

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, 23rd July, 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; Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P., (Temporary Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Hon. House for Tuesday, 2nd July, 1974 and Tuesday, 9th July, 1974 are before you for confirmation. If there are no corrections or alterations the Minutes will be confirmed. These Minutes are hereby duly confirmed.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDIE, Messrs. W. C. B. HINDS and C. L. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took their seats,

PAPERS PRESENTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the Rate of Interest (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1974.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Community College for the period 1st September, 1972 to 31st August, 1973, and the Report of the Ministry of Education for the period 1st September, 1971 to 31st August, 1972.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of a parcel of land situated at Wildey, Christ Church.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the following (1) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937; (2) A Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on the proceeds of the letting of hotel accommodation and the sale of food and beverages in hotels and restaurants and for connected purposes; (3) A Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on the gross revenue of an airline service business and for related matters; and (4) A Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Road Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move that the Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on the proceeds of the letting of hotel accommodation and the sale of food and beverages in hotels and restaurants and for connected purposes be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

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 the Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on the gross revenue of an airline service business and for related matters be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

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 the Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900 be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 132 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is now ready.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 199 is ready.

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I beg

to inform you that the Oral Reply to

Parliamentary Question No. 225 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter is ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 224 asked by the hon. Member for St. Lucy as well as the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 264 asked by the hon. Member for the City are ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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 of Supply. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair. 12.15 p.m.

THE RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$25, 878 WAS CALLED

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it seems as if the procedure of the House is being whittled away daily. As far as I know, the Leader of the House has got to call what Order and the Number of Government Business that is being done. You cannot ask the Speaker to leave the Chair unless you say what Order of Government Business is being taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, if I had attempted to deal with Item No. 6 first, and not Item No. 1 in the chronological order, then probably the remarks of the hon. Member might be in order. I am dealing with the items seriatim as they are and therefore there is no necessity for me to say "I beg to move that Order No. 1 be the first Order". Order No. 1 is the first Order anyhow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Member is in order.

Mr. BOLDEN:

He is not in order. There is no Item No. 6 unless I have the wrong Order Paper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Hon. Leader of the House was only giving an example when he said that there was an Order No. 6 under Government Business. If the hon. Member reads correctly, the First Order, from the moment that the Leader of the House moves that Government Business be now taken, the First Order is to move the House into Committee of Supply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$25, 878

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, which Item are we dealing with?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Speaker has already given instructions.

Mr. BOLDEN; Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, I do not like to argue against the Chair, but procedure is procedure, You either have to have it right or disband it altogether.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You cannot argue with the Chair.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am saying that the whole procedure is wrong. All you have to do is to rule, that the Committee is right, but posterity will tell who is right and who is wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am going to rule that the Committee is right.

Mr. BOLDEN:

We must not sit down and do this here every day. Either they know the procedure or they do not know the procedure. It is about time that somebody brought some order to this Chamber.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, a lot of fuss has been made over nothing. Item No. 1 is the First Order of the Day, and I am dealing with Order No. 1. If I were dealing with Order No. 4 or 5 or any other Order, I would beg to move that Order No. 4 be the First Order of the Day; but normally, Order No. 1 is the First Order of the Day.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, what we are submitting from this side is that when the Leader of the House moves that Order No. 1 be the First Order of the Day he must make that motion to the Speaker. It is automatic.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Something has happened here. Without any motion being necessary, Government Business is the first business after the Items. So the first place where we went wrong was when the Leader of the House moved that Government Business be now taken. That was unnecessary.

The second thing is that the Clerk must call the Orders of the Day in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper. He has not done that. The next thing is that when he called Order No. 1, the Leader of the House should have got up and moved the House into Committee of Supply. That has not been done. Order No. 1 has not been called yet and it is to be called in the House and not in Committee. The Clerk should have got up and said "A Resolution for \$25, 878." None of the correct procedures have in fact been followed. I think that that is what hon.Members are trying to put to the Chair, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this is a lot of superfluous argument which in truth and in fact does not add up. The words "I beg to move that Government Business be now taken" mean that Government Business should

proceeded with.

I made a motion that the House go into Committee of Supply, and in Committee of Supply there is only one item/If there is only one item there cannot be anything else. There is only one.

Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$25, 878. The Addendum, as I see it, is fairly complete. In the case of the sum of \$5, 328, that is the expenditure for providing for the salaries of five temporary clerical officers for the Rates and Taxes Division for the months of July and August, 1974, and includes provision also of \$1, 400 for the stenographers' pool to continue to the end of September, 1974.

Then, there is salary adjustment for officers who have upgraded themselves educationally and obtained higher qualifications and who are entitled to extra pay. That deals with the first amount of \$5, 328.

In the case of the other amount of \$550.00, this is a result of the offices being removed from the bottom floor of Mr. Scott's residence in St. Philip. We have had to seek new office premises at Six Gross Roads in St. Philip, and the rent instead of being \$50 a month as before is now \$100.00 a month. This amount is to make provision for the difference in the rent of this sub-office of the Rates and Taxes Division in St. Philip.

The last item which is for \$20, 000 is a result of the new system of registration of motor vehicles and renewing licences. There are forms which have been prepaid and of which Members are aware, which have to be filled up. When I say licences, I do not mean Drivers' Licences, but motor car licences and licences for other motor vehicles.

The new system entails the printing of forms for which no provision was made in the first instance. It is now felt that two years supply of forms should be done so as to take care of this entire matter, so that the \$20, 000 requested is to provide funds for the preparation and printing of these forms for the registering of motor vehicles and preparing the renewal of licences.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that. 12.25 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, in the face of this Resolution not being properly before the Committee, we still have to try to make our contributions. There are one or two things that come before my mind. The question of rates and taxes has always been a cause of concern, or ought to have been a cause of concern in Government circles, but it seems to me that the concern dies when the Sitting of this Honourable House dies. However, Sir, it cannot be denied that there are quite a number of old age pensioners and other people who have made applications from time to time for tax relief and despite the fact that we see here, recruitment to the staff of these various departments for one or two matters as the case might be, there is evidence that many of these people who have made application for relief from time to time cannot get the relief, and no investigation or, further investigation as far as we know has been carried out as to the

siting of their property, the location, and matters related thereto which would give one some ground for deciding whether or not they are entitled to the tax relief that they have sought.

We see no provision being made for equipping the department to cope with this situation. We know, Mr. Chairman, that despite the fact that we have additional stenographers who would be carrying on until the 30th September this year — the Leader of the House said however that they would be carrying on for the rest of the financial year, but the note tells us that they will go on until the 30th September. However, somebody has to be right and somebody has to be wrong.

Sir, there is a considerable delay in closing property deals on sales of property in this Island, because people who are trying to dispose of their lands cannot get the required certificates from the Rates and Taxes Division to present to the Registrar so as to be able to have the titles properly effected and what not. This is a matter on which I would certainly like to hear what the Leader of the House has to say, because if one has a prospective buyer and all of this red tape — and indeed red tape it really is — however good intentioned the Government might have been with the introduction of the method, it is silly to introduce a method such as this when in truth and in fact the Rates and Taxes Division that must cope with the situation is not at all equipped, and from what I can gather it seems that there will be another four or five years proper before the Rates and Taxes Division can become equipped for issuing the necessary certificates that have been applied for, and bring things abreast so that people would be able to get their lands sold; because it is no easy matter today, Sir, that if a person gets a buyer, the buyer then becomes frustrated after waiting a length of time, and with the financial situation of the country as it really is, any such attempt to do any such thing to any such person — because many people perhaps may be trying to dispose of property to settle matters in some particular sphere, and when these delays come about, people terminate the agreements they have made because of these unnecessary delays brought about by the Rates and Taxes Division.

I want to impress upon the Government that it is no secret now that the Rates and Takes Division is still operating under a mass of confusion which still obtains in that Division, and we would like to know that something is really done, because the Rates and Taxes Division comes into immediate contact with the cream of the public, so to speak, because property owners are the people who are worth the country something in truth and in fact, along with others. But it happens that you find the bottle-neck created in this department as has been going on and on and on.

We have not been told that the Organisation and Methods Division has carried out any surveys that would expedite the issuing of these certificates by the Rates and Taxes Division so as to enable people to carry their deals through with the sale of their properties and what not. I am sure that there are more than two thirds of the offices of the Attorneys-at-Law in this country the work in which in this particular respect has been brought to a virtual standstill because the Rates and Taxes Division cannot cope with the demand for these certificates. I would certainly like to hear from the Leader of the House, or somebody who is in a position to explain the whole situation, what the Government intends doing to relieve the situation.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the introduction of the forms to assist in the registration of motor vehicles is a good idea and we believe on this side of the House, that it should be given a worthwhile chance to prove whether or not it assists in expediting matters, or what is going to be the true position. However, we find that forms have been ordered for two years supply, and if the exercise is to be engaged in for any length

of time, we do not see why a supply for only two years has been ordered. It does not makes a lot of sense to us, because if it is going to be a standard form, unless you anticipate some chance by the end of two years, we do not see why at least a five-year supply of the forms has not been ordered, because in the long run it would have been cheaper.

Sir, I do not believe anything can be said as to the rental of the new premises at St. Philip, but we still consider the Rates and Taxes Division very lucky to be able to rent an office at \$100 a month for such a purpose.

So I believe the Government would take good care of the office that they have rented and would let the owner know that it is appreciated on this side of the House, how magnanimous, I must say, the owner of the property must be.

The Question that the Resolution for the sum of \$25, 878 do now pass 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 Money Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

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 this Resolution be now read a second time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

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 this Resolution be now agreed to.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.35 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 132 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

QUESTIONS RE THE NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE PIGS, COWS AND SHEEP SLAUGHTERED MONTHLY AT THE ABATTOIR

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, before I ask Question No. 132, I believe at the last meeting there was an undertaking given that certain questions which should have been answered at that meeting would have been dealt with today. I want to know if that undertaking still holds good.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. Member is referring to the meeting before. As far as I know, the Replies have been given and all are disposed of. In case Members were not present, the Replies were laid.

Mr. SPEAKER:

For the sake of the record, I did specifically give the undertaking that the Questions asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter, who was attending a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas would be dealt with. Questions 225 and 226 can be asked today. Let us deal with Question No. 132.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I was not absent at the last meeting. If the Hon. Leader of the House does not remember what took place, I would ask him to check the Hansard.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Please proceed.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Will the Minister state—

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows —

"The Barbados Marketing Corporation does not keep statistics showing a breakdown by sex of animals slaughtered at the Abattoir. The following statistics are in respect of the total number of pigs, cows, and sheep slaughtered showing net weight recovered from each category during the period January — September, 1972 and January — September, 1973 —

No. Of Animals Slaughtered January to September, 1972

No. of Weight No. of Weight No. of Weight Months Pigs lbs. Cows lbs. sheep lbs.

January 1, 356 122, 175 107 32, 359 171 3, 285

February 1, 236 177, 991 120 37, 787 192 3, 215

March 1, 338 175, 052 103 35, 030 152 2, 390

April 1, 111 139, 338 92 29, 992 86 1, 720

May 1, 144 120, 650 121 54, 250 195 3, 120

June 1, 156 121, 870 120 59, 060 142 2, 190

July 1, 242 166, 442 104 37, 785 109 1, 780

August 1, 418 181, 642 113 37, 146 58 1, 640

September 1, 257 166, 442 120 156, 456 110 2, 070

No. Of Animals Slaughtered January to September, 1973

January 798 95, 16.0 72 26, 120 163 3, 246

February 1, 147 123, 610 89 28, 720 245 6, 512

March 304 35, 240 91 31, 090 167 3, 072

April — — — — —

May 813 108, 600 99 32, 040 200 3, 600

June 1, 274 221, 080 106 33, 550 197 3, 690

July 1, 133 140, 575 103 32, 620 188 3, 668

August 1, 376 208, 220 108 35, 530 220 4, 160

September 1, 298 179, 830 85 30, 120 187 3, 225

12.45 p.m.

QUESTION RE THE NEW CEMETERY AT WARRENS, ST MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER:

Parliamentary Question No. 199 stands in the name of the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows—

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Would the Minister state (a) the person, persons and/or institutions who created the plans, drawings and specifications for the new cemetery at Warrens in the Parish of Saint Michael; (b) who are the contractors and/or the institution carrying out the construction of the building and related services at the said site; (c) whether any estimates in respect of the cost of construction were prepared on the project? If the answer is in the affirmative, who prepared the said estimates and what was the estimated cost; (d) whether any foundation tests were carried out before construction began? If the answer is in the affirmative — what were the results of these tests? If the answer is in the negative — why were no tests carried out? (e) whether a work progress schedule was prepared in relation to time and the sum to be expended in relation to the percentage of work carried out? If the answer is in the affirmative — what is the difference the percentage of work done and the sum expended to date? If the answer is in the negative — why was no such schedule prepared? (f) what percentage of the work has been done to date; (g) when was work last carried out on the site and what was the work done; (h) what sum has been spent to date on the project? (i) what is the original scheduled date for completion; (j) will the scheduled date be kept? Will the Minister forthwith lay the plans, specification and surveys in connection with this project on the Table of the Honourable the House of Assembly?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 199 is as follows—

(a) The Ministry of Communications and Works.

(b) The Ministry of Communications and Works.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Communications and Works, and the estimated cost was \$371, 000.

(d) No foundation tests were carried out, but soil tests were carried out. The reasons are as follows:

No foundation tests were carried out because soil and land use maps of the area, issued by the Research Centre of the Caribbean, indicated that a suitable foundation could be found within 3' - 0" of the surface.

However, soil tests were carried out for suitability of the site at Lodge Hill for burials and not specifically for building. There are no details of the tests available on file for Lodge.

(e) Yes, Sir. A work progress schedule was prepared. The estimate of cost, \$371, 000 is a budgetary one. Based on a detailed estimate of cost the sum which should have been expended in relation to percentage of actual work done was \$280, 000.

The difference between the sum expended (May 1973 when work on the main project was stopped) and that representing the percentage of actual work done was \$24, 000. There are materials on site as yet not incorporated into the works (concrete pipe, steel and metal windows) which explains this difference.

(f) Percentages of work completed to date are as follows:-

(i) site levelling 70%

(ii) office block 80%

(iii) Chapel & Stores 20%

(iv) roads and footpaths 52%

(v) Drainage 25%

(vi) car park 10%

(g) Work was suspended in May, 1973, in order that the project may be reviewed. Work on the project recommenced in January on a burial plot.

(h) \$304, 145.88

(i) No specific date was fixed.

(j) Does not arise in view of reply to (i).

2. Yes, Sir.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state what will be the final cost of this project and whether the Government has any date for completion of the project?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

The Minister is not in possession of any information to supply an answer to that Question.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state at what depth a suitable foundation was met?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Would the hon. Member like to state the depth in relation to which building?

Mr. BOLDEN:

The depth in relation to the office block.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I am not in possession of any such information, but I should like to point out that, from my visit to the site, obviously the foundation was reached at a much lower depth than three feet.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state whether or not that foundation was excavated at 18 feet and then refilled with marl fill and is still at least three feet below the ground level?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

The Minister is not in a position to state. The Minister was not there on the site when the construction or digging of the foundation was taking place.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I happened to be there and the hon. Member is right, but I would put it more like 30 feet.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We are on Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; This is a Reply. The hon. Member asked a Question, and the Hon. Minister was not in a position to reply, and I am answering. Don't you want me to answer? Do you want to stifle opinion? I can leave. The answer is more than 30 feet in my humble opinion, because I go and visit every Government Project and in my opinion they went 30 feet in a suck before they found foundation. It is gross incompetence. 12.55 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state what is the estimated final cost of bringing the cemetery into full operation?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The answer to that question is that we think we should have a community centre, and instead of

having people living behind the cemetery we should bring more housing to the front of the road and use the building for other purposes.

Mr. FORDE:

Would the Minister say what action has been taken in relation to what must be a very sad state of affairs, the waste of public funds on something which is now being attributed to gross incompetence?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

If the hon. Member would propose another amendment to the Constitution giving us power to dismiss the Civil Servants, we would be able to do something about it.

Mr. FORDE:

Does the Minister know that if he would work the existing rules properly he would have the power to report them to the Public Service Commission?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The answer to that question is no.

QUESTION RE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD AT INDIAN GROUND, ST. PETER

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 225.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works Has the Minister received petitions, letters or requests signed by residents of Indian Ground, St. Peter, praying Government to construct a road leading from the Indian Ground Main Road — along the boundary of lands of the late H. I. 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?

Hon. R. STC. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows;

1. Yes, Sir.
2. Twice.
3. The estimate of cost for constructing this road was \$47, 056 at 23rd May, 1974.
4. The priority for the construction of this road has to be weighed against the needs of other areas.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us when the first Petition or letter was received by the Government from the

residents of this area? How many years ago?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Any more Supplementaries?

Mr. HINDS:

I think the Minister is searching his files to find the Reply and I do not think we should confuse him further with other questions.

Mr. SPEAKER:

In that case he should say that the information is not to hand.

Mr. HINDS:

How does the Minister determine the priorities in respect of this road? Since it is known that application has been made more than seven years ago to Government to construct this road, in the light of this how does the Minister determine his priorities?

Hon. R. StC. WEEKES:

I would think the priorities would be considered along these lines. Firstly, the number of houses along the road, secondly, the cost of the road and thirdly the amount of funds allocated for this particular road.

Mr. HINDS:

It should occur to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, that on account of the road being in its present non-existing state, that is one reason for the owners of land not being encouraged to occupy their own lands. It is the state of the road, and I am submitting that the Minister should know this.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state how many houses are along this particular road?

Hon. R. St.C. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, there are 17 houses along this road.

Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

QUESTION RE THE CAREER GUIDANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Parliamentary Question No. 226 asked by the same hon. Member.

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?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

I am aware, and have been for some time, of the need for vocational guidance in the secondary schools of the Island, and in response to this need, the following measures have been taken:

(1) Ten teachers have been trained overseas in the area of vocational guidance during the period 1968-1973;

(2) A post of Vocational Guidance Officer has been provided since 1970 on the staff of my Ministry;

(3) Consequent upon a decision taken in November, 1973 a guidance programme based on orientation for pupils entering secondary schools, and on occupational information will be introduced at the start of the 1974—75 academic year; and

(4) A preliminary course in guidance and counselling was organised during the Easter vacation period of 1974, and a further course for about 40 teachers is scheduled to take place during the August to September vacation period, hopefully with assistance from the United Kingdom Government.

No survey has been conducted to determine the fate of all children who have left the newer secondary schools. However it is known that young school leavers find considerable difficulty in obtaining employment. Present resources do not permit the organisation and conduct of such a survey as is suggested. 1.05 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us this, of the number of teachers trained in vocational guidance overseas, how many have been assigned to posts at the various schools since their return?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the exact statistics on that particular question, but I certainly would assume that most of the teachers would have been assigned to the schools on return.

Mr. HINDS:

Have they been assigned to Vocational Guidance at the schools?

Mr. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, for the information of the hon. Member I myself would prefer to deal with what we are proposing to do. We have trained ten teachers during the period 1968 to 1973. These teachers returned to their schools and I would assume that if they had been given training in this particular area, they would use the skills obtained for the benefit of the students with whom they come into contact.

At the beginning of this academic year — during the period of this particular year at the new secondary schools, we will be identifying the teacher in each of these schools who will be responsible to the headteacher, who will be responsible for the operation of a guidance and counselling programme. The teacher will be working in close liaison with the Education Officer in the field of Vocational

Guidance on the staff of the Ministry.

So we will hope that from the beginning of this academic year, there will be a systematised and organised programme of vocational guidance and counselling in the schools in the interest of the educational development of our children.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Minister has said that he is aware of the need for vocational guidance in these schools, is it not reasonable to suppose that the Minister had it well within his hands during 1968 to 1973 - the training period — to have in readiness posts to which these people could be assigned immediately on their return and not return them to the classroom so that they could make use of the training for their benefit and the benefit of the children?

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid that, in my opinion, that is not a question.

Mr. EDWARDS:

I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what plans the Minister has for the children who have been sent out of the Comprehensive Schools at the end of this school year at the age of 14 in respect of Vocational Guidance?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I would need notice of that Question. That appears to be a separate Question altogether.

Mr. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Question in respect of Vocational Guidance for children who have been sent out of Comprehensive Schools this year at the age of 14. I want to find out what are the plans for them in respect of vocational guidance. The question is what plans does the Minister have for these children.

Mr. SPEAKER:

His Reply has been given. The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 224 asked by the Hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport What is the position with respect to the use of a system of Pupils' Record Cards which was introduced into Primary and Senior Elementary Schools in 1950? 2. Is the system of assessing the intelligence and attainment of pupils still in operation? 3. If the answer to No. 2 above is in the negative, would the Minister give the reasons for its discontinuance? 4. Were 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:

Is the Minister in a position to give a Reply?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I am not in a position to give a Reply to that question. I am not aware that I indicated that the Reply to that question was ready.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is a misunderstanding, it appears. Apparently the Minister is not in a position to give a Reply.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Apparently there is a mistake. The Reply that was ready was the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 244 and not 224.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Yes. I am sorry. The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 244 asked by the hon. Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I am seeking your guidance, Sir. The Reply is ready, but the hon. Member; is on leave from this House. I can lay the Reply.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think that it should be held over. The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 264 asked by the hon. Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the hon. Member who is unfortunately absent. I am asking for leave to ask Question No. 264.

LEAVE GRANTED

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Does the Government propose to purchase from the Methodist Church the building situate at Baxters' Road, St. Michael, now used as Youth Town?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

No, sir.

The Government is considering a proposal to purchase an alternative site to provide facilities for the development of a Youth Centre.

Mr. SPEAKER:

if there are no more questions to be answered, Question Time will be ended. Question Time is now ended.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr/Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting. In view of the circumstances, Sir, the Standing Orders not having been suspended, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 6th August, 1974, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that. 1.15 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment is taken, I notice that there are still a few items under Government Business, one of which, of course, is of great concern to a lot of people, and I wonder if the Government would care to indicate whether this will be taken at the next Sitting.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to discern what is in the honourable Member's mind. There are about three Items which are unfinished, and all the Items on the Order Paper which are not completed are matters of concern. We do not bring frivolous matters into the Chamber, but if the honourable Member is referring to the alterations or amendments to the Constitution in accordance with Section 49 of the Barbados Independence Order — I frequently hear over the radio and read in the Press that the Government is going to do so and so today. Unless the Government indicates that it is going to do a particular Item, I do not think that they can draw an inference that because something is on the Order Paper, that it is going to be done.

It is the Government's intention to let people have full discussion on the implications of the Constitution for a few weeks and the time which we have allotted between the laying, and the giving of notice of the Bill to amend the Constitution, and the earliest time for debate in this Chamber, is four weeks.

I would say, to give Members an indication, not less than four and not more than eight. I hope that satisfies the honourable Member — which means that there will be another few weeks and it is unlikely that we will do it on that day because we have a long Order Paper, but as soon as possible thereafter, and if necessary we will set a special day for the debate. We can do some calculations on the length of speeches that they are allowed, and there are six of them and probably three or four of us over here, who may want to speak on it. If we can do a calculation we can see if we need one day or two days; but with your indulgence, Sir, that is the proposal.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I am just speaking on the motion for the adjournment, I am glad to see that notwithstanding the implicit arguments of such political neophytes as the Minister of Information, Mr. Happy Bryan and others, the Government has seen the wisdom of acceding to the general public unrest and disturbance, that with no warning and no demand, a Constitutional amendment should have been introduced at this stage. Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps the most significant.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order. How can the honourable Member say "without warning". You warn about Bills and so on when you introduce them in the House, and you allow a respectable time thereafter, depending on the importance and urgency of the matter. There is no special urgency about the Constitutional amendments.

Contrary to the honourable Member's prognostications and popular belief, we do not intend to appoint any political judges. Any political judges there are, are Members of the Barbados Labour Party — the only political judge in this Island is a Barbados Labour Party judge. We are concerned about what they do when they get there; not who appoints them. So I do not know what he is talking about disturbance and the public. We take notice of what comes in here, and we give notice in here. This is the proper forum, and not outside.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that there are political judges and Barbados Labour Party judges. Apart from confirming in the public's mind that it is political vindictiveness that seeks to change the method of appointing the judges, I hope he will have the courage to name them outside of this House and let them deal with him.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

We are dealing with the motion for the adjournment. That has nothing to do with the Constitution.

Mr. ADAMS:

If there has ever been a statement made in the whole of this crisis which shows exactly why the Prime Minister wants the power to appoint the judges, it is his statement that he only knows of Barbados Labour Party judges.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

There is only one judge who is a politician and he is a member of the Opposition party. You want me to call his name? Everybody knows it. He has appeared on political platforms of the Barbados Labour Party. There is no judge on the Bench who is even a sympathiser, as far as I know, of the Government; so it really does not matter. But they are there to discharge the law; not to argue politics. Are we going to enter into debate on this now? I am stating a fact. Mr. D. H. L. Ward was a member of the Barbados Labour Party, and he is the only political appointee that there is. Why don't you tell the public that?.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

There are strangers in the Gallery who are here on sufferance. I am not going to tolerate any of this.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

You want more proof than that? Am I telling a lie now? Can you name a single member of the Democratic Labour Party who is on the Bench?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let me remind honourable Members that we are dealing with the motion for the adjournment. I will not any longer tolerate any arguments about the Constitution or methods of dealing with it. We are

dealing with the motion for the adjournment until the 6th August, 1974 at 12 o' clock noon.

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, Her Majesty's Judiciary should not be criticised except on a substantive motion in this House; and it has been said that one of the judges is a member of the Barbados Labour Party. One of the judges was a member and is no longer a member since his appointment to the Bench. I do not believe -well, I will not worry to go into that; but that is only by the way. We are dealing with.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Will the Leader of the Opposition.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order! Order! On what is the honourable Member rising?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would like to know the date of the resignation of Mr. D. H. L. Ward from the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. SPEAKER; There is no point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

I can no more give that date than I can give the dates of the resignation of the Prime Minister because he did not write a letter. If you look in our Parliamentary Minute Book, you will think that Sir Theodore Brancker, the Prime Minister, and the honourable Member for Christ Church East are still members. They have never resigned. I only know whose names are in the Minute Book.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the honourable Member deal with the motion (ASIDE) Will the hon. Member stop interrupting.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Honourable Member will soon be getting a document relating to his former membership of the Barbados Labour Party, if he wants some information.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Speak to the motion.

Mr. ADAMS; I am speaking to the motion. I am sorry Sir. Constitutional amendments to which this motion relates.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

This has nothing to do with the motion. I have had enough of the Constitutional amendments.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am not talking about the amendments, Sir. I am talking about the Order Paper which we have to deal with on the adjournment date. These are in a different category, We have been hearing about the Trade Union Bill for a long time. I heard that there are to be new amendments because the Bill before the

House, obviously, is not what many members of the public and honourable Members of this House were expecting. We have been hearing about that. We have been hearing about the Road Traffic Bill for years — seven or eight years now — but we have only been hearing about the Constitution for a couple of weeks. That is the whole point; and I am very glad that contrary to what the pundits of CBC News room may have put over the air yesterday, I am very glad indeed that the Government is not proceeding with the Amendments to the Constitution at the present time and is seeking to adjourn the House; but I am going to suggest that the reason is not really that the Government wants public discussion, The honest and truthful reason is that they cannot raise sixteen votes at the present time.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, exactly what is the motion before this Honourable House? Is it that the Minister of Communications and Works has written a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to appoint him Chief Justice because of the number of decisions that have gone against the Government.....

Rt. Hon.E. W. BARROW:

I do not think.....

(ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order! Order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would like to assure the honourable Member - because I think it is important enough - that any member of my party or any Barrister who writes me and asks me

to appoint him Chief Justice, will be automatically disqualified from holding any such judicial office. So you need have no fear. So you can pass the message on that you got in Jamaica. Laughter

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order! Order!

The Question that the House do now adjourn until 6th August, 1974, at 12 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

1.25 p.m.