideration to be suspended. I have only been the House eight years now, and therefore my experience is not by any means such as can he afforded by the hon. member, the Leader of the House who is the hon. member for Christ Church East, and the hon. member for St. Michale west but I venture to assert that there has never been a debate on a Queen's speech or oft a budget in which anybody sought to adjourn the reply by. the Minister.

Now I am not worried about the niceties but I would urge upon Your Honour the fact that the debate has to be over in two sitting days, and we must, either take the vote now or the hon. member for St Michael North West reply. That is it. I understan4 that the time is wanted to bring the facilities of CBC here. I even saw a light such as is appropriate only to a camera yesterday, so I do not know if the long awaited television facilities, are going to be provided next Tuesday. The public of Barbados would judge whether the Prime Minister did not want to be on because it was flecky or whether it was that he did not want the Leader of the Opposition to be op. But I would again respectfully point this motion is my motion. I moved it on the radio Somebody is going to be given the chance to reply to it-Technically my reply should be broadcast if any further reply is going to be broadcasted, because the principle of equal time if it is going to apply, must surely apply to the mover of the motion in his reply, if the Prime Minister makes a speech and I am given equal time to reply and then the Prime Minister is going to be given time for a further reply, commonsense tells you that you are violating something if.. the final reply of the mover of the motion was a0t broadcast.

I was not broadcast in the speech that I have just made; so if the reason that the Government is postponing this debate for another week is that they want broadest facilities to be brought into the House I would remind them that there are some very adverse precedents, as I said in 4&is House already about broadcasting when hon. members did not feel a broadcast should go on. Because although unfortunately I think I will be back in the Island next Tuesday; I have to leave the Island for a day or two at the end of this week and I would try my best to be here, but I am sure hon. members will not let it go for nothing. 1. 20 p. m.

If this House is to be seen merely as an extension of the kingdom of King Fraud, hon. members will have to say something about that in the fullness of time. The Hon. Minister of Information has, if I may say so, all the disadvantages of birth in England and an early English education and a few of the advantages of living in a civilised country as an adult would bring him. He thinks it correct and proper to

give instructions to a broadcasting organisation when to put on broadcasts, when not to put on broadcasts and so on. He tells people when to take a man off television, write people letters to say whose speech is to be broadcast and whose speech isn't.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The hon. member should speak to the motion.

Mr. ADAMS:
Yes, on further consideration, and I am informed it has not yet been denied that a postponement is sought in order to let the broadcasting facilities be brought in here. It has not yet been denied and I am drawing attention to the intimacy of control which the Minister of Information seeks over the Government broadcasting medium to persuade hon. members that if it is untrue that broadcast facilities are being sought that he will be able to get up and deny it. If it is untrue that they are being sought, the Minister of Information can stop me by saying it is untrue and it is not intended to broadcast the Prime Minister's reply, and unless he so does I will take it to be true and continue my speech upon that basis. Now if it is really sought, he not having denied that it is sought to give the Prime Minister an opportunity to appear on television.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to Standing Order No. 35(2) because the Order for further consideration yesterday was moved by the Hon. Leader of the House and it was seconded by the hon. member for St. Michael North West. Standing Order No. 35(2) states "The debate upon such a motion shall be confined to the matter of the motion. A Member who has made or seconded such a motion shall not be entitled to move or second any similar motion during the same debate. "

Mr. Speaker, on that alone the motion is out of order.

Mr. ADAMS:
I am sorry I have wasted so much time speaking on an out of order motion.

Mr, SPEAKER:
I have asked Mr. Clerk to ascertain the seconder of yesterday's motion. I have been informed that the hon. member for St. Michael North West seconded yesterday's motion and in fact moved a motion today contrary to Standing Order No. 35(2), whereupon the motion for the adjournment of this matter is out of order. The motion as moved by the hon. member is out of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

Mr. BOLD EN:
Mr. Speaker, if the motion is out of order Your Honour now has to put the question.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I do not uphold the hon. member's point of order at all.

Mr. HOPPIN:
Mr. Speaker I beg to second the motion.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
Mr. Speaker, before I was interrupted I begged to move that further consideration of this motion be postponed.

Mr. HOPPIN:
I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, this motion can only be made by a person who is speaking. Is that not correct?

Mr. SPEAKER:
No, I do not agree with you.

Mr. ADAMS:
Sir, I would now draw Your Honour's attention to two matters. If I may with the greatest possible respect draw Erskine May to Your Honour's attention, page 369 "A dilatory motion cannot be made while a Member is speaking but can only be offered by a Member who, on being called by the Speaker

in the course of the debate is in possession of the House. "

We have been in here a little longer than some of the hon. members who have been arguing so strenuously against us, but never mind that. I would really have now to draw to Your Honour's attention without repeating all the arguments which I made on the previously out of order motion, Standing Order No. 31(1):

"The two sitting days which shall immediately follow the Annual Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals shall be allotted to debate thereon. "

There really is no provision for a third day. And the total debating time shall not exceed the maximum time allotted by Standing Order No. 6 for a day's sitting. Really there is no way of going over. This Rule was introduced to stop the old days when Budget debates were carried on from week to week in Private Members' Time when one man would speak and the Budget debate used to go on six and seven months and sometimes was not finished when the next Budget came in. I seem to remember that the hon. member for Bridgetown was a voice raised loud at the Standing Orders Committee for this. The whole purpose of the Standing Order is to abbreviate debate on the Budget. It really cannot go on in my respectful submission. The very expression "two sitting days", not two sittings, which as Your Honour well knows is interpreted to mean separate suspended days.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

This is now the third day, so I have been reliably informed by the Clerk, that this debate has been engaged in. The first day on which you made the reply, yesterday and today. So now one has really to consider whether one is looking at days in terms of the day of the month or days in terms of time as laid down in Standing Order No. 6 that a sitting day is from midday until 9. 30 p. m., in which case we have not even reached the limit in time of one sitting day. I think if you stick to the strict interpretation of two sitting days, then this is the third day.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, yesterday and today under Parliamentary Rules are considered as one day as long as the House is suspended. The House was suspended, so we are not in the third day.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think it necessary for me to rule at this point. My ruling is that two sitting days are equivalent to two sitting days in time, and not two sitting days according to the days of the month, and the basis for that is Standing Order No. 6(2).

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I should ask to reopen my speech so that I can speak out the other eleven hours because at least I am unlimited in this matter. Sir, I would urge hon. members.....what is the use of urging hon. members? The Prime Minister has spoken, they are all afraid of him; he must have been afraid of something not to appear on television the first time, and we can only leave it at that. I would urge hon. members and urge that the spirit of the rules and the spirit of debate in this House is being grossly offended by what is proposed by the Government. Undoubtedly it will strike a blow at the perhaps good relations that have existed over the past few months, because certainly we would never have consented to doing any Government business had we known we were going to be treated in this way, and the public will have to judge. 1. 30 p. m.

I would only say that I hate hypocrisy. I got a letter from the Leader of the House saying that T. V. cameras were to be brought in here on a certain day. I really do hate this. If it is the desire to keep the Leader of the Opposition off the television screen, you do not have to put him on at all. Do not be two-faced and dishonest about it.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

If the hon. Member would give way for a moment, I would assure him that there is no question of T. V. cameras. Broadcasting facilities by ordinary radio, yes; but T. V. cameras, no.

Mr. ADAMS:

Now, Sir, this is obviously relevant to it because he has explained that we are adjourning to allow the broadcasting facilities. I am urging you not to allow it. I am the mover of the motion, and in the ^ordinary way if you are going to give broadcasting time it is the mover of the motion who gets the two bites; but the Prime Minister would have had two and the mover of the motion would have had one.

I am urging you, Sir, to consider this matter very seriously, when deciding whether to allow broadcasting facilities. I believe that you want me to say it outright. I did not say it before, but I was actually happy when I saw CBC facilities in here originally because I myself believed that the speech of every hon. Member should have been taken. There are only half an hour speeches, and I have not been exceptionally long in reply. I would probably have been shorter in reply if the matter had been broadcast so as to facilitate the services.

I do not see why valuable contributions such as those made by the members for St. Michael West, St. Lucy, St. Peter and St. James should not have been broadcast. All of those speeches reached a high standard and should have been aired and ventilated to the people of Barbados.

I would urge hon. Members not to devalue themselves in the face of the Prime Minister's forcefulness or whatever inducement he is using to persuade them to take this course of action. I would urge hon. Members to explain to the Prime Minister that it is his duty, as well as theirs to be present in the House when financial matters are being debated. I know that he has taken some terrible blows recently, but that is in the nature of politics; that is in the nature of things, and I would urge hon. Members not take this step so disastrous to good relations and a decent spirit of traditional standards of parliamentary life as they are seeking to undertake today. Let the speech be broadcast or nobody's.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, speaking on this motion I would point out that Order 29(2) clearly states dealing with the right of reply that it gives to a Minister, and not to the Ministers of Government, but to any individual Minister the right to reply if a Resolution is critical of the Government. We acknowledge the fact that this Resolution is critical of the Government and will therefore concede that a Minister has a right of reply.

But, Sir, the Minister who replies is the only person who can speak after the mover of the motion. Therefore, if the meaning of the words set out at Page 369 of Mays is correct - it states "A dilatory motion cannot be made when a member is speaking, but can only be offered by a member who on being called by the Speaker in the course of the debate is in possession of the House. "

If you analyse these words they mean that if one other member of this Chamber is speaking, no other member can get up and make a dilatory motion. He can only move that dilatory motion if he is in possession of the House and in the course of a debate; not when the debate is finished.

Therefore it would follow that for a person to move a dilatory motion such as the one moved here, that person must be in possession of the House. He must have had a right to speak and he must do it when he rises to address the Chair, and in the course of addressing the Chair, makes that dilatory motion.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think that you made a ruling on the matter already and you have accepted a motion. Now Rule 35 says "The debate upon such a motion shall be confined to the

matter of the motion. " I do not think that you can discuss why the motion that you are now speaking on was moved, because that has already been accepted by the Speaker.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
As I was saying, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
I must uphold the hon. Member who has drawn to my attention Standing Order 35(2). What in fact you are doing, which in fact I am prepared to listen to on another occasion, is presenting a dissertation by May on what goes on at Westminster, What in fact you are doing is questioning my ruling. We have to abide by the Standing Orders ultimately. On another occasion I would be quite prepared to listen to May's dissertation on parliamentary practice at Westminster. It has been very helpful. If I did this the whole burden of what May's therefore is saying is that a motion for further postponement or consideration should not have been moved by either of the persons from that side who seconded it. Therefore it could only have been made by the Leader of the Opposition who sat down; and that is precisely what I ruled against. I have already ruled.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Sir. Did I correctly hear Your Honour to say that we must abide by the Standing Orders?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Indeed.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Then we have thrown ourselves into negatives upon negatives, if it is that Your Honour is ruling that we must abide by the Standing Orders and at the same time saying that Your Honour accepts that that motion could only have been made by the Leader of the Opposition who was on his feet, we might as well throw the Standing Orders through the window; because we are not abiding by the Standing Orders.

We cannot, in my humble opinion, be told that we must abide by the Standing Orders when it is suited on one occasion and then throw them through the window when it is not suited on another occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Please take your seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I am not questioning your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER:
I am not going to allow you to carry on in that vein unless you are going to change your line of argument. What in effect you are doing by referring to May's is that you are questioning my ruling.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
With all due respect to you, Sir, if I did not question your ruling two minutes ago we would have gone wrong earlier.

Mr. SPEAKER:
You did not question my ruling on a former occasion. You moved on a point of order and on careful checking - please take your seat.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order then, I am now asking you whether the Resolution as moved is in accordance with the Standing Order. I am saying that it is not in accordance with the Standing Order.

Mr. SPEAKER:
You are not entitled to ask for information of that kind.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I am saying that the Resolution is not in accordance with the rules.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The motion is quite in order.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
You have not heard me before you say that it is quite in order.

The question that further consideration be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows: -

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. MORRISON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. WEEKES, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. WALCOTT, Mr. E. GREAVES and Mr. HOPPIN - 10.

Nbes: Mr. ADAMS, Mr. MOTTLEY, Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN 4. 1. 40 p. m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA? Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 12 noon on Tuesday next 17th December, 1974.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, few courtesies are ever afforded the Opposition in this House, but I have always made it my duty to be present during a budget speech or any major speech by the Prime Minister. I have little doubt that, secure from further reply the Prime Minister will make his every effort to make certain references - I hope all will be parliamentary to the Leader of the Opposition - and I would not wish anybody to think that I did not afford him the courtesy of being present or that I was afraid to hear what he popularly calls "the blows". I would therefore ask the Leader of the House, since, as I can mention, I will have to be away for a few days, and I will try to get a passage to enable me to be back here on Monday night as I cannot be back here on Tuesday itself, I will ask the Leader of the House if in his mercy he will give me one more day at least so that I will be here to do the Minister of Finance the courtesy of being in my place during his activities.

The Minister of Finance evidently is afraid to hear me. I would not like anybody to think that he insists on speaking on a day that he knows I cannot be here, because he does not want to hear my interruption. I

am sure he would be glad of the opportunity to know that I am here to correct him in any missteps which he takes in the course of his speech; and, I would ask the Leader of the House if he would consider putting it for next Wednesday. It is impossible for me to be here at noon on Tuesday.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot grant what has been requested, because the Prime Minister is a very busy person and he has a very tight schedule.

For the information of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition we are suggesting that the actual final reply by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning may be about five o'clock in the afternoon; so it may well be by then he may be back in. So he needs not necessarily be here by 12 o'clock. We will go on with Government Business including a lot of Resolutions etc., and the Prime Minister will be coming in around 5 o'clock in the afternoon, so he will have ample time to get back.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 12 Noon on Tuesday, 17th December, 1974, was pur and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
We now resume.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, when this sitting was suspended Government Business was being considered, and in accordance with the arrangements made the morning session is devoted to Government Business.

I beg to move that the Sitting this evening be broadcast live- that there be a live broadcast recorded by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning or any Minister who may reply.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand the Leader of the House is saying that the Prime Minister's reply will be broadcast, and I understand that there was some letter in connection with the Parliamentary Budget and I would be glad if you would enlighten the House as to the contents at this stage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
I was informed that...

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I just want to get this straight. I rose on a point of order I have not made a speech on the motion.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Before Your Honour replies I want to draw to the attention of the House that the usual permission was sought in writing and was granted, and that the reply by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning is an integral part of the entire matter to which the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is entitled; so all the proceedings have been gone through. It is only that I do not want any hitch, so I make a motion to make it doubly clear and doubly certain, That's all.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the House is saying that permission was sought for this, and granted. I do not know that any such permission was sought for any reply. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you could read the application that the Leader of the House referred to, saying that permission was sought...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Is the km. member finished?

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Yes, Sir.

Mr, DEPUTY SPEAKER:
I have been informed by the Clerk that permission has been sought as the Leader of the House has just outlined.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
How? By what means?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
By letter

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Where is the letter?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
You cannot question me as to where the letter is. The Clerk informed me that permission has been sought by the Leader of the House and it has been granted, and also now the Leader of the House is seeking permission for the reply to be broadcast live and a motion is before the House to that effect.

Hon. Member sin favour.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order; with all due respect. You cannot put a motion while standing on your feet^ Sir. This is denying people the right to speak. If so, I will have to get up and address the Chair while you are on your feet. No Speaker, can put a motion standing on his feet, because it is depriving other members of speaking.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Will you please take your seat?

Mr, MOTTLEY:
I will sit; but you cannot put a motion standing on your feet.

Mr, DEPUTY SPEAKER:
I am not creating any precedent.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I want to speak now, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
May I hear you?

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, you said just now that permission was sought to have certain things done, and you went on to say that permission is being sought to have the reply broadcast.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
That is so.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I would like, Sir, in view of the statement you have made concerning the permission that was sought by letter, to find out whether the letter is available as a document of this House, and to see the permission that was sought and granted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
That point is made.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I say that because as I understand it, permission is now being sought to have the reply broadcast and, it was permission sought in the original application to have the reply broadcast. That is all I want to find out, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
I have ruled that the Clerk has in his possession a letter, and the copy is available; you can see it by the permission of the Clerk.

Permission has now been sought and there is a motion before the House.

The question that the reply of the Prime Minister be broadcast live was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows: -

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, Mr. R. StC. WEEKES, Mr. W. R. LOWE and Mr. J. B. SPRINGER -11.

Notes: Mr. W. C. B. HINDS and Mr. MOTTLEY-2.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning...

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. How can we get papers to be presented at this stage when this is a suspended sitting? I do not understand what's going on in here, Sir. We have past this part of the Order Paper where you give Notices You have to act in accordance with the Rules. 12. 10 p. m.

Hon, C, E. TALMA:
If the hon. member would give way, it is very surprising that all these objections are coming from the same person who made the Arrangement with the Government as to the business to be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday last week that Government Business be dealt with in the morning and in the afternoon we would continue with the Reply to the Financial Statement. When the hon. member talks about irregularities, the whole two days should have been spent on the Reply, not last Tuesday or Wednesday. It should have been dealt with about two weeks ago because this has been pending for the last month almost.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I believe that your control over the proceedings of this Honourable House would be very much eased if you were to avail yourself in my submission of the contents of a letter that was sent by the Leader of the House... (Interruptions)

What am I talking about?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
The hon. member is addressing the Chair. I have to decide. I have not heard your point, Will you please continue and then I will make my ruling?

Mr. HINDS:
I am making reference to the fact that a letter dated 12th November was sent from the Leader of the House to the Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
About what?

Mr. HINDS:
That is exactly the point I want Your Honour to address your mind to, and that is why I am trying to ask Your Honour to avail yourself of the opportunity...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
May I hear the hon. member? You said a letter was sent. What type of letter? I would just like to know.

Mr. HINDS:
I shall read the letter with your permission. It is dated 12th November, 1974.

"Sir,

The Minister of Finance and Planning proposes to present to the House of:

Assembly on Thursday, 21st November, 1974, at approximately 5 p. m a Supplemental Financial Statement and Supplemental Budgetary Proposals for 1974-75, and then to give notice of such Statutory Instruments and other legislation as may be necessary in consequence of the proposals. "

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
May I interrupt at this point? I wanted to hear some of the content of the letter, and I can now say that

that has been dealt with already.

Mr. HINDS:
You asked me to read the letter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Will the hon. member please sit. Since you have read the contents of the letter, I am aware of the matter to which you are referring, and that matter has been dealt with already.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, I object to the motion since it is out of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
Leave had been granted, the hon. member objected, and a motion has been made and seconded.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I objected to the motion and you did not rule.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
I ruled that it was in order immediately after the hon. member made his objection.

The question that permission be granted to lay Documents and give Notices and Replies to Parliamentary Questions, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. WEEKES; Mrs. EASTMOND; Mr. SPRINGER and Mr. LOWE-11

Notes: Mr. MOTTLEY and Mr. HINDS-2. DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning I am commanded to lay the following

"Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1974, and for the month ended 31st October, 1974. "

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following

"Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1972. "

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the following

"Resolution to grant the sum of $403, 976 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 18, which form the Schedule to the Resolution. "

Also,

"Resolution to grant the sum of $275, 682 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75 No. 20, which form the Schedule to the Resolution. "

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following

"Resolution to grant the sum of $47, 071 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part II- Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 19 which form the Schedule to the Resolution. "

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 120 asked by the hon. member for St. Thomas, is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 259 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter is ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair. 12. 20 p. m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1974-75 NO. 16

Resolution in the sum of $2, 290, 200 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution, there are several Heads in this omnibus Resolution. With regard to Head 15(2) - Government Printing Office, the notes are explanatory. The reasons for the increases are due to fuel charges, telephone rates, and so on. The usual explanation has been given here over and over again, and I do not care to tire hon. members any more.

I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is an item to which the Leader of the House has not given us an explanation. I refer to the question of conflict of interest. You will find that this Government gave permission to a Permanent Secretary to continue to work as a Director at Sandy Lane Hotel. When you find a junior clerk working as a sub-auditor at the same hotel, then there is conflict of interest because an officer cannot be expected to serve the Government during the day and in the night he has to go to the hotel to earn a $1 or $2.

With regard to the Government Printery, the Chief Government Printer is serving the Government and is also carry on his own printery. How, Mr. Chairman, can one reconcile such a situation? What is the Leader of the House going to tell us about this matter? He cannot deny it. I know exactly what they have

decided to do later on. It is known to certain members of the Government that the Chief Government Printer and others are carrying on their own printery. They have approached the Town and Country Planning Department for permission to use a building to house a printery; but they were refused such permission. They went from Minister to Minister asking them to use their influence in order to assist them in getting a building to carry on their business. Whenever they have to work extra hours at the Government Printery, who knows whether or not the people are putting in extra hours on Government's work, or on work for some commercial firm that has placed an order with the Chief Government Printer? (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. HINDS:
Of course I am addressing the Chair. I am not now discussing the question of their undertaking work from commercial firms.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like the hon. member to make himself very clear because he is imputing improper motives. I do not know anything about the matter, but I would like to obtain the necessary information from him. If he has the information; then he can give it now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, that is what we always hear from the Government. How can the hon. member stand on his feet and make a statement such as this?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Unless the hon. member has complied with Standing Order 28(10), I am submitting that he is out of order. If he has not submitted to the Speaker written prior notice of the matter, or if he has not given you written prior notice of this matter, then he is out of order. The Standing Order states

"10. (a) No reference may be made in debate to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity.

(b) Any Member who desires to refer in debate to the character or conduct of any person in his official

capacity must deliver to the Speaker written prior notice of the proposed reference; the notice must set out the facts on which such reference will be based and must be signed by the Member giving it. "

This comes under Rules of Debates, and, unless his has been complied with, the hon. member is out of order. I am interested in what the hon. member is saying, and I would like to hear some more. Even though I am interested in hearing what he has to say, at the same time it is a breach of the Rules of this Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will ask the hon. member to refrain from calling the names of officers in the Government, as it is contrary to the particular Standing Order. It is set out here that you should give notice to the Speaker or to the Chairman regarding the matter on which you propose to speak. I am not here to read out all of this.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out that a policeman delivered these papers at my house late last night. Anyway, I have said enough that if the Leader of the House, or any Minister concerned, wants to get at the facts of the case he can do so quite easily. I do not believe that anybody can move a printery overnight. Can any Minister of this House say that he can exercise control over the Government Printery when the things to which I have referred are taking place there? What I have referred to, in my opinion, amounts to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Chairman, there will be times when the cash from some order which has been placed by some business house is of more importance to a worker than the salary he is going to get at the end of the month, whether he is working at the Government Printery or otherwise. This is another area where we might find that we can reduce a considerable amount of the waste that has been plaguing Government's operations in these Ministries. 12. 30 p. m.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, you have increased your equipment at the Government Printery, spent considerable sums of money imporving your equipment; they have provided, the Leader of the House has been telling us for the longest time now, expansions to works and extensions to their buildings to accommodate staff to make them more commodious and make them feel more comfortable and what not. If this is the case, Mr. Chairman, one would have thought that making these provisions and spending all this money to improve the situation would reduce very considerably your overtime

operations.

Now we in Parliament have played our part where the Government Printery is concerned because we are sure that the work for the financial year that is now going and which work has been done for Parliament, cannot be said to bear any sort of relation to equate in any form or fashion the volume that the Government Printery has had to cope with over the years trying to meet the demands made upon it by Parliament. We have considerably reduce our demand upon the Government Printery during the present financial year. This cannot be denied, unless the demand came from sources with which I am unfamiliar; and it is quite unlikely for this to be so. So it means therefore that the Leader of the House ought to be in a position to tell us what has brought about this demand for these overtime rates, and the stepping up of your overtime and what not.

After all, Sir, I think the members of staff of the Government Printery are all unionized, and if they are a unionized people it must be taken for granted that they have all been instructed that they must give a full day's work because they have demanded and are receiving a full day's wage. If this is the case, Sir, as far as I know there can hardly be any representation for additional staff, so if this is the case, who is putting in this overtime? What Government departments are requiring this overtime? Because, we believe that some of the equipment presently on the premises of the Government Printery is under-utilized. We have reasons to believe this. If this is the case, certainly such action, or lack of action, could not justify expenditure on overtime in other departments of the Government Printery, because printing is a process that one step follows the other, so to speak.

I am sure that the Leader of the House under whose portfolio I think the Government Printery still falls, ought to be able to give us some explanation apart from telling us that they are putting up these new buildings and what not, for so long. We ought to be able to hear something from the Leader or let us know exactly what is taking place at the Government Printery at this particular time.

On the question of materials, you would find it is SI50, 000 that we are now asked for Mr. Chairman. There has been an increase in cardboard, there has been an increase in paper; we agree with all of this, but still, in the light of what I have brought to the attention of hon. members here, I would certainly like to hear how the Minister will be able to justify $150, 000 extra now to buy paper and card, inks, and whatever material they may want. We want to know that they are supplied for the Government Printery and for no other Printery but the Government Printery.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say a few brief words. I understand and appreciate the hon. member's

knowledge of printing, but there should be a Rule in this House that anybody who has either an interest to serve, or who can indirectly benefit from any piece of legislation or any Resolution of this House, should first declare to the House his particular interest in that piece of legislation. It is all right for the hon. member to get up and talk about conflict of interest, but I think we all in this House know that when it comes to printing the hon. member not only has an interest in the Government Printery but part of his vocation is concerned with printing; and therefore to get up and accuse somebody in one breath of a conflict of interest and then to speak on a Resolution in which he may benefit indirectly or directly if the Government Printery closes down, is something which should be declared to this House.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is asking me to lose my temper.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would not like you to lose it.....

Mr. HINDS:

He is saying that I would benefit if the Government Printery closes down. If he dies I do not hope to benefit.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Any how that is no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

That is the whole point. He comes in here with criticisms.....

Mr. HINDS:

He is saying that I want the Government Printery close down for me to benefit from it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Will the hon. member please take his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I am not suggesting that and I want to go on record as not suggesting that. All I am saying is that one of the callings of the hon. member is in the same type of profession as the Government Printing Press. I am not saying that he wants it to be closed down. All I am saying is that in matters like these we should declare and let the public know that when we criticise the Printing Press, if you are a printer, then your criticisms are based on an objective assessment of the failures of the enterprise and not because of your particular skill and the possibility, however remote of your benefiting from such an unfortunate circumstance. That is all I want to make quite clear.

So when he gets in here in one breath and accuse of a conflict of interest, his is not a conflict of interest; his is a competition of interest. 12. 40

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I object to the hon. member saying that what I have just said was a competition of interests. He said that when I spoke about the Government Printery my speech was a competition of interests. Is that not imputing improper motives? I am not a lawyer, but this is the type of lawyer that people have got to deal with when you have no case.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

We have no lawyers in here.

Mr. HINDS:

I object to what the hon. member has said about my address being a competition of interests. There is no competition of interests in this. Why don't you ask the Ministers to declare their assets?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member must sit.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I did say there was a competition of interests, and I will withdraw that. All I am saying is that we know that the hon. member is in a similar profession.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order what this Minister does not want to hear is how they gave a contractor a job in the Ministry and then he goes and builds a house for you and all sorts of things. All this corruption is going

on in the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Now the hon. member must withdraw those remarks.

Mr. HINDS:
About what Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That the Minister has given out a contract.

Mr. HINDS:
No, Sir. I said that this Minister does not want to hear this; I have not said that he has done it. It was the Minister whom he succeeded that had a gate built at the Government's expense and carried and hung at his house.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I am not going into that. I am just saying that they call me in here Mr. Clean, and if he had declared to us that he is a printer by profession or a part of his vocation and I would like the House to understand and appreciate that his criticism is based on an objective assessment of where the Printing Office is going wrong, that would be all right. But it is not fair to get up and criticise it rightly or wrongly unless you declare that your knowledge for criticism is based on your experience as a printer. That is all I am saying.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Before you put the question, Sir, I should just like to make it clear that the hon. member has a habit of coming in here and accusing right, left and centre. Now I am not aware of any irregularities going on at the Government Printery, but apparently the hon member for St. Peter is even better than Dr. Goebels whom I believe died many years ago. The fact is that a lot of information gets to him or he is seized of certain information and he comes in here and expects us to know everything. If he has any complaint about the Government Printery, there is a stipulated way of getting information. Do not come in here and expect on a supplementary to get a whole long history of the Government Printery. We do that at Estimates time when we try to give a run down of what has happened over the last year and various projections; but this is a supplementary and the hon. member expects me to stay in here and give him a history of what has been going on from day to day at the Government Printery. If he has any complaint or any substantive question, he can ask it, but he is entirely out of order as pointed out by the Hon.

Minister of Housing and Labour in that he is trying to attack unnecessarily.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That matter has been dealt with already and I have ruled on it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
The reason why we have come back here is due to an increase in the over-time rates which we have mentioned. This over-time rates have been increased not only for officers in other Government Department, but for the Government Printery as well, and it is for that reason that we have to seek a supplementary. The other reason is the cost of material world-wide.

The question that Head 15 (2) -Government Printing Office - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21(3) - ELECTORAL OFFICE

Head 21(3) - Electoral Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 21(3), Item 3 - Office Expenses, an amount of $5, 795 was provided under this item to meet the cost of utilities and other expenses including stationery, cleaning materials and office supplies. The provision of $5, 795 is inadequate to meet expenses to' the end of the financial year and the amount of $690 is therefore required, We always come for supplementaries at this time of the year and this is quite straightforward.

I beg to move that Head 21(3) - Electoral Office - stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think since we still have some time, although not perhaps a very long time before the next elections, we should take particular notice of the Electoral Office. I want to take notice of it from a few points of view One is that although there has been an on-going system of registration of electors, those of us who look at even straws in the wind notice that there has been an increase no doubt in the number of persons being registered recently, and we say no more about that other than to note the manner in which the efforts of registration are going on.

The other thing I am sure that would justify the asking for this supplementary is the number of meetings the officials of the Electoral Office have been having recently. No doubt again this may be just normal office routine, but I think if one is very serious about the representation of the people, you not only observe these things, but you comment on certain fundamental principles that should be straightened out right away so far as the Electoral Office and elections in this country are concerned. I am not satisfied that an going process of registration is achieving seriously the object of having every citizen in this country who qualified registered, and I for one do not believe that the onus for undertaking this should be on sitting members of Parliament although they have a vested interest, those of us who may be coming back, in seeing that as many people as possible we believe will support us are on the register. I strongly believe that any country should ensure that all of its citizens have the right to vote, have the administrative machinery provided for them and indeed are on the electoral roll, and I would like to see us move to the stage where voting becomes compulsory for the citizens of the country.

Now in the Electoral Office today it is still true that in some areas there are people who are registered on more than one register. In the last election I unfortunately had the experience of my late mother being qualified to vote in my constituency as well as in the constituency of St. Michael South. Obviously law abiding citizen as she was, she voted in my constituency and with maternal love as she had she voted correctly, but she did have to make her voice heard before she achieved that object. What I am saying from this is that I think we should, before the next elections, make sure that we sort out these snags of some people who are on two registers or who indeed receive from the registration office a card saying that they may vote at, let us say, ZA in Christ Church West and turn up at the voting booth to find that they are voting instead in St. Michael South or even at times in the city. 12. 50 p. m.

I do not think we should wait until the elections, where tempers are hot and everybody is scrambling to get a vote, to sort out these problems. There is another fundamental problem that I have raised from the time I came into this House, and I will raise it again. It is obvious to me that no matter how good-tempered and democratic-minded a Government might be, it will not resist the temptation for a little bit of boundary alignment on an administrative basis. You will find in a place like Christ Church South Central the position where people on one side of the road find that they are no longer in the constituency

of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, but in the constituency of the Honourable Leader of the House overnight. Obviously, the choice of candidates must be restricted. I am not saying that this has anything to do with the hon. Member for Christ Church East, because he may not have been the beneficiary from this. He might have got some of the votes going against him. The hon. Member may shake his head, but one of the things, I believe, the lawyers are now studying and must study ahead of the time of the next elections is the process of using injunctions as has happened recently in England, to compel registers to be corrected even at 24 hours' notice.

Mr. Chairman, certainly in the last elections there were people living in Brathwaite's Gap,

who were registered in Christ Church West, and had to vote in St. Michael South. One or two of them voted, but a lot of the others did not vote. I see an hon. Member, who is a beneficiary, not on party lines but on personal qualities, of some of my luck. I have personal experience of this, so the hon. Member need not shake his head. Since some of the members of the Government have in mind the realignment of constituency boundaries, I believe that the matter should be tackled now. If we are going to have 32 members or 36 members, as some people want, then let the ground rules be laid now so that everybody will know the position.

Mr. Chairman, I do not mind how Christ Church West will be cut up this time. I will take a seat even if it means taking the Minister of Tourism's seat. He must get that straight; the people would give that seat to me. I believe in the song: "Girl, I want it, come on and give it to me, " and I believe the constituents understand that. Seriously speaking, Mr. Chairman, if we are going to realign the boundaries in the interest of the democratic process, then we must have an objective chairman, with either an equity or party of the parties. I would like to see a Boundaries Commission that can function without pressure being put on it one way or the other.

Mr. Chairman, it amazes me that we criticise, from time to time, our colonial overlords of the past, but I think that, by and large, other than the issue of proportional representation in England, it is true to say that the Boundaries Commission in England functioned almost perfectly without any notice of partisan advantage for one party or another. It strikes me as strange that in the Caribbean we do not seem to be able to take a fairly objective view on these matters. I am asking the Government now, since it is being talked about in their constituency branches, to declare their views on this issue of the realignment of seats.

Mr. Chairman, probably the hon. Member for St. Michael South East and myself may be able to give some proper advice on how to realign seats in certain areas because we can look at the matter objectively. If the Government are going to do something about this matter, then let them do it now. It is not right for the Government to wait until the last moment to make these Orders. In the last elections

Senator St. John got tricked in voting down the line without challenging a certain matter and the Order went through at the last moment. I think his political hindsight would not allow him now to have given that Order such an easy passage. I was not in the House at the time, but had he listened to my advice, he would have been more sagacious on some of the issues. We believe that elections are won in the last resort, on how wide-eyed you can stay awake in the last few hours of the elections - the last six days. I am asking the Government to lay down proper Rules now, not next year, and certainly not three or four months before the elections.

Mr. Chairman, you may not be gracing this Chamber again, so you may be able to be objective on this matter. (Asides.) When the Chairman is ready, he will decide in that area whom he wants to succeed him. He has always told me that. If Mr. Chairman, for any reason or other, does not want to be in here in the future - I know that you are quite capable of attempting to come again and can come again - but if you come again, I should like to see that the boundaries in your area are demarcated. (Asides.) On the last occasion, you beat a man who was much younger than yourself and with much more political inexperience, and I think it was done in a manner which was creditable to yourself. I only spoke in your constituency once, but I believe that you would feel happier knowing that your boundaries are demarcated and there can be no allegation that a fast one was being pulled on you.

Mr. Chairman, I will end my speech on this single note. My actual and intellectual experience of politics is such that, eventually, people and parties move on for various reasons, but the new incoming parties always look at a bad example of a former Government as justifying their actions. One of the reasons why I keep talking in politics about setting a standard, not based on political expediency, is that unless we do so we will not push our country into setting standards in all aspects of public life. Not only must there be certain standards of debate in this Chamber, although tempers wax and wane from time to time, but I think that we should have Rules for the process of electioneering.

Mr. SPRINGER:

Mr. Chairman, Christmas really does some wonderful things for us. Even the hon. Member, who is often very serious in his contributions, found it difficult to resist the spirit of the season. Now, electoral reform, whether it is reducing the voting age, realigning boundaries, or keeping the register up to date, will always be viewed with suspicion by Opposition members. Whether you have a Boundaries Commission or an Elections Commission, there will always be a feeling that the Chairman, say, of the particular Commission is having the ear of the Government in power. One of the reasons advanced would be that it is very difficult for a person to work close to a man in power without having some leaning towards him. 1. 00 p. m.

I am one of the people who believe that the Government should control elections, from registration right through. I believe that if people are responsible enough, if they are capable enough to get people to

support them and put them in power, I believe that people would be responsible enough to use that power to the best advantage of the country by and large. I do not believe in these various Commissions and Boards. I do not believe a country the size of Barbados has enough manpower to serve us properly, and you will get duplications and triplications, one member serving on two and three Boards and when you boil it down all you are doing is concentrating the same amount of power over 60 people and you will get the same results in the end.

For my part, I have been in two elections and I would say that I have absolutely no grouse, no complaint with the type of work that was done by the electoral officers. I think the people responsible for registration did a very good job under the circumstances and this dual registration which you will get in Barbados, you will get it because of the way Barbadian men live. Most Barbadian men live at more than one house; say what you like. Several Barbadian men eat one place and sleep somewhere else, and when the registration officer go around to register, each woman who is there gives that address and that is responsible for a lot of double registration; and we have to accept that that is one of the cases where we get double registration - where two or three women might have children for the same man each mother registers him as living there. That is one of the problems in Barbadian society, and I know it as a fact. It is no fault of the electoral office. (ASIDE). The women? The problem with the women is this. Very often their mothers register them as living there and they are not living there.

But talking about the realignment of boundaries. Previous to the last election the Leader of the Opposition talked about realigning these boundaries; he wanted to take away a piece of St. Michael South East and put it on to St. Michael North East so that you will guarantee Mr. Roachford a seat, whilst you are giving to me, St. Michael South East, but you are giving to Mr. Roach ford St. Michael North East.

You added on a piece of St. Andrew on to St. James to guarantee two seats again. You did the same thing in Christ Church to guarantee, as you said, the then Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition and the arguments which were put forward for realigning the boundaries to strengthen the hands of the Government fell through, because the supposed people of the Opposition who were to win, lost.

Elections are won, as the hon. member says, not on how you realign the boundaries but on the appeal the individual candidates make in association with the party, to the people who have the vote. That and only that decides what brings a person and a party to power in the House of Assembly; and I would say this, as the hon. member knows, I do not think that in the next election I would be interested in contesting a seat. I do not think so; and I can view it objectively. The basic problem in Barbados with elections is that there is a large group of people who are just moving from the working class up to middle class, who are not interested in voting until election day. There are some of the people who have

no interest, and there are some people not of our ethnic group who think that because people of their group are not running in the election, they have no interest in the outcome of the election; but on election day or two days before the election they want to storm the electoral office; everybody wants to get registered in the last 24 hours who were not interested in politics until that day; and it creates a load on that office; but by and large, I would say this; our system is as good as anyone can want. We have, I would say, for the most part, electoral officers who have been outside of tarnish. There have been cases where their better judgement has not prevailed, because, with the emotions of the day some of them get carried away; but they have not been subject to any bribes or anything like that. They have performed their duties admirably, and I think that if the people who are entitled to vote get registered, and go around during the election and really vote, we will have a truly representative Parliament in this country.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, in large measure the hon. member for St. Michael South East who has just spoken, has replied to a number of things I had to say; but there are still a number of things on which I think some comment should be made - some things mentioned by the hon. member for Christ Church West.

I agree with him in a number of respects. I agree with him on several of the points that he has made. There were some snags and there have been some snags, and probably some snags remain. We are not going to have a perfect system. I happen to have been the Minister in charge at the time of the last election and therefore I have a fairly good knowledge of what was required and what went on. There had been cases of double registration. There had been some in my constituency. 1. 10 p. m.

I checked them out, I looked for them and wherever I could find them I drew them to the attention of the Chief Electoral Officer. Not only did I do it in my constituency. Being the Minister in charge and having access to the register for the whole Island, I looked through the registers as widely as possible and was able to spot several cases of double registration. I want to state here and now that it is not the fault, in support of what the hon. member who has just sat down has said, of the electoral officers, and I want to state here that I found the Chief Electoral Officer and all those who were called upon to support him very competent, efficient and able officers, and what is more, Mr. Chairman,, I found that they were interested in their job and were, as far as I know, above abuse. I believe this would be confirmed by hon. members themselves. In some cases the computer itself was able to pick up some instances of double registration, and when it picked them up it rejected one name and left the other one. I know that in my constituency we had persons living in the same house who were registered in different polling districts but in the same constituency, so it is not the fault of the electoral officers and it is not necessarily the fault of the registration officers.

I think it is well known that the register was based on the register as compiled in 1966, and where we found these instances of wrong or double registration, I think it is our duty to point these out to the

electoral officer. But I want to make this point because it has been made by the hon. member for Christ Church West: it is not necessarily the responsibility of the sitting member or the candidate to draw these irregularities to the attention of the electoral officer. The Representation of the People Act places the responsibility for proper registration on the head of the household as well as on the elector, and it requires any change in registration to be notified to the registration officer for that constituency within three months. There are three months in which these things should be put right, and further, the Representation of the People Act makes provision for, and I believe this has escaped the hon. member for Christ Church West, compulsory registration. Every person who attains the age of eighteen is required by the Representation of the People Act to register. However, where I believe the Act falls down is that it has not yet applied any sanctions against persons who are not registered; it does not penalise anybody for not registering. It does not penalise the householder for not giving the proper information to the registering officer for that constituency. This is where the weakness lies. It was known at the time in 1971 when the Representation of the Poeple Act came before Parliament that this was so, and it was done purposely because we hoped in fact it would not be necessary to impose; sanctions. Maybe it will become possible for us to provide penalties so as to require people to go and register.

Be that as it may, I think we had probably 90 percent voter registration over the last elections, so that in fact it is not really left to the representative to supply the information to the Chief Electoral Officer, but at the same time I would strongly recommend, because this is what I have done and what I intend to continue doing, anytime I realise that the register is not as up to date as it should be, it is my intention to provide the electoral office with that information; and I would say we have a very up-to-date system of voter registration. As a matter of fact, a number of our Caribbean territories are seeking to use the system that we are now using, and we can make quick changes, not in twenty-four hours as the hon. member for Christ Church West seems to require; it would take no less than one month when the lists are published in order to effect the changes; but one month is a short time. Previously we had to wait a whole year before any changes could be made. Under the present system all changes can be made in one month's time.

All in all, Mr. Chairman, I think we have a system that is very workable; we have problems and I dare say we will continue to have problems, because we are not going to devise a fool-proof system; but I would say that we have a very useful and competent system which I think we should feel proud of and although there are snags, I think we should all try and not only work with it but iron out any snags that do exist at the moment.

The question that Head 31(3) - Electoral Office - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 26 - Ministry of Communications and Works (1) General Administration - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head under General Administration you will notice that there are four items which require supplementary votes to the end of the financial year. I think National Insurance explains itself. The note is quite clear in that there was an increase and it is very difficult to calculate National Insurance in a big Ministry like Communications and Works. Similarity with travelling ^ office expenses and communications which include telephones.

I do not think these items are controversial, and accordingly I beg to move that Head 2. 6 - Ministry of Communications and Works (1) General Administration, stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, the only item of this lot that I wish to comment on is the item, telephones, and I wondered whether the Minister would use this opportunity to explain to the House whether Government's recent bonus gift of 15, 000 shares from the Telephone Company would make any difference to the cost to Government of telephones, or whether they are going to get any consideration for this, I understand that for the purpose of guaranteeing an overdraft for Continental Telephones for $2 million Government received some shares as a consideration, and we certainly would like to know whether Government intends to move so far as this utility is concerned to the position which we have called for from the side of the Opposition into a much more powerful system of ownership so that it can deal with the increased costs which occasionally result from this. I do not like to think that a House of this nature is from time to time starved of information, and information of this nature is being placed close to the Government's chest as though it is some special thing of private secret, and that is why I have used the opportunity to ask the Minister. I do not know whether he has Cabinet's approval at this stage, but certainly we want to know as tax payers about this guarantee and the consideration by the gift of shares and the effect they are going to have on the cost of communication by telephone in the future.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, just very briefly, the questions posed by the hon. member for Christ Church West are very interesting, but since he says this information has only come to his knowledge, he probably appreciates that at this point in time I am not in a position to give him any answers on which he can reasonably rely.

The question that Head 26 -Communications and Works (1) General Administration, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (2) WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Head 26 - Ministry of Communications and Works (2) Waterworks Department - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, you will find Other Personal Emoluments and note No. 8 explains quite clearly the reason for this amount. It says that an amount of $6, 000 was allocated under this item to meet payment of overtime fees to Clerical Officers and that the rates of overtime were increased. Of necessity if you calculate your first assessment on $X and it is increased to $X + $Y, then I think in those circumstances that a supplementary is a must.

On the question of travelling, again, Mr. Chairman, you will see that the rates of travelling and upkeep allowances payable under the Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowance Regulations were recently revised, and if you have calculated your projected expenditure on $X and it is increased to $X + $Y, a supplementary is also necessary.

The third item is a very big item as you will see, Mr. Chairman. This is to pay the Light and Power Co. for the utilities for the Waterworks Department, and with the fuel charge and the price of petroleum products, this has placed a considerable burden on the Government. 1. 20 p. m.

Now an amount of $1. 8M is necessary to meet the additional cost of water services. I understand that last week my absence was an occasion for an abuse on my person. I shall not indulge in that. I will wait for the reply and I will deal with anybody who thinks he can do what he did last week in my absence. In the 1973-74 Programme every attempt was made by my Ministry to carry pipe water to every parish in the Island: St, Thomas, St. George, St. James St. Peter, St. Lucy, St. Joseph, St. Philip, Christ Church, St. Michael and similarly, in the 1974-75 Programme. I can read it out, if any accusations are made to indicate that the Minister has been taking unnecessary advantage of his position to service his constituency to the detriment of the entire Island, I will do that with roads, too.

Mr. Chairman, I can show that we serviced St. Michael, Christ Church, St. Philip, St. Andrew, -St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. James, St. George and St. Thomas. We installed water in those areas at a considerable cost, and it is regretted that this fuel charge has placed such a burden on the Ministry. We are paying S1. 8M to pump the same amount of water as a year ago when we were paying $1. 5M. Of course the public are grumblers. I am not claiming that the Waterworks Department is the best run department in the Island. I think that by and large, the Waterworks Department are serving this community well. They take perks, they do not answer calls as promptly as some people would like, etc., but you are dealing with the human element, and we cannot account for that. I know, however, that the Chief Engineer and his officers are dedicated to serving the people but, they have to rely on people whose sense of duty and promptness is not as great as theirs.

I should like to take this opportunity to exhort Barbadians generally to understand that the rainfall has been getting less in Barbados every year, and that every attempt should be made to conserve water in the interest of the entire community.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 26(2) stand part.

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Chairman, I rise to advise the Minister that on several occasions I have seen burst mains and burst pipes and water running into the gutters. I know that reports had been made to the Waterworks Department and that quick enough action was not taken in the matter. Quite recently at Farmers there was a burst pipe one morning and it was not repaired until two or three o'clock the following morning. That took place near to where I live, and I know that thousands of gallons of water ran into the gutter.

Mr. Chairman, I remember on two occasions calling the Ministry myself and asking them to have a burst pipe at Bagatelle on the main road repaired. It was only after I called the second time that any action was taken on the matter.

The matter had already been reported by private citizens who had been affected by the burst mains and little or no attention was paid to them. I should like the Minister to extend his exhortation to conserve water not only to the general public, but to the officers who are standing by to go and make the necessary repairs to pipes and so on. They should make an effort to have the burst pipes repaired as soon as possible with a view to saving water. My criticism has been constructive, and I think that if the pipes are repaired quickly it would help to reduce the high incidence of fuel charges.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I must thank the hon. member for his remarks. I can imagine that a lot of water will be wasted, if the repairs arc not carried out quickly, but we are endeavouring to try and improve things. We realise that we cannot ask the public to save water if the Department itself is not doing those things which fall within its jurisdiction as promptly as possible. I must thank the Opposition for their consideration in not opposing this Resolution and for the understanding way in which their obvious countenances have indicated that they appreciate the difficulties of the Minister of Communications and Works in this special area of activity.

The question that Head 26(2) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 26(3) - Electrical Engineer's Department - was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, this is an amount for $1, 000. The note is quite clear, and I assume the hon. members of the House have appreciated the need for this amount.

I beg to move that Head 26(3) stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that,

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

HEAD 32. - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 32 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in 1 moving the passing of Head 32 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, there is Item No. 2 - Other Personal Emoluments - which is explained in the notes, and I will give further information on that later.

Item 4 deals with National Insurance, and the amount is increased owing to the increased rate.

Item 9 - Office Expenses. That can be explained further.

There are new rates for travelling, and increased rates for the telephones.

With regard to Item No. 2 - Other Personal Emoluments, the amount of $10, 000 being sought is really to supplement this item. Hon. members will recall that an amount of $10, 000 was included in the provision of $85, 170 under Head 2 - Other Personal Emoluments - to pay allowances to officers acting in various capacities and substitutes for officers on leave when lapsing salaries were not available. This provision proved to be inadequate, and it is now estimated that the sum of $10, 000 is needed for this particular reason. The actual expenditure for the period 1st April to the 30th September, 1974, was $11, 476. 59, and the revised estimated expenditure for the period 1st October, 1974, to the 31st March, 1975, is $10, 000, which is the amount now being sought.

Another reason, is due to the fact that greater periods of leave were taken this year to comply with the requirements of the Establishments Division; so that greater periods of leave were taken under the leave Regulations for 1974. So that there are more acting appointments and more substitutes, and so on. That is the general explanation, Sir. That is as far as Item No. 2 is concerned.

Item No. 9. Office expenditure, $1, 744. Provision of $8, 200 is included under this Item to meet the cost of utilities, repairs to and maintenance of furniture and equipment? purchase of newspapers and other miscellaneous expenses. Provision proved inadequate and it is on account of the increased cost of electricity and the rising cost of maintenance. Those are the reasons, Sir, for this additional supplementary sum to supplement this Item.

The travelling increased travelling rates, which we all know about, and the communications increased telephone rates as from 1st July, 1974. Those are some of the explanations, Sir, if not all.

I beg to move that Head 32 stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, it is all very well for Parliament from time to time to be asked for increased salaries for this particular Ministry in circumstances where the Leave Passages Regulations demand that these should be taken at a particular time. What concerns me about the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce is its inability, up to date, to grapple with the need to revise the Laws dealing with consumer protection in this country and to set up satisfactory machinery to ensure that consumers are being adequately protected.

Again I would like to say that during the three years I have been in Parliament; which is a very short time indeed, I have on each occasion that I have had, emphasised the necessity for the Ministry of Trade to see itself as performing in a wider sphere other than merely dealing with a few utilities and, of course, the Miscellaneous Provisions and Trade Act and and Industrial Corporation. And, if I may say so, I believe that the Ministry should in the last three years have made some concerted attempt to undate the laws dealing with consumer protection in Barbados. I have not seen one piece of legislation or one report coming from the Ministry stating what they intend to do with people, for instance, who do not bring adequate spares or replacement parts into the country, who sell vehicles or who sell products under warrantees given by overseas persons and themselves do not honour the warrantees. I have seen nothing dealing in the manufacturing sphere with the provision of adequate design legislation and updating of the Patents or Trade Marks Act; I have seen no attempt made by this Ministry either to foster and promote consumer education in the wide sense of the word; and I wonder whether the officers have not

become too bogged down in civil services, if I may put it this way, that they believe that merely pushing out a file and not being forward thinking is part and parcel of the job of the Ministry of Trade and that there are no other functions which it must perform.

We have no separate Ministry of Consumer Protection in Barbados, and if I can be fair to the Ministry, the only aspects of consumer protection that they seem to do anything about is the limited aspects of price control; but consumer protection must mean more ^hfan this, and I think certainly the Ministry should give a lead in this respect. They should not leave it to a few individuals who are, in any event, not properly supported by the public at large, to carry the battle for proper consumer protection in Barbados.

I have seen tins on our shelves in some of the establishments in this country, which are not up to scratch; I have seen on articles, prices overrated in circumstances where they should not be; and sometimes I also recognise that even the public are not aware of what its rights are in relation to the people with whom the public trades.

I believe that there should be in the Ministry some sort of communication and collaboration with the Ministry of Education so that in the schools themselves people are given as part of the curriculum, training and information in relation to consumer affairs. And the same, of course, goes to the manufacturing sector.

I want to issue a little word of warning to some of these CARIFTA Naboths that we are getting - CARICOM Naboths. It is a pity that, as a Caribbean man - I view myself seriously as this - that I have to criticise my own Caribbean compatriots, but what bothers me is this, that the moment we start seriously trying to industrialise this country, we get a new breed of manufacturer who believes he is to make a shilling without maintaining a proper product; and I would say that from personal experience there are one or two products which are being manufactured in some of our CARICOM countries, and some here in Barbados, in which the manufacturers are skimping - I want to make it quite clear that this has nothing to do with the standard of work being produced by the workers in the concern - but the manufacturers are skimping in maintaining proper standards of product, and they are doing this within a protected market where you cannot bring in goods from outside to compete on equal terms with them. 1. 40 p. m.

Now I spoke in here some time ago about the necessity for a regional standards institution, and after my speech the Ministry of Trade issued a statement saying that they did not understand what my speech was about and that there was provision in the CARICOM treaty for this. When I come into Parliament I at least have read the papers which are given to this Parliament. I have read the CARICOM treaty and I

am aware of what's in there, but there is a long road between the actual written word and the word being performed, and I challenge this Ministry to say that anywhere have we got seriously in the CARICOM area any proper safeguarding of standards of new products which are being given out to people. I do not like to be offensive to any person, and I am not going to mention any person's product, but I would like the Trinidadians and the Jamaicans who are benefiting particularly from CARICOM to understand that we know whether or not their goods are up to scratch, and I issued this warning already to the political parties in the area and I will throw it out again, that all of a sudden it has become fashionable for political parties in the Caribbean to find themselves having as their biggest standard bearers the new manufacturing elitists of the area. Political parties have got to be very wary of this embrace of death.

Now when the battle was being fought in years past, and I want the Ministry of Trade to remember this, by the working classes and the lawyers, and this is where I will defend the lawyers on this because a lot of lawyers got into the socialist movement from early, the manufacturers stood back. All of a sudden they have more say in what are going to be the standards in the Caribbean area than indeed people like the politicians themselves and the political parties are not sagacious enough to see this. I will tell the Minister of Trade that he must watch it, because his duty to the public is going to have to be very severe on manufacturers, particularly some of them in the Caribbean area who are giving us sub-standard products from their factories, and I hope that the officers of the Ministry of Trade, if we are giving them more money, will keep their eyes open for this. I am very unhappy about the quick way in which standards are falling and although I am firmly committed to our Caribbean destiny - there is no doubt in my mind about that; indeed I parted company with a few of my colleagues and if I may say so, not on that side, but on the other side as well. Some of the people for whom I have the greatest political respect, and I do not mind saying so, like the hon. Member for St. Michael West, one of the people I have admired and admired consistently, and I think when it came to the question of Caribbean identity, I felt very strongly on this matter as to how we should go, and I said so as a matter of principle. I think he intends to go the same way, but he did not agree that we should travel along the same road. He saw many other avenues to go into it; but I do not at all speak against bur regional commitment in that sense, but I do not like to see the people in the legion I being short-changed by a few manufacturers who are getting the maximum benefit now out of CARICOM, without giving some reasonable and fair return to the public who after all they must depend on if they are to make their shilling. I am going to vote under this Head for the increase, but I would like the officers to recognise that they have an added duty to the public to see that the consumers are protected in this country.

The question that Head 32 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Resolution for the sum of $2, 290, 200 was passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1974-75 NO. 17

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and he will take charge of this Resolution for the sum of $1, 042, 460 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of $1, 042, 460 do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the ambulance service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is still giving cause for concern. I heard the Minister say he knows that. I believe the Minister ought to have told us introducing the Resolution what he has really done about it. To tell us that he is getting ambulances and doing this and that, and that it would take forty years is not an answer to the immediate problem that is facing the institution in this particular respect, but you will find that he must tell us of the continual break down that they are having in their vehicles. I wonder if the Minister, his executive officer or anybody has given this matter any sort of consideration to be able to pinpoint the convenience at which these break downs have been occurring from time to time. It is perhaps a very considerable credit to this institution that you find quite a number of the orderlies and others at the institution have got motor vehicles that can be brought into service immediately some of these ambulances refuse to start or break down at points here and there, and it might. be that we have got to give all the credit to those members who are employed there to run a taxi service from the institution, and to be able to provide the type of service that is required from time to time, because neither you nor I, Mr. Chairman, would like to know that the ambulance has got to go to bring the sick in or take somebody home and there is no service available. So all these things mesh into the other and some of it may be worthwhile investigating from time to time.

Now the considerable sum spent on the maintenance of vehicles brings us to the point where the executive officer or somebody in charge of transport should be looking into the age of these vehicles. As far as I can gather the age is not in truth and in fact such a factor as to create the type of expenditure that we are called upon to pay. It is for us to find out how the vehicles are managed, because if you were to take the newest vehicle and put it in the hands of a careless, reckless driver, the time when you want this vehicle to go into service it will be unavailable or in the workshop through some carelessness. We would

wish to know that these things are examined to some considerable extent so that we reduce wherever possible having this type of vehicle that is so much in demand being thrown into the garage unnecessarily.

It is of some interest to us, Mr. Chairman, when you find the Government itself having to admit that the price of water, gas and electricity has gone up by 300 percent. Others we know had their supply go up by 400 percent, gas has gone up 75 percent and electricity 100 percent. These are areas where one is expected to find Government taking some action or giving the matter some sort of consideration, because the hospital no doubt consumes a large amount of electricity. 1. 50 p. m.

The Hospital consumes a lot of electricity. The cost of supply has gone up by 100% and I believe that this 100% hardly takes into consideration the fuel charge. We can now understand what the private individual has to contend with.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly happy to see that on-call allowances are being paid to Dispensers, Laboratory Technicians and Radiographers. If it is not yet done, I believe that the time will come when we will have to give maintenance men and others who are on call allowances. Now, when the Radiographers and Laboratory Technicians are on call they will be found at home. What is the method of calling them? I believe that they ought to be supplied with telephones at the Hospital's expense and that all on-call personnel should be treated in the same manner. (Asides.) How can the Minister suggest - he does not understand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Is the hon. Member addressing the Chair? Are you saying that the Chair does not understand? I am only hearing the hon. Member.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not so silly as to expect that the Chair could understand everything under the sun. The point I am making is that all on-call personnel should be dealt with in a certain manner. Nobody would suggest that because a person is on call he must remain in the institution. A Radiographer" might be on call, and if she is on the other end of a telephone that is close enough to the institution. We are saying that all of these people should be supplied with telephones at the Hospital's expense. They are placed in a special category. It is not that every person working at the institution is on call. These are a selected few, so to speak, in a special category, and they should all be provided with telephones at the Hospital's expense. A Laboratory Technician should not have to pay to install his own telephone so that the night or day when he is on call somebody at the Hospital can get on the Hospital's telephone and call

him out for duty. I do not think that is fair. I believe that you have Doctors who are on call. Is the Hon. Minister of Health going to suggest that every Doctor who is on call must be at the Institution? What kind of nonsense is this? It is no wonder that we have this continual breakdown in the administration of the whole service. If the Minister tries to put into practice what he is suggesting to us now it will be contributing to it in very great measure. I do not believe that the Minister means what he has said in an aside at this time.

With regard to the question of passages for officers, who have been recruited abroad, it is still creating a problem and it will continue to create many problems. We find that India is now one of our main sources for the recruitment of Doctors. We also get a few from the United Kingdom and from Jamaica. Since the University of the West Indies has been established, exactly how many Doctors have been produced to serve the area? How many do we have on our staff from the University, and how well have they fitted into the stream of things? Can we say that we have done all we can to encourage them to remain and serve their country, or have others tried to make their lives so miserable that these people have to pack and go almost as quickly as they come?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You have three minutes more.

Mr. HINDS:

If you are going by this clock, it would mean that you will have to take a break now and still give me some more time to talk when we come back.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Standing Orders have been suspended.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House has given us his usual undertaking that this should not be to the detriment of any member, or any member of the staff, or anything of the kind. However, I believe that the recruitment of these officers calls for a much closer examination. I believe that we can cut down on much of the expenditure that we have been incurring, from time to time, on the recruitment of some of these officers. We have not yet passed the stage where some officers are known to place themselves at points of recruitment that makes it advantageous to themselves in seeking further promotion. All of these things need investigation, and we might be able to affect a saving when all of these things are gone into.

The question that the Resolution for $1, 042, 460 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 2. p. m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for one hour, until 3 o'clock.

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

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

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:
This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, this is the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 120 asked by the Hon. and Learned Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member is not in his place and I am asking for leave to lay the Reply.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, may I deal with the question?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Permission is granted to the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown to ask the question.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, the question is as follows

"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?"

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
The revised edition of the Laws of Barbados will be published at a date to be announced shortly, after the edition has been received in the Island from the printers and publishers in the United Kingdom, who have recently informed the Government of Barbados that the Printing is complete and that the Laws has been placed on board a vessel which is scheduled to arrive in Barbados during the month of December,

1974.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Speaker, will the Hon. Minister state the name of that vessel and the consignees?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
For the benefit of the hon. member and the House, Mr. Speaker, the Law Revision Exercise has now reached the stage where printing has been completed by the publishers in the United Kingdom, and the Law Revision Commissioners have certified to the Attorney General that the completed work has met with their satisfaction, etc. The printers and publishers have further advised the Attorney General by letter dated so and so, and sets out the revised edition comprising seven volumes per set to be placed on board - this is the answer - The Novelist, which is a Harrison Line Boat which is expected to arrive in Barbados sometime during December, 1974.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, I would like to enquire from the Minister if no advanced copies were received of these volumes, by the Attorney General or by the Government or by any other officer of the Government? There ought to be advanced copies of work of this nature.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I am under the impression that advanced copies have been received and are now being examined to make sure that everything is in order.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, Is the Minister aware that this is not the correct way of going about a work of this nature?

Mr. SPEAKER:
You are really expressing an opinion in the form of a question.

Mr. HINDS:
I must say that the Minister is aware that this is not the method of going about this kind of business.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
That is an opinion.....

Mr. HINDS:
Considering that since 1966 these books were due, or something of the kind.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
The Ministry of Legal Affairs, Mr. Speaker, has already begun the task of examining the completed Law Revision work for the purpose of ensuring that it is in order for distribution and sale.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would state how soon after the arrival of these things they will be on sale, and what steps are being taken to have them on sale as soon as possible.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Roughly three months between the actual arrival and the time of distribution.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state the reason for such a long delay?

If the Minister does not want to reply to that, will the Minister give us some idea of the retail price and the cost of a complete set of the laws of Barbados?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that there is nothing to indicate the cost.

Probably at a later stage I could inform hon. members but not at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER:
All right. 3. 05 p. m.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder if the Minister can give us some sort of assurance that volumes would be made available to hon. members as I understand that has been the custom in years past. When I entered the House I was told this, and I am looking forward to it. Can the Minister give us the assurance that we will get free volumes at least?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, that has been the practice and I have no reason to believe that the practice will be discontinued.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister say when the ship is due to arrive?

Mr. SPEAKER:

He did say.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I wonder if the Minister is aware that the agents for the Novelist are DaCosta & Musson, and that the ship is due in port this evening.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is hardly a supplementary. That is a matter of current information.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am not aware of such.

QUESTION RE REPAIRS TO SCHOOL FURNITURE

Mr. SPEAKER:

Parliamentary Question No. 259 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport: Is the Minister aware of the discomfort experienced by several schools through the long delays in having repairs to school furniture effected? 2. In view of the fact that some schools have been waiting for over one year for the repairs to be effected, would the Minister cause a survey of the situation to be carried out and take steps to remedy same without delay?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

Repairs to school furniture are carried out by the Ministry on a continuing basis, However, inasmuch as delays are sometimes experienced by some schools, a survey of the situation will be instituted.

Mr. HINDS:
But the Minister did not say when. Would the Minister say when the survey will be instituted?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I have given the hon, member the undertaking that I will carry out a survey and I will institute that as soon as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Question Time is now ended.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask the Leader of the House the Question standing in the name of th hon. member for St. Thomas, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER:
If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is hereby granted.

Mr. MOTTLE Y:
Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows

"To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Lands Will the Minister give a list of all real property purchased by the Government since September 9, 1971, other than property acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, giving the prices paid and the, person or company from whom such property was purchased?"

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr, Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be the instant Order of the Day.

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

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

THE BARBAREES CHURCH OF CHRIST (INCORPORATION) ACT, 1975

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item 9 be the First Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr, BOLDEN:
I beg to second that.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to incorporate the Barbarees Church of Christ be now read a second time.

I should just say that all the relevant notices have been complied with, that is, the sureties which have to be given by the persons involved have been paid, they have signed the bond, it has been published in the Official Gazette and all the relevant newspapers and it is a Bill which brings into line all these Churches so that they can hold real property and operate as any other Corporation would. In this case it is an Act incorporated by Parliament and the persons whose names appear in paragraph 2 of the Act have indicated that they are willing to have this incorporated. This mater, if it passes, will have to go to Select Committee.

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

Mr. HINDS:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:

I beg to move that this Bill be sent to Select Committee comprising of myself and the hon. member for Bridgetown from this side. I know that the Hon. Leader of the House will select somebody from his side,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I propose the Hon. Minister of Education, the Hon. Minister of Lands and National Insurance, the hon. member for St. Michael North East, the hon. member for St. Philip South.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr, SPEAKER:
It is clear that members of that Select Committee whose names I have just referred to by the constituency must select from amongst themselves a Chairman.

RESOLUTION RE BROADCASTING OF DEBATES

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3. 15 p. m.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The Hon. Minister of Information was speaking on Motion No. 5 under Private Members' Business when time expired last time. Are you so minded to continue your address?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
No.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, if no other hon. member desires to speak, I will make my final reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Carry on.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that any long reply is called for. In listening to the speech of the Minister of Information on this Resolution, he seemed to be the Minister of Misinformation, Sir. At this stage we are not seeking to decide the question of broadcasting debates or political broadcast. We are trying to seek some sort of consensus on the principle of whether we should have the debates of the House of Assembly being broadcast as well as party political broadcast. It is the principle of the matter with which this Resolution seeks to deal, and the mechanics of achieving that is the whole purpose why the Resolution asked that an All Party Committee be appointed to make recommendations. That Committee would then consider the mechanics as to how the debates should be broadcast.

Now, the Minister of Information spoke about having seven hours of debates being piped into the ears of individuals and so on. This was never intended and could never be intended for the broadcasting of debates. No one is seeking to say that from twelve o'clock every Tuesday the radio should be tuned in to the House of Assembly and you would not get any other programme on the radio. The whole purpose of asking for a Committee was to give the Committee an opportunity to arrive at a consensus in relation to the broadcast of debates, and then we would arrive at how it should be done. The committee may feel that every individual speech should not be broadcast, but some agreement could be worked out whereby on a Government motion the person introducing the motion and the person replying on behalf of the Government should have their speeches broadcast, and the two persons speaking on behalf of the Opposition should have their speeches broadcast.

That is the idea I would throw out to members, and this is why we need a Committee to go into the mechanics of the matter.

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

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the negative the House dividing as follows:

Notes: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; MESSRS LOWE; WEEKES; EDWARDS; SPRINGER; Mrs. EASTMOND, and Hon. C. A. E. HOPPIN - 13.

Ayes: MESSRS MOTTLEY, HINDS and BOLDEN -3.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Speaker, there is no other Private Members' Business that we desire to deal with at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Private Members' Business is now ended.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, in fairness to the hon. members of the Opposition who have not had an opportunity to study the Supplementary Resolutions which have been circulated, and in view of the fact that I did not actually ask for leave at an earlier stage to deal with these Resolutions,.... (Asides). In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition and a few other members, I did not reach any consensus on this matter. I did not even approach the Opposition with anything to that effect. I am not going to beg anybody to do anything. I will serve the people. Members will have to come back here on Friday to complete Government Business. You have ample time to do it between now and Friday, If you want it that way it will be that way.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 4. 55 p. m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. ! 3. 25 p. m.

On Resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER:
This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning will now exercise his right to give final reply to the Budgetary Proposals and to the Resolution as moved by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Very well. FINAL REPLY RE BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, I intend to be very brief. First of all I want to make it abundantly clear that my purpose of rising to reply at all to the comments which have been made is not somuch to samp a case for the Government. Everything th^ Government has had to say about the current i ancial situation and the Budgetary Proposals has been outlined in the statement which I made on the 21st November, 1974, therefore everything that I have said is law. I do not have to justify or vindicate it. I will vindicate the financial policies of the Government to the people of the country in the fulness of time when the results which the Government produces will be the best yardstick by which the performance of the Government can be judged. Neither will I descend to the sophomoric harangue level of the Leader of the Opposition. Some people never seem to leave the debating society level where they are appealing to the sort of sentiments and feelings of people who, like themselves, may not understand the intricacies of matters of this kind.

I do not know a single occasion on which the Leader of the Opposition has risen to his feet, on which he did not elect to try to demonstrate that he was the fountain of all wisdom, but at the same time laying bare his complete lack of taste and good manners and indulging in, to use his own words, deception; because as 1 have said before, he must know better. He could not be as ignorant as an inspection of the statements that he makes would first impress upon one. He has been exposed to his certain amount of formal education; he may have survived the exposure but like many people who are exposed to formal education it makes no impression upon them whatsoever; but as far as I can see the hon. member feels that it is the duty of an Opposition Leader to carry out an act of mass deception on the general public, and try to impress people about his own sense of self importance.

It is very difficult to be charitable to people in Barbados in politics because they have been nurtured in an atmosphere of adversary politics; not of national development but of adversary politics where there are no particular ground rules laid down for their conduct either on the floor of this House or on the public platforms, but in which to elevate themselves and impose themselves upon the people as representatives on the basis, not of their own abilities but on denigrating people who may be politically, for the time being, opposed to them.

On the very opening these were the expressions used by the hon. member in characteristic form: panic, deception, insincerity, lack of confidence, lack of ordinary foresight, very ugly statistical juggling. That was in the first five minutes of his address. All that was necessary to show that the person who was Minister of Finance in Barbados for five years was not holy as he was, but for some particular reason was less dedicated to the upliftment of the people of this Island and was bent on some collision course of political self-emulation and was not concern, like most of us, about our survival, and indeed concern about survival would be concern about the survival of all the people in this country.

So having said those few remarks, it is unfortunate that we still have this hang-over of the colonial days of haranguing and we do not get down to deal with the specific problem which confronts the society from time to time.

Now basically let us see what it is that the members of the Opposition are railing and ranting against. No matter what form of taxation is introduced in a country, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition will say it is iniquitous because they would like people in the country to believe that countries are run without taxation. They have gone so far as to say that the Central Bank is printing money at such a tremendous rate that the presses of the Central Bank were running hot. In the first place, the Central Bank of Barbados does not print money. The currency of Barbados is over-backed by sterling and other securities. The currency of the Central Bank of Barbados is printed by a firm in the United Kingdom, and apart from the new denominations which bear the effigies of the late Sir Frank Worrell and which we hope will be out in January, these new denominations are coming out as replacements for the old denominations which in the course of time become disfigured and incapable of being used decently as currency any more.

They were opposed to the establishment of a Central Bank at all, and now the Central Bank is being cited and misquoted as the origin and fountain of all the arguments with which they desire to belabel the financial and monetary policy of the Government. I will give illustrations of this in the course of time.

The very person who twelve months ago on the floor of this House asked me what was a corporation

tax and thanked me for explaning to him what a corporation tax was - and when I informed him what it was I told him we had no intention last year of implementing the Corporation tax - without going back to school or college, in the short space of twelve months has become the world's greatest expert on the corporation tax, having first heard about it on the floor of this House from your humble servant, and had it explained, and having thanked me for explaining to him the difference between the Company's tax and the Corporation tax. 5. 05 p. m.

It is in the records of this House. He has now become the world's greatest expert on not only the definition of a corporation tax, but he has become a leading authority on the effects of the tax on various sectors of the community, the various people for whom he is now pleading who are living on annuities, unearned income, who will be effected, as he claims, by the imposition of this tax. As far as they are concerned, Mr. Speaker, any kind of tax is iniquitous. We read in the Bible that 2, 000 years ago Joseph and Mary some time in the year close to this time, whether it was the 20th December or the 17th December we do not know, were going from one part of the country to another part of the country to pay taxes, but as far as the Opposition is concerned, taxation has been an invention of the present Government. It only proves that they do not even read the Bible.

Income tax was introduced in the United Kingdom well over 100 years ago; in Barbados in the 1920s. We have made no increase in the incidence of personal tax in Barbados ever since this Government has been into power; we have increased the allowances and the dispensations from the payment which normally had to be made under the Income Tax Act and legislation as amended from time to time, but what we have not done is to increase the rate or the incidence of tax on personal incomes. It has remained the same, and as a matter of fact it has been lowered and the increased allowances in all directions have been introduced from time to time in my various Budget Speeches and Financial Statements in order to leave a greater disposable income in the hands of the receiver, the taxpayer, the wage earner or the salary earner as the case may be.

Neither have we at any time even on 21st November increased the rate of companies tax,

Now right at the beginning I would like to state that I know there are people in this country who feel that the road to economic salvation is by the abolition of companies tax altogether, that people just because they have a lot of money do not need to pay taxes because they would make economic decisions for the community without having any responsibility to the electorate, that the businessmen in this country who shall be nameless for the purpose of this debate - I do not want to glorify them by calling them by name in such an Assembly as this - feel that qua businessman or business woman, by virtue of being able to sell a bag of flour wholesale or a roll of tissue or foil or a cake of soap in a supermarket, are imbued with more financial wisdom than anybody who has been exposed to the rigours and the disciplines of economics^ whether you are working in the Government Planning Unit or whether you are Minister of Finance or whatever you may be; but just because you are a businessman, you may have inherited a business or you may be lucky, all of a sudden you know more about the whole business of

public finance than the people who have to work with it from day to day. I do not subscribe to that view. If I wanted guidance on economic problems, I would not go to the International Monetary Fund or to the members of the World Bank group, I would go to Baxters Road at one o'clock in the morning when they are frying Mercy Benn's sharks over a coal pot, because that is an economic activity and those people down there would be grass roots experts on economic problems.

Only in a country like this where the organs of public information are limited in their area of investigation of the problems of mankind, that is another way of saying that they print a lot of ignorance from day to day, will you find superstitions like this that because you are a merchant you know more about economic problems than the people who are trained to do the job. There is another superstition that if immediately upon graduating from University you are lucky enough to be given a job at the taxpayers' expense in the Caribbean, that makes you a super expert on Caribbean problems when you do not even know how the real world lives outside. I do not subscribe to that either.

There is a superstition, as I said before, that the Government never knows what it is doing, but people who have never been in Government do. That goes for all the people in the Opposition; not one of them has had anything to do with the running of a Government at any kind of level There is not a single person in the University who professes to be an expert who has even done a serious day's work in his or her life. They live in academia, and academia to me is more a complaint or a malady than a state of salvation which they consider it to be, and they talk about things being contrary to the spirit of academia. When I told them in Mona, Jamaica, earlier this year that they could not get a 40 percent increase across the broad because they had just had a wage increase, they said that was I contrary to the principles of academia. Well I do not know what academia is. Anyhow I do not intend to glorify them by paying any attention to the things which they wish to be noticed on.

I just want to say very briefly that I think that one of the tragedies of societies such as ours is that we are not our brother's keeper. This is the real point. I feel very sorry for these people because when you are a politician, at least the members on the other side, you can see your name in the newspaper legitimately. They do not have to go outside and run down anybody or rip off something to get their names in the papers; but there is the classic example of Scotland Yard where everytime a murder is committed fifty-three people go and confess having committed the murder just to get their names in the newspapers. Now in academia, this state of mind, it is like a form of intellectual self-satisfaction, if you can get your name in the newspaper; it does not matter what they put in the newspaper, they get some kind of self-eroticism, if you understand what I mean. I do not want to use the common, ordinary garden words. Barbadians describe it by two words which are not too polite, but it is self-eroticism, and the only people who get satisfaction out of the exercise are the people who are self-eroding themselves intellectually. So do not let us take them seriously at all.

When we come now to the reply which was made by the hon. member for St. Thomas, I must get the record absolutely straight. The member for St. Thomas said that I had made a statement to the effect that "in 1960-61 there was not only a state of rest in the economy, it had actually begun to move backwards, " and he went on to say that "that was what the Prime. ' Minister said in the first independence Budget' delivered in this House on 30th June, 1967. " I am still quoting the hon. member. He said that "as it happened much of it was demonstrably false. " Now I want you to listen to me very carefully, Mr. Speaker, as I know you always do. '5. 15 p. m.

Now, I want you to listen to me very carefully, Mr. Speaker, as I know you always do. You always have to listen to the hon. member very carefully, because if you do not listen to him very carefully and you are not schooled in the jargon of economic science you would tend to be persuaded that he is speaking the truth. He went on to say:

"As it happens, much of it was demonstrably false; the National income of Barbados, ..."

Now this is the classic contradiction in terms. I will continue quoting:

".....according to the Gross Domestic Product figures in the Economic Survey presented to the House by the Prime Minister on the same day was not under S100M at all. It was J119. 8M in 1960 and rose to S128. 7M in 1961, ..."

You may say, that I produced the statement and the member was merely quoting me, but you did not listen to the hon. member carefully. He said:

".... the National income of Barbados, according to the Gross Domestic figures....."

Well, even the people at Cave Hill must know that National income and Gross Domestic Product are two entirely different Concepts altogether. I should not have to be giving people lessons in elementary economics, but if we are going to speak of dishonesty it is either grossa ignorantia, or something else which I really cannot describe. For a Shadow Minister of Finance to get up and say that the National income of Barbados, according to the Gross Domestic Product figures in the Economic Survey presented by the Prime Minister, was not $100M but S119M, is like saying that the score of the opening batsman Barry Richards, which he claimed to be 75 runs, according to the total score of the whole team was wrong because it was 335 and not 75.

Now, National income is a net concept, and Gross National Product figures which the member I was quoting or attempting to quote - he said: i "... the National income, according to the Gross Domestic Product figures.... " The Gross Domestic Product figure is the total aggregate of the output of all the

goods and services produced within the community during a stated period of time. Why do I have to waste time going into elementary economics but to demonstrate the twisting that has been done; pulling the wool over the eyes of innocent people by the hon. member just for the sake of scoring a cheap political point.

The net National income figures, therefore, do not include depreciation and factor payments for services rendered abroad and transfer payments in respect of debt servicing and so on, because that is not income in the hands of the Barbadian residents in the same way as I have demonstrated on a previous occasion that the Government of a neighbouring territory, which has substantial oil exports but also substantial payments in the form of royalties and profits to multi-national corporations outside of that country, had fallen into the error of using Gross Domestic Product figures to show the per capita income per head of the population, which was wrong. They had not deducted depreciation, factor payments, interest and debt-servicing charges which go out of the country.

I hope that I have made my position clear. I am only making the point because I am trying to show the kind of deception - I would go so far as to say even self-deception - in which the Leader of the Opposition is indulging. He is attempting to quote the scriptures for his own purposes. He is using the Economic Survey but juxtaposing two or more self-contradictory terms to demonstrate that what I said about the economy of Barbados in 1960 and 1961 was incorrect, according to the showing of our Economic Survey. He was saying that the National income of Barbados, according to the Gross Domestic Product figures - How could you say that Mr. Barry Richards' score, according to the total score which you heard on the B. B. C. was not 75 but 335? That is the score for the whole team and not for the opening batsman! I think that I have to use these analogies from the sport in which we are most familiar in order to make myself clear.

Sir, he went on to rant and rave and he said that the Gross Domestic Product rate of increase rose to $128. 7M in 1961, a rate of increase seldom achieved under the Democratic Labour Party, and when it is taken into account that the cost of living was then stationary, so that the whole of the increase was passed on as a benefit to the public, it was a remarkable achievement. By no amount of statements like that - I know that recent attempts have been made to canonize and exorcise the spirit of his predecessor in office, his illustrious antecedent, but no amount of distortion of statistical figures such as that indulged in by the hon. member can exorcise any of the Ministers who have long ago in 1961 been deposed by younger, more vigorous and more intelligent members of my party. I do not know what this act of atonement to the Ministers that he formerly abused is going to do in the way of assisting him in his efforts to get control of the economy of this country. God forbid that it would ever happen. A lot of us would not want to be around - even members of his party -

when such an evil day would fall upon the Nation.

Then the hon. member for St. Thomas proceeded to justify a statement which he made in the Press when he first heard about the Emergency Budget to the effect that I was panicking and pressing the panic button. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say that there is no emergency and the Minister of Finance is pressing a panic button, and then say that there is an emergency and that he should have done it a long time ago. Then there would be no question of panic, but there would be a question, perhaps, of an expression which we used in the services of not pulling you finger out in time in order to plug the gap, as it were. You cannot say that he is now pressing a panic button, if you are claiming that long ago you were saying that things were deteriorating.

Let us examine this accusation about the panic button. On the 5th April, this year I introduced the earliest Budget that this Government has ever had. I am not speaking about Estimates now, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking about a Budget or Financial Statement delivered as in the tradition of the United Kingdom during the first week of April, which is five days after the financial year opens. In that Budget I outlined that the crisis which the world was facing at the time dictated that certain measures should be taken by this Government in order to prevent a serious deterioration in our balance of payments position. The measures which were introduced were largely designed to prevent a deterioration in our balance of payments position and to curb unnecessary spending, so that there was a negative list of products and goods imposed - something which we had not done for a long time. We tried to discourage importation and to encourage exportation and domestic production. I am saying now that that Budget succeeded in doing precisely that. I will say why it succeeded, because other Independent Commonwealth Caribbean countries had to have recourse to the gold tranche. They had to have recourse to the special oil facilities of the International Monetary Fund. In one country their foreign exchange reserves ran right down in four weeks, and, far from a deterioration of that nature taking place in Barbados, by November, 1974, our balance of payments position was not at all unfavourable. Furthermore, the balance of payments position allowed us to abstain from making any application for special drawing rights, gold tranche or the oil facilities, or any of the United Nations facilities, if we had been qualified to draw them. 5. 25 p. m.

I am reading from page 20 of the Quarterly Report of September, 1974 of the Central Bank, and this is the Bible as far as the hon. member is concerned. As I said before, the devil is in the habit of quoting scriptures but the righteous can quote them too. I am quoting, and you can decide on which side he belongs and which side I belong.

"Barbados' international reserves recovered strongly in the first half of 1974 growing from a low of $22. 6 million in February to $42. 7 million in April. This level was maintained to the end of June. The sharp rise reflects the improved prices for sugar exports and the substantial earning from tourism. Although these major revenue earners have mitigated the effects of the increased import Bill, reserves have still not reached the levels of $64. 7 million and $61. 4 million reached in peak months of 1972 and 1973, respectively. This can be attributed to the fact that oil imports for the first six months were $12, 1 million more than in the same period for 1973.

"As a result of the sharp rise in foreign exchange earnings, the commercial banks were able to repay a substantial part of their foreign borrowings. By the end of April, the net foreign indebtedness of the commercial banking system had declined from the December figure of $44. 3 million to $20. 9 million. During May and June, net foreign liabilities of the commercial banks rose by $7. 6 million. However, this was substantially compensated for by a $6. 5 million increase in the Central Bank's foreign assets so that there was little " change in the net international reserves position of the country. "

One of the countries not very far from us felt very elated over the increase in oil price, and it appears that many people in that country did not realise that the increase of fuel prices would also have the effect of increasing their balance of payment liabilities, because that country imparts approximately 60% of its refining crude requirements. Well, we did not have anything. to be elated about so we just kept quiet, and what we did was, introduce measures which would prevent a drain on our foreign reserves and we have reached the end of the year in as favourable position as we were - or nearly as favourable a position but certainly not in an unfavourable position - insofar as our reserve assets position is concerned.

I - am saying that no developing country has been able to do that; and I am saying that we did not press any panic button in November, because in April we moved into the required gear to climb up the hill, So we did not have to press any panic button in November, But if I pressed a panic button I wonder what he would have to say about his friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain who had introduced four budgets within the same period of time that I had introduced one. Not three as reported, but four budgets. It means that they were readjusting very rapidly and did not wait to see what the middle term effects of the fluctuation brought about by shifts in the balance of trade and the balance of payments would turn out to be.

Sometimes we hear that the United Kingdom - if it is the Constitution, they say the United Kingdom has the worse Constitution in the world, if our Constitution is like the United Kingdom. When the United Kingdom introduces four budgets in a short space of time it is Barbados that is pressing the panic button. We do not have any coal, or iron, or steel or anything like that but we are pressing the panic button because we allow a six-months interval of time before we allow a readjustment to be made in order to combat the effects of inflation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are certain aspects of the fiscal proposal to which I would like to draw attention because there has been a certain amount of confusion, some of it self-imposed and some of it imposed by people who want to exploit the situation; and I want to make it abundantly clear that when the 5% sales tax was imposed it was not imjpbsecl^bn food stuff or alcoholic bevrages. The Order as far as I can remember was signed on Monday, and there is a variation between the Order as published and the original statement made by me, and I should like to explain the reason for that. When I made my statement on the 21st November, I said that the 5% would be imposed on all sales of non-food and non-

beverage items over the amount of $1. I cannot find the specific passage but you would Understand what I am saying. I am paraphrasing what I said, and that is that there would be a 5% sales tax on non food items, but purchases under $1 would not be subject to the tax; but, during the period of time which has elapsed between making the budget statement and my signing the 'Sales Tax Order of 1974 it has been reported to me and I have observed that the dispensation from the payment of tax on sales under $1 has 'only created a lot of confusion and delays and administrative difficulties both within the business enterprises and within the Government offices; and so I have decided that if for the sake of administration if nothing else, that all sales on (non-food items will be subject to payment of a tax.

It has also been brought to my notice that various persons, enterprises, undertakings, whatever you choose to describe, them as, have been imposing taxes on beverages like beer and other items which are not subject to the tax, The penalties for infrigement of the law are fairly severe. 5. 35 p. m.

We know that because of lack of training and lack of proper accounting systems and so on that certain elements in this country will have a little difficulty at first in getting accustomed to the principles underlying the collection and payment of tax, and we are prepared to be tolerant and understanding where mistakes are due to ignorance, but we are not prepared to be tolerant and understanding where mistakes are due to deliberate deception on the part of the retail shopkeepers whether they be in the big stores in Broad Street or Swan Street or in any of the small villages in this country, or where people in retail shops are imposing taxes on items which are not subject to tax, or where they are imposing the 5 per cent sales tax on items which are subject to the tax and not turning it over to the Government.

I should like to issue a note of warning at this stage, tax evasion is a very serious offence in many countries, and if the practices which I hear about become more prevalent, then we will have seriously to consider that there should not be any option of a fine if anyone is caught falsifying accounts or defrauding the revenue of what the law says should be paid into revenue. I do not know if people understand what I mean that there should not be the option of a fine, and I should like to put it in plain language. Usually in the commission of a criminal offence upon conviction a person is liable to be sentenced to a term of imprisonment or be made to pay a fine or be subject to both such term of imprisonment and a fine not exceeding so many dollars. What I mean by no option of a fine is that there should be straight gaol. I hope I make myself clear. There is no question that I will collect $1, 000 and not pay it in to the Government, but I will pay a $50 fine for not paying it. You will serve a fifty month term in gaol straight from the Bar with no right of appeal. I think it is iniquitous that people should exploit their fellowmen and then blame the Government and say it is the Government that did this and the Government that did that. I want to make my position clear on that. There is no tax on food items except in restaurants and there is no additional tax in restaurants. It is only the restaurant charge which was imposed in April this year. There is no tax on alcoholic beverages over and above what you would consume in a restaurant. Many of the small shopkeepers have been given a dispensation from the restaurant charges, and this is not an opportunity for them now to re-impose what the Government has exempted them from paying. This applies to most of the shops in the Baxters Road area where they are

absolved from the payment of the restaurant charge, and they should not take advantage of this new measure to re-impose a charge and pocket the money for themselves. I hope I have made myself clear. I know that I will offend certain people by saying it, but the revenue and Government collections get offended too, and so I prefer to hurt people's feelings than to hurt the revenue of Government.

Now it was said in the course of the debate that the Government can get from Trinidad and Tobago oil cheaper than we can get it from Venezuela which is the source of supply. I am quoting now: "Venezuela from which we get our oil under the present monopoly refining arrangements, is the highest priced of all OPEC oil suppliers, selling at an average price of $US14. 50 per gallon as against the official Persian Gulf price of $US11. 00. The local oil company pays an average of $28. 60 Bds. for a barrel of 42 gallons of oil, taking into account that its imports both crude and semi-refined oil, and averaging the two. In Trinidad, on the other hand, oil was until recently... (and this is where one has to listen to the hon. member very carefully, because 'until recently' probably meant year before last) imported from Saudi Arabia where the price was $US9. 50 per barrel and it has been raised only a few more cents in the last two months. "

Whenever one is trying to make comparisons, one has to be careful that one is comparing similar things and during the same point of time. There is no point in my saying that the Speaker bought a suit for $200 yesterday and not so very long ago I bought a suit like that for $75, because that does not prove anything. You have to tell me what "not so very long ago" was; it may be ten years ago, or it may not be the same material, it may not be a similar suit at all; but these are the little devices - I describe them as devices for want of a politer term - to which the hon. member resorts in order to establish his cheap political points.

The truth of the matter here is this. Let us take gasolene from Trinidad. It costs 121. 9 cents per gallon and gasolene from the local refinery costs 118. 27 cents per gallon and with the total road tax of 81 cents brings it up to $2. 00 per gallon which is the price that the consumer is paying now for gasolene. Similarly kerosene from Trinidad was 82. 4 cents as compare^ with 79. 99 cents from the local refinery and gas oil was 107. 5 cents as against 107. 43 cents from the local refinery. Buncker C from Trinidad was 50. 82 cents as against 48. 51 cents from the local refinery. Now what the hon. member is saying is that we could get from Trinidad oil and petroleum products cheaper than we could get them from Venezuela. The transport cost alone from Trinidad per barrel is $2. 54 as against 35 cents per barrel from Venezuela. He didn't mention that at all. But there is something even more remarkable about the Trinidad production - the people with all the energy. They have to import some of their own requirements. Sixty percent of all the oil refined in Trinidad is imported from Gulf Oil states, so I do not see how they can sell to us cheaper. They are producing oil in. Trinidad that they cannot refine in Trinidad, and the oil from the east cost of Trinidad has to be sent by AMACO to the United States of America to be refined because the refineries in Trinidad are not geared even "to refine the oil that they produce.

5. 45 p. m. ;

Mr. No All, for want of a better and more polite title, Would like us to do what the three Trinidad Refineries cannot do, that is, to refine their own oil because of the variation in quality and matters of that kind which I do not want to go into at this stage. It is very easy to come in here and talk about the monopoly and that Barbados is importing when Trinidad is exporting oil. Is it the same kind of oil that is required in Barbados? In any event, the figures which we have of the Trinidad exports demonstrate that what he said is blatantly untrue, and yet he would impress some people.

Again, it is the question of whether Barry Richards made 75 or 335. You cannot quote the end-of play score for the whole team and say that it was Barry Richard's score; you are using the wrong parameters. Of course, he is a performer of miracles on the floor of this House, and in front of the Nation he made the blind to see. He is going soon to make the deaf to hear and the lame to walk.

The hon. Minister then made another startling disclosure and I wish to quote his disclosure: "Do you know, Mr. Speaker, what were the two highest expenditures of Government Departments during August of this year, when the real panic set in? The highest as always was Education at $3, 255, 000 for the month. " I am not trying to emulate his tone of voice because then he raises his voice to a hysterical level for the purpose, of dramatic effect, I suppose. I am not trying to do that. I am not trying to imitate him at all. He goes on to say 'The highest as always was Education at $3, 255, 000 for the month. The next highest was not Health (which includes old age Pensions and Welfare) or Community Services. It was Charges of Debt, that is interest and amortisation, and it stood at $3, 164, 000, only $90, 000 less than we are spending on the education of our children....." Is not that a fantastic state of affairs?

Listen to what the hon. Member said. He said that in the month of August we were only spending $90, 000 less on Charges of Debt than we are spending on the education of our children. If you multiply $3, 164, 000 by 12 the irresistible inference is that the Government was spending $36M at^east a year. If he is taking the month of August and comparing what we spent in that month with what we spent on education, we know that what we spent on education in August is the average of what we spent for the whole year. We pay teachers every that is the largest sum of money that we spend on education, salaries and emoluments. But I wonder if any member of the House took up the Estimates to check the hon. Member out on the Charges of Debt? Charges of Debt can be found on page 21, Head 12, and the total Charges of Debt for the year 1974-75 amounted to $19, 857, 000 roughly - $423 to give it the precise figure and not $36M.

Again, the hon. Member would say that he never said that Charges of Debt would cost us $36M,

because hon. Members were not listening. He said that during the month of August we only spent $90, 000 less on Charges of Debt than we spent on Education, but you spent $38M on Education; therefore, you spent $36M on Charges of Debt. What the hon. Member did not say is that the total Budget for Charges of Debt including amortisation and everything else on all the loans and on all the interest of the Government is $19M and that twice a year and during the month of August we pay back capital. If he had taken June or, let us say, February the figure may be $1M and the Education bill would still have been $3. 8M. But he takes the Education bill for the month of August, which is a constant throughout the 12 months of the year, and totals up to $38M (12 times three point whatever it is) and compares it with Charges of Debt and says, "Look what the Government is spending on Charges of Debt - only $90, 000 less. " But he did not say that during that month and six months later or six months earlier the Government makes five biennial payments of capital to reduce the total amount of the debt. That is the kind of chicanery that we now have to be accustomed to. It is disgraceful. That is why I think that representatives of the people have to be particularly sharp when they are dealing with people like that. You cannot afford to let people get away with these things. The only reason why I am replying is that even some of the members of this House would not take the trouble to pick up the Estimates and look on page 21, Head 12. They know the propensity of the Hon. Member, the irresistible urge which he always has to pull a fast one, if I may put it that way to be polite to him. The irresistible propensity that he has, just for the sake of scoring a cheap political point, he will distort anything. That is why I said on the floor of this House - I did not say that he can beat me in everything. I said that.....

Mr. Forde rose....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
You have no right interrupting me.

Mr. FORDE:
On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:
The Hon. Member is on a point of order. All members are entitled to rise on a point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Are you sure he has nothing in his hands, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER:
He says he has risen on a point of order.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Sir. I submit that it is unparliamentary to accuse an Hon. Member, particularly in his absence, of distorting things, being guilty of chicanery, and that he would stoop to anything in order to distort the situation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

In my absence, Mr. Speaker, the same Hon. Member said.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I must rule before you continue. I would like to rule that this refers to statements, and as such are not unparliamentary.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I do not want to prolong the agony, but during my absence the hon. member said that I was guilty of insincerity, very ugly statistical juggling, lack of ordinary foresight, I ran from the cameras,

self-deception, deception on the public, panic - I have all of them written out here, Sir. I am a bit scared when the hon. member gets up. I always have to watch what he has in his hands, and it is not always Standing Orders. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

This no fun-shop for strangers in the Gallery!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I was trying to be polite, Sir. I think you will agree that I have made my point. When a member says that during the month of August, which members would not have heard, the panic set in because we had to pay out this money, I want to inform him right now that our payments on this account, Head 12, Charges of Debt, are running below the Estimates that the House approved during the month of March this year. There would be no need for us to panic in August because we know by our Schedule of Repayments that we have to repay money twice a year in respect of charges, and it is all included here under Head 12, page 21. The total amount for the whole year is $19M, and he was giving the impression that like the Education bill, which is $38M which we are proud of - I am not apologising for the amount of money we spend on education. The amount of money that this Government is spending on education is the best insurance that this Government and the people of Barbados have that they will never get into office. 5. 55 p. m.

All right, Sir, I withdraw that.

I want to say that an investment in education is the best insurance that any Government in the world can have. That is the best investment you can make. If you educate people they cannot have wool pulled over their eyes, as frequently, in this part of the world sometimes politicians try to pull wool over the eyes of the people. I am not ashamed of spending $38 million on education. I make no apologies for it. The last person who told me that we were spending too much money on education was Mr. Duncan Sandys, and I said, "Mr. Secretary, are you suggesting that I should now indulge in a programme of making the people in Barbados ignorant? We have a tradition of education. "

The hon. Member tried to make out that the Government was spending in Charges of Debt, as much money minus $90, 000 as they spend on education, and I have demonstrated that that is untrue. But he came back and said

'during die month of August9 But the difference is that during the month of August we do not spend an amount of money on Capital for the Ministry of Education because that comes under the Capital Estimates. This is a steady, relentless charge month by month of over 13 million for education whereas during the month of August, out of the $19 million that we - the Members of this House, including you, Sir, since you signed the Bill and made it an Act of Parliament - we have appropriated $19 million for the payment of debt and that is less than 15% of our total budget which is considered by the international authorities to be a modest debt charge; and I make no apologies for that either.

Of course, in 1960-61 nothing was happening. I do not have to go back that far, but the hon. Member went back there to vindicate the policies carried out by his predecessors. In 1960-61 the total budget of the Government was $24. 6 million, but the country was going nowhere in a hurry. Anyhow, let the dead bury the dead.

Now in so far as the National Debt Charges are concerned, only about $9 million were debt charges which incurred any foreign exchange; in other words the national debt of Barbados is a national debt predominantly to the people o£ this country; and the hon. member referred to the projects which ostensibly he was trying to prove had been initiated by his party. In other words, this budget exercise now is a contest, an adversary contest between a performance of a former Government long since departed never to rise again, and an existing, dynamic developing country leadership. Then he reverts to making statements about the Deep Water Harbour, Seawell Airport and the "Hospital. Well, all of our foreign debt virtually is in respect of those three projects and I had to raise the money overseas. There was no money here to raise it from, and, since then we have been borrowing money locally. We have had one foreign loan which is repaid in instalments.

So one has to look then at the export earnings of the country to see whether the country can carry the foreign debt; and when you look at the export earnings of the country we find that the charge of foreign debt is only 6% - between 6% and 7% - or your total foreign exchange earnings whereas in the neighbouring Republic of Panama it is 30% of their foreign exchange earnings. Now we are comparing the same thing - foreign exchange earnings and payment in respect of debt which is non-resident. In Barbados it is between 6% and 7% of our total foreign earning, so if we incur debt overseas and we only have to reach out and extend 6% to 7% and we still have 93% of those foreign earnings, then we are in pretty good shape,

I am not smug or complacent about the state of the economy in Barbados but I find it very strange that people who live and earn their living in a country like Barbados should spend all their time distorting the facts and not only trying to run down the country on political platforms in Barbados and on the floor of the House when they get an opportunity to ventilate their spleen, but would aid and abet people outside to run down the country, not realizing that when they pull down the roof of the house on their own heads they will be destroying their own livelihood. That is what I find it difficult to understand. And if this country was galloping along at a rate of development of 50% a year the hon. Member for St. Thomas would say that we are galloping along to some kind of destruction or other, because he believes in disaster politics; the politics of disaster, the politics of unhappiness, of making people uncomfortable; because he feels that by this device and by other devices, that somehow or the other, that by some quirk or quake, people would have confidence in him; but I do not think that will ever happen. It takes a little more than distortion of statement to convince people about your sincerity.

The hon. Member also made a statement to the effect that we do not have any sinking fund for special funds. Now again, people say "Look, O Lord, the Government of Barbados does not have any sinking fund for special funds. " The very nature of special funds, Mr. Speaker, is that the special funds are usually relatively short-term borrowings by the Government in which the schedule of repayment is worked out before the money is delivered. So if you borrow $5 million to be repaid in five years - let us use some very crude figures for illustration only; not to vindicate anything that is in the Estimates - they will tell you 'we will give you 6 years to repay the $5 million United States currency or whatever currency it may be. We will have a moratorium of one year and you can begin repaying at the end of the second year at the rate of $1 million a year. '

Now what the financial genius on the other side is saying is this, that you know you have to pay $1 million a year and you do not have one balloon payment at the end of the period for which the loan has been granted as in the case of most other governments borrowing hitherto, you have to pay a specific amount evey year of $ 1 million for five years after the second year. 6. 05 p. m.

The hon. member for St. Thomas is spreading despondency and alarm on the basis that the Government has not established a sinking fund. What kind of economic nonsense is that? I do not like to use expressions like "nonsense" because they are becoming too popular nowadays; but what kind of dofferel is that that you have to make $1 million a year and you are going to establish a sinking fund to

pay $1 million a year? That is your sinking fund because you are repaying the people on the instalment basis. If you borrow $10 million at 10%, you establish a sinking fund which is less than $1 million a year, because that sinking fund earns income so that at the end of the ten year period you will have the $10 million to repay. The sinking fund is always less than the arithmetic device or whatever you call it. In other words $10 million would not carry a sinking fund of $1 million a year; it may be only $600, 000 a year because you are earning during the period at the rate of compound interest. Now at the end of the tenth year you have to pay that $10 million in one sum. You do not have any instalments to pay; you pay it all back having paid the interest during the period of the loan. So you establish a sinking fund for that purpose. We have sinking funds to cover all our general loans in Barbados, so it is nonsense to talk about a sinking fund for special loans, loans which are not arranged by going on the open market, but by special brokers and investment houses and people of that ilk. I hope that nobody has been misled by the hon. member's prolific nonsense against the Government for not establishing sinking funds. It sounds good, but it is a tale told by an idiot full of sound and fury signifying nothing. I am just quoting Shakespeare. I see the hon. member with something in his hand ready to rise again. I just want to make it clear that it comes from Hamlet, as far as I remember: The Prince of Denmark.

Mr. Speaker, whatever it is, it came from Shakespeare. They claim it came from Macbeth and I say it came from Hamlet. If I am wrong then maybe I should not be Minister of Finance. I do not know what they are trying to prove.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have much more to say except that I do not know where the hon. member got his statistics on the health services. He said that Government expenditure on health services fell by over $3 million in the first six months of the financial year, that the greatest economy has been made at the expense of the people's health and he could think of few worse economies. Just accepting what the hon. member said to be correct for the sake of argument only, - I am not saying it is correct - if the expenditure on the health services fell by $3 million in the first financial year as compared with 1973, it may be due to a variety of reasons. It does not mean that the Government was doing this at the expense of people's health at all. It may be that the Ministry of Health Could have ordered large stocks of medicine and so on and the need for renewal has not occurred as yet, or alternatively that they had better invigilation of their purchasing procedures which I believe the hon. member for St. Peter has been urging them to do for a long time; but I cannot see the more fact that during a period of time which does not conclude the whole financial year you spend $3 million less on health services means, and there is no area in which the hon. member can demonstrate to me, that the Government has curtailed any of its activities in so far as the health of the community is concerned.

As a matter of fact, far from it, the Government has expanded the services during the same period and has continued to expand at a rate which we can hardly support, but which we have to tolerate in the interest of the over-all health of the community of this Island. So that when the hon. member states that they are working towards the supply of all drugs free or at a low fixed price as part of a free national health service, we have free national health service in this country right now because there is no other

country in the world that I know outside of the Scandinavian countries that no matter who you are you can get free medical attention and free drugs, and that no matter what complaint you may be suffering from, if the facilities are not available here within the country, at the expense of the taxpayers of this country that citizen, no matter who he or she may be, is sent abroad to get the finest whether surgical or medical treatment at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. So when one speaks about moving towards the supply of all drugs free or at low fixed price, that is retrogressive because we do not have a low fixed price now. All drugs in Barbados at the General Hospital and Health Centres as far as I know are free to those people who cannot afford to pay for them and to many who can afford to pay for them as well. There is no point in moving towards something that has been in existence for at least twelve years and then say that you may have a low fixed price, hedging your bets, and coming back and saying you may have a low fixed price. We do not have a low fixed price; maybe we should have one for drugs. It has been urged upon us by medical authorities many times and by many persons inside and outside of the Island^ but in truth and in fact there is a free medical health service in Barbados and I do not know how much freer it can get. A lot of people who can afford to go to private practitioners also elect to avail themselves of the freely available free service which the Government provides.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that there has been a lot of criticism about my statement that we will have to embark on a prices and incomes policy. I wish to make the position abundantly clear. At no time did I make any statement about freezing wage levels. We have initiated an incomes policy in the corporation tax and in the Civil Service by saying that there will be no increases over and above the grants which are made to people who are working for incomes of less than a certain amount. That is a policy about people's incomes. We have initiated and carried on a series of price controls; that is a prices policy. We still have price controls in this country, and wherever possible these price controls will have to be extended and reinforced. That is a prices policy. Incomes also constitute some element and a factor in prices and if you do not have a prices policy and you belong to a trade union, then I say you do not know what you are doing because you should relate your demands to prices. So if you are claiming better incomes for people, you should relate them to prices too; so you must have a prices and incomes policy. You cannot go ripping off and saying 1, 000 percent this year or nothing when the whole production is going back, and prices are falling. That is no time for ripping off. I can deal with everybody when I get ready; but we are going to have a prices and incomes policy. 6. 1. 5 p. m.

You cannot go ripping off this year and say 1, 000% this year or nothing when the whole production is going back and prices are falling and so on. There is no time for ripping off. I can deal with everybody when I get ready, but we are going to have a Prices and Incomes Policy. You must get that clear, so it is no point in distorting things like the academics have done. I always think of enemia when I use the expression academia. The academics have invented the term academia, and this is now some haven to which all sorts are sent to the Valhalla to say that this is a Wage Freeze policy is far from it.

I do not agree that, in an economy like Barbados, you can talk about indexing prices. These are only expressions that the hon. member St. Thomas has heard from outside about indexing prices to the cost of

living, because the cost of living index is no true indicator of the overall or social welfare and enjoyment of the people in the community itself. There are a lot of other factors which will have to be taken into consideration; so let us get the position clear. We have started with the policy; it has begun; it begun with the corporation tax, which the hon. member for St. Thomas himself said affects the people who have unearned incomes; it has affected the companies, according to him, and yet he says, for the sake of popularity, that he is against an incomes policy.

Now, when people speak about making these feeble gestures of distributing their salaries and giving them to the poor and so on, I am not impressed. I will tell you why I am not impressed. If you took the salaries of all the members of the House of Assembly - abolish all of our salaries, and do not forget as they say: "If we sicken, do we not die? If you prick us, do we not bleed like other people?" Members of the House of Assembly, whether there be Ministers or back benchers, have families, instalments to pay on refrigerators, televisions, school fees and that kind of thing like anybody else, or they should pay them. There is no dispensation from paying them. If some of them do not pay, then it is a matter for them, but as far as the law is concerned, we all have commitments. Therefore, unless you have some substantial savings somewhere or the other, when you talk about giving up your salary, you can only give it up if you have an enormous accumulation of assets somewhere. If you took all of our salaries and redistributed them, even in the Almair Home the money is not going to go very far. If you distributed it throughout the community, it means that everybody would get about one cent bonus at the end of the year. Furthermore, it is not going to stop inflation. When we are making these feeble gestures, it will only put some of us in gaol. If you take something from a man, he will only come and repossess the refrigerator, furniture and so on that you have in the house and you may have to sleep on the floor.

I have said before that I am willing to reduce my salary to the level of Ministers in Israel - about $600 a month - when everybody in the society scales down his or her expenditure patterns to suit that kind of thing. I am not going to have any Police Magistrate working for more money than me, when I have to stand up 16 hours a day and beat my brains out for less money than a watchman down at the Port or any school teacher! Let me get the position straight, but if all of us are going to observe the relativities, as they say in the Civil Service, I will come right down to four, three, two or even one,

if everybody else is below me. There will be no business of my going down and they staying up while I am doing all of the work, and they will be driving about in Rolls Royces and all kinds of expensive cars. I am not going to remain at the bottom pretending that I am making this nice, feeble gesture. I am not giving up my salary until everybody else gives up his or hers too. I do more work than anybody else. Let us preserve the relativities and let us all go down, if you think that is the solution.

Unfortunately, from the economic angle, a reduction in wages is no solution to the problems with which we are confronted. I have joined issue with the World Bank itself on this very aspect of the problem. What we have to do is to try to stabilise the prices that people have to pay. If you stabilize prices you can stabilize incomes. The two have to go together. We cannot have a prices policy without

an incomes policy because, as I have explained before, incomes are an ingredient of prices. Particularly in a manufacturing economy, if we are to maintain the rate of growth of our manufactures, since there are export outlets, then we have to ensure that the prices of our products remain competitive. If you want to remain as a purely self-contained low-income agricultural society without exporting, then you can do like what you like. You do like they do in Paraguay and in Brazil and just print a lot of notes and have them flying about in the air. You can have a $10, 000 note, which will buy two loaves of bread and v. that kind of thing, but if you are trying to compete in the international markets, then the prices we charge for our goods and our services have to bear some relation to what people are paying for hotel rooms in Aruba, San Juan, Jamaica, and the price of our electronic parts must be competitive with the ones from Korea and other parts of the globe. It is as simple as that. If you do not subscribe to the review that you must have a Prices and Incomes policy, then you are living in a kind of fool's paradise, from which I hope that one of these days, for your own sakes and for our own sakes, everybody will wake up. But we must have a Prices and Incomes policy, and we have started and we are going to continue. Those who try to befruddle the issue by suggesting that the Government is saying that a man who is working for. $60 a week must remain at $60 a week, must be reminded that I have already demonstrated in the speech which I made on the 21st November, 1974, that I do not subscribe to that view because if I did, I would not have granted the increase to people who were working for $700. That is a policy. It is a policy that people over $700 should not get anything more at this stage, because I am not satisfied that their requirements are hot as urgent as the people who are below that income level.

Now, if our good friends and our beloved enemies, on both sides, do not understand, then it is time that they try to understand and realise that God has not singled out Barbados for any special dispensation like so many of us believe, and that we can survive the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. 6. 25 p. m.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the negative the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, and Mr. H. deB. FORDE - 4.

Notes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. A. MORRISON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. W. R. LOWE, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN and Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, - 16.

SUSPENSION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until Thursday at 12 Noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 6. 32 p. m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:
This sitting is now resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to lay certain documents and give certain notices.

Mr. SPEAKER:
If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted. DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following

The Customs Duties (West indies Paper Converting Company) Order, 19t4.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Trents Plantation, St. James, to provide a site for the construction of a playing field.

ORAL REPLIES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 213, 224, 257, 258, 261 and 272, asked by the hon. member for St. Peter are ready, and I do hope I am permitted to give these Replies during the sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, before moving the House into Committee of Supply, I am asking for leave to deal with the Resolutions of which I gave notice for the sum of $403, 976, $47, 071 and $275, 682. Copies of these Resolutions have been circulated, and it is for that reason mainly that we are here today. I am therefore asking for leave to proceed with these.

Mr. SPEAKER:
If there is no objection to these Resolutions being dealt with, leave will be granted.

There being no objection leave is granted. COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, to deal with the three money Resolutions for which leave has been granted.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1974-75 No. 18

Head 3 - Parliament - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of $403, 976. It is an omnibus Resolution with many Departments and Heads as Your Honour will observe.

In moving the passing of Head 3 - Parliament, Item 5, National Insurance explains itself. There is also Travelling under Item 6, Office Expenses under Item 7, Item 9 - Refreshments and Item 11 - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and finally Item 12 - Communications. I think the notes in these cases are fairly adequate, and I beg to move that Head 3 - Parliament - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is an appropriate time for me to say perhaps for the first time what I have got to say on Item 9, Mr. Chairman, and it is on the question of the standard of dietary service that is provided for members of Parliament by the present caterers. I want to say that the standard as at present obtains rests very heavily on the shoulders of hon. members who receive such service week after week or as often as it happens. I want to say further that whilst some members complain, it seems to be quite all right where others are concerned. That is where we will run into difficulties. I want to ask all hon. members to place themselves in a position to demand that whenever they come to this Honourable House and are to be served here - I am speaking with reference to being served in the banquet hall - that

the service rendered there ought to be at least of the standard we maintain at our homes or something above this. If hon. members were to decide on this once and for all and try to hold their heads up and stand up for what they feel they are worth and what they feel that they as hon. members of Parliament deserve, - and those of us who have had an apportunity to have been served by others in a similar position would know what sort of comparison there is - if there can be any - between the present caterers and those who have gone on before, then we would have to make some decision. It means therefore, Mr. Chairman, that we ought to decide if the present service is not to the standard required of Parliamentarians whilst here that we must seek further afield. I know that a tender has gone out and the Debates Committee, I believe, will be dealing with it at the appropriate time, but I believe that without going into more detail each hon. member sitting on the other side has had most vivid examples of the kind of service that the present caterers are capable of offering. The Minister of Health had been summoned to witness whether it was the nipples of a breeding sow that had been brought here and put on a platter and served to hon. members. I do not want to go into details. I have said about every time I have gone to the banquet hall that the present caterers are first-class for catering to drunks and pukes. 12. 10 p. m.

I am asking hon. members to set aside whose friend this person might be and whose friend the other person might be. We can do something to pull ourselves up if we stick our necks out right now and demand better treatment for ourselves in Parliament, having regard to the amount of money we are spending in this particular field. I need say no more on this particular matter.

On the question of communications, I believe that there is a necessity for improvement in the telephone service at this Parliament. I know that hon. members have experienced great difficulty to get in touch with their offices or with their homes when they attend Parliament. The waiting period is too long, and there should be some improvement in the communications to and from this Parliament. There is so much that we need here that one cannot say everything in a few minutes. Apart from this, there should be no difficulty in passing this Head.

Mr. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, I heard the hon. member speaking about refreshment and some breast. Whether it is the breast of a pig or a human, I am very sorry to hear such things being said in here. There has always been a talk about refreshment and, if it is unsatisfactory, I would advocate scrapping it altogether. Let it be a decision that lunch or dinner will be taken at a particular hour, so that every member would get the type of refreshment he or she likes. There are several members here who do not participate in the refreshment which is served here. Some complain that it is not of the highest order. If it were known that there will be no refreshment and everybody will have to seek his or her own choice, then we would not have heard this discussion here today. If the Government scrapped this system, they would not have to meet this expense. We are paid to come here. At some times our meetings will be longer than usual, but we would have to provide our own refreshment or make some kind of sacrifice. Rules should be made stating that a specific hour lunch would be taken, or dinner would be taken, and that every

Parliamentarian would seek the type of refreshment that satisfies his or her stomach.

With regard to Item 11, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I would like to say, as a member who has travelled abroad, that I hope the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would give an adequate amount of money to Parliamentarians, who are going abroad, so that they may not appear to be cheap. We have had an example of this quite recently, and I have heard complaints from other members. No member has spoken about the matter today, but hon. members know that the remuneration is inadequate. If you leave Barbados with B. W. I. dollars and go to the Bahamas where you will have to spend American currency, you will find that the money given to you by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is unable to meet your bills. I think it is time that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association should bear in mind the country to which Parliamentarians are travelling and give them an adequate amount to take care of their bills during a particular visit.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to speak on two items under Head 3. It is specifically about the role of Parliament, and to endorse the remarks made in relation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I should like to make a few general remarks about Parliament at this time because I think it is important that one should, again, re-emphaise the role which Parliament has to play in the country and the necessity for us to draw to the attention of the public that Parliament is, after all, the main civil institution in the country.

At times, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the relationship between Parliament as represented by this House of Assembly and the Executive arm of the Government has not always been what it ought to be. I have, on occasions in this House, already raised the question of the attitude being adopted by the Ministers to the Parliamentary members in not giving vital information on the floor of this House. I very much regret to say that I am unhappy about the attitude being adopted towards the answering of questions in this House. In my view the whole role of Question Time is not only to enliven the debate for the interest of members, but to enable the Ministers to explain policy, to give vital information to back benchers, and to be subjected to the necessary scrutiny on behalf of the people of the country. Not one of us, if we are being objective, can say that at present Question Time is being properly used. It is my view that the time has come when the Government must, seriously, look at the usefulness of having Parliament either upgraded or being downgraded. Specifically on Question Time, again, I cannot understand how one can be serious about the role of Parliament in this country, if questions are being answered a year late and some of them more than a year late, particularly when the significance of the question no longer applies.

Now, the complaint which I make about the attitude to Parliament in Barbados is unfortunately one that is current already in some other countries. Wherever the executive predominates it becomes almost

a temptation on the part of the Government to equate Parliament with the will of the executive, and in some places with the will of the particular party in power. I am not satisfied that there is sufficient respect shown on both sides of the House to members' rights and duties, I am not satisfied at times that members understand the role of debate and the attitude they should adopt with one another in relation to debates. A lot of the unnecessary acrimony and exchange across the board could be cut out and an improvement had in the conduct of the business as well as the general standard of debate.

Certainly, after observing this Parliament work for ^bree years, I cannot, as a Barbadian, even at^tbesrisk of being charged with selling my country short, say that I am over-impressed with the manner in which Parliament is performing or is conducting its business. For instance, if I may be specific, our attitude sometimes towards the staff of Parliament leaves a lot to be desired. We have, during the past few weeks, been meeting regularly and, obviously, there was one day in this House when there were only two Reporters, but nobody adverted to this point. Only two Reporters were available, and they were stretched out. I think at some time later in the dabate the Hon. Leader of the House asked for the debate to be terminated early because he recognised what had happened. I think we must have a more on-going attitude to Parliament. The Standing Committees of Parliament " should be meeting in order to see how they can improve the efficiency and functioning of Parliament day to day and how we can arrange the time so that the officers would give of their best during the period they are here, and the people's business would be conducted in a proper way. 12. 20 p. m.

I should like to see the position between the Opposition and the Government where a member of our side could meet with the Leader of the House and arrange a programme of legislation for the coming year; a programme of legislation that allows a reasonable debate time and allows Private Members' Business to be done and questions to be answered speedily. I think that we should, on a board basis, have some all party committee of this House to go into the role of Parliament,

I commend very strongly to hon. members the journal which is put out by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which shows quite a lot of thinking going on on the role of Parliaments in other countries, because if we are to maintain a democratic system of Government it is important that we Parliamentarians should appear before the public as worthy of credibility; and I regret to say that politicians not only in Barbados and in the Caribbean but in the world, are coming to be associated in the minds of the public at large as people who want to get rich quickly; who are in it to get something out of it; and they are even thinking that the moment you are a politician, that your next name is corruption. I believe that we Parliamentarians, if we are serious, must have a public relations approach to improving our own image and the image of Parliament in the country.

I believe that this Parliament needs a serious look at paying its staff properly, seeing that they get their gratuities on time - some of them have not even got that at the moment, I believe; they are hanging on in matters of this nature - and seeing that the officers; at least, have a proper standard of living and comfortable conditions.

One cannot be proud of this building. Members are at great disadvantage in here. I take my hat off to the lady member that she has not made a fuss about some of the conditions available even for her own facilities; and I do not think we should go on at this rate.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe we are all hoping to get through this debate very quickly. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is what I will refer to right now. I only heard the tail piece of the speech by the hon. member for St. George North but when I heard him speaking he spoke with conviction on the matter; and certainly I think each one of us would want to commend very strongly the role being played by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I think that our Parliament benefits from these meetings. It gives us a wider arena on which to look objectively at how Parliamentarians conduct their business, and the association here must be commended in being one of the small associations which have been able, on the occasions when we have been represented abroad, to leave our mark behind us. And I sometimes indeed wonder why the amicable and friendly relationships which manifest themselves among Parliamentarians from both sides of the House on overseas missions, do not continue when we are in this House.

I believe the Government has had the privilege of the Association being led by His Honour the Speaker, the Hon Leader of Government Business, the hon. member for St. George North, and, I was very well and distinguishedly led by the hon. junior Minister for Communications and works, and indeed the amicable relations that were established and insight you get into the capabilities of people who sometimes go unnoticed both by the Government and the Opposition, is very revealing. We have talent. The people in this House have talent among us. We Parliamentarians sometimes do not think so. I defy anyone to tell me that the hon. member for St. Philip South, for instance, is not as capable a member of this body as the Hon. Prime Minister. Indeed I think his ability to get on with people may be a more outstanding quality than is possessed by the hon. member for St. John. Certainly on the occasions that I was with him overseas I saw him leading a delegation in a fitting and an outstanding manner for this country. I want to say so. I do not mind if at the next election I may have to speak in his constituency. I will talk on policy, but when it comes to talking about him as a man I will say this even if it annoys people on my side of the House, that I have seen his capabilities acting on behalf of this country, and I have no doubt that he did it creditably and outstandingly.

I hear the same reports about other members and I heard the same report about the Leader of the Opposition when he went on a similar role to Ceylon, and I should very much like to commend our contribution to the CPA.

The question that Head 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 18 - Training Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Again, Mr. Chairman, the Items here have been fully explained. Other Personal Emoluments, National Insurance, Office Expenses, Communications, Travelling. This is identical. We have been coming with these all the time.

Sir, I beg to move that Head 18 - Training Division - stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 19(1) - Defence and Security Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19(1) stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that every member of this community is as anxious as you are to find out how it is that before our Coast Guard has been formally launched, it is found to be running aground.

Mr. Chairman, after all, you are as aware of the fact as I am, that throughout the length and breadth of this Island there is the concensus that the money spent in this particular direction could have been used to better advantage at this particular point of time. It would mean therefore that those who embarked upon it, caring not for who cares, or who do not care, ought to demonstrate to the taxpayers that an extra amount of care is being exercised in the manning of these vessels and all the equipment consigned to this station, because if the Coast Guard forms part of our defence, one never knows under the present circumstances when a call will have to really and truly be made upon it, because it is there, and because it is there it has got to be supported, not necessarily maintained for as long as some might want to have it. 12. 30 p. m.

However, Sir, we believe that the Leader of the House ought to have been in a position to give this Chamber some sort of report on the independence manoeuvre incident which caught the headlines of the newspaper and gave us all some cause for concern as to the capabilities of the manning of these vessels. We realise, Mr. Chairman, the high costs. There are very selectively equipped for their manoeuvres, and we believe that a very high degree of skill in manning these vessels ought to be demanded by all those who are charged with the responsibility of looking after the expenditure of the taxpayers' money if satisfaction is to be guaranteed for what is spent. It means therefore that something should be forthcoming from the Minister to let us know what is the true position, what really took place, and to what extent the taxpayers' purse is going to be called upon in as short a space of time as this for the maintenance in our communications system involving our Coast Guard Station.

We appreciate the fact that they must operate a wonderful ship-to-shore system of communications, but if the ship has run aground we might see a greater need for ship-to-shore communications. As we understand there is not a very high hope to be held out for the proper functioning to this division as it exists at the present moment. There is in pur view a demand for more competent people to be at the helm of things at this particular moment. The question of a break down in discipline, the undermining of the whole structure of things, all these are now public knowledge. It might be top secret for Government members and treated as confidential, but it is public property, and this is not good for a unit which has been established at such high cost and at a time which is proving so expensive to the nation.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, there are some aspects of the operation of the Coast Guard that I think ought to be subject to the scrutiny of Parliament. I recall very well this Head of Defence and Security where under capital expenditure the Coast Guard came in on one occasion almost at the end of the debate on the Estimates, and of course it passed through this Parliament without getting in my view the scrutiny which such an item deserves. One of the results of this has been that in my view many mistakes have been made in the operation of the Coast Guard Station which no doubt could have been avoided if the views of other people had been listened to and their observations probably taken into consideration. I think

anybody who has visited the Coast Guard Station must be amazed at the amount of extra expenditure which is being used up because of the failure of Government to do a proper marine engineering study before establishing foreshore facilities which have been placed at Sea Rocks. There has been a shift of the sand from the South West to the South East and a rapid build up of sand in the area, so much so that Government was forced to resort to transhipping the sand from the Coast Guard area along to the Welches area in Christ Church and dumping it at the side of the road, with the wind blowing it across the constituency of the Minister of Tourism and Information; so what might have been beneficial to the residents on the other side of the road was not only a hazard to drivers, but in my view must be a waste of public funds in this way, and this is really bad spending and very bad planning.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the Minister responsible for Defence and Security must be prepared to take the blame for bad planning in his department. The other day he got into Parliament and of course talked about bad planning in the Ministry of Health, and the planners got the blame for it at the crematorium, but in this case this is bad planning in Defence and Security and the Minister responsible for this who is the hon. member for St. John must accept responsibility for this increased expenditure in Parliament which has come from a Department that he should have greater oversight and insight into. I cannot understand if we believe in the concept of ministerial responsibility why we are going to hear that it is a foreign engineer from Israel who advised on this. The Minister should have known that unless proper marine surveys were carried out along that coast that the movement of the seas would bring back the sand and create a problem which we now have at the Coast Guard Station.

In addition, recently there were two incidents with the Coast Guard that one must really comment on. The hon. member for St. Peter has commented on one. The test run for the Independence Day ceremony was done when the tide was high, so they came off at a particular distance and came right into shore. The run on the day of the independence celebrations was done when the tide was out and the result was that we have about $30, 000 in damage to the Coast Guard. Not a report about this of any significance has been made to Parliament yet. Then I understand, and if I am incorrect I would be willing to accept a correction from the Minister who is handling this matter today, that a Coast Guard vessel ran aground in the Grenadines and was damaged some time ago. I understand they were fishing. As a Parliamentarian of Barbados I must hear this via the grapevine from the Grenadines. This is not satisfactory for the country. In my view the Minister must take the blows.

Mr. Chairman, people seem to be afraid to tell the Prime Minister when he is going wrong in this country, but his Departments are the greatest sinners in the waste of public funds from time to time both in Defence and Security and the Airport, and he gets away with because he is the Prime Minister and somebody is afraid to tell him he is going wrong. In my view he is running the Coast Guard very badly at the moment, and he must not take it as his private baby. I am totally dissatisfied with the information coming to Parliament on items of this nature. The officers are not directly under the Civil Service, but not one has been disciplined although they do not come under the Civil Service Commission, and we hear so much about the efficiency of the Civil Service. No one has been disciplined and no account has

been given. If that is not the nearest to coming to a one man rule in the country, I do not know what is. I would like to be charitable at this time, but certainly not when I can see that a Coast Guard is alleged to have run aground fishing, and one doing a salute and no proper test run and they are in problems. I really cannot understand it. 12. 40 p. m.

I cannot understand it. Mr. Chairman, why I am speaking strongly is that I have heard comments from the man in the street on this matter. They say: "Why should we be paying a 5% sales tax, if this is the standard of administration and efficiency in Government that we are getting?" The people are getting fed up with this nonsense. I would say that if we are going to have a Coast Guard that is run in this way, we should scrap it.

The question that Head 19(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 19(2) - Barbados Regiment was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 19(2) - Barbados Regiment, the items there are maintenance of vehicles, travelling, furniture and equipment. I think the explanation given in the notes are quite adequate.

I beg to move that Head 19(2) stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, this is a word of commendation. I am not going to keep the House very long. This is a word of commendation for the Government. I am glad to see that the Government has taken one forward step in the interest of the equality of women by having such lovely ladies in the Regiment who are performing so well. I hope that this is part of International Women's Year next year, and I will see the Government reverse its stand and be committed to full equality. I would like to congratulate the Government on this forward-looking step. I am big enough to say so. I think it is a step in the right

direction, and I hope they will move up to officers' level and be given proper training. As one who believes fully in the equality of women, I think this is the right move. I am glad to see that the hon. lady member and myself have had some influence on the Hon. Leader of the Government in this respect in getting it to recognise the necessity for women in all aspects of our national life and not merely in chambers like this one or otherwise.

The question that Head 19(2) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 21(1) - Ministry of Home Affairs -General Administration - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Again, Sir, the items here and the explanations given in the notes are quite adequate, and the reasons for the supplementary will be appreciated by hon. Members,

I beg to move that Head 21(1) stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Explain Medical Expenses and go on.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, as far as Item 11 - Medical Expenses - is concerned, it is for $4, 281. The actual expenditure under this item at the 30th September, 1974, amounted to $5, 641 and the balance was $1, 359. It is expected that the average monthly expenditure will be $940, and it will continue to the remainder of the financial year. The real balance, Sir, is $1, 359; it is inadequate and will have to be supplemented in order to carry on to the 31st March, 1975.

The revised estimated expenditure to the 31st March, 1975, is as follows:

Actual expenditure for the period

1. 4. 74 to 30. 9. 74 is $5, 641

Estimated expenditure for the period

1. 10. 74 to 31. 3. 75 will be.. .. 5, 640

Total •• 11, 281

The provision in the Estimates for $7, 000, and the supplementary is $4, 281.

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

Head 21(2) - Probation Office - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 21(2) - Probation Office - stand part, for a similar reason.

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

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

Head 22 - Police - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 22 - Police - stand part. The various items are as follows

Item 6 - Office Expenses $12, 200

Item 10 - Travelling 49, 371

Item 20 - Maintenance of Photographic Equipment.... 1, 900

I think that Office Expenses will explain itself. Travelling is a substantial sum of $49, 371. The amount voted originally was $71, 736 in order to meet the travelling allowances, etc., for the financial year. The provision is inadequate to meet the expenditure to the end of the financial year because the rates were changed. The travelling allowances were increased as from the 1st July, 1974. That is the explanation.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, there are two brief points on which I should like to comment. I am sure the Minister would be in a position to tell us if the 40-hour week is applicable to the Police Force. If not, what plans do they have for bringing this into being? Policemen are human beings like all other members of the community, and some consideration must be given to them. We know that Fire Services are going all out to see that adequate consideration be given to them in this respect, and I believe that we should not wait until they have gained ' ground to talk about considering the Force proper. Even at this late hour we should see what grievances they have in this respect, and do not let it be said that nobody paid any attention to their grievances at the appropriate time. I would urge that some consideration be given to the matter, if the country can bear this 40-hour week. 12. 50 p. m.

If we are having it in our various institutions, let the police have their 40-hour week like anybody else. To have a dissatisfied Police Force is not a good thing for any country.

You would be surprised to know, Mr. Chairman, I warned this Hon. House of very grave dissatisfaction that has been existing in the Force from time to time. I have taken pains to warn the House that at one time there were two sections, one attached to this particular officer and the other attached to the other officer. The time has now come when though one faction more or less is without its leader any longer, that faction now stands to suffer because there are reports everywhere that me faction is going to be promoted at the expense of the others. In other words, regardless of how heroic a duty the other faction may render to the community, it is going to be bund that some people are going to see that people who have followed them all along, rightly or wrongly - and I want to emphasise wrongly' because I can produce living evidence of those who have followed some wrongly -hey are the people who are going to be promoted at the expense of the other section of he Force.

I am urging that the appropriate Minister take action at this stage because we have no right with a Police Force under one Head, to be laving one faction - or any sort of faction at dl. There should be one Force; one united body pursuing its duties in the interest of the nation as a whole. That is not the case at the present, and as soon as that can be looked into and the sooner we can wield our influence to bring about unity in the Force, which has not existed for many years now, we are urging, the sooner the better.

As to the question of the maintenance of the photographic equipment, Mr. Chairman. We understand that two of the four cameras have to be sent out of the Island for repairs and what not. I do not think for a single moment, Mr. Chairman, that this reflects credit on the Force. After all, we believe that the Force ought to be a body so well fitted, and its members so well trained in their specific field and their specific department, that they can effect necessary repairs to keep photographic and other equipment working.

We know what a camera is. We have people here like Mr. Marshall at Deacons Road, who I believe in years when Col. Dickens was here - 1938 and those years - Mr. Marshall rendered yeomen service to the Force in repairing cameras and that kind of thing. If from that time until now - after all, Mr. Marshall went abroad before I was a boy perhaps, to study what he did to be able to repair cameras and the like. Are we to find that in 1974 the police have still got to take their cameras and send them abroad to have them repaired? It is not necessary. We need to have two or three men continually trained in this particular field so that we do not find ourselves exposed to this kind of expenditure.

If we spent this amount of money or twice this amount of money that we are now spending to repair these cameras, in training one or two men abroad - send them to Germany or some such place. We can get German scholarships; the Japanese also makes some good cameras, as well as the Germans - we can have one or two of our policemen sent abroad and have them equipped for handling this type of thing.

If we were to do this, Mr. Chairman, it would pay dividends in the long run because it would make others to feel, if they are this way inclined, that the opportunity would present itself to them, if not to be trained in this particular field, then to be trained in some chosen field of their own when the time really comes.

We are urging that they broaden their vision and set their sights much further afield so as to see what they can do to have the policemen remain within the Force. All of these are things that help the people to remain within the Force; and we are urging that they pay special attention to these matters, and particularly let us watch and see who are going to be recommended for promotion, and see what is going to take place.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. ADAMS:
Can I be heard before the Minister replies? Can I be heard, Mr. Chairman, I would only say that if there is to be this in regard to photographic work, that those responsible take careful look at all the forensic needs of the Royal Barbados Police Force. In recent years I have seen an unfortunate fragmentation of joint action in the Police field in the eastern Caribbean, with many territories withdrawing their support from the Regional Police Training College. I think that the time has come for an initiative to be taken, and I am sure that Barbados is the place most suited to take such an initiative, to establish some sort of forensic facility which can serve all the Islands that one can reasonably expect are too small on their own to have major forensic facilities such as are needed in the discharge of ordinary crime detecting duties in these days.

Photographic and fingerprint work are only two aspects of the whole forensic field. I am sure that the need for a proper forensic laboratory and much wider forensic facilities is well known in the Police Force and I dare say it has been the subject of many recommendations. I would suggest, Mr.

Chairman, that now is the time that the Government that has not spent a great deal of time or money on upgrading the technical quality of the Police Force for many years, now is the time to let the Police Force have a share of expanded expenditure. This is not, in my view, a crime-ridden community, but it very easily can become so. We are open to a lot of influences and we can import crime as much as anything else, and in these days, Mr. Chairman, a police force can only be as good as its scientific technique allows.

I do not think there is any secret that the majority of crime detection in Barbados is done by means of information received. Indeed I have heard that over 9% of the criminal investigation work in Barbados is successful on the basis of information. There are a number of unsolved murders. For instance, there are a number of unsolved murders still on the calendars of the Police Force and there are a number of unsolved breakings that take place from time to time, and there is much petty theft which it is still difficult to trace although this is such a small, compact and comparatively law abiding community; and I would urge most strongly on the Government at a time like this, Mr. Chairman, to expand the scientific and technical capacity of the Police Force to let it take a step forward in the 1970's and make sure that it keeps the criminal calendar at as low as it has been able to comparatively over the last ten, twenty, or indeed thirty years.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to assure hon. Members especially the hon. Member for St. Peter, that I have made notes of the points raised and will draw them to the attention of the appropriate Minister, especially insofar as the 40-hour week is concerned.

The question that Head 22 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 1. 00 p. m.

Head 24 - Prisons - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, again in moving the passing of this Head, Item 3 seeks the provision of $65, 866 to meet the cost of foodstuffs. The cost of everything has gone up; so that explains itself. The other items for which a supplementary is required are Clothing and Uniform, Linen and Bedding, Furniture and Equipment, Office Expenses, Material for Workshop etc. All these items are self-explanatory.

I beg to move that Head 24 - Prisons -stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with Item 3 - provisions, where I see that an amount of $65, 886 is the sum now being sought. I believe that with what we have been witnessing in recent years of these young offenders being sent to prison, that much more use could be made of their services. We now find that certain people in the community are allowed to draw on the services of these people, that is, they are hired out, so to speak, for pittances, felling trees and cutting gardens and other chores at the homes of "people, and I believe that if these same workers were taken and given perhaps some of the Government's farm land at Waterford or some nearby place and let them grow vegetables enough to feed themselves and perhaps have some for sale, it would be useful. What we would insist upon is that they be paid proper wages. In other words, they should be paid no less than they would normally receive if they had been working outside elsewhere, because at present they have got to be fed and taken care of,

and if there is a case that they can put in this extra work and be encouraged into doing something while they are there for their own advantage, they ought to be paid so that when they are released they would have something that they can start off life anew. I believe that I need not stress the point further.

Mr. Chairman, I believe many Committees have made the suggestion that we ought to consider further whether it is considered necessary to continue to imprison. people for sometimes what we would call frivolous offences, and whether or not we should not have a community service where we could try to place some of these people into homes where they could be received and taken care of, rather than have them tucked away there to come out worse than before they went in. I am not saying that there is every person whom we would be able to place in this way, but our Probation Service and other services at our disposal could be brought to bear on a situation such as this and we might find that rather than having people tucked away like this we might find a home or some factory or somebody somewhere where we could put some of these people to do lucrative work to keep their minds employed after a period of years, and we would find that we have made something out of a particular individual rather than damning his prospects as had been the case in years. If these things could be looked into, it may help the community in the long run.

The question that Head 24 - Prisons -stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. F. G. SMITH, the Resolution for the sum of $403, 976 was passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1974-75 No. 19

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the amount of money provided in the Estimates under Head 127 - Ministry of Education - Item 6 - Hotel School, has proved inadequate, and it is necessary therefore to seek a supplementary in order to carry out the purposes for which the money was provided.

Mr. Chairman, the funds provided are in respect of the provision of facilities at the Marine House for the re-location of the Barbados Hotel School and the facilities being provided including some five class rooms, a seminar discussion room, administration facilities, the necessary store-rooms, kitchen facilities, dining room, front office facilities, library, staff room, students' common room, and other ancillary facilities. The objective is that the Hotel School will be moved from its present location on the

Richmond compound to the Marine House into more spacious quarters. When that move takes place the facilities there at the Richmond compound will be allocated to the St. Leonard's Girls' School for the purposes of that school.

The need for the supplementary arises because the estimate provided has proved inadequate in as much as when work was commenced by the Ministry of Communications and Works, it was discovered that additional work was required particularly to the floor area, and hence an additional sum of money is required in order to permit this work to be carried out. In addition, as far as equipment is concerned, there was a dish washer which it was expected would be serviceable after some repairs would be carried out, but since that time a Board of Survey has actually sat on this particular item and has discovered that it is not serviceable and it is therefore necessary to replace this equipment. So the sum of money of $47, 071 is required for the purpose of enabling the Ministry of Communications and Works to complete the job of renovating the facilities at Marine House as well as for the provision of a dish washer for the hotel school.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that it is the responsibility of my Ministry to ensure that persons are given the necessary skills and training in order to service these sectors of the economy which require trained manpower, and as far as the tourism and hotel sector of this country is concerned we have been taking this responsibility very seriously. At the present moment there are some 301 students enrolled during this year. Students have been enrolled at the Barbados Hotel School in courses both at the craft level and the middle management level, and we have a number of students abroad on training. Some three National Development Scholars are on training abroad and three scholars also on training under the cooperative training programme between the Government of Barbados and the Canadian International Development Agency. There are also two trainees who have returned to Canada to get further exposure and training in the hotel industry and two students have returned recently and are now on the staff of the hotel school. So both locally and abroad we have been taking the necessary steps to ensure that there is trained manpower for this very vital sector of our economy. 1. 10 p. m.

Mr. Chairman, with these brief words, I wish to move that this Resolution for the sum of $47, 071 do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Chairman, the big question is Exactly how vital is this vital sector, or the question of tourism is to

our economy? How vital is it? The Government has embarked upon the shifting of the Hotel School from Richmond to the Marine House. We have seen for ourselves the high cost of the exercise, and there is little or nothing we can do about it at this particular moment. If we do not give them the money when they call for it, we will be told that what we have already spent on the project is more or less lost unless we can complete it. We are hearing of the training that has been given at home and abroad, and of the number of Barbadians in training much to our credit.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that somebody is benefiting from this, but I still want to impress upon the Government that we will vote this money, but we want the Government to issue a White Paper so that we will know what are the plans with respect to a school for Agriculture. We want to see agriculture receiving similar treatment. We do not want the Government to delay this matter any longer. It is evident that the Government have failed to set their priorities right and that is why we are not continuing to spend this money. All of the money that we have spent in shifting the Hotel School could have been saved. The Hotel School could have remained at Richmond for a year or two, and we could have embarked on a School of Agriculture that we would have encouraged more people to go into it and we would have been reaping the results in the not too distant future. Even if we are late, Mr. Chairman, we are asking Government to give agriculture the same treatment that they are giving to tourism. Let them set up a school, give scholarships and expose people to certain things. We are asking Government to do more, if possible, for agriculture as quickly as is humanly possible.

The question that a Resolution in the sum of $47, 071 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

A Resolution for the sum of $275, 682 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 4 - Auditor General - there are the following items to be dealt with

Item 2 - Other Personal Emoluments

Item 4 - National Insurance Contributions

Item 6 - Travelling

Item 7 - Communications.

These Items are more or less identical with the Items with which we have been dealing.

I beg to move that Head 4 stand part. Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:
Is the Minister in a position to tell us if the Auditor General's Department is gainfully employed? In other words, is it employed full time? We know for ourselves that the Department is starved by the other Departments that should be making their returns to keep the Auditor General's Department as active and as fully employed as it ought to be. The strange thing about it is that we legislate that a particular body or Department should, within X number of months or at some given time, submit its returns to the Auditor General. These things are not acted upon; no notice is taken of whether or not they do it, and when it comes to the time when the Auditor General has to make his reports, a little noise is kept and the Departments soon return to their old way of life with nobody strictly adhering to the legislation which has been passed in this Honourable House.

Now, coming to this House and laying the Report of the Police Department or the B. M. C.

Department two years or sometimes three years after the end of the financial year does not help us. It is not even worthwhile reading it at that stage. We are asking Hon. Ministers to see to it that their Departments submit their returns to the Auditor General on time, so that his Department will be able to keep abreast of things and keep Parliament fully informed of what is taking place in this Island.

The question that Head 4 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 9(1) Ministry of Finance and Planning - Finance And Common Services - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
There are two items here, Sir. Items 4 and 9 National Insurance and Communications. The items speak for themselves.

I beg to move that Head 9(1) stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, the money which we are voting under this Head is necessary to allow the Department of Town and Country Planning in particular to function, and I think that we should use the opportunity to remind the House that in the Estimates for March last year the Government then promised that it would shortly be bringing before this Chamber the Physical Development Plan and also making the Report of the Commissioner available.

Now, in March last year that Development Plan was something like two years and over overdue. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act, 1965, such a Plan should have been brought before this House for its approval. The Report of the Commissioner who inquired should have been before the House; it is now almost two years that he has made his report to the Department. I understood that the Prime Minister was taking over the Department, obviously with the usual promise of greater speed than his Ministers could perform, greater alacrity, and it is very sad to report that nine months have gone and he1 has done nothing about coming before the House with the promise of the Physical Development Plan for this House's approval.

Again, I must emphasise that this is not good enough. What is the point of Parliament passing legislation and setting itself a bad example in not implementing that legislation? If all citizens fellow this example of Parliament, we would be the first to condemn them. Only recently we were told that if people flouted the Sales Tax Act then, of course, we would amend the law for a penalty of punishment rather than a fine. When Ministers consistently flout the laws of this country and treat this Parliament with a lack of respect by not complying with the relevant legislation and allowing year after year to pass without doing anything of importance about it, what should be done with them? I think it is totally unsatisfactory, and it is this slipshod attitude towards physical planning in the country which has led to all the allegations that you have had about Town and Country Planning matters.

Sir, I hope that, by March next year when the new Development Plan is being laid on the Table of this House to explain the Estimates and to bolster Government's popularity, we will see the Physical Development Plan also laid in this House. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that last year at the last

moment the Government had to change its mind as to what wording it was putting into the Development Plan under this particular item of Town and Country Planning. 1. 20 p. m.

There is no doubt that the planning laws of Barbados are not working, and I would have thought that nine months was long enough for the Minister who has taken over this function, to have got it functioning. It is not satisfactory. As a legislator I feel disgusted by this attitude, and I will reserve the other comments which I have. If by next March nothing is done, look out for the comments. I hope the Minister will be here at the time.

The question that Head 9(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 9(3) - Ministry of Finance and Planning - Rates and Taxes Division - was catted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this Item, Item 5, under Head 9(3) is for the sum of $4, 153. The position is that the amount which was voted originally for the sum of $12, 000 has proved inadequate and a supplementary is needed in order to purchase forms and to pay for notices, etc. Now that the forms have been supplied the cost originally quoted is greater.

I beg to move that Head 9(3) - Rates and Taxes Division stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

The question that Head 9(3) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 9(4) - Ministry of Finance and Planning - Central Purchasing Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, these Items are the usual items - Office expenses, Travelling, Maintenance of Vehicles, Central Purchasing Supplies, etc.,

I beg to move that Head 9(4) stand part. Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I beg to second that.

The question that Head 9(4) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 9(6) - Ministry of Finance and Planning - Land Valuation Division - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, the Item, Other Personal Emoluments, is to supplement the acting appointments and substitutes, etc., maintenance of vehicles, Office expenses. The notes are explanatory.

I beg to move that Head 9(6) - Land Valuation Division - stand part.

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

The question that Head 9(6) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

The question that Head, 10 - Accountant General - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 11 - Pensions - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 11 - Pensions - Ex gratia gratuities for the sum of $26, 000 stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, there is one reminder that I should like to give the Government at this time. There are certain ladies who have worked for several years in the Registered Nurses Association doing district nursing, and the former Minister of Health, I think the hon. member for St. Michael South West, the present Minister without Portfolio, gave an undertaking that the case of these ladies for some sort of pension or gratuity would be looked into, and indeed when I spoke on this matter about eighteen months ago or a little longer, he said that it was then before his Ministry and that some consideration would be given to these ladies. My information is, Sir, that many of the older people have now retired and they have gone home without getting even a cent.

I am drawing their case again to the Ministry. I think they have given long community service in a quasi-public capacity and that they are deserving of some gratuity, if not a permanent pension of some sort; and I think we treat people like these in an off-hand manner, they have no trade union, of course, to stand up for their rights, and like one or two private people who have done the same with long serving people in their employ, we seem to be adopting the same attitude towards them.

I would urge the Leader of the House to draw the matter again to the attention of the Government. Rightly speaking it is probably now a matter connected with the Ministry of Health, but I should hate to

think that we forget the case of these ladies who have given such long service to the country.

It is unfortunate that it is usually the women who serve so well and are rewarded so little by us men. These women have given long service in the nursing field. They have not served in any posh establishments; they have gone into the small homes and given free of their time on some occasions, at reduced fees on other occasions, and now that they are in their days of retirement they have got no benefits. I am asking that we should take their case into account.

If the Minister wants me to get the list of the ladies concerned I would willingly do so, from the Barbados Registered Nurses Association. I believe a list was given to the former Minister of Health, the member for St. Michael South West, and he had undertaken to do something on the matter.

The question that Head 11 - Pensions -stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of $275, 682 do now pass. .

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. F. G. SMITH the Resolution was read a first, and second time and agreed to.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr, Speaker, I beg to move that this be Question Time.....

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, I wanted to give notice of a question.

Mr. SPEAKER:
You may do that. 1. 30 p. m.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask for leave to give notice of. a question.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Permission is granted.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker the question reads 4$ follows

"To enquire of the appropriate Minister -

What is the cost of the recent visit of the Minister of External Affairs to Peru to represent Barbados at the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the battle of Ayacucho, including air fare and any subsistence paid to the Minister?

2. How many officials accompanied the Minister arid what is the cost of their visit, including air fare and any subsistence paid?

3. Did the Minister and his officials travel first or tourist class?"

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION RE NEW EDUCATION ACT

Mr. SPEAKER:
Parliamentary Question No. 213 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport: When does Government propose introducing into this Honourable House the new Education Act which was

promised since 1962 by the Honourable Minister who then held the Education portfolio? 2. What steps have been taken between 1962 and 31st December, 1973 to ensure that the requirement for teachers in public institutions can be met by the time the promised new Act becomes a reality? 3. What are the present requirements for teachers in all Primary Schools, Grammar Schools, Secondary Modern or Comprehensive Schools, the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic? 4. How many teachers were trained at Erdiston Teachers' College between 1962 and 1973 to teach the following (a) Children of the 5-11 age group; (b) Children in the 11-14 age group and (c) Children in the 14-18 age group? 5. How many trainees from (a) Secondary Modern or Comprehensive Schools and (b) Grammar Schools were admitted to Erdiston Teachers' Training College between 1962 and the end of the academic year 1973? 6. Is the Minister aware that the pre-Erdiston Course is inadequate for preparing teachers for the teaching of English and for Arithmetic even at the Primary level of education ? 7. Does the Minister have any plans for improving this situation?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

The Government proposes to introduce the new Education Bill into Parliament during 1975.

2. The following steps have been taken towards meeting the requirements of the educational system for teachers with suitable academic and professional qualifications:

(i) an on-going programme of improvements has been in progress at the primary and secondary level;

(ii) a campus of the University of the West Indies has been established here at Cave Hill, thereby making university education more accessible to Barbadians;

(iii) the number of students enrolled at Erdiston Teachers' Training College for the programme leading to qualified teacher status has been increased from 53 in 1960 to 275 in 1974;

(iv) teachers have been sent abroad for specialized training;

(v) induction courses and vacation courses are held systematically for teachers;

(vi) a preliminary In-Service Training Course was instituted in 1971 to give to young teachers the basic skills necessary for successful teaching;

(vii) a joint Erdiston/Community College Programme has been instituted in an endeavour to supply suitably qualified teachers for the secondary level;

(viii) a training course for teachers in private schools has been instituted;

(ix) an In-Service Diploma Course for graduate teachers has been instituted at the Cave Hill Campus of the U. W. I.

3. At 30th April, 1974, there were some 2, 793 teachers employed in primary schools, secondary schools, the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic broken down as follows: -

Primary and All-Age 1, 414

Secondary (Comprehensive) 548

Secondary (Grammar) 293

In-training 271 On leave or secondment out of the school system 144

Barbados Community College 43

Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic 40 2, 793

4. Prior to 1970, the programme at Erdiston Teachers' Training College was a general one aimed at training teachers to give adequate instruction to all pupils within die 5-14 age group. The programme has been restructured and since then, 52 teachers have been specifically trained to teach the 11-14 age group. The course for primary school teachers is especially aimed at teachers of children between the ages of 5-11. It should be noted that there are no specific courses at Erdiston for teachers of the 14-18 age group. However, an In-Service Diploma Course for graduate teachers has been instituted at the Cave Hill Campus of the U. W. I, to assist in meeting the needs of the system for trained graduates. During the period 1962-73, approximately 944 teachers have been trained to qualified teacher status; and 200 teachers have been sent abroad for specialized training.

5. An analysis of the teachers who were trained at Erdiston College during the period 1962-73 according to the type of secondary school which they attended is as follows: -

Secondary (Grammar) 6

Secondary (Comprehensive) 165

Other Secondary 773

944

6. The Preliminary In-Service Training Course is intended to provide young teachers on entering the profession with the basic skills necessary for functioning in the classroom. The course is preliminary to the main two-year full-time Erdiston Course which is designed to produce fully trained teachers, and

should not be considered as a substitution for that course.

7. The Principal and staff and Advisory Board of the College, the professional staff of the, Ministry and of the School of Education keep under constant review all the courses offerfed by Erdiston Training College, including the Preliminary In-Service Training Course with a view to improving their quality and relevance. It is proposed that this on-going process of evaluation and improvement of all courses should continue.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us when this restructuring of the general programme at Erdiston took place?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

This would have taken place where the year ended 1970-71.

Mr. FORDE:

Can the Minister tell us if among the teachers who have been trained between 1962 and 1973 any have been trained specially in special education? 1. 40 p. m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Some teachers have been trained abroad in the field of special education. We hope to do more training in this particular area because we are trying to meet needs of all of the students in our system. As the horn member would know, we recently had a visit from our UNESCO Consultant in the field of special education, and I am awaiting the Report from this particular Consultant to determine our requirements both in terms of physical facilities as well as the need for trained teachers.

Mr. FORDE:

Could the Minister expand a bit further on this to say whether he contemplates introducing in the Training Course at Erdiston subjects in special education?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Yes. I contemplate that Erdiston Teachers' Training College will include in its programme some courses for special education. We have already conducted, during the last long vacation, a training course in the field of special education, and we hope to include more courses in this field.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 224 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter.

PUPILS' RECORD CARDS

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community development and Sport What is the position with respect to the use of a system of Pupils' Record Cards which was introduced into Primary and Senior Elementary Schools in 1950? 2. Is the system of assessing the intelligence and attainment of pupils still in operation? 3. If the answer to No. 2 above is in the negative, would the Minister give the reasons for its discontinuance? 4. Were die Pupils' Record Cards which were intended for use in the lower and upper divisions of Secondary Schools ever introduced into Comprehensive Schools and Grammar Schools? 5. If the answer to No. 4 above is in the affirmative, when was the system first introduced into these schools and what have b^en the results to date? 6. Is the Minister aware that the absence of a proper system of Record Cards is not in the best interest of children transferring from one school to another?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, the "reply to that question is as follows

if.

•1: i The Record Cards referred to are no longer used in schools.

2. The system of assessing the intelligence and attainments of pupils by means of Intelligence Tests and Attainment Tests as required for the School Records is no longer in operation. However, the attainment of pupils is recorded in School Mark Books on Mark Sheets.

3. Sufficient information is not available to enable me to state authoritatively why the Tests were discontinued.

4. The Pupil Record Cards were never introduced systematically or comprehensively into the schools

refered to. The older Secondary Schools have never used them since they have their own record system. The newer Secondary Schools use the same system of reporting as the older Secondary Schools.

5. Does not arise.

6. I am aware that it is essential for schools to maintain a proper system for recording the attainment and progress of all students, including those transferring from one school to another and schools now record such attainment and progress in Scheme and Record Books, School Mark Books and on Mark Sheets.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us when Mark Books and Mark Sheets took the place of Record Cards and at what date?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge there were always School Mark Books and Mark Sheets in use in the schools. The Record Cards were additional or supplementary to that particular system of recording the information sought by those Record Cards.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us what is done to ensure that Mark Books are kept up to date?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, that is one of the functions of the Heads of the Schools. It is part of their functions to ensure that the marks gained by pupils are properly recorded in the records of the school. This is an on-going function and an integral part of the duties of the Heads of the Schools and of the teachers who teach in those schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Have the Education Officers ever recorded any incidences with the Mark Book not being kept up to date? Is this within the knowledge of the Minister?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

That is not within my knowledge, and I cannot say whether that is so or it is not so.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 257 asked by the same hon. member.

SCHOOLS' MUSICAL FESTIVAL

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport At what time was a Schools' Musical Festival last held in Barbados? 2. How many schools took part? 3. If the Festival has been discontinued what was the reason for such a state of affairs? 4. Does the Minister have any plans for bringing a new approach to such an undertaking, bearing in mind the cultural benefits to be derived therefrom? 5. Were musical instruments owned by any of the schools which participated in the Festival in earlier years? If so, are there inventories to be found anywhere of such instruments? 6. Would the Minister cause an examination to be made of such instruments as are still to be found with a view to using same as a nucleus for any future venture into such a scheme?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, the reply to that question is as follows

The Schools Music Festival was last held in 1969 with 28 schools participating. The reasons given for its discontinuation are as follows: -

(i) the difficulty of recruiting and maintaining a body of teachers qualified to teach music in the schools;

(ii) the decline in the number of schools entering the festival;

(iii) the difficulty of obtaining the services of adjudicators and other personnel on a voluntary basis to assist in carrying out the work;

(iv) the work load on the Ministry officer who, in the absence of an Education Officer (Arts), was required to undertake most of the arrangements for the festival in addition to normal duties.

It should be noted, however, that a number of schools participated with credit in the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts. The Minister believes that the revival of the Schools' Music Festival would give an even greater impetus to the cultural education programme in the schools and therefore proposes to take steps to ensure its revival.

4k Some schools which participated in due Festival possessed musical instruments and inventories of these are kept in the schools' records. Some of these instruments are no longer serviceable, while others are either usable or actually in use and these should form the basis of the schools' participation in future festivals.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 258 asked by the hon. member. Just let me ask the hon. member to refer to the number of the question and that is all, which is the proper way to ask a question. There is no obligation on you to read the question again.

Mr. HINDS:
I like to read it, Sir. I enjoy reading it. You must bear with me.

Mr. SPEAKER:
When you are finished reading that question, let me direct you attention to Standing Order 16(1).

Mr. HINDS:
I am aware of it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER:
Are you? You think that a little indulgence is in the spirit of Christmas. Carry on.

DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ABILITIES

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of die Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport Have specific plans b"en made at institutions providing tertiary education in this country for giving students the opportunity to develop their cultural and creative abilities? 2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, would the Minister give some details of any such plans as may have become effective prior to June, 1973? 3. If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state how soon such a matter will receive the attention it deserves? 1. 50 p. m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to that question is as follows -

Every encouragement is given to students attending tertiary level institutions to develop their cultural and creative abilities within the framework of the curricular as well as the extra-curricular activities of those institutions. Art is included in the curriculum of Erdiston Teachers' College and is also a subject within the Division of Fine Arts of the Barbados Community. College.., Handicraft is offered at the Housecraft Centre..

Extra-curricular activities include dance groups in modern and creative dancing, ball-room dancing, Drama, Historical and Debating Societies as well as Music and Choral Studies.

REPLY RE SCHOOL FACILITIES

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 261 asked by the same hon. member. iv HINDS Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs Community Ikvc^fsiR^nt and Sport How many Primary Schools have lands attached thereto for (a) the cultivation of school-gardening and die teaching of horticulture, and (b) for use as playground and the promotion of outdoor games? 2. How many Secondary Modern or Comprehensive Schools, constructed since 1962 have facilities as at (a) ad (b) at No. 1 above? 3. Was instruction in school-gardening and attempts at teaching horticultur to children actually undertaken during the school year 1972-73? If so, at which 4. How many Secondary Schools have teaching of school-gardening and/or horticulture or; their curriculum?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, the to that question is as follows

K (a) Forty -nine primary schools have lands attached for the purpose of horticulture education and die cultivation of school gardens.

(b) Eighty -three primary schools have land attached for use as playgrounds.

2. The four secondary schools (Comprehensive) constructed since 1962 all have land attached which is being used as playgrounds and for horticultural educational purposes.

3. School-gardening and related teaching activities were carried on at 58 government schools, 50 of which were primary and 8 secondary.

4. Eight government secondary schools include the subject on the curriculum.

Mr. HINDS:
Mr. Speaker, Can the Minister tell us what is produced in any of the grounds at the four secondary schools (Comprehensive) that have been built since 1962?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I would think that whatever crops are planted, the produce of those crop§ would be gathered, subject to whether there are any depredations from outsiders, but in the programme the schools do plan certain crops including beans and so on, and I would expect that these would be reaped.

REPLY RE ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL PREMISES

Mr. Speaker, Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 272 asked by the same hon. member.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, Is the Minister aware that the St. Leonard's School premises are not entirely enclosed? 2. Is the Minister aware of the problems presented to the school through the absence of adequate fencing? 3. If the Minister considers the present state of the open area unsatisfactory, when does he propose taking steps to remedy same?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the reply to that question is as follows, and it is equally short.

1. Yes, Sir.

2. Yes, Sir.

3. The St. Leonard's School compound will be entirely enclosed as soon as the necessary funds are made available.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question Time is now ended.

CHRISTMAS FALICITATIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before adjourning the House for the Christmas recess, I think it is customary for a few complimentary remarks to be passed.

My colleagues and I would like to extend to Your Honour, Sir, and the officers of Parliament and

members of staff, compliments of the season and every good wish for the new year. I would like further to mention, Sir, that I admire Your Honour's dispatch and efficiency, and above all the fact that you have been able to maintain a very high standard despite the dilatory attitude adopted at some times. I consider that you have done a very good job seeing you are a comparatively new member of Parliament.

With those few remarks I beg to move that this House do not adjourn until Tuesday, 14th January, 1975, at 12 noon.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, if I am in ord to second that, Sir, I would like to join expressing good wishes to the staff and members of Parliament upon this festive occasion, particularly those faithful members who I see on the Government benches; faithful attenders every week who have respect for the tradition and behaviour proper in this Parliament in which we all sit The hon. member for St. Michael South Central whose respect for tradition has not been excelled, the Hon. Minister of Information, and above all, of course, the Leader of the House with whom I am glad to say the Opposition has had a year completely free from discord; as far as I am concerned, a year in which mutual respect at all times has set the guide line of our inter-relationship.

Mr. Speaker, if I may with great diffidence and temerity add to what the Leader of the House has said in respect of your tenure of office during the past year, I would like to emphasise with all the force at my command how much I support what he has said about the courage Your Honour has shown in the Chair during the past twelve months and I hope Your Honour will go from strength to strength, particularly in respect of that quality which both the Leader of the House and I commend you on today.

Those members of the staff, the Reporters and the Clerks including those who are not now i present, and those persons who are behind the ' scene, I would like to say they had a long session right up to the week before Christmas this year, and I hope it will not prevent them from enjoying their Christmas and coming back refreshed for the battle next January, 14 to which date the House has been adjourned.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would like from the Chair to extend a very happy Christmas to all the members and their families, to the officers of Parliament, the Reporters and all the officers and staff of Parliament and their families.

I am deeply grateful for the remarks by the Leader of the House and by the seconder of the motion and

I would like to observe quite frankly much to my own pleasure, that the spirit of give-and-take, the spirit of compromise and the spirit of cooperation are working more in Parliament as the months go on and I hope that that spirit will continue. I do not know if it will continue more to be lasting but I must say that during the last few months I have noticed the spirit of give-and-take on both sides which I must say is very necessary for the smooth running of Parliament.

It becomes very difficult to enforce the Standing Orders if the spirit of give-and-take is not there, and it becomes an unpleasant task and it does not make for the enjoyment, of doing the people's business, and I am very, very happy to be in this position, and I am sure I speak for all presiding officers to know that there is a spirit of give-and-take on both sides. 2. p. m.

Unfortunately, however, that spirit of give and take, that spirit of compromise and so on is somewhat detracted from when the mass media are here, and I think the public might be apt to get the wrong impression of Parliament and the mood of Parliament if they were to judge alone and on no other yardstick than from the spirit which they might think pervades this Honourable Chamber listening to debates that are broadcast from time to time. Of course the temptation to appeal to a wide audience is always there, but that apart - and that is not the normal thing, happily that is the exception - I am very happy to preside over a Chamber in which the spirit of compromise and the spirit of camaderie go hand in hand to assist in the smooth functioning of this Honourable Assembly.

Happy Christmas to one and all.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 14th January, 1975', at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 2. 04 p. m.