

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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

Tuesday, 29th January, 1974.

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); 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); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Honourable House for Tuesday, 24th July, 1973, and Tuesday, 15th January, 1974, are before you for confirmation. If there are no objections, or corrections, the Minutes will be confirmed. (Pause.) The Minutes are hereby duly confirmed.

PAPERS TO BE LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to postpone the laying of Documents and the giving of Government Notices at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is hereby granted.

Mr. H. de.B. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is a Resolution standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Peter re a Commission of Inquiry into the Hospital Dispensing services.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker,

Whereas the failure to consider (a) negotiating with the administration of the St. Joseph Hospital, Ashton, St. Peter to establish a Casualty and Out Patient Department there to relieve some of the congestion and confusion at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; or (b) to establish a much needed Cottage Hospital at Speightstown, St. Peter in the first instance, and at least two others in due process at strategic points elsewhere on the Island;

And Whereas with much effort, rising costs and planning, little is presently being achieved by way of relieving the sick consequent upon the "rush upon the every service" offered at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; and this, giving rise moreso to strained nerves and an almost total collapse in the dispensing services at this Institution;

Be It Resolved that this House urges upon Government the urgent necessity to set up forthwith a Commission of Inquiry with terms of reference to investigate and make provisions for, amongst other things, the following: —

Firstly, to evaluate the proper relationship pharmacy, the art of preparing and compounding medicines, bears to diagnosis of diseases; Secondly, to examine the structure of the Dispensing Staff with a view to (a) increasing the number of established posts and make way for promotion; (b) determining areas of dissatisfaction arising from the present improper grading within the Service; (c) considering the anomalies presently created in the salary scales; (d) the dangerous practice of having overtime work of such exacting, life-and-death magnitude and one requiring such meticulous care performed by people with tired brains; (e) the grave dissatisfaction occurring from having income tax deductions made from such overtime earnings; (f) the work attitude of trainee dispensers; and (g) their retention after graduation; (h) conditions of work of dispensing staff generally; (i) the abuse of the service of the Institution, and to what extent, occasioned through the absence of a proper system of identification —

some patients tendering a different name and address for each complaint or ailment on each visit; and (j) divers matters connected with this Institution.

Mr. L. S. CRAIG entered the Chamber and took his seat.

RESOLUTION RE THE STANDING ORDERS OF HOUSE

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is a Resolution standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Thomas re the Standing Orders of the Honourable the House of Assembly.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker,

Whereas the present Standing Orders of the House of Assembly have proved to be seriously restrictive of free debate in the Chamber;

Be It Resolved that the Standing Orders be committed to the Standing Orders Committee with a view to amendment wherever necessary to make it possible for members to express their views and obtain information, particularly in Committee of the whole House, and to ensure that the purposes and effects of each rule are set out in clear and unmistakable language;

And Be It Resolved that the Standing Orders Committee be instructed to report to the House within two months of its appointment.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Peter re the construction of a Fire Station at Mile and a Quarter, St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister —

1. Is it the intention of Government to construct a Fire Station in the area of Mile & Quarter, St. Peter or somewhere in that vicinity?

2. If there is no such plan, will Government give consideration and seek expert advice on such a matter?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question in the name of the same hon. member re Record Cards in Primary and Senior Elementary Schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, etc.

What is the position with respect to the use of a system of Pupils' Record Cards which was introduced into Primary and Senior Elementary Schools in 1950?

2. Is the system of assessing the intelligence and attainment of pupils still in operation?

3. If the answer to No. 2 above is in the negative, would the Minister give the reasons for its discontinuance?

4. Were the Pupils' Record Cards which were intended for use in the lower and upper divisions of Secondary Schools ever introduced into Comprehensive Schools and Grammar Schools?

5. If the answer to No. 4 above is in the affirmative, when was the system first introduced into these schools and what have been the results to date?

6. Is the Minister aware that the absence of a proper system of Record Cards is not in the best interest of children transferring from one school to another?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re the construction of a road leading from Indian Ground main road.

Mr. HINDS:

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

1. Has the Minister received petitions, letters or requests signed by residents of Indian Ground, St. Peter, paying Government to construct a road leading from the Indian Ground Main Road — along the boundary of lands of the late H. L. Gill, and on lands of Nicholls, Armstrong, Worrell and others to facilitate their getting in and out of their homes without the discomfort now experienced?

2. How many times have estimates of cost of constructing the said road been prepared by Ministry officers?

3. What was the last estimated cost, and what was the date thereof?

4. When does Government intend starting the construction of this road?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the hon. Member re the inadequate supplies of water in Rock Dundo, St. Peter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re the career guidance in Secondary Schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport —

Is the Minister aware of the urgent need for career guidance in all secondary schools in this Island?

2. Would the Minister cause a survey to be made to determine what has been the fate of all children who left the Comprehensive Schools at the age of 14?

3. If such a survey has already been conducted, would the Minister make known the results of such a survey ?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same Hon. Member re the discipline at Springer Memorial, Parkinson Memorial and St. George's Secondary Schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport -

Is it a fact that incidents involving children and others at (a) Springer Memorial, (b) Parkinson Memorial and (c) St. George's Secondary School, amongst others, have been enough to warrant Government's deep concern over the question of discipline in these schools?

2. What steps have been taken during the past few weeks to correct the unfortunate situations, which have occurred, and to ensure that proper standards of discipline are maintained at the schools concerned?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re Education at Secondary Modern Schools, Comprehensive Schools and Mult-Lateral Schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport -

What is Government's policy with respect to education at (a) Secondary Modern Schools, (b) Comprehensive Schools and (c) Multilateral Schools?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the hon. Member for St. Joseph re the reduction of cane fires this year.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister —

In view of the critical situation existing in the Sugar industry in this country and annual drop in sugar output would the Minister state:—

(a) What steps will be taken to reduce the number of cane fires this year?

(b) Will permits be granted to persons to burn canes before harvesting?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re the infestation of the Northern Parishes with monkeys.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister —

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) Many of the Northern parishes of the island are once again heavily infested with monkeys?

(2) These creatures are causing a great loss both financially and in food production to farmers and the population of this country?

(3) Would the Minister state what steps are being taken to control these pests?

Mr. SPEAKER. The Question in the name of the same hon. Member re the obstruction by sheep.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister —

Is the Minister aware for some years now, numerous uncontrolled sheep have been walking through the streets of Bridgetown causing obstruction to traffic and pedestrians;

That with the increase of motor traffic in the city the uncontrolled movement of these animals is likely to cause serious accidents and traffic jams;

Would the Minister state what steps he intends to take to remove this potential danger from our street?
12.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question by the same hon. Member re the present building at Seawell International Airport.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware:—

(1) That the present building at Seawell International Airport which houses the Police Department is in a bad state of repair;

(2) That the roof of the said building leaks whenever it rains, thus causing the policemen to shift around articles of furniture and beds so as to avoid the water, which enters the building;

(3) That at least three years ago, the said building has been condemned as unsuitable for the purpose for which it is being used;

Will the Minister cause an investigation to be carried out into the condition under which policemen stationed at Seawell Airport are forced to live and in the meantime make the necessary repairs to the roof of the said building until better housing facilities can be provided?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that:

(a) The Bridgetown Port has spent approximately half of one million dollars to install all the necessary equipment to handle containerised cargo;

(b) That the said equipment is not being put to use at the port;

Will the Minister tell this Honourable House and country:

(1) The reason for the delay in putting this expensive equipment into operation;

(2) How soon will the equipment be put in use;

(3) What is the Government's decision in respect of the use of this service at the Port?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister-

Would the Minister state: —

(1) The total number of television sets installed to date at Seawell International Airport for giving the information to persons using the airport;

(2) The name or names of the suppliers of the sets and the contractors carrying out the installation of these sets;

(3) What is the cost of the sets and the contract price for installation of the said sets;

(4) Were the contracts for the supplying and installation of these sets awarded after tender. If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state why this procedure was not followed;

(5) When was the installation commenced and the date fixed for completion;

Is the Minister aware that during the month of December, 1973, none of these sets were in operation;

Will the Minister state what steps are being taken or will be taken to expedite the operation of those sets which are already installed?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state:

(1) The annual cost of maintaining and operating each of the following Agricultural stations:—Bullens, Grove, Haggatts, Home and Jerusalem during the period 1st January 1972 — 31st December, 1972, 1st January, 1973 -31st December, 1973;

(2) The total number of each class of livestock held on each station during the said periods;

(3) The cost of maintaining these livestock and the revenue derived therefrom during the said period;

(4) The cost of maintaining the dairy cows at the Home Agricultural Station during the said period;

(5) The average daily poundage of milk recovered from these cows during the said period?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) Farmers in this country have been unable to obtain soil tests, feed analysis and seed treatment and such services from the Ministry of Agriculture;

(2) That the extractor fan in the room at the Ministry of Agriculture, Crumpton Street, has been broken for some time and this has been blamed for the cessation of the seed treating operations;

Will the Minister state what steps will be taken to bring our Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology up to reasonable standards for the improvement of agriculture in this country?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that: —

(1) Despite the current introduction of dairy cattle into the country, persons throughout the country districts are unable to obtain adequate quantities of milk;

(2) That the Pine Hill Dairy, the sole importer and producer of milk, has written to dairy farmers stating that there is surplus milk in the country;

(3) That the country is not producing enough milk to satisfy the community especially during the tourist season;

Would the Minister cause an investigation to be carried out into the operation of the dairy industry in this country with a view to ensuring the proper development of this industry to the benefit of the island?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister state:

(1) The number of Agricultural surveys including the present one which have been put into operation in this country during the last ten years;

(2) What policies and/or principles have been introduced into the country as a result of these surveys;

(3) Is the Minister aware that the present surveys which have just been put into operation call for many details which entail much time and expense if such information is now to be extracted;

Will the Minister state how this survey will improve the agricultural development of this country ?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that with the closure of the seed store at the Ministry of Agriculture, Crumpton Street, Bridgetown on Saturday mornings, many small farmers are put to extreme difficulties and inconvenience in order to Collect seed and other pesticides;

Would the Minister carry out an investigation into the average number and value of sales made daily between Mondays and Fridays as compared with the sales made on Saturday mornings prior to the introducing of the five (5) day week with a view to introducing a system whereby the seed store will be opened on Saturday mornings? 12.15 p.m.

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware

(1) That the present flow of passengers through the arriving section of Seawdl International Airport especially during the week-ends is putting a heavy strain on the policemen, who carry out immigration duties and the two (2) Port Health officers normally on duty at such times;

Would the Minister consider increasing the number of Port Health officers and immigration officers now operating at Seawell so as to speed up the flow of passengers?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that

(1) The present telephone switch board system in operation at Seawell International Airport in

inadequate;

(2) Persons intending to call Seawell International Airport by telephone are experiencing great difficulty due to the constant busy signals on the switchboard;

(3) That as a result of the poor telephone switchboard facilities, many airlines now have private telephone numbers;

(4) That the Police Department at Seawell is also connected to the central switchboard and as a result the police experience great inconvenience because of the lack of an independent telephone;

Will the Minister state what steps are being taken to improve the telephone system at Seawell International Airport to provide the police with an independent telephone system?

Mr. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister

"Is the Minister aware that the playing field at Clincketts which is used by the youth of the area is in extremely poor condition?

Will the Minister take the necessary steps to ensure that it is levelled?

And will the Minister further ensure that proper facilities for recreation are provided?

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

Is the Minister aware that (1) The Youths of Crab Hill, St. Lucy are in urgent need of a proper playing field and a Community Centre;

(2) At present, they are forced to use the uneven and undeveloped portion of land at the back of Selah Primary School;

(3) The deficiencies mentioned above seriously affect their performances;

Will the Minister take steps to ensure that the youth of Crab Hill, St. Lucy are provided with a playing field and Community Centre as soon as possible?

MOTION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker I beg to move that the hon. Member for St. Lucy be granted six weeks' leave of absence with effect from 1st February, 1974.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following

- (1) The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.
- (2) The Wireless Telegraphy (Land Mobile and Fixed Radio Telephone Services) Regulations, 1974.
- (3) The Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Transmitter) (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.
- (4) The Wireless Telegraphy (Ship Station) (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.
- (5) The Wireless Telegraphy (Model Aeroplanes, Model Racing Cars and Model Trains) Regulations, 1974.
- (6) The Barbados Harbours (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following

- (1) The Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1973.
- (2) The Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Shipment of Accounts of the General Insurance Fund for the year 1971-72.
- (3) The Agreement for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of the Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and for the encouragement of International Trade and Investment.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations

The Annual Report of the Barbados Tourist Board for the year 1971-72, and Financial Statements of the Board for the year ended 31st March, 1972.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following

The Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation for the

years ended 30th June, 1970, and 30th June, 1971.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the following

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$458, 376 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. 31, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

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

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$697, 332 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. 32 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

On behalf of the Minister of Education, I beg to give notice of the following:

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$415, 521 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. 33, which form the Schedule to this Resolution. 12.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada for the purposes set out hereunder a sum of money not exceeding the amount so set out and for connected purposes.

Also, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company's Act, 1930.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to authorise the Government to borrow from the Government of Canada for the purposes set out hereunder a sum of money not exceeding the amount so set out and for connected purposes be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Barbados Telephone Company's Act, 1930, be now read a second time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940 be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 133 asked by the hon. and learned Member for St. Joseph is ready.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 146 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is ready,

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 159 asked by the hon. Member for St. Andrew is ready.

Also the Replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 163, No. 165, and No. 168 asked by the Leader of the Opposition are ready.

Also the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 184 asked by the hon. Member for Christ Church is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with Item No. 1 on the Order Paper standing in the name of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning. It is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Final Appropriation (1969-70) Act, 1970.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House is asking for leave to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Final Appropriation (1969-70) Act, 1970, in the absence of the Prime Minister. (Pause.)

There being no objection, leave is granted.

FINAL APPROPRIATION (1969-70)

(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1973 Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Objects and Reasons set out, this Bill would correct the error appearing in the figures shown in the expenditure columns of the Schedule to the Final Appropriation (1969-70) Act, 1970 (Act 1970-19), opposite the Heads "Legal" and "Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology" and consequently amend the appropriate subtotal and grand total of expenditure. It is a question of three Resolutions in connection with three Supplementaries which, on the final audit by the Auditor General, were found to be omitted. This is merely to regularise the entire matter and correct the error which has been made.

The general Appropriation account for the year 1969-70 had a mistake and certain errors had been revealed by the Audit Department in that sums of money provided for Supplementary Expenditure had been omitted from the Schedule of the first Appropriation Act 1969-70 (Act 1970-19). The Resolutions are No. 42/1969; and No. 109/1969 under Head 32, Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, in the sum of \$3, 000, and Resolution No. 20/1970 under Head 6 - Legal - in the sum of \$400. The total amount excluded from Final Appropriation (1969-70) Act, 1970 (Act 1970-19) is the sum of \$2, 400. The object of this Bill is merely to correct the error.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker at the last meeting of the House or some time very close thereto, the Auditor General wrote to you to explain why certain Financial Reports had not been laid on the Table of the House of Assembly as required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act, and I was very gratified to see that

the daily newspaper, for once, gave such an important matter publicity. However, in head-lining the matter the newspaper seemed to be implying that the Auditor General had been apologising for something, but the Auditor General had nothing to apologise for. It is due to his actions that this Bill is before us today.

Now, the Prime Minister is responsible for what happens in that Department, but things there are in such a state of tatters or disrepair that we get statements such as these made by the Auditor General to the effect that the Public Accounts from 1971—72 are now 18 months overdue and have not yet been placed before the House as required by the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 1967 and 1969. It is a pity that the Act does not carry certain penalties, when the Reports are not submitted on time as specified by law, for it is a law which has been broken for years by the Treasury Department and the blame for this has to be placed on the shoulders of the Minister of Finance. For years and years the Prime Minister has shown that he does not care about the statements made about the Public Accounts and the scrutiny which is required of them although he has introduced legislation in this Parliament from time to time dealing with the matter.

I, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, have laid a Report on the Table of the House calling for an increase in staff exactly in the same way as the Auditor General has pointed out to Your Honour that he sent a memorandum to the Establishments Officer dealing with this particular point. It is merely through the audit of the Public Accounts that a mistake such as this could have been discovered and corrected. 12.45 p.m.

No one, as far as we can see, has ever been called before the Public Service Commission to enquire why he does not do his work according to the law. The amount sometimes appears to be small. Nevertheless, I notice that there is an amount of \$25 million. I see that there is an amount of \$3, 000 and \$4, 000 that may give someone some worries at one point or another.

It is my experience that when you get these discrepancies, when these discrepancies are reported, no public officer has been surcharged except at a very low level indeed, of the Public Service, at the level of the poor cashier or clerks who have to receive money from the public and make up an account. If their money is a few dollars short they have to make it up. When it comes higher up, when people in higher positions, make mistakes nothing as far as we know is done about it.

The House of Assembly is asked to pass a Bill like this which is in fact condoning the mistakes. There are Members of this House who are also aware of the haphazard system in which accounts in Government offices are done. Persons are saying that these people are not in a position to do their jobs.

Despite the annual plea year after year for proper accounting staff and audit staff throughout the Civil Service, nothing is done by the Government. Nothing can undermine the people's faith in the Government more easily than a lack of confidence in the administration of the funds which fall into the hands of the Government.

This has to be part of a wider picture. When people say that there is no money in the Treasury, when they are led to believe that there is no money in the Treasury, they are ready to believe anything about the Government, and unfortunately think anything of all politicians, not only those who are guilty of it — may be those who hold ministerial positions — but they tend to believe that anyone who puts his

hands in the Government money is in the same position.

It seems to me that you can talk and talk to the Government and make no dent on the refusal of those in power to correct the anomalies and improprieties which happen from time to time in their public accounts. This is 1969-70 that we are talking about. It is not as if it is coming here as on the last occasion when the House omitted some Supplementary Resolutions. We can recall that we have had to pass Special Appropriation Acts.

This is not the fault of the House of Assembly. This is the fault of the accountants who are entrusted with the handling of public money under the direction of the Minister of Finance and Planning. The Auditor General's letter to you pointed out that on the 1st December, he had not got the accounts for 1971-72, and had only got the accounts for 1970-71 soon after those for 1969-70.

Honourable Members will recall that we raised this question at the end of the last Parliamentary Session that the audited accounts for this island had not been audited since Independence and there appeared to be a certain rush in Government to forward the public accounts. Now, it seems that if there was such a rush in accounting, they have gone back to the bad habits again.

Those of us who have to deal with this know that when you see a mistake in the Auditor's accounts, the first thing you have to try to do is to trace the officer concerned because the mistakes are discovered so long after they are made, that tracing the officer concerned is a more difficult job than finding out what happened to the money in question. It is disgraceful that this can be done.

Of course, Sir, the Opposition cannot oppose the correction of errors, but we must point out to those people who say that the Opposition does nothing that for years it has been the policy of the Opposition, as evidenced by a document laid on the Table of this House that the auditing procedures of the Government should be strengthened.

Go back over the last three or four years and you will find that there has been this continual trend. We cannot go into the Ministry of Finance and Planning and call for the books and give them to proper auditors. We cannot even go on television and put our case. We can only hammer at what seems to be a stone wall of ignorance put up around the ramparts of public accounts.

The Honourable Leader of the House comes in and gives a few soft words. What we want to hear is what has been done and what decisions have been taken in the Government's handling of the auditing of accounts in Barbados. We have done our best. I hope that the news media will do their duty and tell the public that the Barbados Labour Party has been telling the people for years that the whole policy of public accounting has been in tatters for years.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow the Leader of the Opposition to get away with certain things that he has said. I have been in the Cabinet for several years, and I have always found that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance was worried by the fact that the accounting officers in the Government failed to make the reports to the Auditor General that they should make at the proper time.

The impression that the Leader of the Opposition is giving is that the Ministers handle Government

money. I think that the Leader of the Opposition knows that under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, no Minister can handle Government money or authorise the spending of a penny. The Permanent Secretary is the Accounting Officer and therefore, when you hear these stories about Ministers handling Government money, it is creating a false impression.

I do not see the accounts of the Ministry of Communications and Works. I do not see the money.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Minister will give way. I hope that the Minister is not seeking to tell the House that all those items in the Estimates on which the Prime Minister can authorise expenditure are not spent. There are numerous items like the Hospitality Vote which the Prime Minister is given authority to spend.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No point of explanation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Do you mean that the Prime Minister must seek permission to give a cocktail party? The fact that the House has given permission to the Prime Minister to spend this money shows that the House relies on the judgment of the Prime Minister. The Minister does not spend it. It has to come from the Permanent Secretary because he has to advise the Prime Minister whether the vote is in existence and whether there is money in the vote.

In any case there still has to be some authority in writing for the expenditure of the money. The only thing that the Leader of the Opposition said that was true was that there should be a penalty on the accounting officers in certain.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Minister cannot say that the only thing that the Leader of the Opposition said which is true.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is no point.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I will say that the only thing of significance that the Leader of the Opposition said was that there should be a penalty for not sending in reports to the Auditor General from Statutory Boards on time or for not preparing documents where there is a time limit. I agree that there should be a penalty for accounting officers for failure to send in reports to the Auditor General or to this House on time.

The Prime Minister himself quarrels about this; but there is no penalty. He cannot dismiss them. The Public Service Commission has to discipline them. This Government would like to see by the end of the Financial Year the accounts of the Government handed in to the Auditor General. We do not benefit by this delay. The Government must bear the responsibility for the failure of its accounting officers to submit their reports. There is no Member of the Government who would wish that the accounting officers did not send in their reports.

Any strictures from the Opposition will strengthen our hands. I agree that there should be a penalty clause affecting accounting officers who, after a certain period, do not send in their accounts. There are receipt books which should be promptly audited. I do not understand them, but do not give the impression clouded over in a lot of verbiage that the Ministers do not want reports to be submitted to the Auditor General, or that the Ministers have something to conceal and that they want the reports to be submitted three years late.

We would like to see the reports of every accounting officer submitted to the Auditor General within three months of the end of the Financial Year. The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has repeatedly drawn it to the attention of the Permanent Secretaries and to the attention of the Cabinet. As I have said, the Permanent Secretaries are the main accounting officers. The Prime Minister has drawn it to their attention and has made it clear that he is truly fed up.

On the point about training accountants, the position is that the Government will train an accountant and invariably the Government will lose him to private enterprise because the competition in private enterprise is so great. We can count the instances where we had given such officers courses abroad, and the moment they come back, although they are bonded, they go to where the pastures are greener.

We are particularly fed up with the late submission of accounts. If we as a Government could discipline them or dismiss them, or if the law had a penalty clause of so much per day for failing to submit reports at the specified time, it would be a completely different matter. 12.55p.m.

When this Government has to bring to this House reports for 1971 and 1972, in 1974, it is not that we want to bring the reports then, but this is what happens. We are often blamed for failing to submit a report at the time it should be submitted although the date is laid down when it should be submitted. This is what happens and as a Government naturally we would have to take the blame, but in truth and in fact the fault lies not in ourselves.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I sat and listened to the Hon. Minister who has just sat down. The point is, I am sure he admits as all other Ministers would admit, that the accounts of this country are in an unholy mess. That cannot be denied. I remember quite well that some time ago the Auditor General drew it to our attention that the Ministry of Education was amongst the principal offenders not submitting their report at a proper time. Things are so bad at this time that despite the fact that we are now computerising our accounts, we still find that prominent people, who have long since died, salaries are still being paid out for them. Pensioners from overseas have long since died, and their pensions are still being despatched to them, and all that type of thing is happening, and I am in a position to say that this Government should really and truly clean its face — wash its face, bathe its face — this Government should do that, if it wants people to have some kind of confidence in it.

No Minister can attempt to deny that for the entire regime of this present Government, the Civil Servants have been unable to work at peace; we find the Civil Servants producing figures for the benefit of the Ministers and the Civil Servants have got to sit and hear that their hours of labour are just cast aside and figures produced as from nowhere on television and what not, by persons who are in a position to dish these figures out to the public. You will find, Mr. Speaker, that the Civil Service as a whole —

the accounting officers as a whole - have been corrupted during the present regime of this Government from time to time. You will find Civil Servants amazed to find what they themselves have been called upon to put out by way of figures. You will find Ministers using certain tactics just to make it appear as if something exists that really and truly does not exist.

The Civil Servants have conscience, but we are saying that because of the present method under which this Government functions, they will not allow the conscience of the Civil Servants to operate at ease and at peace. I believe that the Opposition would be doing a grave disservice to this country if we supported this attempt to amend this today. 1.05 p.m.

We have got to take a stand to let it be understood by the public and particularly by the Members of the Government that we on this side cannot believe, we refuse to believe anything that the Members on the other side have got to say, and particularly when it comes to the question of accounts and monies and dealings therewith. We have seen too often and we have known enough to fortify us in this respect, and we feel that the Leader of the House owes it to himself and to the public to try to make the Government's position clear if it can be made clear. You can imagine, Sir, the Hon. Minister of Communications, the Member for St. Michael South Central, tells us how utterly fed up they are with these accounting officers not making their returns to the Auditor General. He tells us of the Prime Minister quarrelling. Are we to understand that the Prime Minister has been just quarrelling for ten to eleven years and doing nothing more about this? How many transfers have we seen effected as a result of all this?

We have seen, Mr. Speaker, from time to time the Leader of the House come here and ask us to create top level posts in the Civil Service. What is the purpose of our voting for and supporting all these measures to find that this state of affairs must go on forever and ever? As soon as the public loses its confidence in the Government's handling of money matters, we are courting disaster in this country of ours. I would not like to see it, but this is a warning to the Government to get things put right. The people are fed up. One Minister claims that they are fed up with the accounting officers not making their returns. The public of this country is fed up with the Government not speaking the truth and making adequate returns to the taxpayers and others of this country when it comes to the question of handling and in this case their mishandling of the many matters connected with it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, some very grave strictures have been levelled on the Government and the Minister of Finance in particular, and I would like the House and the public to know that the omission of three Resolutions is a matter which I have here on file, but I do not care to refer to anybody's name. The omission was made by a Civil Servant in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. It is nothing done by a Minister. A lot of nonsense we listen to in here, political nonsense.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Leader of the House has been quite recently constantly referring to comments, made on this side of the House as nonsense, political nonsense and misleading. I do not think it is fair and I do not think it is good Parliamentary behaviour to think that the Opposition must not criticise the Government, and if the Leader of the House continues in this vein he will have to take what comes from this side. We are entitled by virtue of the Constitution to criticise and do anything that is necessary and right under the parliamentary system, and the Leader of the House, at his age and the time he has spent in here sitting on both sides of the House should refrain from this talk of political nonsense.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, everybody has been in here long enough to know that the Ministry of Finance and Planning is properly staffed with more people than it ever had. We all know that there is a new organisation called Organisation and Methods, and everyone knows that a matter like this is dealt with by the Civil Servants in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. I have the Minutes here before me, but I do not care to read them or try to embarrass anyone, but it is a high-ranking officer who has admitted that due to an oversight this has happened. It is human to err. With all these strictures you would think that some Minister is robbing the Treasury or there is some raid on the Treasury. That is what I meant when I spoke of political nonsense or political dishonesty, because you know the Minister had no hand in anything at all, but you want to mislead the public. You do not win a Government that way. The people are not fools outside; you cannot mislead them. They spoke of the Prime Minister. He is not here, but you could not have a more knowledgeable individual as Minister of Finance than our Prime Minister. He is one of the best in the whole Caribbean. (Mr. HINDS He ran the ship aground.) He has everything geared on a better footing than it was ten or twelve years ago. Everything has been improved and better organised than it ever was, but because of an omission or mistake made by a Civil Servant, you try to give the impression that there is a raid on the Treasury. The Minister of Communications and Works has explained that a Minister has no access to money at all and that a Permanent Secretary is an Accounting Officer. This Government has given training courses to many people; it has given Independence scholarships to train accountants of a high order, and as the Minister of Communications has explained, many of them find greener pastures and jobs that are more remunerative and leave the Government service, and nobody can blame the Government for that; but the standard of efficiency in the service is higher than twelve or fifteen years ago. To say that the Government is doing nothing to regularise this is not true, because we have many more people better trained in accountancy and in all fields of endeavour. We must bear in mind that this Government gave free secondary education, free university education; so there are many more people qualified today than there were in 1959 and 1960, and they are better equipped to do a better job. Errors are made by everybody at one time or another. Everybody makes an error, and because an error is made and it is admitted by a senior Civil Servant is no reason why there should be an attack on a very responsible Government. 1.15 p.m.

The Question that the Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Mr. -W. R. LOWE; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Mr. E. E. GREAVES; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN and Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES -11.

NOES:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Clause 1 was called and passed. Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat at a loss to hear the stout-hearted defence put up by the Government on the part of civil servants in this country, when we have from time to time seen the same Government attacking civil servants. I can remember the Prime Minister saying that civil servants were descending on the Treasury like vultures. It suits the Government today to say what has been said, but when Members of the Opposition make a genuine criticism about civil servants, we are told that.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. This is the Committee stage of this Bill. If the hon. Member missed his chance to speak on the Second Reading of the Bill, then he has lost it. This is now an after-thought to deal with politics. Is he making an amendment, or is he objecting to the Second Reading of the Bill? He cannot make a Second Reading speech about civil servants at this stage.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we are not objecting to correcting the mistakes. We are now dealing with the errors. Must we not make mention of the errors, when we are asked to correct the errors?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You are on a point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I rose to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

What Clause of the Bill are you dealing with?

Mr. HINDS:

There is only one Clause under discussion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You will discuss Clause 2.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I have not attempted to deal with any other Clause. The Members on the other side have home troubles.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There are no home troubles, so far as I am concerned. (Asides)

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the only person I think the Hon. Minister would try to belittle is the sometimes Temporary Minister of Finance. This is not land which we are discussing now, Sir. We are discussing the errors in the figures. The Leader of the House has told us about the public servants. We do not want to question his ability because we do not believe it was intentional on his part, but we hope this will be the last time we will have to deal with a matter such as this.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, we have now reached the stage where the Leader of the House had moved that Clause 2 stand part. Under Standing Order 45 when a bill has been read a second time, the House may on a motion then made, without notice, by any Member, commit the bill to a Committee of the whole House or to a Select Committee.

Under Standing Order No. 48, Mr. Chairman, a Committee to which a bill is committed shall not discuss the principles of the bill, but only its details. Mr. Chairman, there is nothing about public offices before us, and the hon. Member is making a Second Reading speech.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I am continuing my speech. The hon. Member is now making a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am listening to the point of order.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, my point is that at this point no hon. Member on that side or on this side can properly make points regarding principles. We must deal with the Bill as provided for under Standing Order No. 48.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The point has been made, and at this stage, I will allow absolutely no more Second Reading speeches.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, you are talking about a Second Reading speech in Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There will be no Second Reading speeches in Committee.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the function of this House is speech-making.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You will make all the appropriate speeches on the Third Reading,

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, must I stand here and make no speech?

The Question that Clause 2 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 1.25 p.m.

Clause 3 was called.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, as this is not the Second Reading stage, I will not trespass on the principles of the Bill so ably canvassed by the Minister of Communications and Works and the point of order so ably made by the Minister for Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance.

Clause 3 says that the Schedule to the principal Act is amended by deleting the words appearing opposite the words "Head 6 Legal" and substituting therefor the words "28, 373". I respectfully submit that this clause should have set out what the words proposed to be deleted are. I would like to know why in Clause 2 the words are set out and not in Clause 3.

Unless you have the Appropriation Act before you, you do not know exactly what it is you are amending. This may be a mistake which can be corrected. There is also great difficulty in obtaining the Laws of Barbados. This is a vital matter where we are dealing with things which may or may not be points of principle.

In Clause 2 the words to be deleted are set out, but not in Clause 3. It is as if different people wrote Clause 2 from who wrote Clause 3. We have no Minister of Legal Affairs in here, so that we cannot ask the Appropriate Minister to give us any assistance. Anyhow, the Clerk has been kind enough to help me.

As regards Head 6 Legal, I would be glad if the Leader of the House could explain what mistake it was that led to the overspending of this amount.

In Paragraph (b), Head 32 Ministry of Agriculture Science and Technology, there has been an overspending of \$3, 000. Can the Leader of the House explain whether this \$3, 000 went down the drain or did it not go down the drain? I am not so worried about the \$11, 198, 000 which is the total which appeared in Paragraph (c). This is clearly a mistake and so is the grand total which appears in Paragraph (d). Since we are in Committee and can speak only of details on the Bill. Let us see that you can do your work and tell us what these two amounts in Clause 3 are and tell us about the \$3, 000 under the Ministry of Agriculture. 1.35 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate the Leader of the Opposition setting an example of sticking to the Rules of the House. I am assuming he has respect for the Rules of the House. He has now used the

words. There is an error. Let us say, the figure originally should have been X and because in some cases the figure is less than X an error becomes overspending. I have about 22 years experience in the legal profession and I know that you cannot shift around accounts to give the public the impression that there was an overspending, and therefore we are correcting figures. He is adopting this idea of using words to fool people that we are overspending and now correcting. He is Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and if he wants to, he can call on whoever is responsible for the error and report back to the House, but the word 'overspending' is used to create a certain impression.

Mr. ADAMS:

I said if there is an error let the Minister tell us. I am concerned with the \$1.2 million.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, it has been observed in the course of going through the annual Appropriation Accounts for the year 1969—70 that certain sums provided by Supplementary Resolutions for the purpose of meeting other expenditure were not included in the Final Appropriation (1969-70) Act 1970 which provided for the sum of \$25, 579, 591. The total amount which would be the difference involved is \$3, 400. The relevant detail is as follows by amending the principal Act if you delete the words \$25, 579, 951 appearing in the marginal note and substitute therefor the words \$25, 582, 991, the total difference would be \$3, 400.

The Question that Clause 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. Talma, seconded by Hon. A. Morrison, the Bill was read a third time and passed. The title was agreed to.

THE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT CORPORATION BILL, 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item on the Order Paper stands in the name of the Prime Minister and I ask for leave to deal with this Item. It is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Investment Corporation and for connected purposes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Leave has been sought by the Hon. Leader to deal with the Item standing in the name of the Prime Minister. There being no objection, leave has been granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Objects and Reasons state, this Bill is to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Investment Corporation and for connected purposes. Honourable Members may recall that recently certain information relative to this matter was duly circulated to hon. Members. The Agreement establishing the Caribbean Investment Corporation was signed by the Minister of External Affairs on the 13th June, 1973 and will come into operation upon the signature of any ten of the States listed in Part A of the Annex. Nine countries have so far signed the Agreement.

The functions of the Corporation as set out in Paragraph (1) of Article 3 are to ensure the promotion of the Industrial development, including the development of the Agro-based industries and of integrated agricultural and industrial complexes of the Less Developed Countries that are members of the Corporation and which (a) prior to the 1st May, 1974 have signed the Accord done at Georgetown, Guyana on the 13th April, 1973; and (b) on or after the 1st May, 1974 are members of the Caribbean Common Market. Under Article 2 of the Agreement, membership of the Corporation shall be open to (a) the States listed in Part 4 of the Annex, (b) any other State of the Caribbean Region which becomes a member of the Caribbean Community and (c) residents — as defined in Paragraph (2) of Article 4 — residents of the States that become members of the Corporation.

The Corporation shall have a Board of Governors, a Board of Directors and such staff as is necessary for the exercise of its functions. The Board of Governors shall consist of (a) a Minister of Government appointed as a Governor by each member State and (b) four Governors representing residents who are members of the Corporation and who shall be appointed by the Caribbean Association of the Industry and Commerce (CAIC) provided that two of them are selected from the Less Developed Countries: The LDCs who are members of the Corporation. Each Governor shall have an alternate and both may be appointed for a period not exceeding three years but may be re-appointed.

Article 43 provides for the appointment of Governors as soon as the Agreement comes into force.

Under Article 17 the Board of Directors shall consist of the following persons and shall hold office for three years and be eligible for re-appointment (A) a Representative from each of the More Developed Countries (MDCs) (b) two representatives of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs), (c) four representatives of residents of States that become members of the Corporation and are appointed by the CAIC provided that two are selected from the LDCs.

Members of the Board of Governors, the Legislature of any of the States which are members of the Corporation or employees of the Corporation shall not be eligible for appointment as Directors. Each director shall have an alternate.

Article 5 provides for an authorised capital of \$15 million of the weight and fineness of gold in effect at the 1st May, 1973 divided into 150, 000 shares of \$100 each. Barbados has been allotted 6, 570 shares. However, Article 6 provides for an initial issue of shares of the value of \$5 million within one month of entry into force of the Agreement, and Article 7 states that payment for the initial shares shall be in five equal instalments, the first being payable on allotment and thereafter one instalment in each of the next four succeeding years.

Barbados' contribution towards the \$5 million initial issue is 2, 250 shares of \$225, 000, or five instalments or \$45, 000 each.

Articles 30 to 32 deal with the legal status of the Corporation, and make provision whereby the Corporation may institute legal proceedings or have legal proceedings instituted against it, enter into agreements, acquire and dispose of its property whether moveable or immoveable, hold assets of any kind and operate accounts in any currency and be free to transfer its assets from one country to another without restriction.

Under Article 34 the Corporation, its assets and operations and transactions shall be exempt from direct taxation and no customs duties nor charge of equivalent effect shall be paid on articles imported for its official use. Those are the main features, Sir.

Under Article 33 it is provided that the Governors, directors, alternates, officials and staff or, and experts performing missions for the Corporation shall be immune from legal process with respect to acts done by them in their official capacity. 1.45 p.m.

This is merely implementing the agreement and legalising it. It is already signed by all the other countries and under the arrangements which now govern these economic matters in the Caribbean, it is in Barbados' place to comply and cooperate with the others. This is really giving legal effect to what has been done in the best interest of and in promoting the economies of the region.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister has introduced this Bill in somewhat, if he does not mind my saying so, dry terms. He has told us what we can read, that the Bill is a logical step to the new Caribbean Investment Corporation, but he has not really got the meat of the matter, and he has not discussed or has not given us any report which I think the House is entitled to have on the malaise and the trouble which are at present affecting the Caribbean Community and Common Market, for a fact at the present time this Bill is merely an exercise in beating the air. The Caribbean Investment Corporation was agreed to be created for the benefit for the Lesser Developed Countries and it contains these benefits subject to certain conditions, these conditions being that prior to 1st May, 1974, they signed the Georgetown Accord and after 1st May they are members of the Caribbean Common Market.

Now it is a matter of record that the Lesser Developed Countries have rejected the Georgetown Accord so far. They were not satisfied with its terms and they did not sign it, and therefore the \$15 million which is authorised by the Bill now before the House to be paid, some of it by the taxpayers of Barbados and some by the taxpayers of the other Caribbean Common Market countries, will just be paid to limbo since there is nobody or anything on which it can be spent, and the \$2 million which private individuals and companies are entitled to subscribe towards the funds of the Caribbean Investment Corporation, it is a matter of knowledge that nobody will subscribe that money, knowing it cannot be spent, because the beneficiaries, the persons whose industries and agro-based industries should be

developed are not yet in existence. I think the occasion should have been taken to explain to the House exactly what is wrong with the Caribbean Common Market, what are the complaints of the Lesser Developed countries for and against it, an occasion which has never been taken notwithstanding the way in which it came to the House and the making of statements relating to it.

It was, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the 19th June, last year that the existence of the Caribbean Investment Corporation was first made known to the House by the Prime Minister. I have here a statement which he made upon that occasion, and paragraph 10 refers to the proposal to have a Caribbean Investment Corporation. Many people have been fooled by the fact that at the back of this Bill you will find the signatures of all the Lesser Developed Countries except Antigua, British Honduras now Belize and Montserrat, and that the Caribbean Investment Corporation can now be brought into being and work started, but this is quite untrue. The whole future of the Caribbean Common Market and the association of the Lesser Developed Countries have to be resolved one way or another before any sense can be made out of what we have done here today, and I say it is a waste of time and money to try to project any concept of an Investment Corporation when in fact there is nothing that can be done with the money when it is once spent.

I want to go further than that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to challenge the whole basis of the Lesser Developed Countries and the More Developed Countries and the approach to the Caribbean Community so far because all of these things are closely bound up with the Bill which we have before us. You must be a member of the Caribbean Common Market to benefit from the Investment Corporation. Sometime ago in some delusion of grandeur, some illusion of grandiosity of the head, the Prime Minister decided that Barbados was a more developed country and therefore we could afford for example with something like this to subscribe the same number of shares as Guyana, a much larger country than Barbados, with twice as many people, to something such as the Caribbean Investment Corporation for the sake of developing the Lesser Developed Countries. Before, again, in the House I have questioned the whole basis of the More Developed Countries and the Lesser Developed Countries and pointed out that without the Bahamas, if and when they accede to the Georgetown Accord, the Caribbean Common Market will be neither one thing nor the other, and wondered what makes Barbados feel that in the Caribbean context it is a developed country. We see that Trinidad is having a budget this year of \$900 million, - it fortifies my point - nearly \$1, 000 million Eastern Caribbean. The current Estimates of Barbados call for an expenditure of \$140 million. Trinidad has about one million people. It is therefore prepared to spend \$950 for each one of its citizens. In Barbados we can afford to spend perhaps half of that, but yet Barbados grandiosely thinks of itself as one of the more developed countries in this context. Guyana, Trinidad and Jamaica all have massive mineral resources. In Trinidad, I only hope that the Government will get its slice out of the increased oil revenue that is going to be occasioned by the increase in the price on the same basis as the Arab States are getting theirs, because when you talk of the increase it is the oil companies that are getting the money; but anyhow that is by the way. Jamaica has bauxite and Guyana has bauxite. Barbados has none of these things, merely an illusion of being a More Developed Country.

I say to the House that if there is a country that needs development of its agro-industries or whatever the expression used in the Investment Corporation's preamble, it is Barbados. We have reached the stage where like nowhere else in the Caribbean the words which were applied some short time previous to the final construction of the Georgetown Accord in May 1972 in Mr. Demas' publication of "From Carifta to Common Market" suit Barbados more than they suit anywhere else in the entire Caribbean. He said —

"The tourist industry, in addition to its own internal economic deficiencies, has given rise to certain economic ill-effects of major proportions. Given the 'cushy' nature of tourist employment and the level of wages paid, due partly to public policy towards the tourist industry — for example, the granting of tax incentives, etc. other vital economic sectors (particularly Domestic Agriculture) that are incapable of offering comparable conditions have suffered from a severe shortage of labour. The consequence is that food production has suffered just when more is needed to supply the needs of the tourist sector as well as domestic household consumption."

If there is any paragraph that can sum up Barbados' economic ills at the present time, that paragraph can sum them up. We are suffering from a shortage of agricultural labour; we have to import people to reap our main agricultural crop. We are suffering from the greatest possible difficulties in diversifying our food production so as to meet the tastes as well as the needs of the tourist and the tastes as well as the needs of the domestic population, 1.55 p.m.

Barbados is crying out for massive investment of land-based industries and of its agriculture. I do not want to labour this point, because the hon. Member for St. Joseph makes it time and time again in here. We had these things in the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for the election, although some people say that we have no policy, and others shut their eyes to the fact that the Barbados Labour Party has been thinking of agriculture and has represented the interests of agriculture. The voice of the sugar workers, the voice of the small farmers, or the voice of the fishermen, in here over a period of a number of years has not been the voice of the hon. Member for St. Michael West. It was the voice of Senator St. John when he was a Member of this Chamber. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: "Smile now!") Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member does not want to see certain people in here.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I can hear a voice from the Government benches. Is he addressing the Chair?

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker we have been talking about the development of an agro-based industry in Barbados for a number of years. What was said about our brothers in the Eastern Caribbean when certain things were being discussed? For example, let us take the question of vegetable oil production in the Eastern Caribbean. We are glad to see the contribution it has made to the development of the area but this Caribbean Investment Corporation comes with a proposition for the development of agro-based industries and this Government is treating the matter as a joke.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The clock on the wall says 2.00 p.m. The Standing Orders have not been suspended, and this Sitting is now suspended until 2.45 p.m.

On resumption --

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Sitting is now resumed. It is now Question Time.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

IMPORTATION OF EGGS AND PRODUCTION OF POULTRY MEAT IN BARBADOS

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Will the Minister state— (1) The monthly number of hatching eggs imported into the country during the period January 1972 to September 1972 and January 1973 to September 1973? (2) The number of pounds of poultry meat produced monthly in the country during the relevant period?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the replies are as follows

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

(i) HATCHING EGGS ARRIVAL

1972 1973

January 5, 460 doz. 19, 190 doz.

February 8, 340 doz. 27, 840 doz.

March 6, 660 " 18, 150 "

April 13, 560 " 22, 792 "

May 11, 700 " 21, 780 "

June 8, 850 " 16, 830 "

July 17, 850 " 31, 740 "

August 12, 540 " 12, 390 "

September 11, 220 " 16, 320 "

(ii) POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTION

1972 1973

January 227, 694 lbs. 430, 680 lbs.

February 228, 579 " 460, 947 "

March 262, 527 " 355, 350 "

April 243, 204 " 331, 029 "

May 271, 572 " 398, 391 "

June 251, 202 " 471, 675 "

July 275, 898 " 536, 664 "

August 270, 846 " 480, 465 "

September 313, 959 " 492, 283 "

2, 345, 461 3, 957, 484

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state the reason for the decreasing amount of eggs imported between June 1973 to September 1973? 2.55 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member can probably ask a substantive question. This is the subject matter of a separate question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 133 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister Will the Minister state- (i) The monthly number of hatching eggs imported into the country during January 1972 to September 1972 and January 1973 to September 1973? (2) The number of pounds of poultry meat produced monthly in the country during the relevant period? (A pause.)

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, is there no answer forthcoming? This is a sad state of affairs.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker the figures for hatching of eggs were obtained from the Control Division, as hatching eggs are imported under licence. The figures for poultry and meat production were obtained from the economist in the Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology. I am afraid that my file is very vague, and the Minister of Agriculture is not in his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state whether or not the Government has considered the setting up of an industry for the hatching of eggs for the poultry industry in this country?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that that is a substantive question.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Appropriate Minister will probably be able to deal with that very adequately, but he is not at present in his seat. He was here earlier and presumably he will be returning soon.

QUESTION RE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR ST. JOSEPH

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 146 standing in the name of the same hon. Member.

Mr. BOLDEN:

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows —

"An area of land of approximately 6½ acres at Lammings, St. Joseph, has been acquired as a school site and as a community playing field. The school has been constructed and it is proposed to develop the playing field and recreational centre during the next Development Plan period.

2. Negotiations for the purchase of an area of approximately 6 acres of land at Blackman's in St. Joseph have commenced in order to provide for the establishment of a playing field for the West St. Joseph Secondary School and also for the development of a community playing field,

3. Consideration is being given towards a proposal for the conversion of the old Community Centre at Bathsheba into a Beach facility, which would include space for community centre activities."

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state how soon the old Community Centre at Bathsheba will be converted?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

It is difficult at this point in time to place the date of commencement; but I would like to assure the hon. Member that consideration is being given to the matter at this present stage.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state what stage these considerations have reached?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

They have reached the stage of the redesigning of the present site.

QUESTION RE THE CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 159 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Andrew, who, I observe, is not in his seat.

Hon. L. E. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to this Question.

QUESTION RE THE WATER MAINS IN SPRING FARM, ST. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 163 asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. ADAMS:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works Is the Minister aware that the present water mains in Spring Farm, St. Thomas, are too small to meet all the demands from residents for a water supply in their homes, and will the Minister take steps to improve the situation?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows —

Yes, Sir. The current year's provision to continue laying of new subsidiary water mains and connections to standposts is already fully committed. Consideration will be given to the improvement of a water supply to this area when the 1974-75 Additional Mains and Standposts Programme is being prepared."

QUESTION RE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW POST OFFICE IN ST. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 165 asked by the same hon. Member.

Mr. ADAMS:

To enquire of the Minister of M.C.W. Is the Minister aware that the residents of the heavily populated districts of and near Welchman Hall in the parish of St. Thomas continue to have difficulty in transacting postal business because of the lack of transport between Welchman Hall and the St. Thomas Post Office; and when does the Government plan to construct a new post office in St. Thomas as promised for many years?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows —

"Yes, Sir.

Government is presently giving consideration to the acquisition of an area of land for construction of a new District Post Office in Welchman Hall to serve the parish of St. Thomas.

Mr. ADAMS:

Can the Minister state how soon does the Government expect to acquire this land?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

It is difficult to say, but the matter is before the Ministry of Housing and Lands which is the Ministry responsible for Land Acquisition. The owner of the land is deceased, as the hon. Member knows, and we are trying to expedite the acquisition. Meanwhile, we are drawing up plans to have a new Post Office and probably a Clinic and a Library, and a Police Station.

Mr. ADAMS:

Can I take it that a positive decision has been taken?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

A positive decision has been taken.

QUESTION RE THE ROAD JUNCTION BETWEEN U.W.I. AND CAVE HILL

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 168 asked by the same hon. Member.

Mr. ADAMS:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works Is the Minister aware that the road junction where the road leading to the University of the West Indies meets Cave Hill is, whether by reason of inadequate signposting, lighting or otherwise, confusing to motorists; and will he take steps to improve the signposting in the approaching and at the junction and provide better lighting?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is as follows —

"Yes, Sir. Relevant signs will be erected to highlight the danger that exists at this junction. Steps will be taken to have the lighting improved by the installation of additional street lamps where necessary.

As far as street lamps are concerned, the programme has been suspended during the period of the energy crisis.

Mr. ADAMS:

Will the Minister agree that the issue of that particular road junction is not a question of street lamps but of public safety and road traffic safety, and therefore the energy crisis should not prevent the public from having adequate lighting at this most dangerous junction?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister agrees that it is a question of public safety. The question of street lamps was only mentioned to indicate that if it was not done promptly, the Member would understand why. The whole junction has to be redesigned to make it a proper junction in the interest of the public.

QUESTION RE THE ROAD REPAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION IN CHRIST CHURCH WEST

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 184 standing in the name of the hon. Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. FORDE:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of road construction and repairs (particularly in relation to tenantry roads) in Christ Church West? 2. Will the Minister state when it is intended to repair the roads in September Square, in the Avenues in Hart's Gap, and Forde's Road? Will the Minister state what is the earliest date on which it is intended to construct and/or repair the tenantry roads in Worthing View, Old Navy Road, Thomas Gap near Club Morgan, and Rockley near Ventnor Land? 4. Will the Minister state whether it is intended to barber-green, (and if so, when,) the newly constructed road at Gill's Gap off Dayrell's Road?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

1, During the period 1966-72 the following subsidiary roads were constructed:-

Forde's Road, Clapham, St. Michael 3rd Ave., St. Matthias, Christ Church 1st Ave., Rockley New Road, Christ Church Golf Terrace Road, " "

1st & 2nd Avenues, Deighton, " " Gills Gap off Dayrells Road " " Ventnor Gardens " "

1st Ave., Blue Waters " "

Rockley Road, Oppos. Ventnor " " Halls Gap, Hastings

Shilstone Ave., Navy Gardens " " Aves. 1 and 2, Garden Land " " Pleasant Hall, off St. Matthias, Christ Church Rockley Village Road 1st Ave., Dayrells Road

It is not possible at this stage to say when the roads mentioned will be constructed but they will be taken into account when future priority lists are being drawn up provided they qualify for construction from Government Funds.

4. The surface of Gill's Gap off Dayrells Road is to be completed with hot asphalt mix as soon as the paver is available. 3.05 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, am I to understand that consideration would be given to the roads in my constituency

during the period 1974-75?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The programme for 1974—75 has not yet been drawn up, but certainly the roads in Christ Church West and other constituencies will be looked at, on the basis of priority. The Minister endeavours to see to it that every constituency gets adequate consideration in the planning of the roads.

Mr. FORDE:

Will the Minister agree that as far as September Square is concerned, the sanitary condition in this area is in need of consideration and some priority should be given to it because it is in need of repair?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is aware that, as far as September Square is concerned, this road is in need of repair; the road was never maintained by the Government but certainly consideration will be given to this road in the 1974—75 programme.

Mr. FORDE:

Is the Minister aware that with regard to Rockley Gap and the surrounding area, with the least down pour of rain it is almost impossible for people like doctors and others who must make use of this road, to travel through it during these down pours? In view of this, will the Minister give consideration to the question of giving top priority to this area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not aware, neither is the Minister prepared to give it top priority, but I will state that the Government is prepared to give roads in all parts of this country due consideration when funds are available, and that would be given purely on the basis of need and merit.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question time is now ended. Private Members' Business now commences.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION RE DECLARATION OF ASSETS BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. ADMAS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 4 be the first Item under Private Member's Business.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of this House what the practice followed from time immemorial has been, and I hope certainly will be the practice followed in the future, that is, that in so far as Private Members' Business is concerned, there should be some indication given us what Private Members intend to deal with, and that would be adhered to by fixing the Order Paper at the end of each

Sitting. The question of fixing the Order Paper so far as Government Business is concerned does" not seem to arise as frequently as in the past in that we have been fortunate in clearing the Order Paper very frequently, but in so far as Private Members' Business is concerned, it is different — as was done last week when Item 11 was dealt with at very short notice, and one would presume that Item 11 would have been further carried to conclusion today. Although Item 11 is Item 8 today on that Order Paper, that has been postponed temporarily and Item No. 4 is now the first Item under Private Members' Business. I am not suggesting that there should be any opposition to the right of the Leader of the Opposition, to the principle of fixing the Order Paper, but the practice of fixing the Order Paper should be observed so that at the end of each Sitting the fixing of the Order Paper would have to be adhered to in order that the Government would be prepared to deal with Private Members' Business as was done in the past.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister having said all that, perhaps I will have to ask forgiveness. Since I did not intend to deal with Item No. 4 today, the Minister should possibly have given me a moment to explain myself. It may be that at the appropriate time I would be prepared to forego the use of a Resolution and draft it appropriately as a Bill. I therefore now formally move that further consideration of the Resolution which now stands in my name, at this stage be now postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that. Mr. Speaker, I also reserve the right to speak on it later.

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

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 5 be the next Order of the day.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

The Question that Item No. 5 be the next Order of the Day was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, with regard to this Resolution standing in my name, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that, and in seconding the motion I beg to reserve the right to speak on it later.

The Question that further consideration of Item No. 5 be now postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 6 be the next Order of the day.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS:

Your Honour, although I intend to be very short with this, I would like to urge this Bill for the consideration of the House and to move in due course that it be read a second time, and particularly, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works under whose portfolio it comes, to the Objects and Reasons, and I can do no better than to read the Objects and Reasons. 3.15 p.m.

"The maximum penalties fixed by the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act in 1937 for several of the more serious motoring offences have long been considered to be too slight both in terms of the fall in value of money and in relation to other penalties for motoring offences fixed by later statutes. Concern has been expressed on this point by judicial officers and by members of the legal profession as well as by members of the public. The recent increase in the number of prosecutions at Assizes for manslaughter arising out of motoring incidents has highlighted the problem and made it more urgent. Pending the introduction by the Government of a comprehensive new Road Traffic Act, this Bill seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act 1937 - 16 to increase the penalties for inconsiderate, careless, drunken and dangerous driving."

Sir, although this Bill has only recently appeared on the Order Paper, I think the Clerk can confirm that it was handed in more than one year ago and it was urgent then. The present situation is that the penalty for driving without reasonable consideration to other road users is \$24 and the penalty for dangerous driving is \$48. Many persons were prosecuted for causing the death of others on roads, and this particular offence has been increasing greatly in recent years. Juries are, as they have been in other countries, reluctant to convict persons for manslaughter carrying with it the connotations of a felony, and they therefore very often, nearly always in fact, take the alternative of convicting persons, who kill others on the road, of dangerous driving. Judges of the Supreme Court of Barbados have publicly pointed out that there are a number of convictions for which you can be sent to prison, and you do not send a person to prison in what is not a very serious case of dangerous driving where the jury reduces it to manslaughter, and the only alternative is to fine somebody \$48.

It goes, I believe, against the feelings of most people that a man can drive drunkenly and dangerously and snuff out the life of another human being and pay a penalty of \$48, where if he is convicted of driving at 25 miles an hour down Bay Street, he may pay a penalty of \$24. This is because in 1952 when the Road Traffic Regulations were brought in, penalties of either \$120 or \$240 were fixed for a great number of what are called regulation offences, but: offences which are much more serious carry a maximum penalty of \$48 or imprisonment and people have not been sent to prison.

I well know that, for some time, the Government has had a Road Traffic Act under preparation. I have had a conversation with the Chief Justice and the Attorney General, I think as long ago as two years; the Bill was discussed, and I informed them that I would be introducing it pending the introduction of a comprehensive Bill. For as long ago as when Captain Farmer was Commissioner of Police, I discussed this with him and he said there was a Road Traffic Bill which was then going around. This continues to

be urgent because these cases are coming up at every Assizes, and it is within my knowledge that all of her Majesty's Judges are concerned over the small penalty. I can also tell the House that Magistrates whose duty it is to enforce the traffic law are concerned over the fact that serious examples of careless driving and dangerous driving can only attract \$24 fines where far lesser offences attract much greater penalties.

I am therefore urging upon the Government to substitute, where there is a fine of \$24, a fine of \$500, and where there is a fine of \$48, a fine of \$1, 000, and the penalties for second convictions of £20 and £50 be raised to \$2, 500. I would urge upon the Minister seriously to consider this. This is a matter of twenty years' delay. This should have been done 20 years ago by the Barbados Labour Party Government when the then Minister introduced the Road Traffic Regulations that increased the general penalties for regulation offences. Twenty years is too long to wait any longer. If the Minister can give an assurance that the new Road Traffic Bill will come before the House within three or six months, I would be prepared to withdraw the Bill, but in the absence of some positive assurance that this year of 1974 will see an increase of these penalties and proper scope given to the administration of justice where it relates to traffic offences, I would have to urge the consideration of the House and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. FORDE:

I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I do share quite a lot of the opinions expressed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. There is no doubt in anybody's mind, whether he is a lawyer or not, if he has read the judicial opinions on the sort of nonsensical quantum of the fines, that this law of 1973 needs to a complete revision. I would appeal to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to withdraw this motion because there are two things which the Government has in mind, When I was Attorney General, if you would pardon me saying so because that seems to set off a lot of people, the legal draftsman then drafted a law with a comprehensive appendix dealing with all the Laws of Barbados from the beginning up to 1969 in which the fines not only for road traffic offences but all the laws where there was a fine of ten shillings or one pound were updated, and he had drawn up this law in such a way that just as we did with the other laws where the legal notice was 1967, this was a schedule dealing with all the criminal penalties to bring them in relation to the modern day value of money. Mr. Waterman who was then Parliamentary Counsel did this Bill and the only thing that kept it back was for the various Ministries to recommend what the fines should be. That Bill is still there and I have been enquiring every week what has happened to it. It is still there. Every Law in Barbados with a criminal sanction we intended to bring up to date to make the penalty bear some relation to the value of money in 1974, and it has been lying there and just waiting for somebody to do something about it. From that point of view not only will road traffic laws be involved; I think Members of the House will agree that it is not only the road traffic law that is in need of updating in the criminal sanction from the point of view of money, but nearly every Law in Barbados dating back to the 1600s, and an appendix is there just waiting for somebody to sit down and put in figures, and the Government is very keen on getting that before Parliament in order for them to decide whether the figures as submitted are reasonable. 3.25 p.m.

With regard to the question of a road traffic Bill, as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition says, this Bill has been going around for a long time. I am getting tired of asking what has happened to it, and I am

thinking of sending off an officer from my Department on special leave to present a new Road Traffic Bill. I can say to the Leader of the Opposition that I have tried to impress upon the people in the Ministry, the importance of having a new Road Traffic Bill to bring Barbados in line with what is taking place in the twentieth century. You cannot do everything yourself. The Road Traffic Act is one of those pieces of legislation which I have been trying to place on the Statute Book for some time. I have reached my tether. I have been asking almost every morning: Who has it?

Now, when we get strictures from the Opposition, they are perfectly Justified in asking about the matter. The Leader of the Opposition was correct, but I would ask him to withdraw this matter. I cannot give him my personal undertaking that it will be done in a month or two. The Bill will have to be sent to the traffic section, the Attorney General, and then to the Minister for his perusal. I am not paid as an Attorney General. I am paid as the Minister of Communications and Works. I am not paid as an attorney-at-law, The Attorney General is paid to do his job.

I am sure that inadequate fines will be found not only in the road traffic law, but in the law dealing with bad language and other things in Barbados. It appears that the relationship of money in Barbados in 1974 is far above that which obtained several years ago. There are some criminal offences where the fines do not appear to act as a deterrent. The Government must do something to update the criminal law, if Barbados is to maintain its reputation for respect for law and order which it enjoyed in the past. When you charge a man \$48.00 for dangerous driving, which is a stone's throw from manslaughter, it is a joke. I will use my influence to impress upon the Government that it must introduce a Bill to deal comprehensively with all aspects of fines in criminal law or any law where a criminal fine is laid down. I will also ask that a modern Road Traffic Bill be introduced to deal with conditions in 1974.

Sir, I share the views of the hon. Member not only on the Road Traffic Act, but on all criminal laws. You charge a person \$9.60 for using indecent language, and Barbados is now becoming a filthy place. I feel that the fines laid down in the laws passed in 1664, 1875 and 1910 should be increased to make them a sort of deterrent. I do not think that only the Road Traffic Act needs updating, but that every bit of law passed during the last fifty or sixty years ago should be updated. I trust that the hon. Member will withdraw the matter.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the speech of the Hon. Minister and to the reason he has given regarding the Road Traffic Bill and so on. What he has said in his speech seems to be a good reason why this Resolution should go through. Obviously, from his speech, nothing has been done in the matter. There appears to be no hope of getting this piece of legislation before the House of Assembly, and that is why we on this side have brought this legislation to the House. It is unfortunate that the legislation has to come in this-manner. One may refer to it as piecemeal legislation, but the Government must take the blame for it. If the Government had introduced the Bill, the Opposition would not have had to introduce this type of legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I know that everyone would see the necessity of having a Bill dealing with fines as a whole. As the matter stands at the moment, if you curse in Broad Street the fine is \$9.60; if you curse in a bus the fine is \$50.00, but if you curse down by the Deep Water Harbour the fine is \$200. If you curse in the Bus Stand, the fine is \$9.60 and so on. I believe that one of the reasons for the delay in introducing this bit of legislation is that it will come in the revised laws. This is one of the things that the

people working on the law revision were dealing with. They were dealing with the penalty structure, changing pounds into dollars and do on.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot accept any suggestion for postponement of the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Bill. Those of us who practise at the Bar would know the inadequacy of the present 1937 legislation and the Rules made thereunder. It is totally inadequate to meet the demands of a developed society, and we urge upon the Government to accept this Bill as an interim measure and to hasten to bring the long-promised comprehensive Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Bill. I know for a fact that the Bill has been drafted as long as five or six years ago as well as the Regulations made under it. I have had a copy of the draft Bill in my possession. When I was the Secretary to the Bar Association many years ago, the Bill was sent to us. Cannot we get the Bill from the Ministry of Communications and Works, or the Ministry of Legal Affairs? I think the Bill was drafted in 1963 even before the Minister of Works and Communications came back here as Attorney General. 3.35 p.m.

The Minister must take some blame during the time from 1966-71 when he was Attorney "General for not having the appropriate legislation then introduced into Parliament. He tells us today that he is not being paid as an attorney-at-law. That may be today, when he is Minister of Communications and Works, but certainly during the time when he was responsible, when he was the Chief Law Officer of the Government, when he was responsible for the drafting of Bills, when he was the political head of the legal department, he certainly must accept full responsibility for the Government's failure to introduce that legislation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. The hon. Member said that he has a copy of the draft which means that the Attorney General drafted it. The Attorney General in drafting these Bills has to consult the Police and other agencies. He must know that the first draft came from the Attorney General. He cannot blame me if I drafted it and circulated it and got no replies.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is now saying that he drafted it and got no replies. He cannot abdicate his responsibility by saying that he did not get any reply from various organisations. If the organisations were so careless as not to send a reply or did not take notice of the Minister, that is a different matter; but the Government and the Minister cannot abdicate their responsibilities to the country as a whole by saying that certain organisations did not reply and we could not get ahead with this Bill.

This is not satisfactory. If the organisations did not reply, it was then even more incumbent on the Government in those circumstances to have the legislation introduced into Parliament. From 1966-71 he was Chief Law Officer of the Government. He must accept full responsibility. His sole duty was to get it before Parliament in the five years in which he was Attorney General. It has not come before Parliament.

Far too often when you complain about these things, the Government says that they are not to blame, it is the Civil Servants. These are strictures that we made earlier. What I can gather from the Minister is that he is blaming the Civil Servants; but this is not a matter of administration. This is a matter of policy and therefore he has a say in it, and it is for him to tell the House. He cannot in these circumstances lay the blame on the Civil Service. This is a matter of policy and he should be more effective, and for this

reason we are going ahead with this Bill. What he can do is to let us go ahead with this Bill and bring in his Bill and repeal this. If you reject this Bill, it cannot be introduced again in this session.

The Government must realise that people on the road must be protected properly. They must decide whether the remarks of the judges are respected, or whether because this Bill was introduced by the Opposition they are prepared to vote against it.

I beg to second the motion for the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister is going to vote against it because it is typical of his performance in Parliament and in his own political life, so therefore one cannot expect anything different. You must understand that the people on this side have got enough brains and intelligence to diagnose his shortcomings. We are not accommodating him any longer, and we are going to pursue our political rights on this side.

All that he has to do is to vote against it and he cannot introduce a Bill in a similar vein in this session; and it gives the lie to what he has been saying all day. He has gone down on record as saying that he did not want anyone to assist him in drafting the laws of this country even when he was Attorney General.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I have never said that, and the hon. Member for St. Michael West could not agree with that either.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Avoid personal remarks.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am dealing with an attitude. The Minister got up and asked to withdraw the Bill because he is bringing down a ' . Bill. This is not the first time that he has done this sort of thing. When the Legal Aid Bill came in, not before this Assembly but in the Other Place, there was the same attitude. We will do what we like, when we feel like. The Minister talks about a new Road Traffic Bill. The Road Traffic Act itself needs serious attention.

As you yourself know, Sir, as a practising barrister, we are still in this day and age charging people for manslaughter arising out of driving. Other countries have seen fit to change that. Ask how many people have been convicted for manslaughter arising out of driving.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the Road Traffic Act of this country out-dated, but the Government is doing nothing to up-date the laws of this country; and it is but right that we in the Opposition have to see that things which are falling into the depths are recovered, bearing in mind our political responsibilities, by introducing into Parliament such legislation as we see fit.

Only at the last Sitting of this Assembly when the Minors Bill came down here, he tried to retard it by.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I did not seek to amend the Bill to change the age from 18 to 21. (ASIDE You said you were going to do it.) I did not.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member has made his point.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The Hon. Minister said that he would seek to change what was written from 18 to 21 and the Prime Minister told him to sit down.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Member is misrepresenting what happened in Parliament. At no time did the Prime Minister tell me to sit down. He is a stranger to the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. Member withdraw those remarks.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I withdraw them but he is guilty of a terminological inexactitude.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We are here to discuss this Bill and not to make personal remarks. The last words were not unparliamentary.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order. I want to say for the sake of the record that at no time did the Prime Minister tell the Hon. Minister to leave the age at 18. The Minister told us that although he had considered raising it to 21, he said to leave it at 18.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, that has justified what I have said because I got up and commented on the Second Reading asking how could he raise the age to 21 when every developing country is seeking to reduce it to 18.

The Minister came in Parliament and said that the new revised laws would be ready since September, 1973. I came into Parliament in December, 1970 and I heard there was then a new Road Traffic Bill to come out. He was Attorney General for five long years and he is always saying that he sits in Parliament with the Prime Minister. He sits in Parliament and speaks about being an attorney-at-law and he is so incorrect in his own speech; he tells you now that he is not responsible for the Bill, and let the Attorney General do as he likes. Then he says that he is going to send a member of his staff overseas for a whole year and then let him come back with a Bill.

All I am going to say is, let the Government vote against it. The public will see that the Government is

intent on keeping legislation where it is until they feel like dealing with it. This is a problem that this country is labouring under and when the Opposition makes a point to remove any problem that exists, the public does not know what is being done by us to improve things, because of poor reporting Members of the public should come into Parliament and see what the Government is doing, just keeping back legislation, while the country is sliding further and further back into the sea because of old antiquated methods. While the country suffers, no progress is made with the legislation. Not only the Road Traffic Act is antiquated but a lot of laws need revising. The Minister admits that he does not know where the draft of the Road Traffic Bill is. How then can he give us the undertaking that a new Road Traffic Bill will come into operation, if he cannot find it. He says he will send a member of his staff off for a whole year and then let him come back with a Bill. What point is there in that? He still will have to wait for replies, and we are to wait for another ten years and then they will get up and say that the Opposition does not do its homework, and he will go on the radio and say 'we have brought this and brought that', and the Opposition will know nothing about it. However, the public will see that you are the Government and that you are trying to keep back legislation. Imagine, you were the Attorney General and when you were the Attorney General you said that.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

All right. That is an unnecessary remark. There is no point referring to the Attorney General. The Road Traffic Bill is what we are dealing with.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Very well, Mr. Speaker. We are going to vote for it, but at the same time we say that the whole lot of laws in Barbados needs amending. We cannot take the Government's word any longer. All the Government should do is to vote against it and I hope that when they bring in legislation we will vote against it too, and the public will see what is the position. I will lend my support, and we will vote for it today.

Mr. ADAMS:

My answer is this, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member has accepted the principle of the Bill and we must therefore continue to bring this to a conclusion. I therefore beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, we all agree with the principle of the Bill. All this noise was unnecessary.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will now put the question that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to the hon. Member for having taken over the function of the Opposition, but I think that what he has done was for us to do. I beg to second the motion that it be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is automatic that it goes to the Select Committee.

Mr. ADAMS:

Coupled with that motion, Mr. Speaker, I propose that the Minister of Communications and Works who is obviously concerned with this Bill — I beg to move that the hon. Member for St. Joseph, the hon. Member for the City of Bridgetown and for St. Thomas be Members of a Select Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that the hon. Minister of Communications and Works, the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works the hon. member for St. Philip South, the Minister of Health and His Honour the Deputy Speaker be members of this Select Committee

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.55 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION RE STATUS OF WOMEN

Mr. ADAMS:

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before the debate is commenced, I should like to draw to the attention of Your Honour that on the last occasion when this matter was being discussed, the hon. Member for St. Michael West

was speaking. I should like to reserve his right to continue his speech in case the debate does not end today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We will follow the practice as in the past of allowing a Member to complete his speech in a subsequent sitting if he is in his seat, but the hon. Member is not in his seat, and it would seem that he would have lost his right to speak on a subsequent occasion. The hon. Member for St. Michael. West not being in his seat, any other hon. Member who wishes to speak may now proceed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I can find nowhere in the Standing Orders that a Member who is away on Government Business or the business of his organisation loses his right. I would like to know from you if you would be so kind as to enlighten me what Standing Order says that if for one reason, either illness or for some reasonable excuse you have got to be absent from the House, you lose your right to continue a speech.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, it may very well be that if an hon. Member has leave of absence that the privilege and practice of Parliament allow the hon. Member to reserve his right to reply, but there are numerous things in the Standing Orders. I can find nothing in the Standing Orders that allows a Minister wearing a red tie to address the House, but it does not mean that he cannot do it. Standing Orders are several and we follow our practice. I am very sorry the hon. Member has not got leave of absence of the House. If it were the hon. Member for St. Lucy, it would be a different matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will try to ascertain whether the hon. Member has leave of absence. I do not recollect that he has. Mr. Clerk, please ascertain whether the hon. Member does have leave of absence. If my recollection serves me right, the Hon. Minister of Education and the hon. Member for St. Lucy have got leave of absence. The hon. Member for St. Michael West has no leave of absence.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, can I draw to the attention of the House just in case the hon. Member has not got leave of absence that any Member who is unable to attend the Meeting of the House shall acquaint the House as early as possible of the inability to attend. This is Standing Order No. 72(1) and it replaces the old Standing Order saying that you must be present. The hon. Member for St. Michael West did not want to speak, otherwise he would have sent an excuse.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member for St. Michael West not being in his seat, the right to speak passed to someone else. Is there any other hon. Member who wishes to speak on this matter?

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, if no other hon. Member wishes to speak, I would like to exercise the Right of Reply on this motion which stands in my name.

Mr. Speaker, when I brought this motion before this Honourable House, I did so with all the

seriousness that any motion before a sovereign Parliament of a developing country should be moved, and I did so with double seriousness because in my view it concerns the fundamental right of a section of this community which is larger than the male section of the community, and indeed I so doubly conscious of the need and indeed of the desire of most people in this country to see that women are not discriminated against either intentionally or unintentionally.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the various points of view which were expressed in this debate, and I shall summarise them very briefly for the House's benefit. The hon. Member for St. Michael North Central — the gist of her speech was that this is a motion which should be moved by women or by a woman because it concerns women, and I think she complained, may be justifiably, of the slight which she has received from one or two of the national organisations. Although these are interesting reasons, they do not, I submit respectfully to this House, justify the rejection of the motion which was before the House. The hon. Member for St. Michael South, the Hon. Minister of Education said that the reason why the Government could not vote in favour of the motion was because the motion was a political one and had political overtones. If this was a sufficient reason at all to advance, I suggest that it is specious to say the least, because most motions in this House do have political overtones and politics after all is about the fundamental rights of people, about how we organise them so that they can exercise their Godgiven talents to the best of their abilities, and certainly I am surprised at the Government that it should indicate an intention to vote against this motion simply because it has not come from the Government Benches. The third reason advanced was by the hon. Member for St. Michael West who said that a Commission of Enquiry is appointed when there is some grave problem concerning a particular segment of the life of the country. Again, in my submission this is by itself no reason for rejecting this motion, but I submit that the position concerning women in Barbados is very grave, and if the hon. Member for St. Michael West had listened to my speech he would have found in that speech the areas in which women in this country are discriminated against and still are being discriminated against today.

I would like to draw to the attention of the Honourable House that as conservative a Government, as the present British Government has seen fit only recently to set up not only an enquiry into the status of women in the United Kingdom and to publish in a White Paper their own recommendations for removing the discrimination existing against women, but has given it such top priority in their programmes that they have now introduced legislation to remove the inequalities and have also taken positive steps to make sure that these inequalities do not exist. 4.05 p.m.

With your leave, Mr. Speaker, I should like to debate part of the reasons advanced by the Home Secretary in the United Kingdom as the reason why I think it is urgent that we should appoint a Commission to look at the inequalities confronting women. One of the principal reasons is to widen the range of opportunities open to women. The second one is to remove unfair discrimination against women, especially in the public sector where some men still look askance at women climbing up the ladder. Nowhere can we find women going beyond a Secretary in the Administrative section. (Asides) There are a few in the professional class.

Mr. Speaker, I have drawn to the attention of this House the statistics which show in the work force in Barbados that although women have performed better in the educational field than men, yet they are still dominated by men in the clerical field and in the administrative and executive sectors. They are being discriminated against. If the Government is not aware of these factors, then the Government should set up a Commission to ferret out the facts and make recommendations to correct this wrong. The third

reason is to introduce legislation to put women on equal terms with men. (Asides) There is too much waste in this country of woman power which should be used properly for the benefit of the country. One of the things we have to recognise is that we should not have the mentality which makes a woman believe that her role is to remain in the house and play second fiddle to a man.

Mr. Speaker, the speeches made from the Government benches characterise the position which the Government has adopted in this matter. Next year the United Nations will be celebrating the International Women's Year, but I do not know if hon. Members are aware of that. We are asking the Government to have some respect for the progressive role which women have to play. (Asides) I do not understand why this Government is scared of taking positive measures in this matter, but I know that progressive countries have studied the problems and have introduced specific legislation to remove any inequalities which exist.

Mr. Speaker, let me list the countries. The United Nations has set up a Commission to study the status of women and to submit a report. Countries like Spain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and so on, have made inquiries in order to get basic facts and then take positive action on them.

I say that in Barbados our legislation in many aspects discriminate unfairly against women in this country. If the Members of the Government do not bring down positive measures to put things right, then it shows that they are either tardy to do anything about the matter, or they could not care less. As far as I am concerned, it does not matter whether or not this Resolution stands in my name. I was prepared to allow the Resolution to stand in the name of any hon. Member on the other side if they so wanted, but I am afraid that the Government has adopted a short-term political attitude on this matter without looking at the long-term interest of the country as a whole. I have seen no measures that the Government has introduced in recent times, or even in the past, to rectify the position. (Asides)

Mr. Speaker, I have heard sotto voce that the Government is bringing down a Bill. I make bold to say, furthermore, that they have not even got the foresight of the United States Senate to legislate within the Constitution of Barbados to give women equal rights. (Asides) The Government must realise that it is behind hand. We must think of women in the twentieth century. I cannot categorise this Government as a Government which looks after the rights of women properly. I should like to see any Member on that side from now on, getting up in this House as a defender of women's rights. They do not on this particular measure appear to have any special love for the womenfolk in this country. (Asides)

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it quite clear that I am not talking about any special chamber skills that may be performed by attorneys, non-attorneys, or anyone else. I am talking about basic fundamental rights. If the Members of the Government are serious about this matter, then I call on them to debate the Resolution. It is not too late for them to change their attitudes on this matter. This is a Resolution which will show that only about six per cent of the women hold executive posts in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we are not appointing women on Statutory Boards. We have not been appointing women in trained fields, and they have been lost to this country. We are discriminating against them. Only a few weeks ago I drew to the attention of this Honourable House a case where we were discriminating against women in the Severance Payments Bill. The hon. Member for St. Michael said that it was not a big matter, but it is a fact that the provisions of that Bill discriminated against women. I am not going to say

that the Government did it deliberately, but it was carelessly done without any proper thought of the situation.

As I said in opening the debate on this motion, those of us who went to the Constitutional Conference in London did not pay sufficient regard to the rights of women. It will be noted that Trinidad and Jamaica have recently changed their attitude and are now allowing women to bring in their husbands even although they are non-nationals. What about our country? (Asides) The Minister for Information and Tourism says that in Bridgetown it is not so. I can tell him that the United Kingdom has also changed its policy on this matter. I am appealing to the Government to stop making husbands, who are not natives of Barbados, feel that they are not part and parcel of the family structure that they happen to be. It is unfair, and the Government should not persist in taking a short-term political view of this matter.

Now, the recent Commission on the Constitution in Trinidad has recommended that children should be able to take the nationalities of their mothers. (Asides) I appeal to the Government to do something about this matter. 4.15 p.m.

I appeal to the Government to do something about that. The Government is either not aware of the areas in which these disabilities exist or it could not care less whether it takes steps to correct these disabilities. It is a great tragedy.

I would like to be able to comment on any substance in the speeches on the Other Side which would justify the rejection of this legislation, but there are none. I am totally dedicated to the removal of all inequalities regardless of whether they are based on colour, race or creed and particularly on the ground of sex. Even if this legislation is rejected, we on this side of the House will keep hammering at the Government by all parliamentary means available to us, to make sure that before this Session is finished, at least we have some completed measures.

I want to comment on one of the reasons for rejection very briefly. They say that Women's Organisations are not interested in their own rights. It is symptomatic of the Barbadian community that their protests are done in their hearts and in their homes and not by demonstrations. This may be a good thing to some extent because we are not in a similar position as in other countries where, like Mrs. Pat Nurse these feelings are expressed in a manner threatening the very existence of civil order.

I want the Government to recognise that although our women may not go in for civil disobedience each of them happens to be very conscious of what is happening to them today because of the impact of the international news media. With the impact of communications and with the impact of education, women are conscious of the narrow and parochial attitude being taken by the Government towards this measure.

You can vote against this motion as much as you like, but it has gone down in the history of this country that when the Government was being offered an opportunity to get with it in the 20th century, they look back to see if someone else was going to get political plums and therefore decided that they would not vote for it. I regret that such lovers of women I put that in parenthesis because parliamentary language compels me to leave it in such limited confines — can take this attitude.

I would like to hear not only chat but see action and positive measures. Not merely by promises but performance because our women have fulfilled, in many respects, and will continue to fulfil their duties to us, and it is a pity that we men in this House today are found wanting in returning to them some of the blessings they have given to us.

Mr. Speaker I have known that you have the side of women at heart, and I am sure that if your role was to vote otherwise than as you can vote here according to the rules, you would exercise your conscience as a Member of Parliament; and I am appealing to the other Members to do likewise. I am sorry that the only lady Member of this Chamber is not in her seat because I would have expected her to demonstrate her womanhood on this occasion.

I promise this House that if the House rejects this motion as it rejected the Bill sponsored by the Leader of the Opposition, it is putting the clock back for women. I am appealing to the Government to give further consideration to the matter and vote in favour of this Resolution.

There are too many areas in which women are suffering still, and the Government should not delay the proper implementation to measure to put right the wrongs we at present in this society do against women.

The Question was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

NOES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, Hon. F. G. SMITH and Mr. W. R. LOWE. (7)

AYES:

Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, and Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS. (4)

**RESOLUTION RE THE APPOINTMENT OF A
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
BROADCAST OF DEBATES**

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 8 which stands in the name of the hon. and learned Member for the City of Bridgetown is the next Order of the Day. It is a Resolution that the House appoint an all party Committee to make recommendations on the broadcast of Debates in the House of Assembly and Party Political Broadcasts in general.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion, on the 15th January, I commenced my speech on this Resolution and I think the time for Private Members' Business expired before I concluded. I just want now to move formally that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, I do so again conscious of the need in Barbados to try to uphold the constitution of our country wherever possible and to extend all

facilities for the expression of public opinion.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados has been characterised as a democracy, as a society in which people are free to express their views; and perhaps if one looks at the situation rather fleetingly that may seem to be correct. 4.25 p.m.

As a person who has been interested in freedom of expression in this country, I have been very concerned over the years in looking at the subtle pressure which prevents freedom of expression from permeating this society. Anyone who is conscious of the operations of the media in Barbados cannot honestly conclude that we have an open society in relation to the communication of ideas. The only time that the country is treated to debates on political matters over the radio station is at the time of the General Elections when limited time or facilities are afforded to the political contesting parties. Other than that one is allowed as a member of the public rather little opportunity or privilege to hear a reporter's summary on debates in Parliament. On this side of the account, the Government dominates the news media — I am talking of the broadcasting media — to explain what the Government believes or what is Government policy, and to answer criticisms levelled at the Government, but when it comes to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation — and by virtue of the licence granted to Rediffusion Limited — it prevents the other party in this country from being able to disagree with the Government by using the broadcasting media in the country.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have lived abroad and studied abroad and those of us who, in this country, have had the opportunity to read and to be exposed to other areas, regret that the Government does not see it fit to allow the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to adopt a much more liberal policy in regard to its attitude in this country. Some time ago I gave a talk on the radio on the status of women and this led to Ministerial objection, and since then I understand that it is very unlikely that a Member of the Opposition would be able to talk on CBC on this subject. It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that no Member of the Opposition has been ever invited to give a talk on CBC on the need for proper production in the agricultural sector or on the setting up of the Central Bank of Barbados.

There is a tremendous fear to engage the Opposition in any form of debate and there is a tremendous fear on the news media to allow any Member who belongs to the Opposition party to participate in any discussion on any matter of public importance. One of the results of this attitude of the Government towards its political colleagues has been that people who work with the media feel that they themselves must in turn belong to the political party in power otherwise they cannot maintain a job with the broadcasting media. This is unfortunate. Very frequently many of them will say to you in public that although they agree with the views you express, they must be careful because they will be victimized. Mr. Speaker, if this fear exists, then it should be removed; and I am surprised that the Democratic Labour Party which prior to being the Government of this country sought the same privilege as we are now seeking has now adopted a retrograde step in this matter. I have heard the hon. Member for St. Andrew say that as long as the Democratic Labour Party remains as the Government of Barbados that they will not be allowing any Member of the Opposition to use the radio or television time at all, and his reason was one that is very regrettable. He is saying that when they were in Opposition the Democratic Labour Party did not have the right to talk on the radio. If this is the sort of reason which politicians will continue to advance, then I regret very much that this country will not make any progress because if something is right in itself and was being advocated prior to 1961, then its righteousness and correctness should not change simply because the Government has ceased being the former Opposition.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if my party as the Opposition ever became the Government, based on the argument of the hon. Member for St. Andrew, if we should ever adopt a similar stand towards any Member of the then Opposition which is the present Government, to using the news media, this would be wrong; this is wrong for a society and it cannot be justified in any country — it cannot be justified in any of the countries of the Caribbean in the twentieth century.

I may refer also to the fact that, in Trinidad and Tobago, it has been recently recommended that there is the necessity to liberalise the time allotted to political parties in the country to talk on public affairs. It is not only as between the political parties that we find a stone wall but it is the attitude that is adopted by politicians in general to any criticisms of themselves, and the stand which they take and which they adopt is against Members of the public who may be criticising them. 4.35 p.m.

I have over the past few years in this country, indeed I have since 1959 when I returned to Barbados, looked and looked in the hope that Barbados would progress to the stage where, it can permit some sort of liberal policy on the debate of public matters. This is not the case. In my view this country is much the poorer for adopting that attitude towards freedom of expression, and the Article in our Constitution which deals with freedom of expression will remain only a written word without substance if the Government does not see fit to issue a policy directive to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in particular to change its attitude towards allowing people to debate freely Government policy.

It is regrettable that political affairs in Barbados have got to the stage where there is sometimes this great polarisation between the parties. I have seen again, if I may use the United Kingdom as an example, the Members of the Labour Party in the United Kingdom criticise very strongly, sometimes very vehemently. Members on the other side both on the news media, in the press and in Parliament, but that has never prevented them from being able to consort together as colleagues and as friends. Mr. Speaker part of the victimisation of the public life of the country is even to the stage where sometimes one is scared to speak to his colleague on the other side for fear that the hierarchy of the party on the other side may believe you are betraying the stand of the party, and this attitude of public life goes right down until our very supporters sometimes believe that politics in Barbados is about how to destroy the other man, how to prevent him from having a say on matters that must necessarily concern him as a public citizen. I think that all of us as politicians, all of us who are concerned about freedom of expression must move against the cancer in the society, and it is for the Government to set the lead. The Government can dictate the terms in which Rediffusion Limited is operated, and it must put as a term and condition of the contract that it should comply with the conditions of freedom of expression.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I have said to my colleagues on this side that the time has come when more citizens will have to band together to purchase time from Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and Rediffusion and have them refuse us the right to talk on public affairs and to challenge it in the courts of law to see whether the Constitution will stand the test of time. Those of us who have read Milton's *Areopagitica* are ashamed that today the West Indian territories seem not to recognise that freedom of expression is one of the most, if not the most, important right because if you silence people, Mr. Speaker, sooner or later they become guerrillas, sooner or later they find a method to overthrow Governments unconstitutionally, because you are stifling their ideas and you are denying the public at large the opportunity to judge whether their ideas are correct or not.

Mr. Speaker, I am again conscious that the Government sees its future bound up with the necessity to maintain a monopoly of the television services in particular in this country. I have heard one hon. Member on the Government Bench say that as long as the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation exists, it will remain in power, and it can only do so, it believes, by dominating that little box that exists in the homes of most of us in this country. That is a very narrow attitude to take. It is a wrong attitude and it is an unfortunate attitude, and I wish that if the Government thinks seriously about that matters that it would take positive steps to liberalise the policy on broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, I make no apologies for the fact that I am one of those who demonstrated strongly against the monopoly of one newspaper in this country, particularly the Thomson Organisation. I believe that in the realm of the media, competition is a good thing. I believe further that journalists should be treated as professionals and should be allowed to exercise their chosen profession without pressures being put on them either directly or indirectly. We are all of us in this society conscious of the fact that there are few people in Barbados who can speak their minds openly simply because many people depend either on the Government for their livelihood or some aspect of private enterprise, and we should not therefore as a head of the civil side or political side of this country allow that attitude to continue. Sometimes journalists are afraid to speak their minds not so much because of the libel laws, but because they may lose their jobs. Prime Ministers in the West Indies have been known to interfere with foreign management of the media in order to sack journalists who have criticised the Government in power. Unfortunately when people move from Opposition into Government, they, seem to carry this attitude with them I serve notice now, that if ever we become the Government of this country, I am sure my colleagues would not even dare interfere with the freedom of the press or freedom of expression in Barbados. Indeed the seriousness of our intent is shown by this Resolution, but Prime Ministers have been known to interfere with the State controlled radio to demand that the time being given to anybody other than political supporters should be nil, and that to me cannot characterise a progressive democratic country.

I do not want, Mr. Speaker, to be personal, - I try not to be in these debates - but I can list at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation many instances of direct interference by Ministers in the day to day administration of that Corporation to prevent freedom of expression from existing. I am surprised at times at the manner in which some of the reports are slanted and I am appalled at the fact that people who compose the Board will continue to believe that they cannot exercise their discretion on broader lines or resign from the Board in the interest of freedom of expression in Barbados. I am appealing strongly to the Government not to always believe that political expediency is the correct measure by which to advance. If you believe in advancement, it can only be judged in the last resort on how deep it is and indeed, its true worth and substance should not merely be on the basis of expediency.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Private Members' Time has now expired. The hon. Member who has just spoken will have another twelve minutes on a subsequent occasion if he chooses to exercise his right.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

When the Sitting was suspended for the luncheon break, the House was dealing with a Bill to

establish the Caribbean Investment Corporation, and the Leader of the Opposition was then addressing the Chair. 4.45 p.m.

THE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT CORPORATION BILL, 1974

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, when the suspension for luncheon took place, I was about to address the House on this Bill and to state that none of the industrial developing countries will benefit from it. One is inclined to ask what benefits they will ever get from the Caribbean Investment Corporation when the capital is only to be \$15 million to provide industrial and agro-based industries for everybody.

Sir, \$15 million is no more than some of the big companies in Trinidad and Jamaica are prepared to put up as investments to provide jobs for a few hundred people in those territories. There are companies in Barbados with considerably much more capital than \$15 million. It must be remembered that this sum is intended for the development of several of these West Indian Islands. I have told hon. Members all along that Barbados must have agro-based industries, We could use that sum of money in St. Andrew alone. The hon. Member for St. Andrew on one occasion produced estimates in this House and indicated that \$13 million would be needed to rehabilitate St. Andrew, and to create agro-based industries and agricultural diversification. How then is it going to be possible to develop the entire Eastern Caribbean with \$15 million.

Now, in most of these agro-based industries, it should be possible to use the waste or by-products of sugar to provide something useful. I had the opportunity last year of going to a Corporation on the banks of the Mississippi River above New Orleans where three-fourths of the ceiling boards used in buildings throughout the United States are made from the residue of the sugar cane. The Cellotex Corporation now owns a large number of factories. I spent an afternoon with the Plant Manager. I asked him how much it would cost to put up a Plant in Barbados, and he told me that it would cost in the vicinity of \$12 million (U.S.) in order to justify the investment. That would be \$24 million of our money under present conditions. (Asides.) I suppose his Corporation would be willing to deal with such a contract in the West Indies, as it would appear that Cellotex took the necessary action to obtain its own supplies from Jamaica.

I believe that the oil crisis was known to certain people for a long time. I was amused one day at a gasoline station when a gentleman, who makes plastic bags on the Industrial Estates, was trying to explain to a gasoline attendant that he makes the bags from gasoline. I believe that the time is now ripe for the whole range of synthetic manufactured goods to be based upon something other than oil. I believe that the time is ripe for all those who produce sugar to think in terms of going far beyond merely using the finished material to make a few things. How are we ever going to do all of these things with only \$15 million I think it is time to set up a laboratory to investigate the use of Sugar to make things now made from oil, but it would cost more than \$15 million to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand how Ministers from nine Islands could get in Trinidad and allow the Corporation to waste their time when they talked in terms of \$15 million of which only \$5 million will be subscribed initially. If that is the sum total of what has come out of the discussion between the Caribbean Heads of Governments, then they have wasted their time. I cannot find anything in the

Schedule to this Act, or in any of the documents, or in the speech of the hon. Member who introduced it, to show that we will be getting great benefits from this venture. This is all the more reason to believe that it is mere tokenism. This Bill was merely introduced to help a few West Indian businessmen to hide behind tariff walls. (Asides.) I had expected to see an imaginative document setting out certain plans for the region.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. William Demas and other gentlemen who have worked at the University of the West Indies have issued warnings to the Government of Barbados in relation to the unwise steps which it has taken in many directions. I would really like to hear some answer given to the constant strictures of the Opposition in relation to the Caribbean Common Market and its effect on the cost of living in Barbados. (Asides.) A few things have been dangled before the public to make people believe that the Caribbean Development Corporation is doing something for the West Indies.

I can now quite understand why the Government does not want the proceedings of Parliament to be broadcast. I can quite understand why C.B.C. has withdrawn its offer, or application, to broadcast the deliberations in Parliament. It is because the Government, with the assistance of the news media, is blanketing and concealing from the public what the Members of the Opposition say in here every week. It does not want the public to hear our policy and the ideas which emanate from us. The Government cannot take the risk to allow the people to hear certain things. The Government wants to lead the blind from nowhere to nowhere. 4.55 p.m.

When the hon. Member for Bridgetown speaks, he will indicate some of the ideas which the Barbados Labour Party has for Caribbean development as a whole. He will put forward ideas and show the public and the Members of this House that we sit down and think about things and that when we say something, it is in the Nation's interest.

When the present Government got into power, it was not only a great disservice to the community of this country but to the Democratic Labour Party itself. All that they have is the Member for St. Michael South Central who is....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Member cannot refer to me like that, saying all they have is what

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the Member speaking on?

Mr. ADAMS:

All that they have is the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central, who is being undermined and tormented by his colleagues. I am sure that the hon. Member does not wish me to defend him. (Hon. F. G. SMITH Neither in life nor death)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order.

Mr. ADAMS:

I hope that when the Leader of the House gets up to speak he will be able to tell us something about

the different matters that I have dealt with. That is all I can say at the present. As far as the Caribbean Common Market is concerned, I do not see any increase in Barbados' exports. I do not see any flourishing state of manufacturing in Barbados. All that I can see is an increased cost of living, and I believe that there may be more to it than that.

I believe that the Caribbean Investment Corporation cannot succeed as far as Barbados is concerned, if Barbados considers itself as great and mighty and having no need for assistance in industrial expansion. There is the question of the territories with mineral resources which the other territories of the Commonwealth Caribbean do not have. All these are questions which I expect the Leader of the House to deal with when he gets up to reply to the speeches made by Members on this side.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, the opportunities which have been given in this House to debate the aspects of the Caribbean Common Market have been rather spasmodic, and have not been characterised by a sense of urgency.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

I believe that very early in the Legislative Session when the Common External Tariff was introduced by means of an amendment to the Customs Act, on that occasion the Opposition was only given a chance to see the substantive proposals. The Bill was taken through all of its stages at one Meeting.

We believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the implementation of the Caribbean Common Market Agreement is a fundamental matter so far as the future of Barbados and our regional partners are concerned. We do not have to remind you that one of the distinguishing marks between the Barbados Labour Party and the Government lies in the field of our relationships with our West Indian neighbours.

The Barbados Labour Party strongly supports a rapid and complete integration of the Caribbean, not only their economies, but also their political and social structures at all levels. I think that those people who are looking for the policies of the Opposition where they differ from the Government's should take a look in this field.

It is not only from an idealistic point of view that we are dedicated very firmly to West Indian integration and unity; it is the realisation on our part that the upliftment of the West Indian people as a whole can only come with the integration of the political, economic and social structures of the West Indies as a whole. That is a step that we must take and it must be a bold step.

I have said before, and I will repeat it, that statemanship calls for courage and for bold action, although I agree that it also calls for a recognition of the realities of the situation. I believe that at present some political leaders are misreading the realities. We would welcome on this side any step, even a tentative step, on the part of the Caribbean which would lead towards integration.

We are, sir, however, mindful of the fact as the Leader of the Opposition has said, that wherever the interest of Barbados is concerned we should be taking that step in such a way that we would be more able to contribute to the betterment of the other territories of the Caribbean without affecting our own interest. From our side, this Caribbean Investment Corporation is really only a sop to the Eastern

Caribbean. It is only mainly a measure to make them believe that we are concerned with the other territories of the Commonwealth Caribbean for their benefit. It was the price which Barbados, Trinidad, Guyana and Jamaica would pay in order to give an advantage to the manufacturing sectors in these territories.

I believe that the leaders of the so call "Big Four" have been very parsimonious in their attitude to Caribbean integration, and I believe that it is not in the overall interest of the Caribbean for us to continue the attitude manifested on this occasion. This Bill, I would say, shows an approach of the political leaders with which I most firmly disagree. 5.05 p.m.

Before I levy these criticisms, I would like to commend one or two aspects of the Bill. In the Annex to the Agreement you will notice that membership of the Corporation is open to residents of States to become members of the Corporation. This is in Article 2. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Article is testimony of the interest shown by the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce and Industry because it was they who took the initiative in recommending that there should be some means whereby the business sector can help the other Caribbean countries, and they are given a role to play under this particular Annex, or Agreement. It underlines one fact, that regardless of however socialistic members may say they are at election time, that all the Governments of the Caribbean recognise that private enterprise has a role to play in the community; and there is the role which private enterprise has to play.

I think that I would not like the opportunity to slip without saying that we expect all the businessmen who are benefiting more than any other sector of the West Indies, to give back to their less fortunate brethren some of the sweets they are getting. They are being protected, and if they are being protected, they must share some of the sweets of that protection with their brethren who are the consuming public of that West Indies.

I should like to mention that I am disappointed with the manufacturing sector of Barbados, and I am particularly concerned about the narrow attitude they adopt towards our people. There are very few manufacturing organizations that are yet working around the clock and employing the excess labour which we have in this community, and I appeal to the manufacturing sector to get up and get with it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the manufacturing sector of Barbados has not been showing any enterprise which would help to bring progress to this country, and I think we should seek to urge the manufacturing sector into performing much better than they have done.

I would like to move on the limited principle of this \$50 million EC. Perhaps to a person who is not well off, that may sound like money, but there are many local companies whose equity capital exceeds the capital of this country, and it seems to me that this is an aspect of the parsimonious approach adopted by Jamaica in particular, and by Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados.

The statistics of our country show that in the nineteenth century Barbados had a higher percentage of trade, and I hope that our political masters, because of the experience of the federation today, would not allow this to blind them to the role which Barbados has to play in relation to the Eastern Caribbean as a whole. But I think we have made a mistake in having such a limited subscription, and our approach in this matter should be much more progressive and much more based on the future of the regional institution than our Government has shown in this matter. My view is, that we must create something that is progressive so that we leave a better legacy for those who come after us. This Treaty is not

satisfactory to people who are dedicated to West Indianism, and although there is a provision in this Treaty in Article 32 which states among other things that "to the extent necessary to carry out its purpose and functions effectively and subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the Corporation shall be free to transfer its assets from one country to another or within any country and to convert any currency held by it into any other currency, without being restricted by financial controls, regulations, or moratoria of any kind, " yet, although this is being allowed in this respect, there seems to be in the Treaty no provision for corresponding freedom of movement nor of skills, as there should be if this Corporation is to make any impact.

Again, our political masters are afraid of the bogey-man of freedom of movement. Although I am aware of certain provisions that are made in the CARICOM Treaty in regard to freedom of movement, it seems to me that we are only paying lip service to the general principle rather than giving any teeth to the operation of this principle at all, and I regret very much that in this document, there is no provision for the right of skilled labour to move freely within the CARICOM area. 5.15 p.m.

In this document, there is no recognition of the right of skilled labour to move freely within the Caricom area. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there could not be any greater divisions than there have been within Europe, and yet today we see in Europe that the Frenchman can move into Germany or the German into France to go to a job, whereas within the West Indies where we have a common pattern of development and a common history we seem to be scared to allow our brothers in the other Islands to have equal freedom to move around to move about the area for the development as a whole. This I think is unfortunate.

Again, I repeat that on this point, the Labour Party cannot agree with the Government. We find that the Government seems to be looking for a big role in the matter without having big ideas, as the Leader of the Opposition said, and how to achieve that role But I want to make another fundamental criticism of the Investment Corporation that is being brought to this House, and the Government should have been putting this' type of case to their colleagues when they met in the negotiations, and that is, that I do not believe that despite the socialist philosophy we hear from the Government from time to time that they are really deeply conscious of how to achieve a proper state in which people participate and to control the commanding heights of the economy. I would have expected that in the 20th Century West Indies, the Caribbean man would have been looking forward to using all the media at his control to control the multi-national corporations who are dominating from outside, and who in turn dominate the economies of the area. I would have expected that the Barbados Government in particular would have seen this as an opportunity to enable it to go hand in hand with other West Indian territories to control big conglomerates like Cable and Wireless, to mention one. I do not know if hon. Members recognise that all external communication of this country is controlled by the British Government, because the biggest shareholder in Cable & Wireless happens to be the Government of the United Kingdom, and so, if we are talking between ourselves, Jamaica and Trinidad, our external conversations between our Prime Ministers are no longer secret. It is open to the British Government who controls the Corporation to understand and hear private and highly confidential information.

I agree that Barbados by itself will probably not have enough equity capital or could not manage the foreign exchange requirements to control a body like Cable & Wireless and external communication, but surely Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the smaller territories and all of us together could have used a Corporation such as this as a means of holding an external Caribbean Community which will not

be any longer foreign to the West Indies but part and parcel of the total development. I believe that a great opportunity has been missed by this Corporation in trying to make sure that there is not what I like to call the localisation — I am going to speak about that in a little while, Mr. Deputy Speaker — but we have missed a great opportunity to achieve what I call, "West Indianisation" of the economies of the West Indies as a whole, and I would have liked to have seen the Corporation better set up with higher equity capital, with greater contributions and having the impetus to acquire banking institutions so as to "Caribbeanise" them, to acquire Insurance Companies to "Caribbeaniise" them, to acquire the telegraphic media — I am not talking about the press — in order to "Caribbeanise" them, although you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I believe in the "Caribbeanising" of the press also in this area. I believe strongly that none of the Prime Ministers, despite their socialist speaking from time to time, have used this opportunity at all to do any such thing. Likewise I think we have missed an opportunity to develop new genuine inter-regional and intra-Caribbean and intra-national companies between ourselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are very few Barbadian companies which have ventured forth into other territories in order to develop them and in turn the Barbados economy. Frequently I have to remind my colleagues and other persons that when a company is incorporated in Barbados and it operated in Jamaica or Dominica, it brings back dividends and income to Barbados; so it is not only exporting capital but it is also getting some in return and importing back the fruits of its labour and it is beneficial to each other that this sort of arrangement should exist. I believe that the leaders who signed this Agreement missed an opportunity of showing real growth in this sector of the total Caribbean community.

Finally, I would like to talk a bit about the subject which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has spoken on, and this is a review of the Common External Tariff. There is to this Treaty a proviso that I have never seen disclosed which has committed Barbados to a phasing of the Common External Tariff in some instances over a period of eight years in relation to some part of the Caribbean structure and over a period of five years in relation to others, but because of the peculiar economic situation existing last year our Government bit it all off almost in one gulp, and I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is correct when he states that it is proving a bit too much for us as well. No doubt the recent Heads of Government Conference themselves expressed the tremendous concern of the Government, and I am hoping that the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister would in due course treat this House with the courtesy of making a statement on the sort of discussions which have gone on on these matters at that level.

I believe that in future when planning the development of the area we should be more conscious of phasing in tariffs in such a way that they cannot disrupt the economies of the Islands as a whole.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you were to ask my view as to what I think is one of the outstanding shortcomings of the whole Carifta and Caricom exercises, I would say very briefly that it is this: at none of these negotiations have the Governments of the day seen fit to involve the Opposition in any of the exercises. Indeed it is passing strange that at the signing of this Treaty, even though that was a ceremonial occasion, no Member of any existing Opposition Party in the whole of the West Indies was even invited as a guest to this ceremony. 5, 25 p.m.

Those of us who are seriously concerned about a genuine participation of the West Indian people in the exercise of integration must recognise that this is a wrong approach to adopt, and one of the

shortcomings of Carifta and Caricom is the failure to introduce arrangements which involve the people, at the people's level in the exercise. If you would take a leaf out of the book of the people in the Andes, or a leaf out of the European Common Market, you would see that they have made a tentative step where the representatives of both Government and Opposition can participate in the process of developing the Andean Common Market, or the European Common Market. This has not taken place in the West Indies, because it seems as though Caribbean Leaders are afraid of their shadows. They are afraid to involve the people genuinely in the exercise, and they are exercising a sort of paternalism about themselves. I regret very much, as a young West Indian, and a former leader of the under 40s who were interested in independence for the West Indies, that our leaders were afraid to involve the people in the exercise of West Indian unity. It is only when you are able to involve them in that exercise that we will eventually ensure that the West Indian people become a unified and vibrant nation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. Member has two minutes more.

Mr. FORDE:

Sir, we should think of developing a multi-racial society, but we can only show these attributes to our best advantage if we are conscious that on each side of our development, we have involved the people at large. It is as a result of the criticism of Caricom and Carifta that these treaties are becoming known as the treaties of the leaders, businessmen and industrialists.

I, too, deprecate the position where at present we hear about the Big Four trying to determine the development of a few areas. Barbados is making a big mistake if it considers itself big either in size or in terms of its financial possibilities. We must ensure that we are not running with the hares and hunting with the hounds. We must be convinced of our status and of our genuine desire to see that all West Indian areas are properly developed. Now, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and I, have taken one little step in the direction of Caribbean integration, I have told my son that it is his duty to correct the mistake that past and present generations of West Indians have made. They are the genuine West Indians now. I hope that in time to come the criticism which we made on these measures will bear fruit.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Your time is up.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, like the hon. Member who has just sat down I, too, was one of the members of the under 40s who called for independence within the Federation, and as long as I live, I will remain an unrepentant federalist. I believe that, owing to the pressures placed on the economies of these countries by the outside world, it is becoming increasingly obvious that there is need not only for a closer economic unity, but also a closer political unity. I believe that there is a need for political federation which my party has always advocated. I know that, as we go along, young West Indians are crying out for economic development at a greater speed than we are going at the moment. I believe that the young West Indians want a political federation with a strong Central Government.

Sir, let us make no mistake. So far as the outside world is concerned, we are looked upon as mini-States. As far as I am concerned, we have in these parts a great deal of mini—states with many

statesmen, or politicians, at the head who can see no further than their own political interest in a small territory and they have no concern whatsoever with the general welfare of the economy of the people whom they are supposed to represent. They behave like little gods in their own country, and they try to become statesmen in the realm of the West Indian Federation.

I believe that Sir Arthur Lewis wrote a pamphlet called "The Agony of the Eight", and it is interesting to read what was written there. He spoke about the maintenance of good Government, law and order. Although some countries have been masquerading and calling themselves countries, we find that political pressures have been brought to bear on them in various aspects, and certain things could not have happened to them if there was a Federation. 5.35 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we see that, what is happening now is, we have four territories including Barbados, masquerading as the more developed territories. I do not know what yard stick they are using to decide what is a more developed territory or a less developed territory. I do not know if they are using purely the question of the size of territory, the fact that it may have mineral wealth, or the gross national product; but certainly when you look at Barbados, I do not think that Barbados can claim by any yard stick to be one of the more developed territories.

We have, as I have said, in the West Indies at the moment, politicians who are concerned with maintaining their own little status in each segment, in each territory of the West Indies. This sort of thinking, this sort of mentality, is outdated. What we want to see, Sir, are politicians and statesmen who have the vision of a West Indies, with a strong central Government.

When we talk in terms of more developed countries and less developed countries, it is time that West Indian politicians stop holding themselves up as being popular with the people in the area. No one in the outside world looks at the West Indies in terms of Barbados, or Grenada, or Guyana, or Jamaica. They look at it in terms of the West Indies. Any sort of disharmony or political dissension in any particular territory is going to affect not only that territory, but the entire West Indian region.

Let us look at it from the economic point of view. With an economy such as ours we depend to a large extent on Tourism and we will be hampered more than a country such as Trinidad or Guyana because if there is political unrest in the West Indies, that alone will drive away the tourist from our shores.

What we find is that not only do we have dissension in one of the signatories to the arrangement. Grenada, but we must realise that this will affect not Grenada alone, but the economic development of these countries because it will drive away investors and tourists and drive away the dollars that should come to the West Indies.

I am one of these people who believe that there should be a Federation. I believe that had there been such a Federation at this stage, that Government would be in a position to allow us to use the mineral resources and the mineral wealth of the West Indian territories for the benefit of the West Indian people. We have only had the nationalisation of the bauxite industry in Guyana. Had there been a Federal Government, one that believes in Socialism, we would find at this stage that the oil in the West Indies would be used for the benefit of the West Indian territories. Certainly any socialist government of such a federation would be able to deal with the oil companies and set up enterprise between the oil producers and the West Indian Governments.

The mineral wealth of the West Indies must remain in the hands of the people of the West Indies and must be used for the benefit of the West Indian people, Sir, and this can only be achieved if there is a strong Central Government.

I do not propose to speak at length on this legislation, but I want to say before I sit that I sincerely hope that the Barbados Government takes no part in the Independence Celebrations in Grenada.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I do not see that that has any part in this debate I am concerned about hearing the Member on the merits of this Bill to establish a Caribbean Investment Corporation. We are not here to discuss Grenada. Mr. MOTTLEY Mr. Deputy Speaker, Grenada is a signatory to this at a time when Grenada is denying people their fundamental rights. (ASIDE Where is the proof) This is a time when Grenada is in the midst of political turmoil and Barbados should not send a representative to take in these celebrations. I sincerely hope that the Leader of the House, Grenadian though he may be, takes no part because it would be a betrayal not only of the Grenadians, but of the entire working class people of the West Indies.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall not be long. This is a Bill which recommends itself. It is a Bill which seeks to give a chance for greater development to the Commonwealth Caribbean territories by the setting up of this Corporation.

Barbados contributes to other things and in other areas to which the other islands have access. We have the Caribbean Development Bank, and most of the loans have gone to the Lesser Developed Territories. Jamaica has not drawn anything from it.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order. The Hon. Minister is not really cognisant of the facts. It is incorrect to say that Jamaica has not drawn anything from the bank. Loans have been made to all the territories that constitute the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The other territories have access to the Caribbean Development Bank. This Investment Corporation is only another aspect of Barbados' contribution to the development of the region. The Lesser Developed Territories are getting assistance from the British Overseas Development Division. They get loans for roads, for rock engines and for many other things. There is the United Nations Development Project from which they also get assistance.

You get Barbados contributing to the Caribbean Meteorological Institute and the Regional Caribbean Institute; to Barbados at every stage is making a valuable contribution in a wide variety of fields to the Lesser Developed Territories. There is no point arguing as to whether Barbados is or is not a Lesser Developed Territory. Barbados is part of the West Indian community, and is prepared almost beyond the limits of its financial resources to contribute to the development of its brothers and sisters in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The same people who say that there is no money in the Treasury are now talking about parsimonious treatment. This \$15 million is just another attempt to help the Less Developed Territories or whatever you call them to develop their countries and is a gesture of our desire to help them. Half a loaf is better than no loaf at all. We also contribute to the Regional Shipping Council in order that the Federal boats can stop at certain territories although it is uneconomical to stop at certain territories.

Barbados has its own domestic needs. Apart from that, we have now to try to develop ourselves industrially, and these other territories must do it too. We have gone so far that a Bill is to come before Parliament for the purpose of the Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives. What more can Barbados do in the interest of West Indian Integration than we have done. The Opposition is getting on as though this Corporation is the only area of development. 5.45 p.m.

If Barbados had \$15 million to handle as we would like and to play with, you would be surprised to see what we would do. The hon. Member knows the problem of Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago and also of Grenada. Let us face realities and realize that this is 1974. It is no use lecturing about federation and what will happen. This is a piece of legislation that they should be jumping at, because if they were aware of the other possibilities that the region has, they would not talk as they are talking. Financial assistance is provided for roads in Montserrat, the airport in St. Kitts and other places.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. Member must not try to mislead as he is doing. They do not get assistance from the British Government all the time.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

What I am pointing out is this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that on the whole, millions of dollars are being provided to assist these territories. Now we are discussing Barbados' contribution. No one can deny that the concept of the Corporation is a laudible one.....

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am not sure if the hon. Member is answering me, or whom he is answering. The argument I put up is an argument based on the concept of the Corporation. I am conscious of the fact that the authorised capital is \$15 million, but I am pointing out that the whole concept of the Corporation is wrong.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

If you look at the Agreement, you will see it has been signed by accredited leaders in the entire region. If you are satisfied that.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, how can he talk about accredited leaders? Who are accredited leaders he is talking about?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am endeavouring to point out that there are many areas of financial assistance available to the other developed countries, of which the provision in this Investment Bill is just a part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to make a few observations on this Bill. The Bill now before this Honourable Chamber is the result of discussions and agreement reached by representatives of the Government of the various Caribbean Countries. It is not a matter which the Barbados Government has initiated, and all we are seeking is to get the approval of the House of Assembly on this Agreement. Whether they should have agreed to \$100 million or \$5 million we do not have to go into the reasons for it. The point is, they had an opportunity to meet and discuss, and they agreed that the investment capital of the Corporation would be \$15 million.

A lot of argument has been put forward this afternoon about federation. I do not think anybody seriously could disagree, but at the same time may be, even this Corporation is evidence or can be considered as evidence, of the difficulty of getting the various Caribbean leaders to come together and agree on something of importance, and it is no point coming here as often as the occasion presents itself, to give lectures as to whether we should federate.

We all are aware of the bad conditions existing in the various territories, and instead of just lecturing about federation or anything else, we should try to take a meaningful approach to try and relieve those conditions. We have seen the obstacles which come in the way of bringing about federation, and so there is no point lecturing further about federation. What we are witnessing today is only a small reflection of the characteristics of this society and this gives an example of the way in which people view West Indian integration, and therefore to my mind, while we believe that it makes a good talk and that it is nice to listen to whether we should or should not have a federation, this is all good talk for students of politics.

5, 55 p.m.

In the West Indies you find that we tend to go our several ways, as there is often the feeling that we are going to reach the golden shores before the next territory. This is a strong conviction among the various countries, although there are factors which may tend to indicate to independent observers that none of us may reach the golden shores, because while we here are talking and deliberating, as the Barbadian saying goes, while the grass is growing, the horse is starving. If we sit back in Barbados and talk about the pros and cons of this corporation, our people will be starving, so we have to look at the development of our country, and especially in this case, we are very concerned about what is going on in Barbados, but it does not mean that when looking at the development of Barbados that we are blind to the realities of the West Indian situation.

The most I would like to say on this particular Bill is that it is a declaration or some way of signifying our intent to the various West Indian leaders to get down to the seriousness of developing the territories. They have to work out the mechanics of it. I agree that the mechanics have not been properly worked out because very often when matters are decided on in political atmospheres or things are taken as a political decision, people do not often have the time to go into the financial and social implications or evils of the decisions, but a decision has been taken to set up this Corporation, and now that we are removed from the different pressures and under those conditions that forced the decision, we can sit back and analyse it to see the implications of the Corporation, to see the mechanics of it, and make the Corporation meaningful in achieving, what we have said in here should be achieved within the context of the West Indian development. I would like to say that I accept this as a declaration of intent by the

participating countries to do something about the development of the various Caribbean territories, and I hope that having got to this stage, we will be able to see, as soon as this Corporation starts to function, the expansion not only of its capital because the capital should be expanded in time, but we would also like to see a dedicated obligation by the Corporation towards the industrialisation of the West Indies and the future development of industries throughout the whole Caribbean.

The Question that this 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 8 inclusive were called and passed.

The 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 separate motions 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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting. In fixing the Order Paper, in so far as Government Business is concerned, The House will be moved into Committee of Supply and the Bills will be dealt with seriatim in the order in which they were given notice of.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I see that I am pointed at in this matter of fixing the Order Paper for this side. I would urge on the Leader of the House to recall that the habit of fixing the Order Paper arose in the days before the 1957 revision of the Rules. The Rule does not any longer exist and the modern practice is that Private Members' Business is put on the Order Paper in the order in which it appears subject only to the rule that a Bill has priority and if the Clerk of Parliament wishes, he may publish the Bills first and the Resolutions after, because this as I understand it, is the principal order of business.

6.05 p.m.

I am reading that Private Members' Business shall be set down on the Order Paper for a particular day in the order in which it was entered in the Order Book for that day. If there is any hon. Member in this House being an attorney, or non-attorney, who can tell me that this Rule means that the Leader of the Opposition has to say how he is going to deal with Private Members' Business, I would like to hear him. I should really like the Speaker of the House to interpret that Rule for me.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Sir, it automatically goes down on the last Order Paper, but that does not mean that the hon. Member

cannot take it out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not see anything in Standing Order 20 (4) to indicate that Private Members must give notice of the order in which they intend to do business at the next Sitting. It appears that Private Members' Business shall be set down on the Order Paper for a particular day in the order in which it was entered in the Order Book for that day, but this, in my opinion, does not prevent Members of the Opposition from deciding what they want to discuss. I see no merit in saying that Private Members must indicate at a particular Sitting what items they intend to do.

The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government should arrange things, in keeping with good Parliamentary practice, by indicating what items of Private Members' Business will be done. If there is a breakdown, it is not a breakdown in the Standing Orders, but a breakdown in information. Subject to these Standing Orders, Government Business shall have precedence over all other business and the Government may arrange their business, but I do not see anything in the Standing Orders to the effect that Private Members must indicate what they want to do.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, while accepting Your Honour's statement, or ruling, I still want to draw to the attention of the House that there has been a convention from time immemorial that the fixing of the Order Paper must take place. That has been the practice for the 27 years I have been in here. It has not been followed for the last few years, but it has been the practice. Unless this is done, a great inconvenience will arise because matters are not to be dealt with spasmodically. A matter has to be taken to various Departments before it is dealt with by the Cabinet. If you commence with Item No. 8 or Item No. 11, you may be told that the Cabinet has not yet considered it. Unless we proceed by fixing the Order Paper, you may find that I will not be in a position to deal with certain matters. Mr. Speaker, I just thought it was my duty to draw to the attention of the House that unless the Order Paper is fixed in order to. I indicate what Private Members' Business will be dealt with, then I may not be in a position to deal with a particular matter. When I get up and move that a matter be postponed, you will understand the reason for my doing so.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House should accept that, from the moment an Item appears on the Order Paper, it is there to be dealt with. Whether the Crown Law Officers have to make recommendations to the Cabinet or otherwise, is no concern of ours.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have ruled. I see no reason to alter my ruling that Private Members have no obligation to give notice of the Order in which they intend to deal with matters of which they have given notice on a previous occasion. It is solely a matter of a private arrangement between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, permit me to say this.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no motion for the Adjournment at the moment. This matter is now closed.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, this Government constantly brings to the House Bills to be passed through all their stages in one day and expect part-time politicians on this side of the House to deal with major matters like the Common External Tariff in one day, and the Leader of the House now has the audacity to tell us that Private Members' Business cannot be dealt with in one day! They are full-time politicians getting proper salaries. (Asides.)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th February, 1974, at twelve noon.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, did the hon. Member say the 12th February? Are we meeting every fortnight now, Sir?

The Question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th February, 1974, at twelve noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 6.15 p.m.