

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

Tuesday, 19th February, 1974

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A.(Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Mr. W. C. B. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY Mr. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Accounts and Statements for the month of August, 1972, as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1974.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The First Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1972.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

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

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1974.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the folio wing-

The Resolution to approve the Order entitled "the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1974".

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of the following:-

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$36, 800 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1973-74 Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1973—74 No. 38, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

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

The Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1974".

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

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

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$17, 500 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1973-74 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1973—74 No. 39, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

I am also asking leave to deal with this Resolution in all its stages at this Sitting.

Leave was granted.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works -

Is the Minister aware that extension of the water main at Cemetery Lane, St. Peter to accommodate residents and property owners at Upper Cemetery Lane would bring considerable relief to all concerned?

2. If the Minister is not so aware, would the Minister cause the matter to be investigated and take the appropriate steps to meet the requests of persons who would benefit therefrom?

3. Would the Minister give this matter the earliest consideration possible?

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport :-

How many teachers in the employ of the Ministry have had institutional training in either Public Administration or Educational Administration or both?

2. How many such teachers, if any, are employed at

(a) Primary Schools,

(b) Secondary Modern or Comprehensive Schools, and

(c) Secondary Grammar Schools?

3. Is the Minister aware of the extent of the responsibility of headteachers in such schools as at No. 2 above, and, apart from the appointment of Governing Bodies, what steps are being taken to assist such headteachers in the fair and faithful discharge of such responsibilities?

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport:-

How many teachers who are presently in the employ of the Ministry have had an opportunity, and took advantage thereof, to study and/or observe the system of Comprehensive Schools education at work in educational institutions abroad?

2. What was the duration of such a study or observation period by each such person presently in the Ministry's employ?

3. What was the level of attainment or achievement of each such teacher?

4. In addition to No. 3 above, what teaching experience, in terms of years, and of assignment, does each such teacher have to his or her credit?

5. Are all such teachers absorbed in the Comprehensive School System in this Island?

6. What is the present attachment or assignment of each such teacher, and for how long has each such

teacher been so attached or assigned?

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?

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport:-

Have specific plans been 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?

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?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat. 12.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re the workers on the roadway along the Darien Isthmus in Southern Panama.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance

What steps, if any, have been taken to secure employment for Barbadians to work on the construction of the 193-mile stretch of roadway along the Darien Isthmus in Southern Panama, known as the Pan American Highway?

2. If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister explore the possibility without delay, in view of the fact that construction is not expected to be completed until 1978?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re the lands attached to Primary Schools.

Mr. HINDS:

, To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport

How many Primary Schools have lands attached thereto for

(a) the cultivation of school-gardening and the 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) and (b) at No. 1 above?

3. Was instruction in school-gardening and attempts at teaching horticulture to children actually undertaken during the school year 1972-1973? If so, at which schools?

4. How many Secondary Schools have the teaching of school-gardening and/or horticulture on their curriculum?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. MOTTLEY:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House calls upon the Government to establish an all Party Committee to make recommendations on dress for Members and Officers of Parliament.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning. I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 171 asked by the hon. Member for St. Thomas is ready.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 174 and 197 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph, and Nos. 192 and 202 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter are now ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Replies to Parliamentary Question No. 176 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph, Nos. 203 and 204 asked by the hon. Member for the City and No. 211 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter are now ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

No. 6

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting on the understanding that if there is any matter of importance with which the Opposition wishes to deal that it will be done afterwards.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

We have no objection to the Standing Order being suspended, but we are requesting that Private Members' Business should be done at the time provided for it, that is, immediately after lunch and not at some later stage in the day. In view of the number of Replies which have been given notice of, we would want to have Question Time and Private Members' Business conducted immediately after lunch. Is this the assurance of the Leader of the House?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

That is the assurance, Sir, we will deal with Private Members' Business and any other matter which the Opposition wishes to deal with.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second the motion that Standing Order No. 6 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 4 be the first 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 FISCAL INCENTIVES BILL, 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to implement the Agreement to which Barbados is a party, between certain countries in the Caribbean region for the harmonisation of fiscal incentives to industry. Copies of this Agreement have been duly laid in the House and circulated to all hon. Members, but perhaps I could elaborate a little further by giving a brief rundown as to the Agreement, when it was signed, etc.

The Agreement was signed by the Minister of External Affairs on the 13th June, 1973 in Guyana and it was laid on the Table of the House of Assembly when it reconvened on the 16th October, 1973 and in the Senate at its next following meeting. The appropriate legislation are the two Bills we have before us, this one and the amendment to the Income Tax Act, 1968. The position is that the Instrument of Ratification should be deposited after the enactment of this legislation. The matter was referred to the Attorney General and the Crown Law Officers, and the Attorney General advised that the provisions contained in the articles of the Agreement relating to the export allowances could not properly form part of the Fiscal Incentives Bill since they do not in fact apply to the approved enterprise during the period within which the enterprise is enjoying relief from income tax, customs duty and other taxes. It is meant to apply to any company exporting outside the Common Market, so the implementation of this provision is effected by amendment to the Income Tax Act, 1968 (1968-51). Clauses 2 and 4 of the amendment Bill to the Income Tax Act, 1968 (1968-51) appear as a result of instructions to that effect from the Ministry of Finance and Planning and have nothing to do with the harmonisation of fiscal incentives. 12.20 p.m.

There was one meeting, sir, which took place on the 10th and 11th January, 1974. That was the 16th CARIFTA Council meeting, the one at which Jamaica reported to the Council that there were difficulties in construing certain provisions in the Agreement on the computation of fiscal incentives.

As a result, the Secretary General called for a working group, and another meeting was held in Barbados from the 13th to the 15th January, 1974, for the purpose of solving the difficulties to which Jamaica referred, in order to have a clear cut understanding established as to how the legislation should be drawn up so that there would be conformity and regularity between all the territories. As a result of the last meeting of the working party there was this understanding as to the interpretation of the Agreement on the organisation of fiscal incentives.

It was on the basis of this final understanding at the meeting held in Barbados that these two Bills have been drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers and will implement the terms of the Agreement under Article & If there are any other questions or any other information which honourable Members require I

will try to give a further explanation.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader • of the House in his introductory remarks has been cursory, to say the least, about a Bill that has tremendous significance in relation to the integration of industry in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

I have complained before in this House about the manner in which the Government has treated the country in relation to the coming into being of the Common Market for the Commonwealth Caribbean countries, or CARICOM. I would like personally and on behalf of the Opposition to register once again the complaint of the Opposition in Parliament about the manner which the Government has adopted on the whole integration scheme.

One would have expected that in a matter of this sort which involves a tremendous step towards regional integration that there would have been some proper White Paper or document published in this House, and that the views would be set out before hand for the benefit of the country on the whole exercise of the Caribbean Common Market. Why the Government has adopted this piecemeal approach to the matter beats me, because if there is one thing that both parties in this country have been agreed on for a long time it is the necessity to move further into regionalism of all the economic forces of the Caribbean.

I agree that the party to which I have the honour to belong goes much further than the Government in our resolution for political union, but there can be never any argument that we are both interested in economic integration.

I think, sir, that we owe it to the Legislature and the country as a whole that we should have taken steps to make this economic exercise part and parcel of the educational background of the citizens of Barbados. This is a Bill dealing with fiscal incentives. I—believe that last year the Trinidad Parliament discussed this matter. Jamaica has done the same and indeed Jamaica set aside special days for a discussion of all the Bills dealing with the Common Market exercise; and we are well behind schedule in the introduction of this legislation at this time.

I trust that the Government in future in dealing with a matter of this nature will see fit to keep the Opposition informed through the normal channels in areas where there is no political dispute.

Sir, I want to make a few general comments on this exercise as a whole. I am not satisfied that the politicians have learned the lesson of the break up of regional integration, and I am concerned about the exclusion of large segments of the working force, the trade unions, from these discussions. They are seldom consulted. Only at the last moment they got some recognition at the desk in Georgetown; but their views are not taken into account as a tremendous power and impact in the whole area. Their views were not taken into account to the extent that the views of the Caribbean Chambers of Commerce have

been taken into account.

Sir, no matter what fiscal incentives we may offer to industry, it must be clearly understood that the success depends as much on Labour as on Capital, and to that extent I feel that it is wrong that we should be subjected at the political level to regional leaders who cannot remember that there should have been at the start greater consultation taking place with workers' organisations in their own countries and at the regional level.

I should also like to make the same point on behalf of the various opposition parties in the West Indies. It is wrong to exclude them completely from consultation as distinct from Government in relation to this regional exercise. Experience teaches us in the Caribbean that the failure to unite has been due to the fact that whatever political party has been in power at the time, including the party to which I have the honour to belong, have always treated scantily the Opposition of the time in relation to this exercise. We had Bustamante in Jamaica and Dr. Williams in Trinidad all speaking in different voices.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the economic aspects of the Bill it seeks to further fiscal incentives, but the first common basis is a reoriented industry. To this extent it is welcome. I believe that although Barbados is not treated in this exercise in the same way as more developed countries, yet it does get a harsher treatment than the less developed countries.

I am not satisfied myself that an objective enquiry into the working of industry in Barbados would put us in this position that we are being singled out as what I think some newspaper columnist called a unique position, but certainly not as favourable a position as we used to have. Our position in the industrial sector as compared with Trinidad and Jamaica leaves a lot to be desired. They have been blaming our lack of productivity in the manufacturing sector sometimes as an excuse for a lack of managerial expertise. 12.30 p.m.

Unfortunately a lot of people think that a political card is the passport to good performance, and I am hoping that the manufacturing sector would recognise for the first time that they have a challenging position before them and that they would accept this challenge and perform much better than they have been performing. We have been outstripped in relation to exports both by Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica and the one which is benefiting from these industries more than anyone else is Jamaica. Jamaica has been able to achieve what it did not achieve under Federation, but there is up to now no positive effort by them or any of these territories to bring about total integration despite the extent of freedom of movement that is being experienced, and I hope that whatever political party succeeds in next election that steps would be taken to bring about better performance in the manufacturing sector. There is definitely need for better performance. This must be recognised.

Barbados must say to the others, "you have to break down these barriers if you are really serious about a total integration even at the economic level", and I hope that next time when the Government is reviewing its machinery it would not feel that this is a closed secret. Speaking for myself I do not see why it should be a closed secret. I think that any nation deserves to know what is happening at the regional level, and, I would say at this stage that I think it is short-sighted to define industries in Section 2 as only applying to 'manufacturing or processing industries', and excluding from it 'agriculture' in particular. I am sure the Shadow Minister of Agriculture will have something to say on this, because we must recognise agriculture, and unless there is agriculture, there will be little manufacturing in the

positive sense of the word.

I agree that there are certain provisions in relation to agricultural products but I hope they do not become a dead letter. What I mean is, it is the right of enterprise to be established in any of the countries which are party to this Treaty, and there should also be the right to move where these enterprises happen to be established, and, I regret very much that it cannot be possible for us to show some foresight in drafting these provisions in order to give greater recognition to the role that agriculture must play and is having to play within the development of the Eastern Caribbean, including Barbados.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this sort of legislation cannot be effective in itself. Regional standards are necessary, and the standard at which our produce is produced in the West Indies is to call on them to show that they are acceptable within the Caribbean itself, and also outside the Caribbean, because it depends on the standards at which we produce our produce which will give them some degree of acceptability, and I hope that every effort will be made to try and get proper regional institutions looking at this aspect of the matter.

I would like to make a comment on the question of dumping. There is a real danger now that we are getting rather unreasonable practices creeping into the regional exercise in regard to dumping; and, it is important to mention another matter; that in many cases trade names are not being given the recognition they deserve. We have to move to the point of establishing likewise a common system of recognition of trade marks just as we are establishing a common system of a national safeguard of industry. We have to do this in relation to trade marks and designs quickly. Legislation in most of these countries dealing with design is more noticeable by lack of legislation than by legislation itself. 12.40 p.m.

They have no protection within their own markets because there is a lack of legislation on their part. This is a wonderful opportunity since it, is a virgin field for us to get a common approach within the Caribbean region on the matter, since small nationalistic bits of legislation have not yet been established, and I would ask the Common Market Secretariat to move rapidly on that. Likewise, we should be moving rapidly on a common company structure in the whole Caribbean. I have heard a comment made in relation to reviewing legislation in this field that again the people most concerned, like the various Workers' Unions are not canvassed, and I should hope that this point was taken pretty strongly and that among the people who are looking at the review of the Caribbean Company legislation there will be some representative from the Caribbean Congress of Labour at least. As the body at present stands, they have not even been invited, and I think it is a mistake because they are concerned, as I said before, more with the worker than indeed with the politician, and I hope that this oversight on the part of the Secretary-General perhaps will be corrected.

Mr. Speaker, I think this legislation owes quite a lot to the hard work put in by Mr. William Demas himself particularly and people like Dr. Alistair MacIntyre who have been the forerunners at a practical level in producing a common set of ideas which should receive the acceptance of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean. They have not like the politicians claimed the limelight, but their genuine contribution to regional economic integration in the field of industry must not go unpassed for comment. I regret very much the movement of Mr. Demas at this time to the Caribbean Development Bank. I am not one of those who believe that the Caribbean Development Bank is a more important institution than the Secretariat in general, but I am glad to know that Mr. MacIntyre will be succeeding him, and I trust that together.....(Asides) If the recommendation is

accepted, Mr. Speaker, I can say that Mr. MacIntyre will succeed him. (A VOICE: He has not been chosen yet.) He is the logical successor. He is the obvious man, and the approaches made have not fallen on deaf ears. I am not letting out any State secrets. It was in the newspapers. If it were confidential, I would not have made the statement. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Ignore the asides.

Mr. FORDE:

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that certainly if he is to be the successor or whoever it to be the successor, he will have the same dedication which William Demas showed in relation to this exercise, and I hope that the Civil Servants like Mr. Demas in due course will get some regional recognition of their contributions to his whole exercise. I can only appeal to the people who are going to set up manufacturing industries for export to ensure that they pay proper regional wages. I want them to clearly understand that when we give incentives to industry, we are sometimes asking the people of our various territories to pay more in order to protect markets for manufacturers who come from overseas and some of them are within our midst. Some of them have the habit of not recognising Trade Unions. It is a very bad habit that I hope they will stop now that they are getting all these benefits. Some of them have the habit, despite the incentives and tax holidays being given to them of saying they cannot pay what is a reasonable wage, and I hope now that this is being done as a regional exercise that the Trade Union will be sufficiently strong and astute to keep a close check on the differential in wage rates that are obtaining in some of these companies who have subsidiaries in other territories, and that you will get proper joint legislation dealing with the regulation of these matters in the interest of the Caribbean as a whole because, as I said before, whatever happens in one territory invariably has some effect on the other territories particularly in the economic field.

Speaking for my party on this point, we counsel Government to set up within the Secretariat in Guyana sufficient machinery that would look at the effect of this type of legislation and the working force of the area. I am glad to see that Mr. Gaston Benjamin who has made a great contribution to the Trade Union Movement has now gone to Guyana working in the Secretariat. I would like to see more. I would like to see labour attaches in the Secretariat who can work hand in hand with the various administrations in labour as well as the various Trade Union organisations both on the employers' and the employees' side in order to effect the purposes of this type of legislation better. From our point of view although we have misgivings about the parts which have merely brought Barbados a shorter period than we have had, yet, as I said, the Opposition will support this legislation principally because we are dedicated, and make no bones about that, even if it keeps us in the wilderness for a time to come, we will not deviate from the stand which we took that any step towards unity of the Caribbean which is a genuine step for unity is a step which we will support on behalf of all the Caribbean people.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone would deny or fail to share the views expressed by the hon. Member for Christ Church West. At one time I was wondering if he was a member or the President of the Workers' Union or of one of the Trade Unions in the area, — he spoke with such feeling. I would like to say that I welcome this move, but I must say that I am not as enthusiastic as he is about these moves, from a different vantage point. I am satisfied that the economic structure of the Caribbean is

such that the Caribbean area as a whole is going to mortgage itself into the hands of multi-nationals by the legislation that we are calling regional cooperation. All we are really doing is making it easier at this time for any investor to come to this area of four million people and invest anywhere than to go to any single area; but the people in the Caribbean are not ready yet; they are still economic colonials and only at the stage of working and operating, but they are not at the stage of controlling any industries. What are the industries the Caribbean really controls. They do not control the sugar industry. If they were in control of the sugar industry the position with London might have been different. The only reason why the British Government is going to change its attitude is because they have Tate & Lyle that they have to look after, and the very interests in the Caribbean itself is going to make the British Government change its attitude, notwithstanding some of the things I have read to the effect that now there is going to be a windfall, the workers should share in it. 12.50 p.m.

If we have economic clowns in our own community we cannot expect to preach something better. You watch the Canadians, they are afraid of the Americans, and the Americans are only next door with more money to invest in Canada, but the Canadians are afraid of the Americans. The Europeans who received a lot of aid under the Marshall Plan after the Second World War which put them back on their feet did not say anything about Pompidou, but the French even now in this crucial hour are taking a veto position each time it comes to anything, even on the serious question of the energy crisis.

What is happening in the Caribbean is that we have some brilliant conservative economists, and every time I hear people talk about Sir Arthur Lewis being such a brilliant economist and that he was President of the Caribbean Development Bank as if this was something so big, I only have to think of Mr. MacNamara who is President of the World Bank. You do not hear all this talk about him, but as soon as we get anybody, who is President of a half cent bank, we begin to talk like the Americans about the first black man to get something. Mr. MacNamara is President of the World Bank and he is getting trouble in there. The Arabs are getting a Development Bank and you do not know who is going to be the President but you can be quite sure it is not going to be Mr. Lewis or Mr. Demas.

We are underwriting a situation which we know is going to bring trouble. There is trouble in St. Lucia, in St. Vincent and in Grenada. I do not like these words, but all these LDCs are going to get trouble whether they are regionalised, organised or what have you, because when the half cent mediaeval, feudal system you have in these territories where you can find the Shillingfords owning half of Dominica and the other people in the other half working for 50 cents an hour, then you go to Grenada and you find the Henrys on one side with all the nutmer plants and all sorts of things, then you go to St. Vincent and you only hear about a few names, do not let us worry ourselves about these areas. These areas are virtual breeding grounds for what somebody called the pseudo-intellectuals and the drop-outs from the universities.

These communities have not geared themselves for what is happening in 1974, they are feudal and mediaeval. I am sorry the hon. Member for Christ Church West has gone out, but I want to warn him. Too many people expect that Barbados with 250, 000 people can perform a miracle in the Caribbean. It cannot. Barbados is as poor as some of them, but the Barbadian has to work hard by force of circumstances. You cannot lie down under a tree and expect that a mango will drop in your face, you cannot go outside and scratch any land and get food, you cannot get a common pin or a safety pin and go down by the Deep Water Harbour and catch a fish, you have to have a fish pot. One of the realities of Barbadian life is that you either work, starve or steal. Food does not come too easily. One of the

problems in the other communities is that at least you can get food easier than you can get food in Barbados because the soil is kinder to the people there than the soil in Barbados. For that reason, I will warn the hon. Member.

The Trade Unions have shown an example, and I will say to the hon. Member that he need not worry, the stage has passed where the Trade Unions are no longer unaware of what they have to do. The Trade Unions are not afraid of taking a stand when they have to take a stand. What the Trade Unions are not going to do is to be destructive for the sake of being destructive, but they are aware of what is going on in their own societies. I would like to be able to praise my former colleague for going to Guyana and being in the CARICOM Office, but I do not regard labour as being represented by giving a man a labour attache or having a labour desk, that is only making him a messenger from the Secretary-General to some Trade Union. Some of the Trade Unions have not acquired the pride and stature of knowing what job to accept and it looks sometimes as if they are so glad to pick up a job anywhere. They go along as glorified messengers but do not have any power or cannot make any decisions. When there is a crisis, the voice of the Trade Union cannot be heard to add any weight.

I agree with giving them all these incentives, we do not want to deprive them of these incentives but we have a classic example in Barbados. We have given them incentives but go down at the Deep Water Harbour now and you will see the place where they have to eat. I challenge anybody in Barbados to tell me if in any kitchen in any home you do not provide more space for eating per person than the IDC provides for the people who work in these plants. I heard the hon. Member for St. Peter say last week — and this is not only true of one man in Barbados, this is symptomatic of our own area -that some people when they want to be accepted into certain organisations expect these organisations to pay their contributions, and moreso public organisations like the one to which I belong. This would mean then that if I had to buy a \$425 ticket I would ask the Barbados Workers' Union to pay for mine and also for my wife's. This is the sort of mentality you have in the Caribbean business men, they have this method of trying to extract money out of the economy but they do not want to pay good wages and have been unable to get the public relations media to present a point of view that the workers of this community are the least productive. 1.00 p.m.

People talk about productivity, and when you ask them what they mean they cannot answer the question. At the beginning of this century we were producing half the amount of sugar that we are now producing with three times the amount of labour that we are using now. You must know what area of productivity you are talking about. You cannot expect a man to put 2, 000 pounds on his head. There is a limit to his physical capacity, but there is no limit to his mental capacity. There is no limit to the things that technology can help you do.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that we are at a stage where we are forced to adopt such methods. It is the only road open to us; but we have to be watchful. Harmonisation of fiscal incentives, regional co-operation, all must be examined in relation to. getting a better price for sugar.

The people of the region will get a better chance to develop, but then there is the sociological and educational problem, because people have been brought up and educated as Vincentians, as St. Lucians, as Barbadians, as Trinidadians, and Dominicans, and with that type of background there will be a difficulty. It is something to do with our basic education, and your concept of life which forces you to be insular; and insularity can wipe out a people overnight.

What is worse is when you have economic insularity. That is worse than political insularity because it can go to the root of seeming to deprive a people of what they are living on. It is on these grounds that you will find St. Vincent wanting to hold on to their arrowroot, Grenada to their nutmeg plantations and Dominicans to their rivers and mountains.

You are now asking Barbadians to be very magnanimous to their brothers in this area. That is where the Member for Christ Church West must know that our West Indian brothers look to Barbados when it comes to let us fight together; but when you stand up and say where do we get off, the question of size comes up.

Trinidad has a racial problem. Guyana has a racial problem. Fortunately for the Prime Minister of this country and for everyone in this country we do not have this problem. The Prime Ministers of Trinidad and Guyana cannot speak in the same terms as we can speak. We do not have to look over our shoulders. When we speak to the West Indian people as one nation, we do not have the same problem. We do not have to think of threats of dividing Christ Church into half or putting Speightstown by itself.

When you want to get these different groups to merge, it will create a problem because you are trying to merge people who in their respective territories do not have complete integration in their own territories. If that is so, how easily do you think you will have integration in an overall nation of four million people?

Take Jamaica for example. Those who know Jamaica and the Jamaicans know that they are as much interested in the West Indies as we are in going to the moon. They are not West Indians. They go north even for economic reasons. How can you ask a Jamaican who can get on an aeroplane and go to Miami for \$50, to spend six times as much, to come to Barbados? To prove what? That he is an economic idiot? So, he is going to be exposed to the bigger world by spending \$50 when he goes to Miami. His whole tendency is to go north.

Make an analysis. Check the number of Jamaicans in Barbados and you will find that it is very rarely that a Barbadian woman marries a Jamaican man. Count the number of Jamaican men in Barbados with Barbadian wives; even the size of the country dominates some of these sociological factors. You find Barbadian men marrying Jamaican women — I am not speaking of inferiority or superiority but I am dealing with my analysis that almost invariably the marriage union is one of a Barbadian man marrying a Jamaican woman, and not conversely a Jamaican man marrying a Barbadian woman.

The Jamaicans do not look upon us as equals. If you go to a conference and you begin to decide whom to elect as Chairman the Jamaican will feel that personality outweighs all considerations, but when it comes to size for size of course the Chairman must be a Jamaican. In 1925 when Jamaicans came to play cricket in Barbados, they did not believe that a Barbados cricket team could win. Last year they thought they lost because one Jamaican did not play. That is symptomatic of the country.

It is the Jamaicans who pulled out the Federation. Bustamante did not pull them out; the Jamaicans pulled out Bustamante. Even Manley, with his feeling about the integration of the islands, if they are to survive, dare not say that he will put Jamaica in a political Federation.

Some people tell us that you are a politician but not a statesman. It is like saying that you are a scholar but you did not go to school. How do you become a statesman? Not by reading books on Constitutional Law. You become a statesman by being a politician first, and if you are a good politician you can become a better statesman; but if you are a stupid politician you will never become a good statesman.
1.10 p.m.

These are some of the realities of politics that the hon. Member for Christ Church West must bear in mind. You cannot really create a Caribbean region. The economic forces in the Caribbean - the powers that be and that control the economy — are not in keeping with what a modern society would require. The fact that you have this economic system in the Caribbean and now you are having capital from outside, you are going to find a position whereby in the next ten years we might invite the industrialists coming into this area — and I hope you do not find a situation in the whole area not dissimilar to what we find in the hotels. What we find in the hotel industry and even in our own export industry is that when some of them pick up and decide they are going to leave, they have the feeling that the whole colony is going to drop to pieces.

The position today is that the multi-nationals are controlling the world. There is not so much that there is an oil shortage in the world but the fact is that the multi-nationals are controlling everything. The fact is that the oil is the same place where it always was but the oil companies are taking control. When you read the reports next year you will find what the shortage of oil really means - that these oil companies have been taking control. The multi-national corporations have become so powerful that they have everything under their control. The only system that they have not been able to exploit fully is the Russian system. The economic position in Russia is different from what it was in the West, but at one stage, the economy in the West would give you the impression that the economy in the East would have broken down; it gave you the impression that it could not sustain the stress of modern life. Today, Russia has become one of the giants in the world as distinct from twenty-five years ago when it was not recognized. So these are some of the economic situations that we have to look at. It is time that all of us who regard these matters seriously begin to take stock of what is happening.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Your fifteen minutes have passed.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. speaker, I abide by the rules, but I think when a matter like this is before us, fifteen minutes cannot be regarded as enough time to speak on it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

However fifteen minutes have gone.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I abide by your ruling, Sir.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to see the hon. Member cut short.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

What about cut short? The hon. Member was allowed half an hour.

Mr. ADAMS:

"Cut short by the rules of the House" is what I was about to say, Sir. Some subjects cannot be dealt with adequately with the half hour which even applies to me. What I will say, Sir, is this, that when a Bill as complex as this comes for the consideration of the House, many hon. Members take the opportunity to make a speech on that subject to which the Bill applies which can in many cases be extremely valuable in Parliamentary time. The hon. Member's expression of opinion of the Government's attitude is one which all of us should place some reliance upon. Of course, I take his point with regard to the Government's attitude as a point of explanation to his speech. As far as the attacks on Jamaica are concerned, while there are many of his remarks with which we would not quarrel, I would not be associated with any attacks on Jamaica or its Government or people. Sir Grantley Adams came perhaps too late to realize that the only way to make federation work would be to have given the Jamaicans everything they asked for, and then, even something that they dare not ask for. 1.20 p.m.

If the Jamaicans have a weight to carry, it will be in 1947 at Montego Bay when they themselves were the chief proponents of this very idea that the rest of the West Indies had to be protected from Jamaican preponderance and agreed to arrangements which did not suit them in the long run. I am not going to attack the Bill now before the House on any grounds that it gives undue opportunities to this or any other members of the Caribbean Common Market. We have to face the fact that if we are in the Common Market, if we believe that the Common Market is something good in itself or good as a forerunner for what political possibilities there may be in the future, we have to face the facts of life which exist at the time when we are joining, and therefore I am not going to argue that this Bill gives Barbados too little protection vis-a-vis Jamaica. But this forms, as the hon. Member for Christ Church West has already pointed out to the House, part of the whole pattern of the Caribbean Common Market and the legislation by which its main provisions are being implemented in the Parliament of Barbados.

It is a pity that there could not have been a Common Market debate, and I would never tire of saying so. It is a pity that the provisions of the treaty could not have been submitted to the House by way of a Ministerial Statement and have a Government sponsored debate thereon as is done in Houses where Government has a serious respect for backbench opinion and for the opinion of those Opposition Members, who were elected by the people to serve alongside of the Government Members, but we can only complain. We know only too well what respect the Government has for debate in this House and for the opinion of the House as a whole. This continues even after hearing speeches such as those made by the hon. Members for Christ Church West and St. Michael West. Even after contributions to the debates such as these, the Government will still continue to believe that all the wisdom in the world lies in that body known as the Cabinet of Barbados, but again I will not pursue that point too much.

Mr. Speaker, there are areas undoubtedly in which Barbados has had a very bad deal from the Common Market. I would have been happy if in the Caribbean Treaty the harmonisation of the External Tariff could have been carried out in a phased operation. There should be a Schedule, which has never been published and which I am now told does exist because the Prime Minister very grandly said that Barbados did not need it after all. I am sorry he is not here today to comment on it, since the information on this subject is now being sought from the Caribbean Secretariat and it would be better to get it from the Fountain head itself, but the Prime Minister is satisfied to see his name in the papers as being the

sponsor and the architect of Bills such as this. He is never in fact satisfied to expose himself to a serious debate in the House on this most important of all issues, that have come before Parliament in the last few years. I would be very sorry to hear that what is reported, is true — that Barbados could have got better conditions from the Common Market in respect of its External Tariff. Now when we go into it, we will be able to hear that we could have got better conditions for this, we may be able to get conditions that meet many of the criticisms in so far as there are criticisms that have been levelled against the Bill in the debate so far today. But in the absence of information, and the need to supply information, we can only be groping in the dark in here.

There is one point made by the hon. Member who has just sat down which I would like to take up very briefly in so far as it deals with oil investment in the region and the future oil movement in the region. The hon. Member says that he wants to wait for a year to hear what profits oil companies are making. I will refer him to the back page of last week's Beacon Newspaper where he will see that the profits of the Standard Oil Company for the three months of the oil crisis, have gone from \$US160 million to \$US270 million. He does not have to wait for a year; he can read it in the Beacon and listen to Opposition argument on the subject. I endorse what he says. I cannot absolved all the Arab countries from acts of mischief in respect of this entire matter, but I agree with the hon. Member that much of the oil short age is due to the actions of the International Oil Companies. We have never seen a statement in a Barbados newspaper which unequivocally makes it clear that the Arab countries have no oil. It belongs to the oil companies who pump it out. Saudi Arabia has no oil belonging to the King of Saudi Arabia to sell. It belongs to him while it is in the ground, but once it becomes saleable, it belongs to the British Petroleum Standard Oil Company or other multinational Companies. It is the Oil companies who own the tankers, and the Arab oil, that flows in the Arab countries themselves, no matter what they say about prices. They cannot stop the Creole Petroleum Company in Venezuela from coming here to Barbados, because they cannot stop the Creole Petroleum Company from selling oil at whatever price it likes to Mobil Oil Company to refine and sell in the United States or Barbados. Whatever price the Venezuela Government chooses to put on such oil as it receives as royalties they cannot stop the parent company from selling to its subsidiaries at a different price, and I would join with the honourable Member in saying and go further in saying that the Government should investigate this. The Minister of Trade, if he is not too bewildered by the blows about his head over the whole range of prices in Barbados, should investigate this. The Minister of Communications and Works, who has shown some talent for standing outside a little bit the orthodox opinion of his party.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is straying from the subject matter.

Mr. ADAMS:

If it was relevant in his speech, I would just like to tidy it up. They are the people who should be investigating the oil situation and check if it is really necessary in Barbados to have a gasoline shortage, a fuel shortage at Barbados Light and Power and an increasing price to the level to which the price has been increased.

There are various contributions which I hope to make in Committee particularly in the early part of this Bill, If. the Minister cares to look at Clauses 6 and 7 of the Bill, he would be forewarned as to the aspects which will be touched upon when we reach the Committee stage. Those are the remarks which I will add to the speeches of those Members who have gone before.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.

Clause 1 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to your attention that I intend to deal with this Bill in Parts.

I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 1.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part I stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I accept that this is a possible means of dealing with the Bill, but we only have one speech in Committee. I have indicated in my Second Reading Speech that I wanted to deal with Clauses 6 and 7, are you going to give me 15 minutes on each Clause? I am sure that this is a rule which upon this occasion Your Honour will rule correctly.

I want to congratulate the Parliamentary draftsmen for drafting Clauses 6 and 7 in the manner in which they appear, especially when we look at Clause 10, because this is a case where the Minister is given the absolute discretion whether or not to grant approved status of one sort or another to an enterprise, and his discretion on the face of it is in no way to be linked with anything that appears in the draft, and while we see that the Minister must be satisfied that the manufacture of the product would be of benefit to Barbados, both economic and non-economic considerations being taken into account; that it must have a beneficial effect on employment in numbers and gross wages; that he must have regard to the effect which approval would have on existing industries; that he must consider whether the product will use raw materials or skills available in Barbados; he must take into account the existing capacity for manufacture of the product, whether it is sufficient to meet the demand for the product, and he must also know something about running a business because he has to have a view of the element of risk involved. He must be a little bit of everything, even a Bank Manager from that point of view, because he has to be satisfied that the enterprise will be adequately financed and has adequately trained personnel in its employ or is able to obtain the services of such personnel.

I will not go through all the criteria, but I am glad to see them here because it is time that throughout the entire range of activities on which Ministers are given a discretion to decide that the criteria be set out in terms so that the public can see what they have to satisfy, and so that the public can know all the precise conditions they have to meet before they can successfully apply for the exercise of the Minister's discretion. How contrary to this section for example is the Immigration Act where the Opposition have been calling for conditions to be set out for years, yet no publication anywhere can tell you what governs or rules the Minister's discretion in respect of the grant or refusal of what are known as Work Permits. How contrary even the Town Planning Provisions where it is impossible for persons engaged in Town Planning operations and land development to be sure, because there is no adequate list of the criteria which the Chief Town Planner is applying before he grants or refuses Town Planning permission. In the case of Town Planning, it is even worse because there are appeal and hearing conditions but there is not sufficient material upon which the tribunal can say that Parliament intends such and such. I for one would not want to be able to say that perhaps a company which was refused permission to set up an enterprise under this Act should have a free right of access to our courts, although I always say that if you tell a Minister that he must take X, Y or Z into consideration perhaps very little harm is done in exposing him to an outside tribunal of some sort to say whether he has taken X, Y or Z into consideration. This is a point which the Government should consider. Certainly when it considers the Minister's review powers, I would suggest to the Government that you do not give a Minister an unalterable right to review the operations of a company that is already employing Barbadians without some set of criteria or some tribunal which will be able to overlook the exercises of the discretion in such a case.

As far as we can see, these criteria are adequate for what is required under the Act, and we in the Opposition regard it as a tribute to ourselves and a tribute to our plea for open Government, not decisions taken subject to all sorts of suggestions and arguments about what is to go on before enterprises can be approved. After all, it is a matter of record in the courts, and honourable Members are well aware of the fact that there have been court cases in which criteria for the award of approved status have been the subject of cross-examination. We in the Opposition welcome the imposition of these conditions so that if circumstances arise where it appears that something is not fully done we at least know that there will be documentation showing that these matters have in fact been taken into consideration.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this Part there is a matter I would like to draw to the Minister's attention under Clauses 3 and 6. I must say that we in the Trade Union would never like these provisions because there is no protection for talking about wages representing the percentage of the total sales and the number of people. This really does not mean anything. I sat on the Board of the Industrial Development Corporation and the members do not examine any wages, they do not know what any person pays, the total wage bill is not an indication of what is taking place because you do not know what the breakdown is, so if you have a wage bill and salaries and you bring these to a person, you will find included the Manager's wages, the Assistant Manager's wages, and all these people; if you have 30 people employed and five people are receiving 80% of the total wage bill, you are not in any position to evaluate this situation. You can be palmed off with this, therefore what we have found was that you would get the Manager living in a house at Atlantic Shores, which is coming out of the business, and therefore the rents are being paid, his money is expressed in American currency and therefore that is part of the total wage bill. When you get this expressed in these terms you can get a false picture.

My view is that this is what is being put in to give the impression that wages and all these things will be looked at, but this is not a means of looking at wages because you could not look at wages in this manner. In Clause 6, it says, "Subject to section 9 the Minister may by order declare that a product of manufacture shall be an approved product for the purposes of this Act if he is satisfied that the manufacture of the product would —

(a) be of benefit to Barbados, both economic and non-economic considerations being taken into account; and

(b) have a beneficial effect on employment in numbers and gross wages, "

Gross wages do not mean much, I am afraid that this is the sort of thing we are going for. As I said in my Second Reading Speech on the Bill, we are going in it full blast, but at the other end, you will be surprised to know that some of these same people are asking that the Government open a factory for 24 hours. 1.40 p.m.

There is this idea that the machinery must not stop, but there is no provision being made. You never stop a factory; so we have this sort of double position that I really cannot understand. What I will say is that sweat shops breed danger. The Industrial Revolution brought that out, and we will have it. If we have industries that are not progressive industries in this day and age they are going to breed trouble. People are not going to stand for it. That is as clear as day.

You had it for a little time in Korea and as soon as it caught up with them, it had to stop. You had it in Hong Kong and they had their riots. Wherever in the world this "sweat shop practice" went on, it went on for a little time and then there were riots, and in a small community, you are bound to get that.

We in Barbados had ours in 1937, and if you try to reintroduce the practice in any form, you will get them again. This is only a sop. I have had to deal with these matters and I am more than frustrated. You have some of these public servants — I do not want to accuse people of bribery — but there is a system by which public servants are working for Government institutions, but their eyes are glistening through the windows into the places of private enterprise hoping that when they reach the age of 55 or the retirement age, they will be able to catch on to these things. You have a more difficult job to get some of them to go against the employer in some of these things than to get the Archbishop of "Canterbury to take sacrament in a harem.

I live with these matters and I know. Some of them have the idea that money is going about flashing. We have new notes now and some of these people want to get hold of this money quickly. They go into these areas pleasing some of these investors and making it easy for them.

Some of these "fly by night" investors come to the Caribbean, open up and no one knows their investment background. They come and fool some of these officials and there we go. We had one of these officials who is not living in Barbados now. They have the idea that to put on a big white shirt and a tie and going to lunch at the Holiday Inn with an investor is all that you require, I have seen some papers. I have a document on my file which I could bring in here and read. I have this document telling the investor about the situation and quoting a speech that the Minister made, telling of the problems that

he had to face with the union. I can see behind all of this that this man is not getting the right impression that he should receive, before coming to Barbados.

I went into the hotel strike and a certain man asked me if I was a Minister. The only one he felt that he had a right to talk to was a Minister; I said "I am not a minister, but if you do not pay the people their money, we will close you down." He had a rude shock.

One investor said that a Minister had invited him to come here. I said "we invite you to come here too, but to give fair wages and give proper conditions." I do not underwrite a situation which permits investors in 1974 or at any time to exploit conditions based on the fact that people are poor and for that reason you can come to a poor community and not pay fair wages.

There is no law in Barbados which says that before a man goes into a job he has to become a member of a union. We have no "closed shop" system in Barbados. I met a man in New York two weeks ago who is a "fly by night" investor. He said he was not a trade union man. I was taken by a woman to have lunch with this man. You have to be more than careful about what women sometimes try to put you in. I found out what the situation was and expressed myself very clearly. The man said that he was a businessman and that he had a big business in Jamaica, and that although Barbados is small for his investment, he would come to Barbados, but he was not a trade union man. I told him that if he came to Barbados he would have to deal with the trade union.

If I were a Minister, I would be able to tell him that he could come, it does not matter, but I could not offer him any situation in which he would not have to deal with the union. They are giving that impression to people, who come from countries where they have to deal with unions.

I would like the Ministers to understand that more people are killed in the USA every year than they have in Barbados, and people still go there. You cannot afford to walk about in Brooklyn at night and people still go there. People still go to New York for a holiday.

There is also the temptation to believe that the Trade Union Movement in Barbados will act as a deterrent to industrial development. The Trade Union Movement, on the other hand, has been the forerunner of industrial development.

I was in St. Lucia recently and I will say that with all the talk, they are not going to stop the Rosie Douglasses and people like that from over running these places until they can put their house in order. 1.50 p.m.

We in Barbados have passed that stage. We have already taken over and we are still in the process of making those people come here; this question of wages is a misnomer in this context of legislation.

The Question that Part I stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Part 2 to 5 inclusive were called and passed. The First Schedule was called and passed. The Second Schedule was called and passed.

The Third Schedule was called and passed.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

On Resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Sitting is now resumed. QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, it is now Question Time.

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 171 RE NEW BUILDING AT FAIRCHILD STREET

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 171 standing in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, if the House would give me leave I will accept the Reply to Question No. 171 on behalf of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Leave is granted.

Mr. FORDE:

The Question by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of Finance: 1. With what money is the new National Insurance Building

being built and to whom will the building belong at completion? 2. If the answer to (1) is that money is being provided from the National Insurance Fund, is it being provided by way of loan, gift or otherwise and if by way of loan what rate of interest is being paid?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

"1. The new building at Fairchild Street which will be used partly to house offices of the National Insurance Board, is being financed by way of an issue of Government Debentures to the National Insurance Board. On completion, the building will be owned by the Barbados Government.

2. The interest is at the rate of 7 per cent."

Mr. FORDE:

The hon. Member should tell us something further about this rate of interest, since this may be considered a soft loan.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 174 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Joseph is ready.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 174 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware (a) that there are only three street lamps in the entire Parks Road area in St. Joseph; (b) that there are no street lamp. the Cattle wash area in St. Joseph?

Would the Minister state how soon he intends to increase the number of street lamps along Parks Road and supply an adequate amount to the Cattle wash area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker the reply is as follows

Yes, Sir.

2. Improvement of the lighting in Parks Road and the installation of lights in the Cattlewash area are proposed, but the installation of new street lights in these and other areas will be deferred until the current energy crisis has ceased.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state whether or not, the new street lights would be of a better quality than those at present installed in the area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I do not understand the question. We have new street lights which have replaced the street lights which were giving trouble. We are experimenting with those of a better power which will improve lighting.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state whether the appropriate number of these lights are being installed or whether the installation will be affected by the energy crisis?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister will not fool people by putting up lights now. The Minister prefers to put up the lights when the energy crisis is over.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 192 standing in the name of the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works Is the Minister aware that Gill's Road - off Church Street, Speightstown, St. Peter — is in a bad state of disrepair? 2, Is the Minister aware that the said road is subjected to flooding — Partly by receiving excess water from the main highway and otherwise? 3. Will the Minister take urgent steps to relieve these situations?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

I am aware that the road collects water when it rains.

The road is privately owned and not maintained by Government. However, consideration will be given to its repair when priorities for the 1974-75 Roadworks Programme is being drawn up.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 197 standing in the name of the honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that a list has been prepared at the Ministry of Communications and Works containing some 300 names who are to be involved in a redundancy or laying off programme? If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state (a) the reason for such action; (b) how long will the situation last; (c) what financial arrangements are being made to compensate these persons? If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister investigate why a selective list of names has been prepared of certain persons employed with the Ministry of Communications and Works?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Reply is as follows

No list has been prepared at the Ministry of Communications and Works containing the names of some 300 persons who are to be involved in a redundancy or laying-off programme.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state whether or not, any persons have been laid off by the Minister of Communications and Works since the 18th December, 1973?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

This is a Ministry of works. Neither the Minister nor the Ministry is fooling the people that people will not be laid off. If there is no work, there is no work. The Ministry of Communications is not a charity.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am asking, will the Minister state how many persons have been laid off?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not in a position to say how many people have been laid off; I say that this is a works Ministry and people will be laid off from time to time if there is no work. 3.00 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

As a Supplementary, how many such persons have been laid off?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not in a position to say how many people are laid off because it is a constant .process in a works Ministry.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

The Minister stated that no list of 300 names was in fact drawn up. Has a list of any names been drawn up?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

With the number of persons employed by the Ministry of Communications and Works, lists are being constantly drawn up with a view to promotions and other forms necessary for the proper functioning of the Ministry.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

In view of the fact that the Minister said that a list is drawn up from time to time to assist in the proper functioning of the Ministry, is part of the proper functioning, the laying off of persons?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The laying off of persons constantly occurs in the Ministry of Communications and Works. It must be a proper function because the Ministry is not a charity, and therefore if there is no work, they will be laid off until there is work to be done.

Mr. FORDE:

Will the Minister state whether among the reasons for laying off is the fact that there has not been enough public funds to carry on the work?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

One of the reasons is not the question of funds, but the question of cement. If there is no cement, the work comes to an end. It is a constant process from time immemorial since there was a Ministry of Communications and Works. The laying off of workers is no extraordinary procedure.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications and Works mentioned cement. Would the Minister now tell us if, immediately prior to a shortage of cement, his Ministry laid off 546 workers at one time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Ministry of Communications and Works did not lay off 546 workers at any time.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Will the Minister state how many people were laid off immediately prior to the shortage of cement?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not in a position to state, but if proper notice of that question is given, I will get the statistics for the honourable Member.

Mr. HINDS:

The Minister said.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Ask a question.

Mr. HINDS:

I am directing your attention to what he said.

Mr. SPEAKER:

My attention is always directed to what he said.

Mr. HINDS:

The Minister has just informed us that 546 persons were not laid off at one time. He went on to say in answer to an honourable Member that there was no list prepared to show the amount and that he would have to ask a substantive question. Can the Minister now tell us how he arrived at his answer that the number laid off did not amount to 546?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper Supplementary Question.

Mr. ADAMS:

Will the Minister state what information is available to him to deny that there were 546 people if he does not have the information to tell us how many there were in fact?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Because the Minister is interested in providing maximum work for the people in the Ministry of

Communications and Works, he is constantly in touch with the Personnel Section to know how many people are laid off at any one time. Every day the Personnel Section gives to the Minister of Communications and Works the number of people who are laid off and the reason therefor.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, in the light of what the Minister has just said, will the honourable Member still have to ask a substantive question to know the , number laid off at any specific time?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a proper Supplementary.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell us whether the Ministry has now obtained cement and if so, whether they are still laying off persons or whether they are still employed?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Sir, one of the factors involved in laying off is that, if jobs come to an end, people are laid off. Cement is only one aspect or one reason for temporary laying off of persons. Jobs expire and people are laid off.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us what was the maximum number of persons laid off immediately prior to the cement shortage?

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is your last Supplementary Question.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not in a position at this particular time because I do not know of which cement shortage he is talking, because there were several such cement shortages.

Mr. ADAMS:

Will the Minister tell us the maximum number laid off at any one time since he has been Minister? He says he has the files; let him answer if he is a truthful man.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper Supplementary Question.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state whether or not any persons have been laid off from the workshop, and if so, how many and when and whether or not they have been reinstated?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Those are three Supplementary Questions in one.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not in a position, but the work in the workshop depends on the work on the sites because the man in the workshop fixes the equipment which is used on the sites. If the work on the sites becomes less, it affects the workshop. I regret that I cannot give you the figures, but people are also being laid off from the workshop for the reason that there is no work to do in the workshop.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, .

Mr. SPEAKER:

All honourable Members have had three Supplementary Questions.

Mr. HINDS:

I am addressing the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

On what has the honourable Member risen?

Mr. HINDS:

I am asking for clarification. When a Member asks a question and it is ruled out of order, or is not a proper Supplementary, is the honourable Member not entitled to ask another?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I regard it as being one of your three.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, if a Supplementary Question is ruled not a proper Supplementary, is it still regarded as a question?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have ruled that it is still a question.

QUESTION NO. 202 RE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AT FRENCH VILLAGE, ST. PETER

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 202 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows —

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: 1. Is the Minister aware of the fact that several householders of French Village, in the Parish of St. Peter are unable to receive electrical installations in their homes? 2. Will Government take steps to ascertain the cause of the denial of this service for years to this district? 3. Will Government urge upon Barbados Light and Power Co., Ltd., the necessity to give as urgent a consideration as is possible to the needs of the householders of this district for a supply of electricity?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows —

Yes, Sir.

2. The Barbados Light and Power Co., Ltd. has advised that the supply of electricity to French Village, St. Peter, has been assigned a high priority in the Company's rural extension programme for 1974. The Company will be asking householders to confirm their applications for electricity service and if the response is good, the work will be scheduled for early attention.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister really replying to Question No. 202? The Light and Power Company have already started to install the lights.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is a point of enlightenment.

QUESTION NO. 176 RE ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' SCHOOL

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 176 stands in the name of the honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows —

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that (1) the St. Joseph Girls' School is in a state of disrepair? (2) the users of this building have expressed fears for their safety? Would the Minister forthwith institute a survey of this building and carry out all necessary repairs as soon as possible?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows —

A survey of the physical condition of the St. Joseph Girls' School was carried out on November 14th, 1973, and it was ascertained that substantial maintenance work, particularly to the roof, the floor, and the windows, was required. That work has now been effected.

No report that users of the building, expressed fears for their safety was drawn to my attention. 3.10 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state at what time on November 14th, the survey was carried out and by whom?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the survey on the 14th November, 1973 was carried out by the Buildings and

Maintenance Section of my Ministry. I regret that I cannot state what hour of the day or night the survey was carried out.

QUESTION NO. 203 RE APPLICATIONS BY SCHOOLS FOR REGISTRATION AS

APPROVED SCHOOLS Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 203 standing in the name of the honourable Member for the City.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

The question reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: 1. Will the Minister state how many schools applied for registration as approved schools for monetary grants from the Ministry of Education and were refused? 2. Will the Minister state (a) the name of each school and (b) the number of persons at each school?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows

One Independent Secondary School, the Paragon High School, has been refused approval for assistance under the Government's policy for assistance to such schools.

2, This school's population as notified to the Ministry in May 1973 was —

Staff 4

Pupils (secondary age) 102

Pupils (primary age) 32.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Is this the only school which applied and was refused?

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister tell us what is the population number, among other things, on which the Ministry grants approval?

QUESTION NO. 204 RE MONETARY ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 204 standing in the name of the honourable Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

The Question reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Will the Minister state what are the factors taken into consideration by the Ministry before granting monetary assistance to private secondary schools?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows

Independent Secondary Schools seeking financial assistance from the Ministry must first obtain the status of Approved Secondary School by satisfying the conditions set out in the White Paper entitled "Policy on Assistance to Approved Secondary Schools" which was laid on the Table of the House of Assembly in July, 1965.

However, inasmuch as the approved status carries with it an entitlement to certain types of financial assistance, an over-riding consideration is the availability of the necessary financial resources.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Would the Minister set out for us in detail what are the factors taken into consideration?

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of privilege, if We are being referred to it now, would the Clerk now get a copy for us to see here now?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I can undertake to get you a copy, but not immediately.

Mr. ADAMS:

We have just been referred to it so we want the copy now.

Mr. FORDE:

Would the Minister state whether any of these factors have been reviewed from time to time? If so, which ones, and if he has not reviewed the factors, will he state whether he still considers them adequate?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the operative aspects of the policy referred to in the Reply are all still operative.

QUESTION NO. 211 RE REPAIRS TO SEVERAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 211 standing in the name of the honourable Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

The Question reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport: Is the

Minister aware that the floors of several school buildings are in a bad state of disrepair? 2. With a view to eliminating threats to limb and life of pupils, teachers, janitors and others using schools with such floors, would the Minister take immediate steps to remedy the situation? 3. Was any attempt made to repair any floors of schools during vacation periods during the financial years 1971-72 and 1972-73, so far? 4. Would the Minister give the full list of schools referred to at No. 3 above?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of questions here and I really wonder if the honourable Member for St. Peter wishes me to read through this answer.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes, read it.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The reply to Parliamentary Question No. 211 is as follows

Yes, Sir.

Some floors have been repaired recently and the building and floor maintenance programme is continuing.

During the previous two financial years, repairs to school floors were carried out during vacation periods as follows:—.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Sir, let him lay it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is now exercising his right and privilege in asking you to lay the answer.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I am very grateful to the honourable Member and I so lay the Reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question Time has expired. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I gave notice of a Resolution, I would like to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there is no objection leave will be granted. Leave is granted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I am now asking leave to give notice of another Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there is no objection leave will be granted. Leave is granted.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to give notice of this Resolution BE IT RESOLVED that this Hon. House set up an all Party Committee to make recommendations on dress for Members and Officers of Parliament.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS
RESOLUTION RE THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEWERAGE PLANT
AT EMMERTON LANE

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 12 be the First Order under Private Members' Business.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Resolution reads—

Whereas the Government is considering (a) the establishment of a Sewerage Plant in Emmerton Lane in the City of Bridgetown; (b) the removal of the residents of the Emmerton Lane area, City of Bridgetown;

And Whereas it is the fundamental right of the said residents of the above mentioned area that they should be consulted and, have a say in determining their future;

Be It Resolved that this Honourable House calls upon the Government to conduct a Public Enquiry so that the residents of the Emmerton Area, City of Bridgetown will be afforded ample opportunity for the full and frank discussion on the matter of the proposed establishment of the Sewerage Plant at Emmerton Lane, City of Bridgetown and the removal of the said residents from the Emmerton Lane Area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for many years now the question of Emmerton Lane, has been a sore point with the present Government. I believe that the uprooting of a community as large as that of Emmerton Lane, St. Michael for whatever purpose, has great social and economic consequences.

The time has passed when the Government could arbitrarily say that the residents of an area should move without having any sort of regard for the feelings or the views expressed by the residents of that area.

For many years now it has been the policy of the present Government to use the Emmerton Lane area

or the Chapman Lane area as political footballs in the hope of securing certain political victories. Unfortunately for them they have not been successful in this regard, and again we find another attempt being made to move the residents of this area.

When I first came to this Honourable House in 1969, I moved a Resolution calling upon the Government to improve the standard of living of the residents of that area to include the infrastructure of the roads, lighting, drainage, water and water borne systems, and the Government moved a counter Resolution to the effect that nothing would be done for the residents of that area unless they were prepared to move. It has always been in the back of the mind of the Government that as far as the residents of that area are concerned, nothing can be done for them unless they are prepared to move.

The then Minister of Housing said that as far back as 1963 when a survey was carried out by the Housing Authority that the residents indicated that they were not willing to move. In 1969 again the same Minister indicated that they were not willing to move. A survey was carried out by one of the newspapers of this country, and surveys were carried out by myself and colleagues which indicated that the residents of the area would prefer to remain there if proper housing facilities, proper roads, proper lighting, a water borne system, an adequate water supply and proper drainage were provided; but these are the very things that the Government has denied them over a number of years.

As I have said, Sir, to uproot a community as large as Emmerton Lane has certain social and economic problems. Some of the social problems are that Emmerton Lane is a very closely knit community where you have various generations living in the same road or in very close proximity, and to remove them at this stage would in some way cause great inconvenience and hardships to those families who now reside in the Emmerton Lane area.

My colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, and I spoke to people who have lived there all their lives, and even the younger people said categorically that they would prefer to remain in Emmerton Lane and Chapman Lane if the Government would provide the necessary infrastructure which is being provided in other areas.

This area has been neglected during the 13 years that this Government has been in power. (ASIDE: Your father before you). So far we have been having a debate on a high standard and I hope that it will continue.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members must not interrupt. Please ignore the asides.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

As I was saying, Sir, during the 13 years that the D.L.P.. Government has been in power, they have deliberately denied the residents of this area any sort of improvement. No Minister of the Government can speak of any improvement carried out by the Government during the 13 years that they have been in office, and this has caused it to become a depressed area.

What makes it a depressed area is lack of proper roads, lack of a water borne system, lack of proper water mains and lack of proper housing, and we find now that at this stage the Government is coming with something new. They have decided that this area, which they said in 1969 was adequately suited

for industrial purposes, because of its proximity to the harbour, now we find a new reasoning, with different priorities. We find that the area, according to the Government, is no longer suitable for industrial development, but for a sewerage system.

I want to challenge the Minister of Health and Welfare to deny that in the report recommending the establishment of a Sewerage System in Bridgetown Chapman Lane was not the first site suggested, but Indian Ground lower down Land's End. Let us have the public enquiry so that the residents of the area can see for themselves and hear for themselves what were the recommendations made by the engineers from overseas. 3.30 p.m.

Let the residents know what are those recommendations. You cannot at this stage say that because the area may oppose you politically, that you would maliciously rebuke the people and try to put them in another area.

There are a number of economic reasons also. We find that a number of persons who live in the Emmerton Lane area are either fishermen, some work at the Bridgetown Port or are employed in Bridgetown in one way or another. We find that the women who are fish vendors work in the market rather late and some of the younger people work in the industrial area, and to afflict these people without a just cause, is to work a gross injustice on the people of the area.

Mr. Speaker, we have carried out a survey and we have been told in one case of a pensioner; this lady who is a pensioner said that she was offered a house for \$20, 000 and she is just getting \$8 a week. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter because there are persons now who own their own homes in Emmerton Lane and who have been offered a House which costs some \$20, 000. That is what has been reported to me. (ASIDE: They are telling lies or you are telling lies.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

No interruptions please. Other honourable Members will have a chance to speak.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

They say I am telling lies, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, how many of them have gone down there and asked the people how they felt about this? How many of them have asked the people whether they wanted to move out of the area? The people told me and the Junior Minister of Health and Welfare, who accompanied me that they would prefer to have better houses in Chapman Lane than to have to move out of the area — and those Members on the other side are telling me that I am telling lies. Let them ask the Junior Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker. I have been told by the residents in the area that they were offered these \$20, 000 houses, and we all know that they are all very poor people. This only shows the manner in which those who are conducting the survey, carried it out. I don't think it is right and fair, and that is why I say the residents in the area should be given an opportunity to express themselves in the presence of the Ministers who get in here and say I am lying. They believe in this sort of politics through which the people do not have any say for themselves. However this is the type of politics which is practised. People must be involved in decision making that affect them. That is why I have come to this Chamber and asked that a public enquiry be held in the area, so that the residents can be given an opportunity to express themselves. This is an area that has been neglected by the Government. It is an area which, during the decade, this Government has completely neglected. All that the residents would like to do at this stage is to have a public enquiry. Let the report of the engineers be

made public to the residents of the area and in Barbados as a whole. Let the Government show their good faith by making the report of the engineers public and giving the people an opportunity to say whether they would like to move out of the area. I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that if they have a survey held, most of the people would say that they want to remain in the area and have proper facilities provided for them in the area. That is why I have asked for this Public Enquiry.

Mr. HINDS:

I beg to second the motion for the passing of the Resolution. Mr. Speaker, I believe that Members of the Government will tell the people of Chapman Lane and Emmerton Lane that the surest reason why they have to move is because the present Opposition is fighting for their cause, and, all the Government intends to do is to show the people that they have the power to make them move, and move they must.
3.40 p.m.

I do not want the people on a 9 1/2 acre plot at Chapman Lane or Emmerton Lane to adopt an Anguilla attitude. We do not want to let the people of the Chapman and Emmerton Lane area really to be made to feel that they are for the most part a people disliked by the present Government all because of their politics. We have heard in this Honourable House and elsewhere that this Government meant to take the people out of the city and they have now really begun to set about doing this.

Let us ask ourselves the simple question, Mr. Speaker, according to the terms of this Resolution, whether or not the people of the area are in our view a reasonable people living under the Queen's peace and as such are entitled to their rights. I need hardly endorse the views expressed by the honourable Member for Bridgetown that the future of these people can become so involved by the intended actions of the present Government that they ought to have an opportunity to express their views, not by people going around and trying to find out who holds a party ticket, whom you support and whom you like. We believe that the people of the area are entitled to be consulted and to say whether or not they should be moved from this area to another area, and be given an opportunity wherever possible to make their own choice in this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, if the Government intends to locate a sewerage plant somewhere, it could hardly be the decision of the Government to site it in the area such as Emmerton Lane and Chapman Lane to the discomfort of so many people as against other areas which we understand were made known and suggested to the Government. One of the worst things that people can ever be made to feel is that because of the tower of strength of a political party or Government as the case may be that the pressure of the Government is going to be brought to bear upon every action of any section of the community. The honourable Member for Bridgetown was at pains to point out that many people have lived in that area for generations because of the proximity of their work places and for divers other reasons; but there is one point that was brought to light and it is this: We do not say it is the better way for living, but there are so many families in the Chapman Lane area where you prepare a meal at one house and it can make do to serve two or three other families. Now tell me, Mr. Speaker, with some of these people who are middle-aged and some old, what is going to be the result when you separate these people as we know that the Government is planning to do.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, if the people of any particular area are to be resited, the healthiest way to do this is to have frank and open discussions with them and let them know what are the possibilities at the other end, wherever the suggestions are made that they should go. I believe that the people of Chapman Lane

and Emmerton Lane have in recent days become very adamant about remaining there through the attitude of the present Government. We are not suggesting that the area has every thing to offer, because time and again since I have been in this House suggestions have been made for improving the amenities of the areas. I too have heard from the mouths of honourable Members on that side that nothing will be done for the people of Chapman Lane. There has even been the suggestions from some honourable Members that

a former Member, the late Member for Bridgetown, was a Mayor, at Pope and everything in the Vestry, I want to say in defence of the honourable Member that he could not be expected to do all for the people of Chapman Lane. He did a lot for others elsewhere. He did a lot for honourable Members in this House beside myself; so what we are saying is that it is because the late Member did not do this or did that, that the Government has any justification for neglecting the people totally and is now giving the appearance as if they intend to go with a bulldozer and flatten the area if the people do not decide on getting out by what they call peaceful means.

I would like to urge upon the Government, Mr. speaker, that there ought to be nothing to fear from giving these people an opportunity to express their feelings on the matter. We do not say that every person interviewed in the Chapman Lane area would want to stay there, and we are sure that when an honest and open-minded Government comes face to face with conditions in Chapman Lane, it must come to the conclusion that it is far better to let the people remain where they are and give them the facilities that the area demands. Remember, Sir, whilst it is regarded as a slum area, the people there are called upon to pay taxes like anybody else and to make their contributions in more ways than one like all others in the community; but to give people the impression and make them feel that some sort of punishment is to be inflicted upon them because they did not cast their vote this way or the other way, is not fair. 3.50 p.m.

The case of the people of Chapman Lane is one which we feel should not be allowed to go by default, that is, nobody saying anything in defence of the people. They cannot all speak for themselves, and undoubtedly they will not be given the opportunity to speak for themselves. The attitude of honourable Members on that side gives us this impression. We are satisfied that with their numbers, caring not what we say or do, they will be moving the people, but we are certain that a lot could still happen before the first day comes for the removal of the first. We believe, Sir, that the approach Government has brought to bear on the situation up to the present is really not a good one. You will know, and other honourable Members will know, that in certain areas which were earmarked for development, like the Speightstown area, for years people have had their lands tied up and all this same talk about moving the people from Chapman Lane may be talked about for weeks, months, and perhaps years again, but the poor people of Chapman Lane would not be able to put on a window or 'a bundle of shingles because they would be thinking that the Government would soon be pushing down their houses and all sorts of things will be said.

Honourable Members must know that I am really and truly representing the case of the people of Chapman Lane and those of Emmerton Lane, and what I am saying is exactly what is applicable to those people. Mr. Speaker, honourable Members must know this, that the moment it is suggested that they are going to move the people from there, even places which have been affording these people a little credit from time to time are going to withdraw that credit from them. All of these things come into play. I hear, Mr. Speaker, that they credit the St. Lucians, but it would appear to me as if the St. Lucians have a better

way of using the credit facilities which may be afforded them than some Members on the other side.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is an uncalled for remark. I do not want tempers to flare up or any unpleasantness to begin. I call on honourable Members opposite to stop these unnecessary interruptions.

Mr. HINDS:

What we would like to see, Mr. Speaker, is this. Let the Government start a housing programme for Emmerton Lane and Chapman Lane. Human beings live there and they have been making their contribution. We have people in Chapman Lane who are nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, some are in the teaching service and in every branch of the Public Service and are all making their contributions. What we are asking the Government to do is to treat them as the people in any other constituency, or in any other area, are treated, and at all times as human beings; do not seek to deny them their rights because of the peculiar feeling of any individual or any group of people. You will find, Mr. Speaker, and it is true with Emmerton Lane and Chapman Lane, that most of the people must have a lot of things on their stomachs from time to time, but because of this, what we maintain is that the people are law abiding, and paying their just dues, living normal lives and whatever they are called upon to do, as any other citizen making a contribution, they do. We have never heard of any refusal from the people of Chapman Lane as separate and distinct from any other group of people from any other area.

We are prepared to assist the Government in finding somewhere, a proper place — we are not engineers — for the location of the sewerage plant. We are willing to assist the Government in whatever way we can. We are willing to do this because if it were the constituency of St. Peter, I would not like to know that the lives of those people were disrupted in any manner for such a purpose when it could be avoided, and least of all, when those persons who are to be themselves much involved in an exercise of such magnitude, with such far-reaching consequences, without their having ample opportunity of making their voices heard in a decision such as this. We are asking the Government in an appeal that might even fall on deaf ears, not to give the people of Chapman Lane a break, because they are not wrong doers, but we are asking Government to give them an equal chance to live in the area of their choice where they have laid their roots for years, which if you add mine and yours together would look silly against some of the years some of them were living there; some of them have been on the same spots for years and to remove them now, would be such a disruption that most of them might die, but you will always hear that as soon as you talk about moving people, a lot will be said.

We believe that the people of Chapman Lane deserve better treatment from the Government, and may the Government see it proper to treat these people as human beings, to have discussions with them, to invite them out in the open, and not behind closed doors that somebody can make them agree to this or to that for one reason or another which is unrelated to the real case at issue. 4.00 p.m.

We are asking the Government, Sir, to have an open mind towards the people of Chapman Lane and Emmerton Lane and to find ways and means of solving the problem, if a problem remains, apart from the problems that neglect over the years has brought upon this area. This is what the Government should address its mind to, and do it without any delay whatsoever.

Dr. The Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before us touches on two main projects. The first one is the setting up of a

sewerage plant and the second one is improvement of the urban area. Although they are related, they are separated and distinct, and I will try in my comments to deal with both of them.

I would like to point out however, that development in Barbados affects everyone. The residents of the Emmerton Lane area are not the first people who may be affected by developments taking place in Barbados in the Bridgetown area. Many people in the area adjoining the harbour will be affected, and many people who have been living there for many years, like the people in the Emmerton area, will also have to move, and live elsewhere in Barbados. This is nothing new. It is happening not only in the development of Barbados but all over the world.

When you look at the disposal of solid and other waste in Barbados, you find that it is inefficient and hazardous to health. If you are thinking in terms of building a more modern city of Bridgetown, one of the criteria we will have to decide on, is the absence or presence of a proper sewerage system. If you go around Bridgetown you will see sewerage being discharged into the streets giving rise to health hazards including the breeding of rats and other vermin. In fact, the absence of a proper sewerage system has hampered, and continues to hamper the further development which Bridgetown urgently requires.

Sir, the idea of having a sewerage plant for the city is nothing new. It goes back to as far as 1962 when the Development Plan was drawn up that a sewerage system should be installed in Bridgetown or in the suburbs of Bridgetown. Unfortunately, it has taken rather long to see the light of day, but it is here that the criteria may differ as regards urban development or resettlement of the people.

On the 10th April, 1970, when the redevelopment of the central area of Bridgetown was concerned, the Public Health Engineer attached to the Ministry of Health and Welfare spoke of the problems being encountered due to the heavy discharge of sewage from the buildings in Bridgetown, and he stressed that the long term solution was due to establish a sewerage system for the city.

In May, 1970, the same engineer submitted a paper to the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the inability of the existing sewerage methods to remove sewage and other wastes from the city environment; and as a result of discussions with the Economic Planning Unit, the paper referred to was revised, and additional information and details were supplied by the Public Health Engineer on the 12th September, 1970.

The next step was that an application was made to the Inter-American Development Bank for assistance, and on the 13th November, 1970, this was discussed between the then Deputy Director of the Economic Planning Unit and the Public Health Engineer and then officials of the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington on the 19th November, 1970.

In May, 1971, a draft Technical Assistance Agreement to aid the financing of the studies for the project was received by the Inter-American Development Bank, and after all points at issue had been cleared up, the Agreement was signed by the Prime Minister on the 8th October, 1971, and returned to IADB on the 13th October, 1971.

On the 23rd November, 1971, IADB approved the list of Consulting Engineer as selected by the Government, and on the 9th October 1972, an Agreement was entered into between the Government and a firm of Consultant Engineers to conduct the study, and that under the Agreement the study must be

completed by the 4th January, 1974. At this stage I would like to point out that the Consultant Engineers asked for an extension, and this extension has been granted.

Now, Sir, three sites within the city limits were considered by the Consultant Engineers. The first was Indian Ground, the second was a site adjacent to the Harbour and the third was Emmerton Lane. I would like to stress that they considered these sites on their own initiative and not on the initiative of this Government.

The Indian Ground site was ruled out when it was shown that the outflow from the Deep Water Harbour would come into play and the outflow from the sewerage plant, if sited in the Indian Ground area, would run across the Deep Water Harbour, and the dredging and dynamiting in that area would damage the outflow, and therefore it could not be put in the Indian Ground area.

The other two alternatives, Emmerton Lane and the site adjacent to the Deep Water Harbour were considered, and the studies relating to the outflow pipe in the sewerage revealed that it was desirable to put the sewerage plant in the Emmerton area.

That proposal -has engaged the attention of the Government. I have heard in previous speeches made that the Indian Ground site was the site. I would like to clarify the position again that three sites were considered and we ended up with the decision to put the sewerage plant in this area.

Now, Sir, some remarks V have been made as to whether or not Emmerton Lane should be an industrial area. I would like to draw to the attention of the House that it does not matter, if one takes into account the position of sewerage plants in the world which are very nearly always placed in industrial areas for many reasons, mainly because people have reached the conclusion that they are better places in or near industrial areas.

Now, there can be no doubt in anyone's mind who is serious about the development of this country that a sewerage plant is absolutely necessary. One of the problems is the danger of poisonous materials being discharged into the sea. 4.10 p.m.

I do not think that anyone in this Honourable Chamber can seriously contend that a sewerage system for Bridgetown is not necessary.

Now we turn to the other aspect and that is with regard to urban renewal. Again when you look at the City of Bridgetown you can realize that it has undergone much recent development, yet if you look around the City of Bridgetown you will also see some of the biggest slum areas and overcrowded houses. One finds bad disposal of solid matter and one finds all the attendant problems that go with bad housing, and therefore one has to be serious with urban renewal in Bridgetown.

If one goes into the Church Village area or the Nelson Street area one will find overcrowded houses, and as one is well aware there is this problem of bad housing that exists in many of the areas in Bridgetown and St. Michael. One therefore has to make up one's mind as to whether one is going to be continually satisfied with these people going on living in bad housing conditions and with all the attendant evils that go with it. I do not feel that it should be the destiny of these people, whether they live in the Church Village or the Nelson Street area, to continue living under these conditions; and if

there is anyone who says they will feel satisfied to see these people continue living under these conditions, that person should seek some psychiatric treatment.

We, if we are interested in uplifting the standard of living of the people in Bridgetown, regardless of party affiliation, must get down to business, and if we get down to business we will admit that the conditions existing in the Emmerton Lane area are very bad; and I would like to point out that in relation to urban renewal, if we are to have any improvement in the Emmerton Lane area then we need money which is essential in urban renewal. We have to get the money to bring about any urban renewal — money to assist and enable us to improve the Emmerton Lane area and also put down a sewage plant.

When one looks at the 600 houses in that area and the many people living in those houses, the windows of which cannot be opened easily; if I open the windows in my house you cannot open yours; when one looks at the flooring one can see holes, and from there you can see the stars through the roof, and even now when there is no heavy rainfall in Bridgetown, one can see water on the floors of many of these houses, and many of us have had the opportunity to go down there and be present when this has been going on.

I would like to recall the fact that as long ago as 1942, the late Mr. Valence Gale made the first effort to get the Emmerton Lane area cleared out, and he was not a Member of the Democratic Labour Party; so the question of improving the Emmerton Lane area did not start with the Democratic Labour Party but was raised as early as 1942, and we have observed that whenever the removal of the people in the Emmerton Lane area comes up, some people attempt to make political hotchpotch out of it. There are those who say they are interested in the people but they are interested in using the people. They prefer to let the people remain in these inhuman conditions because it gives them an opportunity to win an election. Should these people be condemned to continue living under these conditions because it suits the whims and fancies of people to say they are representing their cause? I think we have to examine ourselves very carefully. Every effort should be made to give people some good housing and good education. None of us should allow ourselves to think low just to give ourselves the opportunity to beat another candidate at election time.

When you look at the question of resiting the people in the Emmerton Lane area, there are many things to be taken into consideration because among other things, you have to realise that there are 2, 000 people living in the area and the average house spot should not be less than 1, 000 square feet. If you are removing the people how can you give them less than 1, 000 square feet on which to put a house? The Emmerton Lane area is below sea level and if you get heavy rains you get high water or high tide at sea and there is a difficulty of water going into the area, and this happens over and over again; and even as late as the 2nd October, 1970 when we had heavy rains in Barbados the Emmerton Lane area was flooded and the people wanted to move, and now there is no problem, they do not want to move. That is the way with some of them. 4.20 p.m.

Now it is true that they have no problem, and there is no need to move. I am not saying that all of them want to move, nor do I say that all of them do not want to move, but they are free to express their opinions. I would like to point out that this Government has already initiated a survey among the residents of the Emmerton Lane area. I am not in a position to comment on the results of that survey because the results have not yet reached me, and therefore it is unfair to get up and accuse this Government of seeking to remove the people of the Emmerton Lane area without trying to gain a

knowledge of the desires of the people. I say it is untrue, because a survey is being conducted right now, and just as one Member has adverted to newspaper reports, I would like to point out if the honourable Member has been reading his newspapers consistently, he would realise that great publicity was given to the conducting of this survey. This survey is going on and we are awaiting the results.

I would also like to point out that it has been said from the outset that this is a tentative decision, and therefore, there is absolutely no ground for anybody to stand up and accuse the Government because he is emotionally disturbed, because it is being considered that something may be done about the Emmerton Lane area. You complain that this Government has been in power for thirteen years and nothing has been done, and now that we have started to do something, all you are concerned about is maintaining people in that position because they will vote for you. If they went somewhere else they would still have a vote, and if they went in sufficient numbers they would be large enough to swing the results in that area. On the question of people being near to the place of work, that is no problem. People come from all over Barbados to Bridgetown to work. Barbados is too small to have problems of communication. We are not taking the people from the Emmerton Lane area to Trinidad and asking them to come back to Barbados to work. They are in Barbados, a small place, and if they have to move to somewhere else, they will get to Bridgetown, because the people from St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. Lucy and St. Philip get to Bridgetown and get back out. When you talk in the context of the work of the people in Emmerton Lane, it reflects what is going on in Emmerton Lane. There is nothing peculiar about being a fisherman or a huckster and living in Emmerton Lane. People come from other parts to work in the industrial sites. People come from other areas to Bridgetown as hucksters. What is peculiar to the people of Emmerton Lane — it is not really peculiar to them, but peculiar to the Representative of the area — is that in the last election these people voted him to Parliament. He gained his greatest support in that area, and I dare suppose that as a human being he has to be concerned with any effect which the removal of people may have in a forthcoming election in Barbados. I do not blame him for this, but at the same time, he cannot use that as a weapon for denying people what you all at the same time condemn is their right, that is, better housing and better living conditions.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of elucidation, the Minister said I am seeking to deny the people of certain rights. I never said that. Let the Minister get it straight.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I never stated that you said that you want to deny people of their rights, but at the same time I would like to point out to you that if you are so concerned that they be given rights, and some of these are good housing, and good living, education and so forth, then you cannot be so concerned with the fact that the removal of these people may have some effect on your chances of retaining a reasonable majority in the Bridgetown constituency. If you are interested in the people's welfare, you cannot be interested now when it suits you and not tomorrow when it does not suit you. You must be interested at all times, and I would like to see this demonstrated now rather than coming in here and being emotional about the problems of the people of the Emmerton Lane area. We are concerned about what is going on in the country. My Ministry is deeply concerned. A survey has been going on from the beginning of this year to see the various facilities of the people not only in Bridgetown but throughout Barbados, and we consider an improvement of the Emmerton Lane area as a top priority for the Ministry of Health and Welfare. We would like to see something done about improvement and we have taken the opportunity that is presented with the development of a sewerage system to make representations towards getting

assistance to do something about the Emmerton Lane area. That is the only relationship which the two projects have. The sewerage project is one thing, but urban development as it affects the Emmerton Lane area is something different, but it has been pointed out to us in the Ministry of Health and Welfare by the experts from the Inter-American Development Bank that we could get assistance for improvement in the area, and that out of the two sites remaining, that is, the one adjacent to the Harbour and the Emmerton Lane site, when one takes into consideration the studies which have been conducted in the area, everything points that one should preferably put one's sewerage plant in the Emmerton Lane area. As I have also pointed out and made clear more than once in the past, we are not just going to take a sewerage plant in the Emmerton Lane area. As I am well aware of the sociological difficulties. I am well aware that it is a tough community for many years and I have stated in the past that it is not the intention of the Ministry to take any such plant there just overnight to inconvenience the people. We have conducted a survey, and when one goes seriously into the question of urban development, we have plans drawn up for the improvement of the Emmerton Lane area, and some people will have to be given accommodation elsewhere, because it is a public area. There are 2, 000 people living in that small area with over 600 houses, and if you are going to improve these people and give them sizeable plots of 60 feet by 40 feet, you can imagine how many can remain in that area. If you are serious about improving the lot of the people in that area, some will have to find accommodation elsewhere. If you are not serious, we can sit back and let them remain there for God knows how many more years.

Mr. Speaker, there are two distinct things, and I cannot see how at this stage in the development of this country, any public survey is going to help in deciding what to do. Surveys, as we know them, are one way of looking for excuses. If you do not know what you are going to do, you get around it by appointing a Committee, tell them to take as long as they like, and come back and tell you when they are ready, what you should do. The Ministry of Health and Welfare does not operate like that. We do not see the need for any public Inquiry. We are conducting a survey with the assistance of the Town Planning Department and that survey is now in operation. People are given an opportunity to say whether or not, they want to move, and they are given an opportunity to say what areas they would like to live in if they decide to move, as well as given an opportunity to say what type of house they would like to have. The constituents of the area can relate to you that these are some of the obstacles, and we are awaiting the results of the survey. We do not know how many people would like to be moved, but I can say casually that some people have indicated they would like to move now, and there are others who said very strongly they do not want to move, but we do not know how many want to move or how many do not want to move and therefore it is a waste of time coming in here trying to make decisions on any superficial information received. We have every reason to believe that some people are going to say that they want to leave as soon as possible. I do not for one moment believe that the honourable Member for the City believes that everybody in the Emmerton Lane area wants to remain there forever. There are some people who consider that the area is not the area for them to live in and they want to leave "like yesterday" if they are given the opportunity, and these people's wishes would have to be respected in any plan for their removal. 4.30 p.m.

I would go a step further. If we can get some of the people opting to move out on their own, it would assist us. All of them cannot go on living there forever. I have here before me a paper which has just been shown to me with a questionnaire which was sent to the people, but I do not know if the honourable Members have had any opportunity to see this questionnaire. Just to mention a Few points, it has the name of the Head of the Household, the period of residence in Emmerton Lane — whether it was less than five years, five to ten years, or more than ten years — previous area of residence, if rented or

leased, occupation, sleeping visitors or temporary residents, old age pensioners, number of rooms, piped or running water — house or yard, toilet facilities, would you like to move from this area, reasons for wanting to move, which of the following areas would you prefer to live in - Wildey, etc. — if you had to live outside of Bridgetown, where would you prefer to go, would you prefer to rent or buy a house if mortgage facilities are available. Which one do you think you can afford and which is the highest weekly amount you can afford for housing.

This gives a breakdown of the survey which is being conducted. There is no question in here about the cost of houses or anything like that, therefore it is a bit surprising to me to hear the honourable Member come in here and state.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of elucidation, I challenge the Minister on this aspect of it. It is a fact that the same people carrying out the survey carried pictures of houses asking the people which houses they wanted, so if you do not know what is happening, find out what is happening.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

There is nothing alarming about that, if they carry pictures of houses ranging from \$4, 000 to more than \$4, 000 there is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

He just said it was not true.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I would like to point out to the honourable Member that it is not necessary for the Minister to know everything that is happening, that would be irrational. I know what we intend to do as regards policy for the area, and if you want to come in here and state that people are shown houses ranging from \$4, 000 and upward, I have no complaint about that. I repeat that the survey does not advert to any cost of houses or type of houses, and this is the survey being conducted. If some wise guy outside could make such an offer.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the honourable Member read from the survey and he is continually referring to it and is contradicting himself. I submit that it be made a document of the House. He must not give hearsay evidence of a document in his file if it is a public document being shown to the people in Chapman Lane.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point of order, the Minister Is referring to a form.

Mr. ADAMS:

He has said it is a document being shown to the people.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of order, please sit down.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Would you like to see the file?

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is improper to talk across the floor to the honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that in this document, there is no reference to prices of houses, and if some wise guy thought he would show the people these types of houses, I see nothing wrong with it. There is no point becoming emotionally disturbed over the fact that people were shown types of houses, this might be very easy to help people to make up their minds, there is nothing wrong with that. Sometimes when you ask people to make a choice, and they have nothing before them, they have difficulty in putting into words what their choice is likely to be. It is sometimes worthwhile to have visual means to facilitate the choice, and I do not see anything wrong with that. We in the Ministry of Health see no need at this stage for any public enquiry, we do not expect anything more to be achieved by a Public Enquiry than is now being achieved by the survey being carried out by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

I would like to assure honourable Members that when the results of the survey are available I will be prepared to come back to the House and make them available, but at the moment I repeat, from the Ministry's side and from the side of the Government, that there is nothing more to be gained by having a Public Enquiry as compared with having this survey being carried out now by the two Ministries. We look forward eagerly to the results of the survey. I, as a Barbadian am concerned about the conditions of people in this country, I look forward to the day when we can start improvements not only in Emmerton Lane but in other areas in Barbados where improvements in housing conditions need to be done.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Private Members' Time has now expired. 4.45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, we now revert to Government Business and I beg to move that Order No. 3, a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1968, be the next Order of the Day.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a corollary to the other Bill dealing with the harmonisation of Fiscal

Incentives passed earlier today. This Bill seeks to amend the Income Tax Act, 1968, to give effect to the Agreement, to which Barbados is a party, between certain countries of the Caribbean region, for the Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives to Industry by providing that certain exports of an industry are eligible for exports allowance.

Opportunity has also been taken to amend the Act to provide that the power of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to garnish salaries or wages of employees be limited to an amount not in excess of 1/3 of the earnings of an employee for the specific pay period and to implement the obligations of Barbados under the Caribbean Currency (Supplementary) Agreement, 1973.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to comment in general on the Income Tax Department, although it is a pity that I should have to do so on a Bill which is limited in its purpose and in its scope.

I should like first to deal with the purpose of amending sections and to say that the amendment to Section 14 A is only a limited part of the amendment which will become necessary as a result of the coming into being of the Caribbean Common Market.

One would have thought that the Government would have taken a long look at these bits of legislation and come down to the House with one proper packet of legislation, because one of the reasons of the Common Market Treaty is harmonisation with regard to taxation and to give effect to the Double Taxation Agreement that has been discussed, initiated and signed between the territories which now constitute the Common Market and those countries which will come into the Common Market in the future.

I think that the House is being very short sighted as usual on these matters. As I said before, if one is going to deal with an issue that involved substantial amendments, it would be a better use of parliamentary time and parliamentary debate if we could look at the whole thing together rather than to look at it in this piecemeal fashion of amending legislation.

Again, Mr. Chairman, this gives some benefit to those companies which will be involved in export sales and which are going to have fiscal incentives by way of rebates. It is the tax rebate side on which I would like to say that when we are giving these incentives to industry, we would hope that industry would be much more forward looking,

I will have to repeat this very often in the Caribbean because I think that we should be, conscious of the fact that we are at this stage burdening additionally the tax payers in order to benefit the pockets of some people. The honourable Member for St. Michael West quite rightly said that the multi-national corporation will be now in a more favourable position.

Mr. Speaker, that is one reason why I believe that Caribbean Governments must now move a step

further in the policy which they are taking about investments in their own countries. The time has come when there should be more than multi-national corporations expatriate to the region, but corporations which are national and in the region which would benefit from this type of provision and which are owned by the people of the region so that we could understand the concept of common ownership.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the Act needs more than this limited amendment. I have been concerned about parts of the Act which do not confer on taxpayers, who have prepaid their taxes, the right to get their refunds promptly, and indeed the right to get interest on money which they have paid the Government and which the Government has had for them for a long time.

I think that the Hon. Minister should know that some refund slips have been written as long ago as August, 1973, but it is only recently that people have been getting the cheques in their hands. The reason for that cannot be laid at the feet of the tax administration. In this instance, the Civil Servants have done their job, but because of what a former Temporary Minister called the slow equilibrium of the cash flow, it means that these refunds have not been forthcoming promptly.

You should be careful in passing legislation, where we penalise the defaulting taxpayer so that he pays a penalty for every day that he does not pay his tax on time. You are penalising him, and quite correctly; but we are also penalising the person who has been made to pay in truth and in fact tax which he should not have paid at all or who has paid more than he should have paid.

He may appeal against the decision of the Tax Commissioner and this may be allowed; yet sometimes he has to wait for as long as two years before he can get the benefit of the money being refunded to him. If the tax authorities; are holding substantial sums on which you are paying a prime rate of 14 1/2 per cent, it seems unjust, and just as it is fair to penalise those who do not pay their taxes on time, it is equally unfair for the Government to hold money from people who have paid their taxes on time. I hope that the Government will see fit to bring in some substantial amendment on this point.

Another point is the inability of the Income Tax Department to deal with these various amendments. From time to time, we have been adding additional duties. I am conscious of the fact that since I have been in this House, there has been one application made to the House for additional staff in the Tax Department. Any Government must recognise that taxation is big business, and indeed big Government Business and that it is the Department which, outside the Customs Department, takes in the largest amount of money for the Government; and indeed, if it was properly organised, it could take in much more legitimately thus alleviating the burden on those people who pay up. But the Department is still short staffed.

In the Department itself, there are not sufficient avenues of promotion to give to the Income Tax employee the professional status that he deserves. I am hoping that the Minister of Finance and Planning, and also the Minister responsible for Establishments will have his Organisation and Methods team look at this aspect of the matter.

Mr. Speaker, if I may be specific on this aspect of the Income Tax Department, I would like to talk about the absence of a legal adviser for that department. The Department has to depend on the Attorney General's Chambers, and in those Chambers, I believe that there are only two Attorneys, who have a reasonably substantial knowledge of the tax laws of this country, and they are very hard pressed with

other duties. I know that a lot of people query what attorneys of the Attorney General's Chambers do.
4.50 p.m.

Seriously, we want to get attached to the Department of Inland Revenue, a specialist in taxation, who would be helpful in that Department, and he could also be attached to the Attorney General's Chambers. I know that this suggestion has been put up several years ago now through the former Income Tax Commissioner and has been turned down by the Establishments Division. They have been short sighted on this point. A legal advisor to the Income Tax Department can rope in many other persons who should legitimately be paying tax. We should look at the expertise available to private enterprise and see whether it would be good for the Government to amend tax legislation. It would also increase the efficiency of the Department.

Just as in the Prime Minister's Department today there is a special legal advisor on the staff, even so I contend very strongly that assigned to the Income Tax Department, there should be a specialist legal advisor in a very specialized subject, and I know for a fact that there are many appeals and objections which have been held up for the past two or three years for adjudication simply because the Attorney General's Department is under so much pressure that the two specialists in that Department cannot find time to attend to all the matters before them. Those of us who deal with these-laws have had to explain to the taxpayers that this is the situation, but a taxpayer is not satisfied with this. He feels that there should be efficiency at all levels and if we are going to pile on more work on the Income Tax Department without giving them the necessary staff, then the exercises are short-sighted.

Sir, I hope that in the Common Market position we would be able to pool to a large ex-ent knowledge available to us on taxation matters. I hope that we would see a better administration at the regional level of taxation policy and I hope that Heads of Government will give early consideration to obtaining a small group of technocrats who can administer the tax laws properly. I would also mention that in some instances there are accounts that even well qualified accountants find it difficult to understand, and therefore there is the need for people who are specialised in this subject of taxation.

I believe the Common Market should have people well qualified and an expert available to the multi-national corporation or to the industrialists who are investing in our country and who themselves are citizens of this country, so that the Government gets what is the Government's and they get what is theirs, because if we render to Caesar, those things that are Caesar's, then we want to know that Caesar knows what is his; of course, I do not know if the Caesars in the Caribbean know what is theirs in taxation.

Sir, I hope the Honourable Leader of the House would lend his voice in support of the Department's plea for more staff, so that the Department in Barbados would become more efficient than it is at present. We have been lucky in having Income Tax Department officers with great integrity, and Mr. Speaker, your constituency and that of the Hon. Member for St. Philip South have given us the outstanding Mr. Gittens from the parish of St. Philip whose service I would like to commend, he having recently retired, and his dedication to duty stands unsullied in this country, and I am sure, that his successor would walk in his footsteps.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, there are one or two points in this matter which I think the Honourable Leader of the

House should take note of. I am one who believes that income tax legislation should not remain standing for all times, because money does not always remain static. It changes, and your whole concept of income tax must change as the money market changes; and there is one thing in Barbados among others that strikes me, an incentive legislation for industry. We have followed slavishly; the Income Tax Act in the United Kingdom without having their background. For example, we know that domestic servants in Barbados form a very important part of our labour force and I cannot see how in any community where something is going to represent a substantial portion of your labour force, that you can ignore what is happening in that sector, and this applies to the question of income tax. For example, if A employs a maid, the maid's salary or wages can be taken in for income tax purposes. Now what is the difference if B employs a maid and that is not taken in the salary or wages for tax purposes; this is simply because you are following the English system. 5.00 p.m.

Now if you employ that person as a maid in your home, that is not taken for income tax purposes. Why? Because you follow the English system. In Barbados you have nearly 10, 000 of these people, but all you are doing by this system is not giving the right to deduct that for income tax; so you these women a lower wage for working for you on the same basis in your home than you pay her if she worked in your office. You will pay a maid in your office a higher pay for doing less than you would pay a professional maid in your home, because sometimes a maid in your office cannot cook and does not know if water is boiling. She cleans the wash-basin, sweeps the floor and goes out with letters and gets more money for that than a person, who works in a house, gets. I feel that the time has come when the Government must examine this situation. Jamaica had to do it. They examined the situation and by so doing it has given the maids a better pay. Too many people have the idea that you can have a \$10 million hospital and that people waste time going to wait for a freeness from the hospital. I pause when people talk about strikes in Barbados. More time is lost by people staying at home than through strikes in Barbados. There is no deduction for these people and if there was, the wages of the 8, 000 domestic servants in Barbados would be automatically increased. The Government is not going to lose any considerable amount of income by it either, and it would release a lot more into the hands of people who can buy some food with this money and raise their standard of living. The pittances which some people get from their employers as maids in their homes would be considerably improved if they knew they would get an allowance for it for income tax purposes. A person who is employed to remain with two children in a home is performing as important a service as the other person.

Some time ago when the Minister of Finance was introducing the land tax, I pointed out to him that there are certain organisations that should be exempt. I have listened subsequently to the view that the Trade Union and several organisations could not be exempt. My own organisation for which I can speak has invested over \$1 million in an institution and the Government has given some assistance through the Ministry of Education to the tune of \$90, 000. I am not quarrelling about that. We have bought some land for \$250, 000 on which we are going to put houses, and the whole investment is going to run into \$3 million or \$4 million. Do not tell me that the Trade Union must be treated in the same way as any business organisation. You have BIMAP which is Government owned, but the employers have not invested as much money in BIMAP as the Barbados Workers' Union has invested in its Labour College. We have invested over \$1 million and the Government pays 75% of that. It is going to cost the Barbados Workers' Union about \$90, 000 to \$100, 000 per annum to maintain and the Government is giving \$10, 000. This is an educational institution, so how can you say we must pay land tax when you say that the Seventh Day Adventists, the Ursuline Convent and BIMAP should not pay? These are things that must be examined.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard Civil Servants say that employers can do the same as the Union. You have to be sane. Do you believe an employer is going to take up \$1 million and put in a school? If you put \$1/2 million in the bank at the rates of interest they are giving, you will come along with a tidy sum. Which investor is going to put aside \$1/2 million in a school that is going to be a non-income bearing investment? What would you be giving back the investors? Employers are not going to do that because they do not get anybody putting up money for this purpose. The Trade Union can do it because it has a vested interest in posterity and in the future, and I feel that when it comes to high productivity and industrial peace and what we mean by better living and higher wages, these are the invisible contributions that other organisations will be making to the social life and development of the community, and this is where your income tax policy must offer incentives to these organisations.

There can be no question that nobody other than Government is going to build a house for anybody to rent at the rates that the Government is now renting to people in the Farm, Lodge Hill, Silver Hill and Gall Hill. Nobody is going to build a house to rent for \$10 or \$12 a week; so what are you going to do in the next twenty or twenty-five years? This type of housing will freeze and all the old houses will reach an end and cannot be repaired. The Union is making a substantial contribution in this area; so there is no point in staying back and somebody believing that this is nothing. The Government should begin to realise that a taxation policy is important to this community, because if you do not have social development going alongside of industrial and economic development, there is no point in believing that you will have on the one hand factories going up and on the other hand people living in filth and dirt, and the children will grow up in that type of muck as the highest citizens. What you will get is vice and all the problems associated with it. There is only one Trade Union in Barbados able to do what we are doing. The other jokers cannot do it. You might as well face realities, because I want to make it clear that the Union could have taken its money if we were lazy people and put it in one of the banks, but we do not like the idea of just putting our money in the banks. Far from that, we feel we should have our bank. 5.10 p.m.

We feel that one of the steps we are going to take is to have our own bank so that we can control our own money instead of having workers running and begging people to lend them money, because we feel that the means for controlling their own money is there. We have money invested in the banks in the name of the people from different firms and we feel the same way they can have money to borrow and circulate, the workers should have the same opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Honourable Leader will understand that at this stage, you must give as much encouragement as possible by way of incentives, for this kind of development that is taking place in this society because it must run parallel to these other things. The time is going to come when honourable Members will see the necessity for having a complete change in the whole financial and economic thinking, because when it comes to money, you must be controlling money in a direct form where you can direct not only the flow of money but to have some say in the development of the country. You cannot leave all this to your best friends from outside. For that reason, I am satisfied that we must at some time look at income tax in its broadest spectrum. I am not dealing with individuals, they will have their problems, but even there, this is an invisible way of advancing the cost of the small people by giving them an opportunity for their employers to pay them more and at the same time helping the social and economic life of this country.

I do not like to go cap in hand to any Government for anything. I feel that the land tax should have sufficient flexibility and I think this is an opportunity for them to come with something else, but we are not going to take something in one hand, and get choked by the other hand. An economic consideration is an economic consideration, a financial consideration is a financial consideration but an industrial consideration is a different thing, and I feel that income tax should be looked at. I hope that an opportunity will be given so that such relief in a narrow sense by these incentives for housing can be given. I would like to see people invest in housing and I would like to see the Government come down with a Bill which would start a sort of crash programme for people to invest their money in their own private houses and be given rebates so that you will get houses going up, if not houses are going to become very expensive. People will not be able to put up houses at bank rates of 13 1/2%, these rates are going to be very restrictive, so you would not be able to put up anything more than a shedroof. I feel the time has come when housing development in this country should be encouraged.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think the hon. Member is belabouring his point. All this is not really connected.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I was only dealing with the broad area of income tax. I have to labour the point in the sense that if this is dealing with an incentive, this is an incentive to industry. It is for this same reason you are taking the point you are taking because there is always this sensitivity when there is something for people who do not have anything, but whenever we are dealing with something for people who have all, you do not get this. All I am saying is that income tax should be dealt with in a broad way to bring in this type of people. This a specific area, and I make the point that there is more than one specific area, but if Your Honour does not like it, it seems to me that when it comes to social advancement people can get very sensitive, but I have made, the point and that is where I stand.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Schedule to the Bill.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

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

accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the next Item be Order No. 2 which stands in the name of Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

THE SAVINGS BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Objects and Reasons set out, this Bill would amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914 (Act 1914-3) to provide for increased payments out of the funds of the Bank to meet the cost of insurance and maintenance of the premises occupied by the Bank. 5.20 p.m.

The bank now occupies more commodious quarters, and as I have said, the intention is to provide increased payments out of the funds of the bank to meet the cost of insurance and maintenance of the premises now occupied by the bank in the Treasury Buildings.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, my contribution to this debate will be short, but I hope that it will to some extent be noticed by the Government since it deals with the premises of the bank. I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister that the premises of the branch of the Barbados Savings Bank in London are certainly inadequate.

Sir, it is buried in the basement section of the High Commissioner's Office, and despite efforts that have been made, and while it may be a good thing to have it under the aegis of the Barbados High Commissioner, I must confess that the institution is not provided with satisfactory premises through which it can make any impact at all in the United Kingdom.

I think that the Government should have a look at getting proper premises where its industrial front, its tourist development front and its commercial front can be better advertised on the London scene. There are many West Indians in London who would welcome contributing to the Barbados Savings Bank in London — a bank which is that of their own country — as well as to their own families.

In spite of the valiant efforts made by the staff of two and the help they have received in being initiated into London life, I cannot see the Savings Bank making any great impact while it remains in the basement of the premises in Belgravia hidden away from the public's eye.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that I have spoken in this House before about providing alternative and adequate arrangements for the Savings Bank. People do not seem to realise that the bank has other branches in other parts of the island. I would challenge any Member to recognise even at the Post Offices, the presence of the Savings Bank. They are not recognisable even by some astute Members, except perhaps by the Minister of Finance under whose portfolio it stands.

Sir, I recommend a better look at the whole question of banking. Money is not only being moved away from the commercial banks, but from the Government Savings Bank. This happens in two ways — from the Savings Bank to the commercial banks which pay a better rate of interest despite the incentive given under the Income Tax Act, and from the Savings Bank to outside the island.

I think that the Government must decide if it wants to have a savings bank which is no more than a penny bank — although a penny is not to be ignored — or whether it wants a bank that can play an important part in the commercial activity of this country.

I do not see why the Minister should be afraid of Barbadians owning their own commercial bank. I question this Government's policy that the Savings Bank should remain the institution that it is. Despite the presence of the Barbados Central Bank there is the need for the State to own part of the financial institutions of the country. Since the Savings Bank begins with so much in its favour, it has the opportunity to make an impact in this respect in the realms into which it has already extended.

Secondly, Sir, I think that the Government's policy is wrong in that it denies ownership of any part of the banking institutions in this country. I would like the Government to have a second look at its policy in this respect.

Our Party differs from the Government in this aspect of the matter, and if the Government is afraid of offending the commercial bank front, if and when we are returned to power, we intend to move into the realm of commercial banking in this country. We have no fear that we will be as competitive or more competitive than some of the main commercial banks in this country. This is an aspect of the policy of the Barbados Labour Party on which it is not afraid to make its stand quite clear. We intend to revise the Savings Bank Act and give a greater thrust to the commercial banking system of this country both in the industrial and tourism fields.

We feel, Sir, that an opportunity should be taken during the life of this present Parliament for the Government to make plans even if we have to execute them in the next few years when this Party is in power.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the

Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 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. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next Item is Order No. 1 which includes a number of Supplementary Resolutions. I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to deal with Item No. 1.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74, NO. 36

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I will take Item (c) first. This is a Resolution which deals with the sum of \$71, 108, which is an incorrect figure, as has been drawn to my attention by the Minister of Communications and Works. It should be \$81, 170.

I will deal with Head 5, Judiciary, Item 21, Office Expenses. Supplementary provision of \$2, 770 is required as a result of increased wages for Cleaners at the Supreme Court whose wages were standardised at \$95.20 and \$50.32 respectively and have been increased to \$42 a week, and there is an interim pay of 201/2 cents an hour from the 1st May, 1973 to the 31st of March, 1974. 5, 30 pan.

The money voted has been spent and this Supplementary for the sum of \$2, 770 is required. I beg to move that Head 5 stand part.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 29 — Town and Country Planning Office — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, Head 29 — Town and Country Planning Office — Item 19 - Office Expenses - is seeking \$3, 200. As is clearly stated in the note, the amount originally provided has proved inadequate. We are now asking for a Supplementary of \$3, 200. I beg to move that Head 29 for the sum of \$3, 200 stand part.

Dr the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we believe that there has been some growth in the Planning and Research Section of this Department, but I wonder if the Minister really can explain to us, for the public's benefit or for the benefit of a handful of staff? Everywhere in this country, there is still the cry that the Town and Country Planning Department is holding up development. This we know, that there are still some people who seem to be more thoughtful than others about the Town and Planning Department. In other words, we are now laying the charge that the Town and Country Planning Department is a failure. It extends favours to whom it will Definitely so. Furthermore, we are asked here to vote money, because with the rapid growth of the new Planning and Research Section, the requirements for stationery and drawing office materials have more than doubled.

Sir, there is a lot of equipment that has been ordered for the Town and Country Planning Department. It is knocking about the place and not used by anybody, and the taxpayers' money has to pay for it. What we do know also is that there are some people in the Town and Country Planning Department who are dissatisfied with what they see and know is going on there. That is what we know. On the other hand, every person in the Town and Country Planning Department is not a dissatisfied worker. That is what we want to make abundantly clear. We have asked the Government repeatedly to let us have a • public enquiry into the functioning of the Town and Country Planning Department.

What I want to say is this, It cannot be argued at any stage that the Town and Country Planning Department is holding its head up and discharging its functions in a manner to make every member in this community have hope for the running of that Department. We have seen cases when the Town and Country Planning Department did reverse its own decisions — decisions, not reversed by a Minister or as a result of any appeal against decision. We find the Town and Country Planning Department's officers making a decision and revoking that decision overnight. All of us cannot be fools. All is not going well with the Town and Country Planning Department. It is time for an investigation to be carried out on the running of the Department. Something is wrong. It should be told at a Public Enquiry. 5.40 p.m.

If you and I were to know of the properties that are falling into the hands of some of the people, who are associated with Town and Country Planning, you would say that it is time for an investigation to be carried out into the functions of the whole Department. Something is wrong, and it should be told at a Public Enquiry. We are asking that all these things we say here be taken up and enquired into. A Civil Servant had the shameless boldness to send out an enquiry not so long ago into the veracity of what an

hon. Member has said here in a question tabled in this House. We want to enquire into the veracity of all these things that Town and Country Planning officers are doing and saying, what recommendations they are making, and what is driving them to make these recommendations. A person is not allowed to carry out development in an area, but when one turns left, he sees where somebody else is allowed to carry out a development. One has to wonder if somebody's Town and Country Planning Development permission has got to come from Heaven and somebody's else has got to come through another channel. It is not good enough, Mr. Chairman, and we would urge Government to examine this situation.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that one can seriously have these public enquiries into various matters if you are to look at the circumstances and conditions. Nobody is trying to say that the Town and Country Planning office is angelic in all its behaviour in the discharge of its duties, but I would like to point out that there is a simple recourse to law, if people feel they are being taken advantage of by the officers there. If they go there and someone makes a demand on them for money, they should go to the police. (ASIDES) You may get on that side and say it is not done that way, but I want to put this to you. We have had complaints received by individual Ministers about the behaviour of people in the Town and Country Planning Office, and when we ask them to set it out in writing, they do not. These are Barbadians and foreigners who are whispering something to you in your ears, but when you ask to have it documented and turned over to the Director of Public Prosecutions, they refuse. (Mr. MOTTLEY You sound just like the Prime Minister.) It is not a question of sounding like the Prime Minister. I was in that Ministry and know these things to be true.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, I wonder if any Minister receiving such a complaint has even been sensible enough to call the Clerk to the office and ask the person to repeat it in the presence of the Clerk rather than ask somebody to go away and put it in writing.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Even in an enquiry, they would have to come out and say these things. You would not think they would go around bandying things about people, and when you ask them, they back down. Nobody is saying that everybody in that department is angelic, but we hear these things being made over and over again only as a secret. You are told something secretly, and when you ask them to tell you when this happened and the person involved and put it in writing, they hold off. What purpose would a public enquiry serve? Will the people be prepared to come forward in a public enquiry? I doubt it very much. There are bad sheep in any place, but the people who claim they have been unfairly have an opportunity of presenting evidence for appropriate action to be taken. When I was Minister, they just declined. You cannot act on what the law would dismiss as hearsay. You want something more than that, and this has been the shortcoming all the time in respect of the Department of Town and Country Planning.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know something about one aspect of the Town and Country Planning Department. I referred to it before this Committee and nothing has happened. In the Town and Country Planning Act, 1965, an obligation is placed on the Minister to lay before this House a Development Plan. That Development Plan was prepared several years ago. Mr. Justice Williams was appointed as a Commissioner to hear representations on that plan, he heard these representations, he reported to the Ministry and up to today, Mr. Chairman, Parliament has not had the benefit of seeing the plan laid

before this House. I seriously suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the Government is in breach of the Town and Country Planning Act by failing to comply with legislation which this House has passed, and it is a very serious thing that so many years can now go by without our not having a proper Development Plan being laid on the Table of the House, debated by this House if this House wants to debate it and adopt it as the Development Plan for the country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have reached the stage where the plan is now ripe for revision without the first plan having been laid on the Table of the House, and I do not believe that the Government can continually shield behind some excuse which is not justifiable for failing to produce the plan here. This would sound as though it would strike an interesting statistic or bit of information. There have been some very serious consequences flowing from the failure to produce the Development Plan under the Town and Country Planning legislation. That plan would have set out as a matter of public record and for the public of Barbados those areas which have been zoned for tourists development, areas zoned for industrial development, areas for housing and so forth. What has happened is that a small group of people have had the benefit of knowing the zones and areas and have therefore speculated in lands in various areas in order to make profits for themselves, whereas the bulk of the production has not got what should have been a fair chance to also indulge in this sort of activity. Indeed people have been enticed to part with their lands not knowing the development potential of it was greater, so that a few people have speculated and have made profits or will make profits in due course at their expense. This cannot be right and I am again appealing to the Minister to publish the Development Plan for Barbados. If it is necessary to come to the House and ask for the Development Plan, hurry up and do it; but I do not believe that a country that is supposed to be advancing can pass legislation, and then flout its own legislation seriously. 5.50 p.m.

Something is drastically wrong, and I think that the criticisms one is hearing levied at the Town and Country Planning Department could have been avoided if the Development Plan was placed before the House. What is happening today is that many people are going ahead and building even before they have submitted an application and they are presenting the Department "a fait accompli simply because the provisions that ought to have been made still not been made. That is one aspect of the failure of the Town Planning legislation in this country.

Another aspect is that the whole system of appeal tribunals has broken down. When the Hon. Minister of Health was in charge (of that Department, he tried over the short period of time he was in the Ministry of Home Affairs to clear up some of the backlog by inviting discussions between some of the parties involved and members of the Town and Country Planning Office, and to some extent this has worked for a while, but since then nothing has happened. There has not been an appeal heard, now, I believe, for something like two years, and there are appeals pending in the Ministry which go back for more than five years, and no decisions have been taken on these matters. In some instances the people have gone ahead and built despite the fact that the Chief Town Planner has refused permission or had laid down conditions which they considered to be onerous. As I have said before, the whole question of administrative tribunals ought to be reviewed by Government, and there should be a permanent Chairman for all the tribunals in this country, including the Town and Country Planning Tribunal. If this is not so, the citizens are not being looked after properly. In some instances much heeded development is held up and in other instances the law is being flouted by persons, who feel they are not given enough opportunity to get on with the job.

I will appeal to the Minister to relieve some of his Civil Servants of all other duties until they get this cleared up. Do not send them any new files until they clear up this mess, but the position is that the administration on this point has fallen down and I cannot understand how a few Civil Servants who have to deal with the town planning matters are continually getting themselves into this mess. There have been very serious allegations made from time to time about why planning applications have been held up, and I have been disturbed about one particular instance. I speak in particular of the Warner family who reside in the constituency of the Hon. Minister of Tourism who made a specific application for a change of use of agricultural land, was denied on the basis of this, only to find soon afterwards that somebody else was given permission. That is not right, and again I have drawn to this Committee's attention the question of Neils Plantation where a family was told it would not get any permission for the change of use.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, if the hon Member is referring to Warner's Plantation, I think he is unaware of the fact that permission has been granted for the land use as such.

Mr. FORDE:

It was granted but to somebody else. Some of Warners' Plantation has now been granted, but I am talking about the area at the corner of Vauxhall Road where a lot of people are making capital on it. We need to bring down legislation with provisions to catch this type of speculation that is going on. I have been concerned about Neils because in this case, the family who owned this land for a long time wanted to take some of it out for various uses and were told they could not get permission. They sold it as agricultural land only to find that somebody else comes in and gets permission to do development. That is not fair, and whoever is responsible for it, ought to be ashamed of himself.

There are many instances of this that we know of, but perhaps people do not want to put these things in writing. A lot of Barbadians have become part of a silent society and nobody wants to speak out, but I am not in that category and that is why I would cite these as two instances I know of, which are a Wot on this country's good name. Even if there is no corruption, it gives the appearance of corruption, and it is unfair and wrong that this should happen in Barbados in 1974. I feel that if I make an application and it has some merit, permission should be granted, but I do not believe that some people should feel they have a better advantage. I know for a fact that some attempt was made by the Hon. Minister of Health to push Town Planning matters on. I have never tried to use my influence to get through a Town Planning Appeal, but I have had people coming to me saying they understand that if you can pass a buck, you can get permission. I do not condone that sort of thing. Even if there is no substance in it, that sort of rumour should be stopped, and I would appeal to the Minister who has just sat down to ask those people who have legitimate cases to stop complaining at the cocktail parties.

This country has got to a stage where too many people know things are wrong and are not prepared to speak out on these matters. Many of them will tell me something confidentially. They tell me it is only for my ears and I should not let anybody else know. When I say I will write the Department or the Ministry, they say no, they have to live in this country. Normally I would defend some of the Civil Servants, but I am afraid that in this instance, there are too many complaints, and it looks to me as if most of them have some substance.

Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister of Health stated that many people came to

him from time to time making various complaints about people requesting money in payment for something to be done at Town Planning. The Minister must realise that those same people obviously are aware of the fact that in the long run, they must get Town Planning permission and, that they will be subject to victimisation. This is why a lot of people would not put anything in writing, but I think the Minister should institute a public enquiry. It is well known that if you want to get anything done quickly in the Town Planning Office, you have to get somebody from the Town Planning Office to draw the plans for you. That is wrong, and it should be investigated, If necessary, do the same thing with legal work where any document prepared by a lawyer must be signed, and if necessary do this to find out what is happening in Town Planning.

I know that for weeks, I have been given the run around when I telephoned the Town Planning Office asking for a document. I was told it had been sent to the Ministry of Communications and Works, but when I checked there I was told it had been returned to Town Planning. When I called Town Planning again, I was told again that it was at the Ministry of Communications and Works, but it was only after I spoke with somebody I knew at Communications and Works, who made a personal check on it and told me it was definitely with Town Planning, that on getting in touch with Town Planning again and explaining that a very careful search was made at Communications and Works which revealed that it was back at Town Planning, only then somebody there said that in fact it was there. The Chief Town Planner himself tries to evade the public, but he must realise that I have more brains than he. I called there one day and asked to speak to him and was told that he was not available, but when I called back, within five minutes, and said I was calling for somebody else, he was able to answer the telephone. That is sheer dishonesty. I was calling as a private citizen and he did not have the decency or the courage to answer the telephone, but when he thought it was a Government Minister calling, he was able to pick up the telephone and answer. That sort of thing needs to be investigated, and that is why the whole Department needs investigating.

The Question that Head 29 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
ANNEXED ESTIMATES - (1) POST OFFICE

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, for Item 43 the figure should be "\$19, 357" instead of "\$9, 495". The error occurred in that in January this year, as we all know, the National Insurance contributions went up and consequently the old Estimates prepared for the year before could not take account of the increases in these contributions which were payable from January this year. I think the Members of the Opposition will appreciate that it was not "bad budgeting as much as an increase during the course of the financial year.

The notes are set out and are quite clear, and hon. Members will have an opportunity in another few weeks to deal with the Post Office at length. The Ministry always welcomes constructive criticism, and I am dedicated to providing for the people of this country the best possible postal service the country can afford and the workers are capable of rendering. I will ask hon. Members, seeing that it is not controversial, the Estimates are coming up soon, and they will have every opportunity to deal with it then and be more thorough with their criticisms, not to cause any delay. I beg to move that the Annexed Estimates — (1) Post Office, as amended, stand part.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, there is only one point I wish to make. Almost all the legal documents from time to time must bear some sort of stamp and it is very inconvenient, not so much to the legal profession but to the public, not to have somewhere near the Registration Office some sort of stamp vending machine or not to have somebody in the Registration Office responsible for selling stamps. 6.00 p.m.

I would certainly tell the Minister to investigate this matter which causes great inconvenience, because people must go to Coleridge Street and then come back over here to buy stamps. This is revenue for the Government, and it will assist the public if some arrangement could be made for selling stamps at the Registrar's Office.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the point raised by the Member for the City is well taken. Anything that I can do to help the Legal Profession and the public I will do. No complaint has come from the Registrar, but I myself have had a document to be stamped and I have had to run from there back over here. I will investigate the matter and try to provide a special service in that area.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be too long. My chief point arises out of what the Minister in his opening remarks had to say about what the country could afford. I want to appeal to the Minister to realise that he has to come to grips with the situation as regards the five-day week, because a lot of the Supplementaries here are based on the five-day week.

Remember, Sir, we are not against the five-day week. What worries us is five days from Monday to Friday. That is what is worrying the entire country. I believe that when we cannot borrow any more, when we cannot rake and scrape anymore, we will have to turn around and appreciate that this country cannot afford a five-day week from Monday to Friday.

We quite agree that Sunday is set aside for every man. A five day week is 40 hours, but it does not mean that the 40 hours should come between Monday and Friday.

Again, Mr. Chairman, We are still faced with the question of overtime in this Department. In this Resolution it is \$19, 357. The note explains that this is due to the increase in the number of printed packets sent by surface mail and to the work performed by Clerical and Supervisory staff on Sundays prior to a bank holiday. There is nothing that anyone can do about that, but we do not have Sundays prior to bank holidays very often.

We are asking the Government wherever possible to reduce this amount of money spent on overtime. When it comes to the third part of the note, that says that it is as a result of the increase in the number of trips made by Postmen—Van—Drivers to the Bridgetown Harbour out of normal working hours, and also as a result of the implementation of the five-day week, some of this could be done if Saturday was a normal working day; and believe me, there is nothing for the Government ; to be ashamed about in asking the Trade Union to renegotiate the situation before it is too late. It is costing us money. It is not only a case of employing more staff. There is a lot more involved in the situation, and I am asking the Minister to see what can be done wherever possible because I do not and cannot see how we can carry

on as we have been doing. 6.10 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I see Note 13 here. It reads: "This amount is required as a revote in respect of Drop Bag Fittings ordered from the Crown Agents in April, 1972. It was not possible to have this claim settled before the end of the 1972-73 financial year. I would like to know if the Note is correct, that the order was placed in April, 1972. My information is that the order was not placed in April, 1972,

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that this Resolution as amended do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 34

A Resolution for the sum of \$188, 459 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$188, 459. The notes are fairly complete, except the note to Item 83 to which I would like to insert "Duties entail spraying, planting and demonstration of crops at the stations, and the care of lights which are kept for service in the district."

With that insertion, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Head as amended stand part. The notes are quite clear.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

The question that Head 31 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$188, 459 do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 35

A Resolution for the sum of \$165, 821 was called.

Hon.C. E. TALMA; Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$165, 821. It is a Supplementary. In moving the passing of this Resolution under the Ministry of External Affairs, I would say that the notes are quite complete, and if there are any points on which hon. Members would like clarification, I would try to accommodate them and give the necessary reply.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, under the Heading of the Embassy in Washington I should like to talk about part of the duties of that Embassy and the role which this country should play in relation to the Organization of American States. I am not satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that the country is getting a complete return on the sort of money that it is spending in some of these International Organizations. I am quite aware of the fact that we have various applications pending through our Washington Embassy to the Inter-American Development Bank and to the Organization of American States for soft loans and of course I am also aware of the fact that we have got from the IADB a loan in connection with the Community College but I do not believe our role in such Organizations should merely be a question of raising capital or soft loans, and our Ministry of External Affairs must look at the total contribution these organizations are making to the Island and see to it that that contribution is in relation to the expenditure we make in these organizations. 6.20 p.m.

In the Organisation of American States, and all of its specialised agencies, there are employed, I believe, only two people who are Barbadian nationals, and they are not even employed at any high level. The O.A.S. and the Inter-American Development Bank do not seem to understand that they should have a policy which employs more West Indians and in particular more Barbadians. In conversation with many senior Civil Servants who go from time to time to Washington for consultations with the O.A.S. and the specialised agencies, I have heard the allegation made that they get the impression that the Organisation might even be colour prejudiced, and indeed some of the very few West Indian employees who are with the Organisation are rather concerned about the attitudes shown to them. I think that these matters must be aired from time to time on the floors of the respective Parliaments of the Caribbean so that the O.A.S. Secretariat can understand that we are not prepared to come into any Inter-American system, if our nationals are not going to have as equal opportunity as the nationals of Bolivia, Chile, Mexico or any of the other States have in that organisation, and we are not going to be prepared to vote money for this sort of purpose unless we are satisfied that our nationals are given equal opportunity and equal employment. I am appealing today to the O.A.S. representative in this country to make the views strongly felt that we believe that Barbadian nationals deserve greater opportunity. I am aware of the fact that Mr. Rowe who has since left the foreign service was seconded for a short space of time to the O.A.S. at Washington, but even his appointment was not made permanent, and I believe that this secondment was more a matter of giving some leeway to his colleagues who were not completely enamoured by his role in the Civil Service at the time whether rightly or wrongly; but the O.A.S. as at present staffed seems to ignore any pleas made by our Ambassador, if indeed any are made at all, for a

greater percentage of Barbadian nationals in that institution.

I am aware, Mr. Chairman, that the Trinidadian Embassy in Washington has made strong representations on that issue to the O.A.S., and I trust that our Ambassador who is very well respected in that organisation will add his pleas to those of his colleagues in the other Embassies on this point.

Mr. Chairman, I should also like to see the Embassies take steps from time to time to keep the populace through the External Affairs Department notified of many more of the things that are happening in the O.A.S. I am afraid that if you took a census today in Barbados from Barbadians and asked them what is the O.A.S., very few of them would know what the initials "O.A.S." stand for, and I do not think it is right that we should belong to an organisation unless its benefits are totally known and the functioning of the Organisation is properly explained to the country as a whole.

The only other aspect under this Head that I want to speak on since my colleagues will be talking about this matter, is the attitude being adopted in the United Kingdom by the British Government to Barbadian Nationals there. Again I do not know what representations our High Commissioner has made on this issue, but the British Government has all of a sudden elevated their sub-normal educational institutions into a way of life as a manner of discriminating against West Indians and Barbadian nationals in that country. All of a sudden, our nationals are supposed to be educationally sub-normal children, and the Powellites have managed to adopt their techniques and got them accepted for saying to the children of West Indian nationals that they must go to other schools. In our country, we do not grade United Kingdom citizens in that manner, and I think it is despicable that they should be trying to justify this system by saying that our people are not well skilled in languages and in the English language in particular. I have heard Cockneys speaking, I have heard Welchmen speaking, and many of them do not speak the English language as well as many Barbadians and many West Indians do, and yet today we can find a system being established in England where the West Indian community and many of my Barbadian compatriots are crying out because their children are not getting fair treatment in the English schools, and this is something that each one of us must be concerned about. I do believe that the High Commissioner would have sent down to the Ministry of Education some of the Government papers published by the United Kingdom on this matter, and I should hope that the Ministry of External Affairs would have consulted with the Ministry of Education and made very strong representation on this issue because after all, the role of our Embassies abroad must be to protect the interest of our citizens at all levels, and this is one area of immediate significance to the country that I would ask the Ministry to take seriously and to have a look at it, and I hope that the feed back between the Ministries is sufficiently strong that something is being done about it. Mr. Chairman, you would have been aware of the fact that the West Indian conference in London have themselves put certain people to talk at Ministerial level with the Government there about it.

Those of us who follow the newspapers and keep up with current affairs will recognise that this has been a burning question for some time, and I hope that the High Commissioner is monitoring the situation quite carefully and that our strong representations on this issue have been conveyed to the British Government. I would not like to suggest that we should think of reciprocating that sort of treatment. It is not the sort of policy that any responsible Government including the Opposition would recommend, but we might well

be forced if this is the type of treatment that they want to meet out to our nationals to deny any of their

citizens regardless of whether they are ambassadorial staff or not, the right to go to our secondary schools and also to have the benefit of our public education. I hope it will not come to that, but if the British people today are more prone, to believing that Powellism should become a way of life in dealing with black people, I think they are wrong because we give most favourable treatment to any Englishman who comes here and indeed he has tremendous opportunities for moving through the public life of this country, and I am urging that representation be made to the British Government on this matter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the question of our foreign service and these allowances, surely we ought to address our minds to see exactly what benefits we are deriving from the money we are expending in this direction. You will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that one thing that must come forcefully to mind is that we have seen just coming to the end of 1973 evidence that our Embassies abroad, as it would appear to us, have not been functioning as readily as we would have them, and I speak with reference to the oil crisis, because it is certain that if our Embassies had been functioning as they ought to have been functioning like the Embassies of other countries, we would have been better informed at an earlier stage of what was likely to take place, because what took place did not occur overnight. 6.30 p.m.

The Arabs did not make their decision overnight, nothing like that at all. Other countries were informed by their Ambassadors and the Governments took some sort of action to ready themselves so to speak, but we have other reasons, some of which I will advance as I go on, to show that we were not so informed.

Mr. Chairman, let us come now to our Consul General in New York and his Unestablished Staff. There is no doubt that every effort is being made to have that office run as smoothly as one would wish, and I will tell you now, Sir, that our Consul General has tried to do a remarkable job. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

I will make this point. We have got to deal with Item 51 and we must pay particular attention to the explanatory note. That is Note 5. Mr. Chairman, Note 5 tells us that the sum of \$2, 406 represents arrears of salary for the period 1st September, 1972-30th April, 1973 paid during the current financial year to two members of the non-established staff who were reinstated after having been suspended on disciplinary charges,

Mr. Chairman, I intend to say that all reports of members of non-established staff have not been investigated thoroughly when the Consul-General makes these reports on these people. I will now be told that it will have to be investigated from the records. I hope that I would not be out of order if I say that the reports submitted on these people by the Consul-General should be taken with a pinch of salt before they are acted upon. We as Members of this House have a special right to investigate and bring to the attention of this Honourable House the kind of treatment meted out to the non-established staff. 6.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, Communications. How well, Mr. Chairman, have we been functioning through our overseas missions? In my view a breakdown has occurred in our communications system and as a consequence we have been caught up in the grips of all these crises. I believe, and you will share my view, Mr. Chairman, that the squeeze that is presently being experienced in Barbados could have taken

perhaps an entirely different turn if our missions abroad had been performing as they should have been a year ago. We have enough before us to convince us that there has been a breakdown in our system of communications; so something has definitely gone wrong with our overseas missions. We do not say that these missions can bring us the money, or all the money we want, and we can put it in the banks, but we have reached this situation today that we are in a position that the poor people in this country just now have come to appreciate what a refrigerator is and what a stove is and they would like to get money to purchase these necessities. We do not believe that we are doing ourselves justice to accept this note that "The need for supplementary provision arises as a result of higher rates for carriage of Diplomatic Mail and increase in use of the Telex." I cannot accept this explanation regarding the cost of communications because it appears to us that the last call was when they had their representative at Sam Lord's Castle; what did they talk about then? At the time they had their conference the world situation was such that they could have kept the home Government so well informed that they could have averted much of what took place.

I am very concerned when I find money spent in these ways, and the poor people of this country cannot get a little credit to get a bedstead and mattress, a stove, and a little refrigerator. Those are the bare necessities that the people are denied.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No, 37
A RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$57, 946 WAS CALLED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$57, 946 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 7.00 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of four Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the four Money Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to respectively.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, there is a money Resolution which was given notice of today under the name of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport for the sum of \$17, 500. We asked for leave to deal with it in all its stages today and permission has been granted. It is a very urgent matter to assist in sending our team to the Olympic Association Games.

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

to consider this money Resolution for the sum of \$17, 500.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 39 RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$17, 500

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I will try to be as brief and succinct as possible.

On 22nd September, 1973 a letter was written by the Barbados Olympic Association to the Ministry of Education and received on the 26th September requesting Government assistance towards enabling the Barbados Olympic Association to participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games, 1974 scheduled to be held in Santo Domingo from 27th February to 13th March, 1974. In that communication, it was stated that the figure which the Barbados Olympic Association was working on was in respect of 100 persons in nine sports and that the cost per person was estimated at \$889, 60. It was stated then that the final figure was expected to be less in as much as the standards would have to be set by the Association, so that the original figure which would have been requested on this number would have been something like \$88, 960. By letter dated 24th October, my Ministry replied requesting information from the Barbados Olympic Association in respect of the local standards which have been set, the standards for the games, local national records and the times etc. recorded by the first four who finished in the previous games. No reply was received to that letter and again on 12th December, 1973 my Ministry referred to its previous letter of 24th October requesting the Barbados Olympic Association to submit the information requested, and pointed out that if such information were not submitted, further consideration of the request could not be given.

By letter dated 7th January, 1974, and received in my Ministry on 10th January, the Barbados Olympic Association replied thanking my Ministry for the letters dated 24th October and 12th December, 1973, and apologising for the very late reply stating that it had taken them some time to obtain the information requested. The information requested was then set out and it was then ascertained that the Barbados Olympic Association was thinking in terms of sending fifty persons to participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games/The matter was considered within my Ministry and within the other appropriate Government Departments and a submission was made to the Cabinet in respect of the amount of money requested which was a sum of \$35, 000 to support the team to go to the Central American and Caribbean Games.

After a careful and thorough consideration of this request and taking into account the prevailing financial situation, the Cabinet concluded that the sum of \$17, 500 should be made available, subject to the approval of Parliament. Taking this into account, the note to Item 18 — Special Events — of my Ministry for Sport reads: "To provide for grants to sports organisations requesting assistance in financing tours, such assistance may not normally exceed 50% of the total cost and is subject to the prior approval of Cabinet." Cabinet took all these matters into consideration and after very careful and

thorough consideration of the matter agreed that that was the amount of money that could be made available subject to the approval of Parliament. That is the matter which we are considering at this particular moment.

I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that this Government is deeply committed to the question of the development and promotion of sport in this country because we believe that sport can make a significant contribution towards the national development and national growth. It is for this reason that we maintain facilities including the national stadium and some twenty-. eight playing fields and we are developing others; that we maintain a Sports Department with specialised coaches; that we have made grants over the past two years to a variety of sporting organisations, some of them affiliated to the Barbados Olympic Association; that we have established a National Sports Council to assist in the promotion of sport and to advise thereon; and we have made available from time to time, trophies for the stimulation of sport. 7.10 p.m.

I would like to make it quite clear therefore that I reject entirely any suggestion coming from any quarter or any statement that this Government is not interested in the development of sport or does not have a policy for sport, merely because at a particular time, we cannot fully accede to a request from any sporting organisation. I would like to make that point quite clear, and I would like to point out that the notes to the Estimates are quite clear on this. The grants do not normally exceed 50%, so from whatever quarter any criticisms come, as far as the assistance which this Government gives towards sport, I would like to reject this entirely and categorically, and those who believe that they have to run to the newspapers in dealing with matters such as this as though they are appealing over the heads of this Government to their own electorate, I am afraid that they will not move this Government from pursuing its steady course for the promotion and development of sport in this country.

I would also like to make it clear, Mr. Chairman, that any funds which are made in this manner, my Ministry will be expecting a report on the performance of the candidates in those games. As a result of a grant made to the Barbados Olympic Association to assist it in sending a team to the Munich Games, some \$21, 000 approximately was granted by Parliament for this assistance and we had considerable difficulty in getting a report. The Association, or certain officers in the Association, seemed reluctant to give a report to the Government, and I would like to make it clear that for any public funds granted to any Association, the Government will expect as of right that a report must be given on how that money is spent.

Mr. Chairman, I be to move that that Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, this question of voting money for the Olympic Association raises to my mind a very fundamental point. For quite some time, I have been advocating the establishment of a Sports Foundation, a charitable organisation where business firms, banks and other business interests in this country would be encouraged to contribute to this foundation, and perhaps the Government could make some contribution to this foundation, and that the foundation would then look after these sporting activities, whether it be the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games or the Central American and

Caribbean Games, so that nobody would have to come cap in hand to ask the Government for assistance. This would be an organisation free from Government control to some extent. Perhaps as an incentive to firms, Government could make these contributions free of income tax for that year so that the foundation would be able to build up substantial capital, and out of that capital which could be invested in Government debentures — which will again assist the Government — the interest would be used for the purpose of sending teams abroad.

I am not advocating that merely because you make applications you should be assisted, I think you must always set standards. Nobody can blame the Government for setting standards, but I see them sending people away doing 400 metres in 49 seconds, and that is a waste of money. I would like to see this foundation established. Perhaps the Minister could consult the Sports Council on it and have it established as soon as possible.

He made some reference to the National Stadium. I do not know who was the engineer who supervised the building of the Stadium, but it is still losing a great amount of revenue because it is possible for any one to stand on the north western side and see what is going on inside. In the interest of making the stadium pay, I think that you should put up advertising signs cheaper so that the people cannot stand outside and watch.

The other point I want to raise is that whenever 'there is anything at the Stadium, there should be some special effort between the Ministry of Sport and the Ministry of Communications and Works for buses to run to and from the Stadium. This is one of the reasons why I believe football has suffered, because it is virtually impossible to get a bus coming back to Bridgetown.

Last of all, there is need to have some sort of security existing at the Stadium during the period of time when you have various things there. There is need to have somebody to control the crowd inside and to stop people from behaving badly. From time to time the Police have been called upon and they have always said they cannot do anything unless the person uses abusive language or something like that. You need legislation to provide for this so that if people do anything like this, they could be stopped.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I am not in this like the hon. Member for the City or indeed like the Minister. I think the Government has been going in for a lot of largesse when it comes to sport as if we are some "Sports Model Country". You have to drive home to the people in Barbados that this is not the case. A lot of people since independence have the idea that Barbados is the size of Russia or the United States, and because they hear the United States are sending a team and they have a flag and a national anthem, you get these "copycat" Barbadians sending an olympic team of 100 members, when Barbados is no bigger than Coventry. This is like sending a whole team from Coventry to represent England. 7.20 p.m.

Someone forced the Government to put up a National Stadium, and Barbados, with its good educational system does not even have a National Auditorium where people can go and perform. But you put up a stadium and you do not have the athletes to justify the stadium.

The Minister has come with a Resolution for \$17, 500 as a gift to the Barbados Olympic Association. I do not know how these people organise sport. They hold sports and they lose money. They pressurised the Government into building a stadium and then you get a bunch of dunderheads running these things

and everyone believes that sports must be some kind of "Sports Model Jackass".

You have some of these people who do not know anything about administration, or how to organise things. The Olympic Team has some people that if you ask them to keep a cent dance, they will lose money. You must know how to organise a dance. My organisation organised a little dance in a hurry a few Saturdays ago and we could make \$5, 000, and we do not have sophisticated people; we have the kind of people who will buy a flask.

I am not against the Government supporting this organisation. I used to be in sports myself. I was involved in cricket, football and wrestling, and in those day, Governments were not so generous as they are today.

Queen's College and Harrison College and all the clubs, if they all had a drive they would be able to raise money at the level they want because it would multiply the effect; but as long as they feel that the Government is there to give a little money they think it alright.

The Government is generous to these organisations because they say that they are national organisations, but when it come to serious business, the Government does not seem to think that serious business is as important as sending an Olympic Team to Santo Domingo.

My view is that you have to get your priorities straight. There are things in this world much more important that you can contribute to for the benefit of the people of Barbados.

I am not boasting; but I am a member of an organisation and we came a long way behind some of these old time organisations. We run our organisation on the basis of running our own show, but these other organisations cannot. They should be able to run their own show knowing that the Olympic Games are coming up, but they rely on one source to help them.

As I have said, I am not opposed to the Resolution. The Minister says that the Government is in favour of supporting sport but I agree with the Member for the City that the Stadium is a waste of public funds. It is going to become purely and simply the same situation as before. Football is going back to its original places now.

The people who put up the stadium had no idea of cost. They had a few coppers put down and they thought they had stadium money. You do not build a stadium with that kind of money. When you are talking about a stadium, you are talking about something for \$3 million.

They had a few cents and they decided to build a stadium, and they built something that little children could play in. The Jaycees raised some money. The worst thing you can do is to take anyone's money as a gift and then they leave you holding the bag. The Jaycees gave you land and they put up a stadium. It would take the Jaycees another 45 years to be able to put up a stadium, a real stadium which would cost no less than \$2 million or \$3 million.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few remarks about this and perhaps give a few ideas to the Minister I happen myself to be a patron of one of the organisations which has been a beneficiary of the

Government. The Basketball Association has been given assistance in this field, and it is appreciated by the Basketball Association. 7.40 p.m.

I regret that we will not be able to make use of any of this vote since I am told that the money is not enough.

I am not conscious that a lot of more can be done by the people involved in these exercises to raise money themselves, but I must draw to the Minister's attention that a lot of people who would normally make substantial donations to sport cannot, because they still have to pay income tax as the Legislation seems to be definite in this respect and also in respect of the whole concept of charity, so people who would normally make donations to sport find themselves faced with legislation which does not encourage them to do so.

The Gambling Act, as it stands, is also preventing donations being made towards sport and for charity as a whole. As the Gambling Act stands, money is not readily given for this purpose. I do not see why we should be following English practices but that is just what we are doing. I would like to see the Minister pay some attention to the question of amending the Gambling Act so that some use could be made of some of the money at present being held by the Rotarians and other clubs. Some amendment should be made to the Gambling Act so that more people would be encouraged to make contributions for the purpose of promoting sport in this country because sport helps in the educational upliftment of children. I think you are aware of this, but if you could use the concept of the Ford Foundation with regard to charity and in helping charitable institutions, then Parliament would not be asked so much to support these organizations.

I would mention that the Swimming Association has for years adopted an attitude which has not been very encouraging to those who wanted to be with the Association but this attitude has broken down somewhat because people have deliberately set about to break it down. I am sure the Minister is very anxious to have every aspect of sport which is beneficial to youth, extended into the schools in this country, and I hope that sporting associations would realize that they are to "get up and get".

With regard to the fund which the hon. Member mentioned saying how it could be used at very short notice, I am very happy to say that I contributed to that, and it only shows what a private organization can do as against a group of people who believe that they can only ride the Government. Some sporting organizations in this country have been going long enough that they should be subsidizing other sport in this country. They should really be subsidizing other sports in this country but they are really only making the Government donate money when it could be used for other educational purposes. I hope that the Minister would take note of some of these points and call on some of the organizations to explain their plans for raising funds during the year, because a lot of people seem to think that they can just get a jolly ride in any way possible.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, first of all, as far as the matter of raising funds is concerned, I would like to state that Cabinet has already approved an amendment to the Gambling Act and we will be bringing this down to this Honourable Chamber within a few weeks time. This will permit sports organizations to make use of games of chance in terms of raising funds, and it must be realized that these sporting organizations cannot expect to come "cap-in-hand" to the Government. They must raise their funds.

Let me tell you what happened. The Olympic Association stated that they were expecting \$35, 000. They stated that regardless of whatever they raised they would expect the Government to provide \$35, 000, and what has really happened is, that when they understood that the amount they would get from the Government would be \$17, 500, suddenly they went in for a lot of activity, and, I hope they have been successful. I hope they are as successful as other organizations such as the Barbados Workers' Union. 7.40 p.m.

As far as the National Sports Foundation is concerned, this is also being given consideration, but I would like to make it clear that these fund raising bodies should be a matter for the organisations themselves, and I do not think myself — and I am looking at this matter very carefully — that a body for fund raising should be the responsibility of any Department of Government.

As far as transport to the stadium is concerned, those who are promoting sport must get on to the concessionaires and make their own arrangements and the necessary representations forcefully. We have got to get out of this idea that whenever anything is to be done everybody sits back and expects Government to do these matters. Those, Mr. Chairman, are the particular comments I want to make.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of personal explanation, when I mentioned a National Sports Foundation, I was not in any way suggesting that it should be organised or run by Government. This is something separate and distinct from a Government Department.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr.

CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Money Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's Sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 5th March, 1975, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned

the House accordingly. Time: 8.00 p.m.