

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, 12th March, 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); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A.(Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Hon. House for the 5th March, 1974, are now before you for confirmation. If there are no objections, nor corrections, the Minutes will be confirmed. (Pause.) The Minutes are hereby confirmed.

PETITION RE THE BARBAREES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition in favour of several persons. These persons have come together and have been worshipping in a small building which they have acquired on certain lands, and they have been so doing and following the Bible according to the way they feel; and they are now of the opinion that the time has come when they should put their house in order.

It may seem strange that the Petition is presented by me, someone who has spoken out in very strong terms about the Church and its practice in this country; but I believe that if the Church could revert to the situation in which it held itself before, that is, not only giving spiritual teaching to the soul but other teachings and benefits to the community, it would be more Christian. I am glad to see that they are moving again in this direction.

Mr. Speaker, there are five signatories to the Petition. They are Jonathan Hope, Oliver Kirton, Melchior Lynch, Clairmonte Thompson and Herbert Marshall.

They have been advised that the step which they must take is to be incorporated as one body politic and corporate, and that is the reason why this Petition is now before this Honourable House. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Honourable the House of Assembly of this island will be pleased to pass an Act to incorporate the Barbarees Church of Christ to be subject to and with the rights of and incident to such a corporate body.

The Petition, Mr. Speaker, is respectfully worded, and I ask that it be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Honourable Members are fully surprised of the Petition and its objects. It meets all the requirements of the Standing Orders. The Question is that the Promoters be allowed to proceed.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay The Customs Duties (Cosmetica Limited) Order, 1974.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Barbados Tourist Board for the year 1972—73.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$146, 135 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to Supplement the Estimates 1973-

74, Part 1 -Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1973-74, No. 43, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

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 Exchange Control Act, 1967.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave at this stage to deal with this Bill in all its stages at this Sitting. This is a matter in connection with exchange control and one which affects the functioning of the Central Bank which has recently been established and the protection in so far as the Barbados dollar exchange is concerned. I am asking leave to deal with this Bill at a later stage, probably, as the very last item.

I have not had an opportunity to speak to anyone, to either of the Deputy Leaders of the Opposition as such, but it may be possible to do so. This is a matter which has to be dealt with urgently for various reasons, and which in truth and in fact merely implements the Exchange Control Order which has been duly signed and published by the appropriate authority and which appeared on the 28th February, 1974, in the Official Gazette. In other words I am giving an intimation of my desire to ask for leave to deal with this Bill in all its stages at today's Sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I thought that the Hon. Minister was now formally asking for leave.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Exchange Control Act, 1967, be dealt with in all its stages today.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Has it been circulated?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It will be circulated very shortly.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on this motion because it seems strange to me procedurewise to move something of which at least the Opposition is unaware.

Mr. WEEKES:

On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member for St. Joseph has just presented a Petition here and we have not seen it, but we still voted for it.

Mr. BOLDEN:

If ignorance exists in such quarters, I am not bound to answer that. 12.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have followed the Standing Orders. My petition was brought in in due time, and a Bill is now being brought in.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

You are speaking on the motion.

Mr. BOLDEN:

He is now seeking to introduce a Bill to regularize an order. The Opposition on numerous occasions have said that these orders are made and we are unaware of them. If it was circulated before.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now being circulated.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The order was not read in the House or we will be aware of it. On many occasions Ministers make orders; they go about and they make statements and then they come into the House with an order and we are asked to give approval, and this is a similar situation today. This order" was made since February and now we are asked to deal with it as an Act and we have not seen it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The motion which has been moved by the Leader of the House is in order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

With Your Honour's permission, at a later stage I intend moving the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders in order to deal with this. I beg to withdraw the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The motion is withdrawn.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 be 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 a Bill to amend the Exchange Control Act, 1967 be read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY RE THE
LATE HUGH OWEN ST. C
CUMBERBATCH**

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, before the Sitting is commenced, I would like on behalf of my colleagues and Members of this Chamber to pay tribute to the memory of our former Clerk of the House of Assembly; I refer to no less a person, Sir, than Hugh Owen St. Clair Cumberbatch, an Attorney-at-Law and formerly a Solicitor in this Island.

Our former Clerk of the House of Assembly served with great distinction and great efficiency for many long years, endowed as he was with sterling qualities intellectually and otherwise. He certainly did a very good job in this Chamber. He came from a brilliant family; a family, members of which won Barbados scholarships in those days when there was only one Barbados Scholarship, not when there were as many as there are today. He won a Barbados Scholarship while others had to be content with Island Scholarships. Today everybody gets some kind of university training and it is becoming a "free-for-all".

Hugh Owen St. Clair Cumberbatch was born in 1922, was educated at Harrispn College, became an 'Island Scholar in 1941 and went to Codrington College and secured his Bachelors' degree and then he qualified in record time to be a solicitor and became a member of the firm of Haynes & Griffith which was one of the few coloured firms of solicitors in this Island.

He ran for politics but, unfortunately, he was associated with the wrong party.

Now, as Clerk of the House of Assembly he did a very useful job in here from 1955 to 1970 and he knew all the Standing Orders of the House and the interpretation of the law very well, and it was certainly a great pity when his service came to an end. He was regarded as a genius — one of the brightest Clerks we have ever seen in the House of Assembly, and he knew more of the Rules of the House than many Members of the House.

I do not have to say much more, Mr. Speaker. To his sorrowing widow and four children and his family generally I would like to express my sincere sympathy on the passing of this man who died comparatively young. I trust, Sir, that all the hopes and aspirations which he had for his family will be achieved in spite of his passing, and I would like to move the passing of this Resolution: 12.25 p.m.

"Resolved that this House placed on record its sympathy on the passing of Mr. Hugh Owen St. Clair

Cumberbatch, a former Clerk to the House of Assembly.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his wife and sorrowing relatives."

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition, I beg to associate myself with the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the House in respect of the late Mr. H. O. St. C. Cumberbatch. I came to be very closely associated with Mr. Cumberbatch long before I entered this House in 1966. I remember serving at the Press Table of this House. I had the opportunity of observing him from on the outside, and what I can say is that, to me, it would appear then that the advice that he, as Clerk of this Honourable House, gave to the Chair lent some considerable weight when measured in terms of decisions taken by the Chair from time to time and upon its rulings.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cumberbatch was a man with a very analytical mind. I have no doubt that each and everyone who came to know him in the dispatch of his functions in this Honourable House as Clerk must agree that there was no problem which confronted any part of this Honourable House, at any time, on which Mr. Cumberbatch could not bring to bear some careful analysis of the situation and help to solve the problem to the benefit of the entire community, if it had been drawn to his attention.

We know that Mr. Cumberbatch passed away at a comparatively early age but, perhaps, it is just one of those cases of whom the Gods love die young. We are satisfied, however, that, as Clerk of the House of Assembly, Mr. Cumberbatch rendered yeoman service to the community at large. He served this Chamber well; he was in a position to advise, and he knew what he was about. In other words, speaking with reference to his work, he knew exactly where he was going as Clerk of the House of Assembly, and he knew his job very well. To his sorrowing wife, children and other relatives, we on this side of the House extend our deepest sympathy.

I beg to second the passing of the Resolution.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, in associating myself with the passing of this Resolution, I should like to say that I came in direct contact with the late Hugh Owen St. Clair Cumberbatch approximately 121/2 years ago when I first entered this Honourable House as a Member. I have always found him to be a dedicated, faithful and conscientious worker when it came to the work of this Honourable House of Assembly. No man has reached perfection, and all of us can make errors, but I would say that Mr. Cumberbatch rendered inestimable service to this House.

As a Member of the House of Assembly, I could call on him on any occasion for any legal advice, and he was always ready and willing to do his utmost for any Member of the House of Assembly. As a friend, he was very sincere, and I must say that at his death I was very, very grieved to hear of his passing. He would at all times not only assist Members of the House of Assembly, but the community as a whole. He was loved by all of those who came in contact with him. I know that his passing will be a big loss to this country, and to his sorrowing relatives I extend my deepest sympathy especially to his wife and children. May he rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I should like to associate myself with all of the remarks that have been made. I will now ask hon. Members to stand and observe one minute's silence after the passing of this Resolution.

At this stage hon. Members stood in silence for one minute.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am requesting leave of this House to grant me 6 weeks' leave of absence with effect from Monday, 18th March, 1974.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there are no objections, leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is hereby granted to the honourable Member.

12.35 p.m.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 151, asked by the hon. and learned Member for St. Joseph is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 152, asked by the hon. and learned Member for St. Joseph, is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 21, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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 a Bill to amend the Exchange Control Act, 1967, be dealt with in all its stages at today's Sitting.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 9 standing in the name of the Minister of Communications and Works be the first Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is not very controversial. This is as a result of a request from the United Kingdom Postal Administration that this administration should not affix stamps to the reverse side for British Postal Orders before returning the Postal Orders to the United Kingdom. Apparently these Postal Orders are recorded in a computer by being passed through electronic reading machines, and when stamps are affixed to the reverse side of the Orders, this cause mechanical trouble and results in the Orders being rejected. These Orders then have to be handled manually with a consequent loss of time and increased labour costs, and as a result of this the United Kingdom Postal Administration suggested that we should either give consideration to the discontinuance of the practice of affixing stamps or alternatively the stamps should be put on the docket which accompanies these Postal Orders. So it is not controversial; it does not impose any duty; it is just in the interest of cooperation between the United Kingdom Postal Administration and the Barbados Postal Administration that we are amending the law to permit the stamps to be placed on the docket that accompanies the money orders rather than on the reverse side of the Postal Orders themselves.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. F. G. SMITH, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. F. G. SMITH, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, the Bill was read a third time and passed. Its title was agreed to.

THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, as is well known, the Ministry of Communications and Works is responsible for the setting of the tariffs and rates of motor cars and taxis. I think it is accepted that the price of petrol, accessories and the general cost of running a car have gone up, and certain requests were made to the Ministry by the Taxi Association of which the Minister himself was fully conscious and had himself on his own initiative started investigation. The method of setting rates for this type of vehicle is for the various organisations, both the organised taxis as well as individuals to meet with the Chief Technical Director and discuss, taking into account all the necessary elements, what the tariff should be. Since the price of petrol had gone up twice, Mr. Speaker, I decided that as a temporary measure, there should be an across-the-board increase of 25% on fares. It is purely a temporary measure.

I have instructed the Chief Technical Director of the Ministry to get in touch with the organised Associations as well as with individuals and to come up with the final figures for the final tariff to be laid down by the Minister of Communications and Works. This Resolution is purely a temporary one, and before long there will be another. I was informed before I came to the House this morning that there has been a meeting and that a Committee was set up to make recommendations to the Chief Technical Director who was in Santo Domingo and should be back in a day or two. As soon as the

recommendations of this Committee of Taxi Drivers are given to him, then the final tariff will be settled by the Ministry of Communications and Works. 12.45 p.m.

I want it to be clearly understood that these figures are purely temporary until such time as by discussions and negotiations a final figure is arrived at to lay down the final tariff. This is purely to make legal the collection of the 25% which as a temporary measure, in view of the increased costs of running taxi cabs, is granted by the Minister. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I must disagree with the Hon. Minister in his method of increasing the rates when he says that as a temporary measure across the board, he gave them 25%. A primer standard child would know that if the gasoline price has gone up by 90%, including labour charges of which the Minister should be well aware, because the Union negotiated a new price where the garages are concerned, that a 25% increase is not a satisfactory increase for the taxi drivers of this country.

What I have found with this Government is that where the industry is basically or primarily local, those persons involved are being penalised but those persons who are expatriates and involved in other industries, are not so penalised. You can look at any industry in Barbados in which local persons are involved and you will find that the increases are so minimal that they do not take into account at any stage the increases which have taken place in respect of costs of operating those industries, but where the industries are operated by expatriates, like the Telephone Company and the B'dos Light and Power Company, increases are always in proportion to the expenses which the operator is bearing at the moment, so that he does not lose. Everybody is well aware that the taxi drivers particularly make their living during the tourist season, and this season will finish officially about the end of April. During that time every taxi driver will be operating at a loss based on a 25% increase if his gasoline bill, labour charges, repair bills and the cost of parts have gone up, because the moment shipping charges go up, they affect the cost of spare parts and replacements. If you give them 25% now, what arrangements are being made for them to recover their losses?

As long as it is a local industry where a poor Barbadian has to preach outside the doors of the Minister, he will have to accept this minimal increase despite the fact that his expenses are way above that which is given to him. It is time that the Government looks to Barbadians to hold this country together. I have said before that it is all good and well to ask expatriates to come to Barbados and give them a guaranteed return on their money, but when the time comes they shut down the buildings and leave the country, but we will have to remain here with our losses. I can see now that a lot of Barbadians involved in any business in this country will find themselves in the Bankruptcy Court within the next year if this Government does not look around properly. This is a typical example of the method of assessing the returns to local industry when the Minister says this is a temporary measure. Why temporary in the peak season of the taxi driver? Who will have benefited when the season is closed? We must face facts. When people get involved in a business or some operation they cannot just relinquish it overnight, it takes time to run down and get out. It is similar to the poultry and pig industries, and this is what the Government has to look at now.

Again I say the Minister should not be telling us today this is a temporary increase. Even if it is a temporary increase it should have been based on the increased cost of petrol and should have taken into account replacement costs at a later stage, but a straight 25% does not relate to anything at all, and the Minister must not get up and talk about an agreement between the taximen. This big enterprises of this country who can afford to take a beating for two or three months will survive, but it is the small man who will feel the pinch of the shoe. His chances of recovering are so much slimmer than the big operators who can afford to lose a little, and if you are saying you are giving a temporary increase because certain big operators can operate at that, you are not taking into account the small man. This has happened already, the small men who went to a meeting were told not to take notes until one of them challenged the Minister involved. You will find that all the small operators will be out and the big ones in, and I must say this is a system on which the Government is now operating. Whenever they are finished, the man in the street will become once more the servant of the big entrepreneur, he will not have a stake in the economy.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I just want to deal with one aspect of this matter, and that is the question of the service at the Bridgetown Port. I think one of the problems which confront many people at the Bridgetown Port is the lack of public transport from the Port itself into the City of Bridgetown. As a result of this, visitors to the Island from time to time take taxis - I think the fare is \$1.75 — but what is happening is that this is creating a bit of hardship on certain taxi drivers. You will find that a taxi driver waits in line from about 5 o'clock on the evening before, and when his time comes, the only fare he gets is not a tour around the Island but a fare to Bridgetown, and he has to come back and go to the back of the line again.

What I would like to suggest to the Minister is to investigate the possibility of establishing a sort of shuttle service to allow taxis to transport people between the Port and Bridgetown as separate and distinct from those who are doing tours around the Island. It is hard on a man who waits in line and only gets a \$1.75 fare to Bridgetown to come back again to the end of the line and perhaps get another such trip. What I would like to suggest to the Minister is to investigate the possibility of starting a shuttle service between the Port and Bridgetown without affecting the other rights which they have for operating as tour operators. 12.55 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, when I hear the hon. Member for St. Joseph talk, it really amazes me. I am conscious of the fact that taxi drivers cannot get back pay like Members of the House or Civil Servants. I am also conscious of the fact that to give them a final tariff might take months.

The Member knows that taxi drivers include small operators consisting of one individual, taxi associations and big operators. You know of necessity that they cannot charge back pay to people they have already carried. You put on 25 per cent so that they can reap something and you are accused of benefiting outsiders.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of explanation. The Hon. Minister has missed the point. I am saying that gasoline has gone up by 90 per cent, that labour has gone up and that charges for spare parts have gone up. I am saying that 25 per cent on the previous figure does not reflect the cost which the Barbadian taxi driver has to meet now.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. Joseph is now quoting percentages. He said that the price of gasoline has gone up 90 per cent. Is he suggesting that the tariff from Seawell to North Point which was \$24 should now be \$48? Does he want me to double the fare and multiply everything by 100 per cent?

Mr. BOLDEN:

Has not the Telephone Company doubled their rates in less than a year?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Negotiations with the taxi drivers have taken months because it is not one body that you are dealing with like a union negotiating with the Chief Technical Director. There are private individuals who run taxis and there are big operators. Some want 100 per cent, and some 60 per cent. What the Minister has done to assist is not to allow the tourist season to go without the taxi drivers getting something because they cannot charge customers that they have carried already.

We have given them 25 per cent. They did not ask for 100 per cent. The taxi drivers themselves are not an unreasonable bunch. What is happening, Mr. Speaker, is that we have agreed on 25 per cent, and if tomorrow morning they can reach a decision on a final tariff, next Tuesday a Resolution will come to this House.

I do not represent any big groups. Throughout my political career I have been the representative of the small man, The man in the street knows what I stand for. I have minuted the file that the Chief Technical Director must immediately get in touch with them and let me make a final decision. It may be 100 per cent or 75 per cent, but this 25 per cent is a measure to assist taxi drivers who cannot come to an agreement until the tourist season has ended so that they can still at least get something during the tourist season.

They are a reasonable group of people. They know that the Minister of Communications and Works will give them a further increase, but until there is an agreement, on what basis can you give them a 100 per cent or 75 per cent? On what basis can you do that until you have worked out statistics?

That is all that is happening, and you hear a big long speech about expatriates to the detriment of the small man. I do not know where the Member gets the idea from that someone is representing the big man. That is the political ignorance you get. They cannot see that an effort to help the taxi drivers is being made.

As I have said, this is a question of working out figures and costs. All this talk about killing the small man is the type of political ignorance that will always keep them on the Opposition benches.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation. Mr. SPEAKER No point of elucidation.

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

BILL TO AMEND THE GAMBLING ACT, 1917

Hon. C. E, TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next Order of the Day is Item No. 8 which stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Gambling Act, 1917.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Barbados has been well known as a community in which all types of sport are encouraged, and more especially in the cricketing field; and in spite of our disappointment here yesterday in so far as the test was concerned, we still have the privilege of remembering that Barbados beat the MCC by 10 wickets. On that basis alone I think that this Bill which seeks to amend the Gambling Act in order to assist in the field of sport, whether cricket, football, athletics, netball or whatever type of sport, should serve a useful purpose.

In this case it will be remembered that assistance was sought by the local Olympic Association to send their athletes abroad. Some of them did very well. The House votes a lump sum each year in the Estimates in order to assist, but the amount voted is not sufficient, and as a result applications are made from time to time; and on the last occasion, as mentioned by the Hon. Minister of Education, Community Development and Sport, we had to assist the Olympic Association on a 50 per cent basis.

The Government feels, Sir, that many sports organisations are in dire need of funds, and have approached the Ministry of Education, Community Development and Sport on several occasions in order to obtain financial assistance, and for this reason that Ministry made certain representations to Cabinet that certain Sports organisations which enjoyed international affiliation, and whose activities are recognised should be given assistance in two ways.

The first is by permitting an amendment to the Gambling Act to allow that national sports organisations approved by the Minister be considered as charitable organisations for the purpose of the Act.

Secondly, by amending the Tax Act if necessary. The position is that the Government has decided to grant certain concessions and seeks that the Gambling Act should be amended in two respects. 1.05 p.m.

The Gambling Act of 1917 (1917-3) will be amended to permit approved national organisations to raise funds by way of lottery or games of chance. The Organisation should submit all lottery applications together with financial statements to the Gambling Committee for approval, and organisations to be approved should be specified under the Act, and the proceeds from these games of chance should be tax exempted. This, Sir, is really a measure whereby the Gambling Act would be amended in order to permit certain approved and specified organisations which deal with sport with the concurrence and approval of the appropriate Minister, to conduct lotteries and bingo and all sorts of games which are run by certain organisations such as the Lions Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, etc. So this would be putting them in a position to assist themselves because many of them have been coming to Government at the last minute expecting the Government to give them \$45, 000 to assist them to send people abroad. In other words, you must send 45 or 50 people abroad, using the taxpayers' money and among them are about ten officials; and I am not speaking so much of the athletes

as such but of the excess baggage. This has been our experience and I have drawn this to the attention of the Minister of Sport because I know we are taking up the taxpayers' money every year and using it in this direction when it could be used for other purposes. So if one organisation can use \$45, 000 one time you can understand what is going on. I hope I have said enough, and I hope to receive the cooperation of hon. Members.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that. Sir, I reserve the right to speak later.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, my only comment on this is that I would hope that the organisations rather than using the money raised as capital for going abroad, will raise enough capital that could be invested, and the interest earned therefrom be used for financing the trips abroad. I say this because, as you know, I am a firm believer that there should be a Sports Foundation in Barbados — a charitable organisation which would be responsible for financing these trips abroad, and I agree, Sir, with the Minister who introduced this Resolution, that the time has long passed when these organisations should have to come to the Government asking for money whenever they want to sent people abroad.

I said not so long ago that sports foundations should be established and that those persons who contribute towards these foundations should be allowed to contribute by way of tax deductions. I understand that in the past the Income Tax Commissioner would not deem certain of the sports' organisations as charitable organisations and therefore when contributions were made to these organisations the contribution was not allowed for the purpose of tax deductions. I would hope that the money raised under this scheme would be used quite beneficially and that this would include Government Debentures the interest from which could be used for financing the trips abroad.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say briefly on this Bill, that it is an enabling one to permit sporting organisations in this country to have another means apart from the ones at present used, whereby they can raise funds for the financing of their sporting activities. It is a costly business, Mr. Speaker, to finance sport, and sporting organisations must be enabled to raise through their own efforts, the funds necessary for them to carry on their sporting activities. The Government is assuming its role by way of assisting sporting organisations in carrying out their activities and for the current financial year the sum of \$15, 000 was approved in the Estimates — I am not speaking of the Supplementary Estimates — this was approved for special events in terms of allocation to sporting organisations, and in the Draft Estimates which have been laid, \$20, 000 is provided in those Estimates. We believe however in spite of that provision, that Sporting Organisations must be able to have other means of raising funds in order that athletes reach a certain agreed standard so that competition at the national, regional and international level may be participated in and in order to raise the level of participation in the activities in which they are engaged as well as to bring about that friendship and understanding which is supposed to be the main purpose of sport, according to the Olympic Code of Ethics, and so on. 1.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make it quite clear that the Government does not consider its role as that of underwriting the finances of sporting organisations in this country. We believe that the best role the

Government can play in the promotion of sports and assisting in the development of sporting activities is to provide the facilities whereby sporting activities can take place. I refer to the development and building of complexes, pavilions, stadiums and other sporting facilities as well as providing the specialists staff which can assist in the organisation and the administration of these activities for which the Government is responsible, but the day-to-day administration of sports in this country must be the responsibility of the national organisations for the promotion of sports, and they must be given an opportunity to raise their funds to carry out the purpose for which they have been established. This Bill, Sir, is a measure to give them the opportunity to raise funds to promote and obtain the objectives for which they have been established.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

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. Its title was agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, there is a Money Resolution of which I gave notice earlier, and I asked for leave to deal with it in all its stages today. I refer to the Resolution in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport, in the sum of \$146, 135. It will be circulated to Hon. Members, and they will have an opportunity to peruse it at a later stage, if Hon. Members agree, it will be dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, the next Order of the Day is Item No. 1, which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Finance.

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1973-74, No. 40

The Resolution for the sum of \$30, 000 was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is in connection with the sum of \$30, 000 outstanding for the maintenance of fishing boats for the financial year. Some of the applications for subsidies payable to fishing boat owners in respect of maintenance of their fishing boats were received too late for processing within the last financial year, and the sum of \$24, 058 lapsed. There was no revote.

The entire allocation for 1973/74 has already been expended, but there are forty-four (44) applications in hand. Based on the average number of applications received during the past two (2) years, there is the likelihood that in addition to those in hand, a further fifty-six (56) applications will be processed by the end of this financial year. Supplementary Provision is, therefore, being requested for the sum of \$30, 000 to finance one hundred (100) applications.

I beg to move that Head 101 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — Item 17 Fisheries Development - \$30, 000 stand part.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has not given us much assistance in this matter. We cannot deny, Mr. Chairman, that this sum is to assist the fishing boat owners and that the fishing industry proper is presently suffering — I do not say at the indiscretion, but, perhaps, it would be more appropriate to say from the inception of the Comptroller of Customs exercising all the power that there is. 1.25 p.m.

This is so to such an extent that there is every reason for each and every one of us to look forward at any moment to the price of fish, high as it is at the moment, skyrocketing. Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to state specifically, the case of the boat owners in the northern parts of this Island. The Comptroller of Customs some time ago undoubtedly, as he intimated, I understand, acting upon the advice that some of the records of the distribution of diesel to boat owners were not properly kept, gave certain directions. Mr. Chairman, one must take into consideration that if it is a case that the distributors at these various points are not keeping their records as required by law, it is for the Comptroller of Customs or the proper authority to take appropriate action against the offenders, not against the whole fishing industry. There

was a concession made to boat owners through which they brought their dieselene at a price of about 40 cents per gallon cheaper than motor vehicle users. You will appreciate that boats do not use the roadways and there is a road tax on the dieselene or gasolene for vehicles that use the road, but you will find, and I am sure the Minister must bear me out on this, that boat owners are called upon to pay a road tax on dieselene when they are not using the roads. As a consequence, you will find that it is more expensive for a boat owner to push off and go to the fishing banks each day; and to make it worse all the distribution points up north have been closed, and the boats have to journey from north to Bay Street Esso to get their supplies of fuel, because apparently Bay Street Esso operators were the only people or amongst the few who kept proper records. Can one tell me that it is fair and just that a boat has to got to push off from Crab Hill, St. Lucy, Maycock's Bay or even from Speightstown and journey to Bay Street and go back north to the fishing banks? Is it reasonable? If they do not do this, the boat owners in these areas have to buy dieselene at the same price as bus owners and motor vehicle owners.

We believe that you will find amongst these boat owners some who will not act as carefully as they ought to and seek to accommodate their friends who have motor vehicles or something of the sort, but if proper records are kept, it is quite easy to check on a boat owner. If he is accustomed to using 30 or 40 gallons a day as the case may be and then suddenly it is found that he is calling for twice or once and a half as much as he was using during the previous three months, a question must arise and he must be asked to explain. If the Comptroller of Customs had any reason to believe that there had been underhand dealings or anything like this with this dieselene, we have a Police Force that could be used to investigate these improprieties. We have no complaint about this, but what we find is that having the boat owners put to such inconvenience and faced with having to buy dieselene at a higher price, it must be reflected in a yet higher price for fish.

Mr. Chairman, we understand that the Comptroller of Customs is not prepared to back down because it would appear as if he would be losing some of his authority and losing faith in the matter, but boat owners have come around to appreciating the one fact that the days when the seas are rough, they cannot push off, they and their families have got to starve and if the seas remain like this for a week they will have to make out as they can. Unless this matter is resolved as quickly as possible, the boat owners are prepared to let their boats remain tied to the jetties. In other words, they are prepared to go on strike. This is not something we would like to see. If a boat owner is buying X gallons of dieselene he should be issued with a ticket or some other means should be found, and I am sure hon. Members of this House would be willing if we are called upon to vote to give a refund to these boat owners who have to buy at a high price either at the end of a month or every three month period. In other words, we feel that they should be given the concession of buying it at a cheaper rate than the motor vehicle users. You and I, Mr. Chairman, are not going to risk our lives fishing to sell to anybody. I would not get in a boat and go out for the fun of it. Fishing is my hobby, but if I had to do it for a living to support my family, my family would have been dead ever since. This would be so with you too, Mr. Chairman; but I forgot there is no sea in St. George.

I am sure the Comptroller of Customs would not like to hear me say this, but he took this action unilaterally. He never gave any consideration to the fact that his action was going to affect boat owners and that boat owners are responsible to the Ministry of Fisheries, or the Ministry of Fisheries has some responsibility for the fishing industry of this country. 1.35 p.m.

I believe it happened that maybe a few moments before a delegation from the northern parishes turned

up at the Ministry of Fisheries to have this matter thrashed out, that the matter was really brought to the attention of the Ministry and they then tried to see what could be done. I want to say that as far as I know, from the time the complaint was made to the Ministry of Fisheries everything that could be done has been done, but we still see that the Comptroller of Customs is continuing in the same way. This is a matter for the Cabinet to take some decision on, if not, boat owners will have to take some sort of action to bring everybody to their senses. We cannot see the boat owners getting squeezed while everybody else goes free.

As regards the delay in submitting these applications, we believe that the time has come when the Fisheries Department has got to be better staffed because the fishing industry means much more to us today and the part that it plays in our daily lives has been brought home and is being brought home to us more forcibly each day. I think the sooner the Ministry gets down to realising this and acting accordingly the better it will be for all of us.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think it would be fair to allow the Member for St. Peter to state the case alone without giving him some support on this matter, particularly as regards the difficulties which are being experienced by fishermen in this country. Like him I represent a constituency in which there are a number of fishermen and fishing boat owners, and like him also complaints have been lodged with me relative to the difficulties with which the people who are involved in the fishing industry are being faced, and I have spoken to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on this matter and he has assured me that everything is being done to alleviate the problems which are being encountered by these fishermen.

The hon. Member for St. Peter made a telling point when he referred to the attitude of the Comptroller of Customs in the matter as regards the increased price of dieselene which fishermen have to pay and this to me is something which the Government should look into as urgently as possible. It was on the 23rd October last year, Mr. Chairman, that I gave notice of a Question on the increased price of fishing tackle, gear and engines which again because of the strict application apparently, or some misunderstanding of something which was said in the last Budget Speech, equipment for fishermen has risen considerably in price. Also, the result of the recent application of the rule by the Comptroller of Customs relative to the supply of dieselene which made the price of dieselene rise, is causing considerable hardships in the industry, and one would have hoped that the Government would take very serious note of this, because we believe that the fishing industry is an extremely important one in this country. It has tremendous potential not only with what it can mean to the quality of the food we eat, but it can also bring us some foreign exchange if we adopt the right approach from the point of view of planning and developing the industry and giving every possible encouragement to the industry.

We feel that it has been neglected for some time. It has been allowed to develop in a higgledy-piggledy manner without any kind of planning or projections or without very much assistance from sources which would enable it to develop in the way it should be developed to make a more important contribution to the life of this country. I would therefore hope that the Minister would take note of the points which have been raised here today, because they are causing a considerable amount of difficulty to people who are involved in the fishing industry and in the overall development of the country.

We notice that there has been some mention of what is going to be done for the industry during the

next Development Plan years, and we hope that these projections will come into operation and that in the final analysis they will mean something, that at least we can see the fruits of the planning and the concern which we hope the Government will be demonstrating towards the industry in the future.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to the hon. Member for St. Peter as well as the hon. Member for St. Lucy, and there is a difference of about 50 cents per gallon between diesel fuel issued to fishing boats and fuel used by trucks and other vehicles ashore. The Comptroller of Customs over the last two months discovered that there were several of these gasoline stations which sold petrol to buses and other vehicles at the price it should have been sold to fishing boats. This is taking place more in the northern parishes than in any other parish. Fortunately, St. Michael is not suffering from that problem. The fishing boat owners in St. Michael and Christ Church are still in a position to buy their fuel at, I think, 93 cents per gallon, while those in the northern parishes have to pay, I think, \$1.44.

I was in St. Peter about two months ago and a fisherman came to me — the Minister was in the area at the same time — and told me his problems and I advised him not to lose one day's fishing because he was fishing every other day. This way they were using up a lot of fuel because they were travelling from the north to the Esso Service Station in Bay Street on the non-fishing day to buy fuel, and this was a fair amount to be consumed in manoeuvring to get from Speightstown or St. Lucy up to Esso and they would be using 32 miles of fuel to no avail. I told him I had no control over the Comptroller of Customs, but I took it up at Cabinet, and I told the fisherman to hold all the bills so that he would get a draw back. Cabinet agreed that the boat owners who were buying fuel at that high price should be refunded. 1.45 p.m.

I would like to assure hon. Members that something has been done about it. Cabinet has agreed that fishermen will be refunded. I agree that the position is not satisfactory. Fishermen run their boats on a day to day basis. As a Minister of Fisheries I discovered that fishermen who took fuel from a particular station, when they went to that station they were told that there was none. The fuel was sold to other parties and the fishermen suffered.

I would like to assure hon. Members that the Minister of Fisheries and the Cabinet have taken up the complaints that were made and that the fishermen will get refunds.

As the Member for St. Peter said, it is quite easy to check. In the Fisheries Department, we checked on the horse power of the vessel and we know how many hours a day the average boat goes out. If one boat starts to use fuel for other purposes, it can be easily checked. A boat with an 8HP engine running 10 hours a day will burn about four gallons a day, and if there is a sudden increase you will quite easily know what is going on.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I must join with the other speakers in commenting on the difficulties which the Fishing Industry is facing in this country today. I have my own personal problems when it comes to St. Joseph. I remember being called at 11 o'clock one night to be told that fishermen were being asked to pay the same price as road vehicles for fuel.

St. Joseph, unfortunately, is the only existing fishing port where fishermen can only fish for

approximately nine months of the year, and this year when there were unusually high winds coming from the east starting in September or October and persisting until today, fishermen in St. Joseph are meeting with extreme hardship.

I have asked a Question about sinking a channel at Tent Bay because fishermen cannot get out without danger between November and February. With the increased price they have to pay for fuel, and not having proper facilities at Tent Bay, there is undue hardship for the St. Joseph fishermen.

I have asked the Ministry of Trade and the Price Control Officer to send a man to Tent Bay to explain to the station operator that he must supply boats at the non road use price. The Member for St. Lucy talked about the question of the increased price of fishing gear. I am amazed to hear him ask such a question or even repeat it today, when his Party voted for the Brussels Tariff, and therefore prices of fishing gear went up. He must not vote with his Party and then, to gain political mileage come here and ask Parliamentary Questions.

When we contended that we were not given enough time to look at it, we realised that the increase in prices would have affected us adversely. We walked out. The Minister of Home Affairs must know now that the Comptroller of Customs is holding everyone to the law passed by Government. They must not come and tell you today that you can no longer enjoy duty free tariffs for the Fishing Industry or for Agriculture. They have passed an Act and they will have to pass one repealing the Brussels Tariff to put us where we were before.

If you want to increase the number of fish landed, and increase food production you must give some sort of incentive to those involved in the industry. The Government has to look at the Brussels Tariff and ask if it is working to our benefit, to the benefit of both the Fishing Industry and Agriculture in which we are so lacking. That is what we have to do.

I can understand the plight of the Minister of Agriculture. He cannot tell the fishermen what he would like to tell them. He must realise that they are undergoing an undue burden at this time, and he must realise that it is his Government which passed the Brussels Tariff.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that something be done quickly which would alleviate at least the Fishing Industry. I had a complaint up to Sunday that one man who claimed a refund since September has not yet got his refund. There is an increase in the price of wood and in the increase in the price of labour, and now the fishermen are charged an increase for dieselene which must kill the Fishing Industry. I hope that the Government will take a careful look at what the Member for St. Peter has said. You must do something either by internal legislation or in some other way to see that the fishermen do not suffer unduly.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, many points have been made by Members reflecting the plight of the poor fishermen. On the question of the price of dieselene which the Comptroller of Customs has imposed on every fisherman, it was impartially imposed.

I was aware of this situation, and as a matter of fact the Comptroller took unilateral action in giving concessions to the various distribution points. He has said that he was concerned about dieselene that

was being used on the road and paid for on the non-road-use price. He waited and then came with an order that people who had not submitted their returns in time would have to get it at the road-use price.

I am concerned that he is penalising every fisherman in this country. I know for a fact that a fisherman must go out. If the dieselene is used on the road that is not the fault of the fisherman. He has been asked for the last five to six months to pay for his fuel at the road-use price and this must reflect on the price of fish. Fish is a most important commodity in Barbados and when higher prices are charged for fish, it must impose more hardship on the people in Barbados.

I have asked the Fisheries Officer to find some compromise out of this situation. He has held talks with the Comptroller of Customs. We have tried to help fishermen who have not been able to keep their boats out to sea. Despite that, the Comptroller is still acting on his orders as they are.

He has re-registered a few points, mostly co-operatives, but the mass of fishermen have been seriously affected by this action. It is ridiculous that fishermen from St. Lucy and St. Peter have to go to Bridgetown to get fuel and then go back to do their fishing.

I have found that it seems to be the practice that when you want to enforce a law you enforce it so that it is only the small man who is affected. The Comptroller should find out those who are using dieselene wrongfully and prosecute them. He has now discovered that people have not been making returns in the proper time. Why should he come down hard on the fishermen and keep back their refunds? 1.55 p.m.

I am very much in agreement with all the remarks that have been made by the various speakers, because this has caused me very great concern as I live very near a fishing village and am surrounded by fishermen. I am completely in contact with fishermen from Silver Sands, Oistin's and Dover. I can very well endorse and support what has been said here today and I am very much concerned about the fishermen in this country. I am at present working on certain proposals and recommendations which will be of help to the fishing industry as a whole.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as far as the matter raised by the hon. Member for St. Lucy about the fishing tackle is concerned, my Ministry is working on proposals which are aimed at meeting these needs. We have got proposals in hand, and I should like to inform this House that a fishing development for Barbados has been formulated with the American Development Fund and this project is being financed by way of a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank with a view to increasing the inflow of fish from four million to six million pounds in four years time. Officials of the Inter-American Development Bank will be here later in the year to deal with applications for the loan and other matters associated with the project. I will end by mentioning that we also contemplate the construction of a new pier - and processing facilities at Speightstown. Those Mr. Chairman, are the points I wanted to make.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, although the Minister has replied, I crave your indulgence to have this made clear and to make a correction in regard to what the Minister said relative to amending the Act whereby certain concessions be granted to fishermen. As far as I know what he said in this respect is incorrect. I want to point out that he is not correct in that certain regulations were laid down with which the fishermen did not comply. Certain restrictions had to be imposed by the authorities and it is well known that the average boat owner does not keep records or anything of the sort so the regulations were never observed.

There are certain regulations with which they did not comply.....

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. The poor boat owner and fisherman has been so treated so far as facilities are concerned that they have found it difficult to comply, so I do not know what the Leader of the House is saying.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Certain regulations were not complied with. That is what I am saying.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am craving the indulgence of the Committee to make a statement in respect of what has been said by the Leader of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Member has already spoken.

Mr. BOLDEN:

According to you, Mr. Chairman, after a Minister has replied, none of us can speak and the Leader got up and made a statement.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Member must take his seat. There is no reply by a Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order Mr. Chairman. I have not spoken before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That has already been settled by me Will the hon. Member for St. Joseph take his seat.

The Question that the Resolution for \$30, 000 do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 2.05 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, at this stage it may be the appropriate or convenient time for us to suspend the Sitting,

PROGRESS REPORT

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

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.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for one hour, that is, until 3.05 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

On resumption —

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

This Sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy 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.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question No. 151 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

QUESTION RE THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Question No. 151 reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Would the Minister state (a) The number of Co-operative Societies registered with the Department of Agriculture? (b) The number of members registered with each of the organisations? (c) The dates during the last six years when the accounts of each organisation were audited? (d) The dates during the last six years when the audited accounts were published? Would the Minister consider setting up a committee to investigate and report on the operations of these Co-operative Societies?

In view of the length of the answer which will be given to this Question, I have no objection to the Hon. Minister laying the reply on the Table.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the answer to Question No. 151 on the Table of this Honourable House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question No. 182 on page 16 asked by the same hon. Member for St. Joseph.

QUESTION RE THE PERSONAL TAXABLE ALLOWANCES

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Question No. 182 reads as follows

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: In view of the uncontrolled rise in the cost of living over the last year, would the Minister state how soon the Government intends to increase personal taxable allowances?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is that personal allowances are not taxable under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, (1968-51), as amended.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a previous occasion Question No. 167 was asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The answer was ready, but the House adjourned before I could give the answer. If the House will permit me, I will give the answer now.

QUESTION RE THE DANGEROUS CORNERS IN ROCK HALL

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Question No. 167 reads as follows

To enquire of the Minister of M.C.W.: Is the Minister aware that there are two dangerous corners in the road that passes through Rock Hall in the parish of St. Thomas, where many accidents have occurred, and will he take steps to improve them?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the answer is as follows

Plans have been completed for the improvement of the two corners in the road that passes through Rock Hall in the Parish of St. Thomas. The work will be undertaken as soon as the necessary land has been acquired.

I think I can let the hon. Member know that, since this answer was ready, the acquisition has taken place and we should be able to include it in our road improvement for 1974—75.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, will the Minister state the exact route which the road will take? Will it eliminate the two corners going towards the Police Station?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The improvement contemplated will improve visibility as well as road widening around those two curves. I cannot tell you exactly how it will be done. There are other bends along this road up to its junction with District "D". The road, generally, is narrow and circuitous.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That is the end of Question Time.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

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. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume in Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1973-74 NO. 41

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$788, 917.

I beg to move that this be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

The Resolution for the sum of \$788, 917 -was called.

Head 17 — Prime Minister's Office — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, these are the usual items which have been supplemented, and the amounts are very small.

I beg to move that Head 17 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 22 — Defence and Security Division — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, with respect to Head 22 — Defence and Security Division — Item 13 — National Insurance Contributions — \$5, 200, we know that contributions have been increased from the beginning of this year. The provision which has been made for this Item will have to be supplemented in order to comply with the law and to ensure that members of the Defence and Security Division in the Prime Minister's Office are taken care of, so far as National Insurance Contributions are concerned.

I beg to move that Head 22 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, we have now reached the point of paying \$5, 200 as National Insurance Contributions in respect of, undoubtedly, the personnel employed in the Security and Defence Division. I think I am right in saying that, up to the present, nothing has been put before us, or before the public proper, so that it can be appreciated at any point exactly what we are defending and how far national security stretches. We see, from time to time, in the Press that something resembling a gunboat has been launched and off-loaded. We hear here and there that a retired Police Superintendent is going to be the head of "Commander Marshal", but we have nothing before us to tell us that the fleet is manned presently by X numbers, whether we have a Fleet Commander, and that the contribution in respect of this officer is so much as against other members of the crew. Nobody on this side really knows, because undoubtedly the Leader of the House has his life before him and he is in a position to give us all the information that any hon. Member would wish to seek on a matter as important as this. Remember, Sir, if we have such a division functioning to the extent that we now require \$5, 200 to pay national insurance contributions to

the end of the present financial year, from what we know of the various categories of contributions, there must be very considerable staffing of this division; so we would like to hear something from the Minister to let us know exactly how far we have got and when hon. Members from this side can expect to have some viewing of the land from the sea on board the Commander Marshall, because we believe there will be more joy-riding than anything else. I am not suggesting that it is going to take the place of the two Jolly Rogers, but we really want to hear something about this Security and Defence Division to see if we can make up our minds to support the paying of these national insurance contributions to the tune of \$5, 200.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, if Your Honour would look at the Schedule, you will see that the sum which is being requested is \$5, 200, but as far as I see that is a typographical error, but the note does not compare with that, neither does the explanation which I have. The amount which is actually required is the sum of \$1, 058. The amount of \$5, 200 is what was originally voted, so I am apologising for having erred on that occasion in accordance with what is before me, but on further examination the amount which I see needed is \$1, 058. The amount would have to be amended, and the amount which I will move will be \$1, 058.

I beg to move that the figures "5, 200" be deleted and the figures "1, 058" be inserted.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The question is that Head 22 as amended stand part.....

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Minister can rise and say he is moving that the sum of \$5, 200 be amended by substituting \$1, 058, it is merely seconded and it can go like that. All of us are here and something is due to us.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, do you not have to give twenty-four hours' notice of a reduction of a vote? The Opposition would be forced to do it during the Estimates.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in order to satisfy the hon. Member who wants a further explanation, the position is that the sum of \$5, 200 was provided under Head 22 — Defence and Security Division, Item 13, National Insurance Contributions in accordance with the National Insurance Scheme for the Defence and Security Division and the Barbados Regiment. In view of the increase in the contributions which were agreed to by this House and became effective from 1st January, 1974, this amount became inadequate to meet contributions to 31st March, 1974. It is estimated that an additional sum of \$1, 058 is needed. The hon. Member is asking why should we have to pay more by way, of National Insurance Contributions.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the Notice Paper quite clearly says Other Expenditure — \$5, 200 and that the supplementary provision required is \$5, 200. Twenty-four hours'; notice is needed to amend this. If this can be done, next week when the Estimates come off, we will be moving reductions. The explanatory note forms no part of the Resolution. Let the Government vote the \$5, 200. I do not believe they will stick two stamps on the card. The Accountant General will only allow them to spend the amount due for national insurance I do not believe they will pace over the card with three sets of stamps in each space; but this is a reduction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have said that it is an error and it is proved conclusively under Note 4 which says that the sum of \$5, 200 was provided in the Estimates 1973—74 to meet the payment of contribution in accordance with the National Insurance Scheme for the Defence and Security Division and the Barbados Regiment. It is estimated that an additional sum of \$1, 058 will be required to meet expenditure under this Item to the end of the financial year. Since Note 4 in my estimation has set out what it was in the Approved Estimates and is now asking for \$1, 058, it is proved to be a typographical error in putting down \$5, 200 again. That is my ruling. 3.25 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the notes or an Addendum to a Resolution are not part of the Resolution, therefore if the Bill or Resolution calls for a figure, the only way that can be corrected is by a motion moved and seconded that one thing be deleted and something else inserted. To say that the note explains what happens here, one would be in the position that as of now if a note comes down giving something which is wrong we shall be entitled to amend the substantive motion to suit the note. The note is only explaining what the main thing is about, and I am ashamed to think that the ex-Attorney General would sit down there and conspire with others.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I have not yet spoken.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Did I call your name? Do you have wet clothes hung out?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

There is only one ex-Attorney General in here and that happens to be me.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it is like the note to a bit of legislation, it does not form part of the legislation and we cannot amend the legislation because the side note says something different, it is the main legislation we are dealing with. If the note is incorrect, how do we know that it is the right one? If the Hon. Minister recognises now that the substantive amount is incorrect he has to make a motion to change it now. Mr. Chairman, you are well aware of the last one which came in here with respect to land where the Addendum set out something completely different.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I have asked to find the original Resolution which was tabled when notice was given. That should clearly show whether it is correct or whether this is an error.

Mr. ADAMS:

I was reading from a sheet which I believe was in the same series as the original document and it says \$5, 200. May be we suffer from having a legal education and we believe we know that the notes cannot affect the plain language of statute. Marginal notes are to be used only where the interpretation is unclear, still less in the Preamble, still less in the Objects and Reasons stated on the original Bill and still less the argument used on the original passage, and I would submit for your consideration that the status of the notes to the Supplementary Estimates, while they are a guide to determine that expenditure is properly incurred, they are perhaps halfway notes to the Preamble and they cannot govern the Bill. The hon. Member for St. Michael South Central will bear me out, I think, in what must be the more celebrated example of this.

In 1961 the Malicious Injury to Property Act was being amended and it was intended to allow all malicious damage not specifically provided for to be tried by a Magistrate, and by mistake the statute was printed as section 41 instead of 40 although the Objects and Reasons set out that section 40 was the relevant section, yet the courts have felt themselves unable to administer it in that sense, and the Member for St. Michael South Central when he was Attorney General found himself unable to let the Member for Bridgetown and myself get it amended, so the courts have been trying damages under this Act when they should be tried by Magistrates. Similarly, you see \$5, 200 here and it is \$5, 200 no matter what the note says.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition that that was the law courts who cannot amend it but we are in Parliament and since Parliament is the highest court in the land, we can amend it.

Mr. ADAMS:

Parliaments are not courts, the only highest court in the land applies to the House of Lords. We are governed by our own rules and the rules of Parliament say that reductions to a vote must be made with 24 hours notice. We are not saying that Parliament cannot amend the law, obviously it is with us and we have the power to do that, but we are saying that we have to be bound by our own rules. We cannot by a vote in here just decide to say that the rule does not apply to us and quarrel with the Chairman, similarly I would suggest that hon. Members on the other side should not quarrel with the rules. No harm will be done by voting the money anyhow, Sir.

Hon. C E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, your ruling is as usual so correct in this case. You have made it clear already despite the gesticulations of the Opposition. We are talking about what is needed by the Government, and if a genuine error is made, are you saying that the Government does not have the right to change it? We are amending it to suit the requirements of the Ministry or Department, and we asked to move that the amount instead of being \$5, 200 should be \$1, 058. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, even in his last speech the Leader for the House has been mixed up. This is only an amendment needed to correct an error. The amendment had been duly moved and seconded. He said that the amendment was to reduce. Those were the words that he used.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

It was moved that the sum of \$1, 058 be inserted. I was about to put the question that Head 22 as amended stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the hon. Member for St. Peter asked a Question. He was stating that there was no information available to him as to the staff of the Ministry of Security and Defence, as he called it. The information is set out in the Estimates for the Current Financial Year, 1973-74.

Under Personal Emoluments provision is made for one Permanent Secretary, one Assistant Secretary, one Secretary, one Clerical Officer, one Messenger and Temporary Staff; and the amount to meet contributions to the National Insurance Scheme is \$5, 200.

I assume that this is the information which the hon. Member needs.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister for the answer that he has just given. I am glad to see that the Member for St. Michael South has given the information required.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I am not going to stoop to that type of ignorance.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman on a point of order. I am the person who put the Questions. If the Minister has now risen to say that the questions were ignorant, vexatious and frivolous, I think that I am right in saying that he is imputing improper motives. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am listening to a point of order.

Mr. HINDS:

I am the person who asked the question and there is no denying that the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the House were in reference to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

In my opinion there is no point of order and the remarks did not refer to you.

The Question that Head 22 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 27 — Police — stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary under Office Expenses is \$5, 500. Is that correct? The note relating to the cost of Xerox machine says that the amount required to pay for rental of the machine had been doubled. I wonder if the rental cost of all the Xerox machines in the island had been doubled as well. This is very important.

I think that I am right in saying that the people who rent these Xerox machines are taking the opportunity to take the Government for a ride, and I am sure that if it has been established in Government circles that we have need for this type of machine, surely some way could be found by which these machines could be bought outright. If you cannot buy Xerox machines, there must be some other machines of that type that you could buy outright.

Do not allow them to take us for a ride. For what? Fuel charge? Extra labour cost? It is not merely a case of the Police Department saying that the rental cost of these machines has now doubled. On what basis? The police cannot merely state that everyone in the Force should have their salaries doubled. There must be some basis on which it has got to be formulated.

Because there is a fuel crisis and what not, it is not fair for us to push our hands into the taxpayers' pockets and pay this amount in this Department because Xerox people say that they want more.

I am reminded that we had a Xerox machine here in Parliament, and we had to get rid of it. I believe that this high rental cost was the reason. The Police Department, the Registry and the other departments that have been told that they have to pay double rental should realise that we on this side are serving notice on them here and now that we will not be voting one penny to meet this additional expenditure. Let them do the same thing that we did in Parliament and get excellent machines to do the work as efficiently at a reduced cost.

Everyone is taking an opportunity to get as much as they can. Let them put something before the Government as a just reason why they find it necessary to double the rent.

I believe, Sir, that the vote for photographic equipment is incorrect, and here again the Minister will have to rise and move a reduction because in the Other Expenditure column the amount originally voted was \$3, 600. He is now asking for the same amount, but the note explains that there has been a 25 per cent increase. How can you be asking for another \$3, 600.

I do not believe that it calls for an interpretation by an Attorney General or by an ex-Attorney General because if the person who wrote the note had drawn attention to the fact that some of the essential items were increased by 30 to 40 per cent they would have mentioned that in preference to mentioning 25 per cent. The reason is that no other items exceeded 25 per cent. We are just asking the Government to look into these things, and correct them where necessary. 3.45 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, during 1973 the volume and cost of stationery increased considerably. There was also an increase in the cost of labour to clean around the various Police Stations. In addition to these reasons, the amount established to pay for the rental of the Xerox Machine has doubled. This machine was only installed in 1973 and a proper assessment of the amount required for rental could not be made before. So

this gives the answer to what the hon. Member has been complaining about.

With regard to Item 55, the reason for this increase in expenditure, Mr. Chairman, is due to the increase in the cost of materials used in photography. There are instances where the price of some of the essential items has increased by as much as 25%. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of scenes attended during 1973 as compared with the previous year. At the end of October, 1973, there were 581 more scenes attended than for the same period in 1972.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few comments on this item dealing with Police. First of all, the reason why there has been an increase in the cost of labour employed to clean around the Police Stations is due to very insanitary buildings, old time buildings, that the police are asked to live in at present. The police deserve new police stations. Better accommodation should be made for them. The police station at Seawell is also in a disgraceful condition, and considering the long hours that the policemen have to be involved in security and immigration duties, some improvements should be made at the station.

The police stations in St. Thomas and St. Peter and at the other out-Districts are also not in very good shape and it is time that a considerable improvement is made in the conditions under which the police have to live at the various police stations.

Now it is stated that the amount required to pay for rental of the Xerox Machine has doubled. Mr. Chairman, the police no doubt are in need of a Xerox Machine and there can be no criticism with regard to any expense mentioned in the issue of this machine. Duplicating is still a process in making a large number of copies and for the police stations, the volume of copying has increased tremendously and so the use of this machine would be enormous. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that the necessity of the police to have a Xerox Machine is as high as it is for other Government Departments.

As far as photography is concerned, I would like the Minister responsible to question whether too many photographs are not being made. It now seems to become an established practice that wherever possible a photograph is taken at the scene of a crime, but there are some instances when because of the nature of the crime a photograph has not been of much assistance to the jury at a trial. It is time that steps be taken to see how often photographs are used by Judges in the Courts in the course of a trial and by the jury in the course of reaching a decision.

This is not in any way to criticise the Department which is responsible, but just to question the need for these things.

The Question that Head 27 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 30 — Prisons — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, in moving Head 30 — Prisons — Item 15 — Provisions — in the case of this increase, this amount proved to be inadequate as a result of rising food prices which saw a 46.4 percent increase over the 1972 price and the increase of prison population from 195 as at April 1, 1973 to 210 at November 30, 1973.

With regard to Item 19 — Office Expenses — this increase was due to the cost of washing and cleaning materials as well as the growth of the prison population. Out of the total provision of \$12, 210, expenditure as at November, 30, 1973 was \$11, 168 and commitments amounted to \$1, 063. The vote, Mr. Chairman, is therefore fully committed and \$2, 000 is necessary to cover expenditure to the end of the financial year. 3.55 p.m.

The vote is very fully committed, and there is a requirement for the sum of \$2, 000 which will be necessary to carry them through to the end of the financial year.

Item 20 - Utilities. The sum of \$2, 000 will be required to supplement this Item under Head 30 — Prisons — up to the end of this financial year.

Item 24 — Farm. The rising costs of animal and poultry feeds at the farm has been responsible for this increase of \$4, 000, and this amount will be required to supplement the vote to the end of the financial year.

Item 26 — Maintenance of Vehicles. The increased cost of petrol is partially responsible for the increase in this Item, and an additional sum of \$1, 000 is needed.

I beg to move that Head 30 — Prisons — stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, as the Minister has stated, there is an increase in the population at the Prison, and I believe that the Government should give some consideration to utilising some of the land which it is not using. Even at Waterford some of these prisoners should be made to grow food to feed the population at the Prison. They could be paid a stipend which would help them to rehabilitate themselves when they come out. Instead of taking them to Government House each day, they should be made to rear chickens, and grow more food. If this is done, it will reduce the cost of food at the Prison, and the prisoners will become more useful to the community. The Government has enough land to do this. We see prisoners going here and there cutting down trees, and depriving able-bodied people of getting work felling trees.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Chairman, there is a certain amount of activity carried on at this farm. Cows are kept at the Prison. They are at present about seven cows, and pigs as well as chickens are kept there. This is being done in order to reduce the cost of food. I agree that this could be extended on Government land. At the Mental Asylum they used to do a certain amount of agriculture.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of things in these Notes which, I think, deserve the attention of hon. Members. First of all, the increase, in the population at the Prison. I was very surprised to hear the Minister say that the population at the Prison is now as many as 210 persons. When I first went into practice at the Bar there were 100 persons in the Prison, and I am astonished, after a period of 10 years,

to hear that the population of the Prison in Barbados has doubled. The statutory provision for feeding a prisoner is \$5.00 a week, and they are not doing anything exceptional to the prisoners by giving them another \$2.00 a week. I think that \$7.00 a week is very low to feed a man, anyhow. I suppose that the Prison is already providing a great deal of its own food.

I agree with what has been said by the hon. Member who has just sat down. Under the present Government and the Government's policy to increase agriculture, I feel that a great deal of work could be done. There is enough space at the Prison to do this work. With the assistance of an Extension Officer from the Department of Agriculture, the labour force at the Prison could be used to experiment in some form of self-help which might be of some value to the community when the persons, who have been exposed to this type of work, leave the institution. Some prisoners are given training which terminates in artisanship, but it is just as important to train prisoners in agriculture as it is to train them in making good furniture. Instead of coming here and asking for a 40% increase, the Government should make the prisoners grow more food at Glendairy.

Sir, the Government should attempt to stop the spiralling food prices at a time like this. I cannot believe that the diet at Glendairy is composed of these items which are spiralling. With regard to the increase in the population at the Prison, I would ask the Minister to make a careful investigation of conditions there at the present time so that he can have some word for us when he comes to discuss the Estimates. There are certain things we cannot talk about when we are discussing the Estimates, and we cannot say certain things about the Warders. It is well known that Prison Warders are being asked to work 80 hours a week as a result of the increase in the population at the Prison. When you go to the Prison nowadays, you find that the greater number of the Prison Warders are in plain clothes. You will find them wearing shirt and pants. The greater number of them are in acting posts where they are not yet in uniform. These things must necessarily, have their effects upon the morale of the Prison Warders. People are in detention up to 20 hours; a day because there is

insufficiency in staff to supervise them at leisure. 4.05 p.m.

They cannot be put to work in many cases even though some of them might like to work. Many a prisoner who has been in the field would be only too glad to work, but it is regarded by the present rules as precluded by his conditions of appeal, and therefore all he can do is skulk in his cell because of the lack of persons to supervise him in healthy exercise that would make for a proper atmosphere within the walls of Glendairy. All these are matters which we are calling on the Minister now to investigate and give us an answer when Estimates time comes up. Because a man goes to prison it does not mean that he drops out of society or he is never to be regarded as part of society again. Barbados has a very enviable record of non-recidivism, of curing in a moral and social sense persons who make mistakes in their youth, and it is a record that most countries can be proud of that the great majority of persons who go to prison in Barbados go there only once. We should be proud of this but we will not get this if the prison is allowed to become overcrowded. If the prison cells at Glendairy have to take more than one person we will not get this when they start doubling up in the cells, when they have to be locked up in the cells, because they cannot enjoy the company of a warder in conditions to make them feel like human beings again.

Mr. Chairman, all these are matters which should be considered and which I hope the Minister will consider. I believe the present Minister to be a man of humanity; I am not suggesting that any other

Minister is not a man of humanity, but the present Minister is clearly a man of great humanity in these matters, and I would expect that he would give some thought both to the conditions of the warders, and conditions under which they are asked to work, and the conditions under which prisoners are asked to live in Glendairy prison.

I would like to go on record, and this is an individual view — I cannot say it is the view of my Party or is not the view of my Party — as saying that I believe that you send a man to prison as a punishment, not for punishment. You do not send him to prison to be punished inside prison. Going to prison and the incarceration should be punishment, and when he is inside your duty is to make Mm a good citizen of Barbados again; and the prison is rapidly moving towards a situation of a higher population now I believe than at any time since the 1937 disturbances where it will be possible to keep a man in the prison under the humane conditions that so many superintendents have been able to preside and add to in the last twenty years. We have been fortunate in the administration of our prisons and in the superintendents we have had. Let the Minister take great care to make sure that this continues to be the case and that we do not lapse into the conditions of Trinidad and Jamaica where persons enter the prisons in order to be made enemies of society and where the streets are not safe to walk at night. I would never like to have to fight a campaign in this country on the basis of law and order because the Government had let things slip so far and let the prison population increase so much and become degraded as to turn out criminals out of the prison where you may only have sent in bad boys or misguided boys or wayward boys.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition seems to be putting up a case for treating prisoners well when they go to prison, but as a lawyer I presume he has all rights for doing such things. The item I would like to speak on is utilities for which there is a request for \$2, 000 for increased lighting. Of course I do not know if the prisoners had an opportunity recently of seeing C.B.C.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, in fact I think it had better be a point of explanation of what I said, generally speaking my clients do not go to prison.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

He seems to be a very good lawyer. The point I am trying to make is that the latest thing I have seen .on C.B.C. is "SOS". This used to mean "save our souls" when I was at school, but they say it is "switch off something". I think this "SOS" would be very appropriate up there because lighting has increased, and I feel that if the warders and others there have been taking note of the requests by Ministers and by Light and Power Company that they switch off something as C.B.C. suggest, we would not be faced with this request for the amount of money to carry us to the end of the financial year. Be that as it may, I hope something will be done in that direction. I support the hon. Member for St. Peter in saying that I do feel that the prisoners should be made to be self-sufficient. There is land around the prison that should be cultivated to grow crops instead of letting them go to sweep yards and cut trees. These big healthy bodies which are at present being supported by the Government should be planting food crops, or having farms on which we can have pigs and cows which would minimise this Bill which we as taxpayers all have to pay, and if this were done we would not see this recurrence of \$20, 000 because it seems from the report given by the Minister that the population at the prison has been on the increase and there is evidence that it will be going up. If it is going to increase, the services of those people who find themselves there should be better utilised by making them work on some big farm or tilling the land,

because right now those of us who live in the rural areas find it rather difficult to get our lands cultivated and I do not see if these people are being fed at such a high standard why they cannot do something to help feed themselves by preparing some land which would produce to help them.

The Question that Head 30 — Prisons — stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 32 — Meteorological Service — was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 32 — Meteorological Service — stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 33 — Ministry of Communications and Works — was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 33 — Ministry of Communications and Works — stand part.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, since we have this cut back in our lighting, I wonder what part this is expected to play in the reduction costs under this Head. Surely the Minister is aware that our street lighting, setting aside the cut back resulting from the energy crisis has been the poorest ever witnessed during the past two years. As for lighting in public places, I would really like to hear what the Minister would have to say, what satisfaction he would give this Honourable House as to the performance of his lighting of public places during the past financial year and the financial year 1972—73. I am sure there has been no commendable improvement. As a matter of fact, it has been so far below what could be expected by the citizens of this nation, it has

been so abominable in certain areas..... (Hon. F.

G. SMITH:

Such as?). I know the Minister is going to expect me to refer to areas in St. Peter, but that is not the case, because in the area nearest to the Bridgetown Port, this is a very important area and I would like to hear the Minister say that he has been satisfied at any one time with the lighting that has been provided in that particular area. 4.15 p.m.

I am not saying that the streets should be lighted so that people could do a lot of jay walking or anything like this, but because of the activity in the Port area and what we know can take place there, it is absolutely necessary that all the street lamps should be burning. In the city of Bridgetown next to my

office there is a street light but you have to telephone the Barbados Light and Power Company all the time to let ' them know that that particular light has not been burning for some time, and you go from place to place, Mr. Chairman, and see lamps not functioning at all but on the other hand on some of our main highways at one and two o'clock in the day, the lamps are burning. What you must find is that undoubtedly there is a lack of supervision and the system needs a general overhauling, proper staffing, and whatever body is responsible for putting the programme into effect there is a definite need for a closer application to this type of work, if we are to save some of this money we are asked to vote under this particular Head.

I am sure the Minister knows our country districts should be included in his extension programme. We need it in St. Peter, but there are other areas as well and we would like to see the Minister give this matter his attention, because we are not happy continually voting money under this Head when there ought to be a cutback as requested by Light and Power Company.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, unlike the hon. Member for St. Peter I do not think I will allow the Minister of Communications and V/orks to throw me off from my Constituency. I will start off immediately with that because I think that on the question of street lighting we have indicated to the Ministry on a number of occasions that there are quite a number of areas in the parish of St. Lucy which need lights but unfortunately it seems as if the programme has slowed down considerably. (Hon. F. G. SMITH It has stopped.) If the programme has been stopped I do not believe it has been stopped for over a year or so, it is only recently, but we have made representation to the Ministry of Communications and Works relative to certain areas of St. Lucy which we consider to be areas where people are in dire need of street lights so that they can have the kind of facilities which other sections of the Island have.

I would like to mention three areas in particular at this stage. The first area relates to the Greenidges area in St. Lucy. It is an area where we have had the promise of the provision of street lights, but unfortunately this has not yet been done. Representation is also to be made to the Ministry relative to an area in Clincketts Housing Area, St. Lucy for the provision of a street light, but again it would seem as if something has happened and it has not been done as yet. I would like to impress upon the Minister that these are important areas, areas for which representation has been made for a long time, and we hope that we can get the positive response from the Ministry of Communications and Works which we will expect.

I would also like to make mention of the fact that there is another area which I consider to be an important area in which I hope that the Minister in his wisdom will also consider to be an important area. This is the road which is called the Half Acre Road. It is the straight road leading from St. Lucy's Parish Church to the upper part of St. Lucy, and this is an area where there is a lot of traffic and where people walk from that part of St. Lucy to the other part of St. Lucy and vice versa, but there is no street lighting there and it is considered to be a dangerous area. We would like to see the road lit up so that people can feel safer while they are walking along this road.

I hope that when the street lighting programme is resumed, we can see the kind of positive approach to street lighting in the parish of St. Lucy. Of course, this does not mean that we have not been able to get certain areas lit, but would specifically like to see these areas done as soon as possible.

One last point I would like to reiterate. I hope the Minister will give urgent consideration particularly to the area in the Clincketts Housing Area. This is an area I have spoken to him about on more than one occasion, but there seems to be some doubt as to whose responsibility it is, whether it is that of the Ministry of Communications and Works or whether it is that of the Ministry of Housing, but wherever the responsibility lies, I would like to see this matter straightened out as soon as possible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I think when it is realised that the Government is spending \$400, 000 on street lighting, that would be an indication of what this Government has done in bringing light to the people of this country. This Resolution is a Supplementary to that, making it a total of nearly \$430, 000 to the Barbados Light and Power Company for providing the people of this country with street lights. I think it is a commendable achievement, and I think on this matter the Government has shown foresight since it has provided for the people of this country the biblical fulfilment to "lighten our darkness we beseech thee, O Lord." I think every parish in this country has had a taste of street lighting every year. The needs are great, the Ministry is aware of the requests from every single parish but I think that hon. Members will agree — and I am sure the hon. Member for St. Peter will admit that he got street lights in about four to five areas this year — that work on street lights was continuing. I am being badgered by my colleague, the Minister of Housing, that he did not get as many as he thought he would have, but Rome was not built in a day, the Government has got to take the money it has and divide it up among all the people. We are conscious that they need it, we know the constituencies need it. 4.25 p.m.

I believe that the development of the country is for everyone. The man in the street needs lights, he needs water, he needs a telephone when he can afford it, and these are the basic things that will make his life better.

That is why I like to be Minister of Communications and Works because it gives me an opportunity to help people achieve these basic things. One of the difficulties caused by the energy crisis is that we have to suspend these facilities. Someone suggested to put up the lights but do not turn on the current. If I were a citizen where lights were put up and no current was turned on, I would get a gutta perch and knock out the fittings. I will not fool people by putting up lights and not turning on current.

As soon as there is the slightest alleviation in the energy crisis, I will pursue the scheme with great diligence to carry lights to the uttermost parts of the island, and to enable people to improve their social values and develop.

Finally I would say that the members of my Ministry have suggested that if you cannot put the lights on, just put them up. I do not mean Ministers, I mean members of the Ministry. I am not going to fool anyone in that way.

As soon as I can get the information which the Member for St. Lucy wants, I will give it. I am circumscribed by financial considerations, but I will do what I have to do as a fair basis, and not on representation of constituencies, but on the needs of the people. All the people of Barbados have rights, regardless for whom they voted.

There is the energy crisis, You cannot ask people to cut down on the burning of lights and then put up more lights. In those areas where you can economise without too much inconvenience the Government

will have to set an example. I hope that the people will bear with us.

The Question that Head 22 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 34 was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 34 stand part.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, all I have to say under this Head is that I wonder if the Minister has any explanation to give as to why a number of people living in the Speightstown area have become ill recently and medical practitioners have formed the opinion that their illness resulted from the water they have been drinking. What does the Minister has to say on this?

Mr. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, there are just two small comments I would like to make under Head 34. The note indicates that these problems dealing with water arise partly from new developments. I am sure that I am on good ground when I make the point that we should like to see some diversified programme carried out to extend the water into certain tenancies in the rural areas.

There are a number of these areas, particularly in the parish of St. Lucy, where there is no water, where most of the people live. I am particularly thinking in terms of the area of Mount Gay Tenantry, St. Lucy, where people have got to travel as far as three quarters of a mile in order to draw water, and I am asking the Minister of Communications and Works to give us an indication whether his Ministry has any intention of taking water into this tenantry.

I would also like to enquire from the Minister what is the position with the Grave Yard area, St. Lucy where it was intended that water would have been put in well over two years ago; but no water seems to have flowed into that area at all.

I would like to impress upon the Minister that it is to be noted that people in tenancies in rural areas also need water, and that some attention should be paid to them. I would hope that attention is not only paid to people living in developed areas.

I know that the Minister will say that the Government has a programme for carrying water into all tenancies in the island, but I want, to draw his attention to these two areas in St. Lucy which have not been served with water. I hope that he will give the matter his earnest attention and that we will see positive results in the near future.

His Honour C. A E. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, there have been repeated requests in the Press by the Minister of Communications and Works to conserve water. He said that there might be a day when you turn on the pipe and nothing

comes out. I hope that that will never happen. I do feel that people should be told of the seriousness of the water problem in Barbados. There are many people who have taps leaking water and refuse to call up the Waterworks Department to have them stopped. (ASIDE When you call them they do not come.) If this continues we will find that the level in the reservoirs will get very low.

We are now in the reaping season, and much water is being used by the factories. I have had many calls from residents in my constituency, especially Bridge Cot, because of the low pressure of water. Some people have to bathe at 3 o'clock in the morning. (ASIDE: The water is warm then) That is because by 5 o'clock a.m. you only hear a gurgling sound and no water comes out of the pipe.

I feel that it is the Government's duty, especially in the Ministry of Information, that we could have posters warning people about leaking taps, telling them the danger of wasting water. Wastage leads to more energy being used because all of our water is electrically pumped. 4.35 p.m.

The appeals that have been made by the Minister seem to go on deaf ears, therefore I am asking that the Ministry of Information should also do something to help the Ministry to save water because the water in Barbados drinks better than any I have tasted in the neighbouring Islands, and I would not like to get up one morning and find there is none around. I support the Minister in his statement that those people who have leakages in their pipes should report them at the earliest opportunity to the Waterworks Department so that we will save this amount of money that we are called upon to vote. We realize that there are new developments and that additional water mains would have to be laid in those places, and it is necessary that the public contribute by turning off their pipes. People have been watering their gardens necessarily sometimes, and they do not have meters. We know that they are trying to grow food but I feel that water has to be saved wherever possible and I support the Minister in any means be devises in order to protect the water we have in Barbados.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the question of pumping, I am sure that hon. Members know that in certain parts of their constituency, this Government is making every effort to extend water so that the people throughout the parishes would be able to get water more easily than at present. I think the hon. Member for St. Lucy would know that facilities are being provided for the people in his constituency so much so that the name Grave Yard can be changed to Cave Hill - the conditions will be such that the place could be called Cave Hill instead of Grave Yard. I think he knows I am making an attempt to improve the situation, and he knows the intention is there, and I hope to fulfil it in the coming year's programme.

If you look at the Estimates you will see that \$250, 000 additional mains and standposts are to be provided. Everybody wants water, but I cannot make bricks without straw and the public must understand that the Minister of Communications cannot do more than is being done. I am committed to giving water in every home, if possible. It is BDS \$1 million which is going to Barbados Light & Power for pumping water in this country and we are using 24 million gallons a day but much of it is being wasted. I am tired and I refuse to ask people any longer to conserve water. It is falling on deaf ears. I am no magician or witch doctor from Africa; I cannot make rain fall. What I am saying is that the people in this country have got to understand that water is a precious commodity. Barbados has no rivers like many other countries around. Barbados is developing its housing and hotels and this is placing a burden on the water resources. People are watering their gardens and some just use the water as freely as they

like, and there is no meter. Many of them just attach to the domestic pipes, and water their gardens all night.

Everybody used the domestic facility which is based on house value. I am going to put on the Statute Book a new Waterworks Act to meet the twentieth century. We just cannot allow people to continue using water as freely as they like. The demand for water remains constantly high -in the region of 22 to 24 million gallons a day.

Canada has given us \$2.6 million; they gave us that about four years ago for water development and we are building reservoirs at Shop Hill and other places, and we are putting tanks in St. Peter to improve the supply but when you consider it, 40% of the rate payers are paying \$1.25 a quarter and nobody is going to bring water for you at twenty cents a bucket, but you will find that 40% of the people are just paying \$1.25 and some are paying \$1.75 a quarter for water. It is \$1 million that it costs for pumping alone, so it is going to be \$2 million in a very short time. If you look at the budget you will find that water is never considered a profit making affair.

The people in this country, just as they pay for electricity and telephone, have to make up their minds that they have to pay for water, but this is something they do not seem to understand; and the hon. Member for St. Lucy is talking about 25%, and this and that percent. Percent or no percent.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have not said in this debate anything about what the Minister is talking, and the Minister is calling my name.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order. This is a point of interruption.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

He knows that water rates are going up, as they must and they are going up fairly steep too. Not ten percent. They are going up a lot percent and when they go up, they will still not meet the cost of pumping. 4.45 p.m.

The Government does not want to make any profit from water, but you have a \$2.6 million from Canada. If you get the \$3 million Canadian to extend the water reserves, then provision has to be made for final repayment by this country. Water is going up and going up steeply.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will the Hon. Minister say whether it will be 500%, which I have been hearing about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I cannot tell you the percentage now, but it will be a high percentage. The people in this country must understand that, for an unlimited supply of water, they must pay a reasonable amount. I will be bringing

the figures from Caribbean countries here to show you what the position is. You talk about the Treasury being empty, and you say that the Government has no money. Do you want the Government to throw all of the burden on certain people? Politics is a funny game. When you are leading, you must lead, and when you are following, you must follow. People must be prepared at all times to tell the truth. The people will settle for the truth. I am telling the people the truth. I am preparing them for what is coming, so that when the new water rates catch them they can say that the Minister of Communications and Works told them on the 12th March that the water rates would be steep. If you want to run the country in a half-baked way as it was run by the Opposition, we are not prepared to carry on in that manner. We are prepared to run things properly.

Now, we have 52, 000 services in people's homes. We are prepared to give every single person a supply of water, but not an unlimited supply of water. I have asked PAHO to send me down an expert to look after the question of leaks and so on. I am having a survey on the question of leakage in order to stop the loophole. Some 240, 000 people in Barbados are using 100 gallons of water per day for every man, woman and child. That is almost a criminal waste.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. Member accusing the people of Barbados of criminal conduct?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

That is no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Something is radically wrong, and there must be a colossal waste of water amounting to a criminal waste of water.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister says that politics is a funny game. Is he condemning people who use water to grow food in this country?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

If you grow food and you have to eat it you will want water to wash it down or you will choke. You have to cook food with water. Mr. Chairman. I am taking this opportunity to impress certain things on the minds of the people in Barbados.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister must control himself, because the people must drink water. What has the most recent test shown? You have people in Speightstown who are now sick.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Let me put the record straight. The Government has not gone in for any fluoridation of water in Barbados. The insinuation is that we secretly put something in the water that makes people sick. I cannot

tell you off hand where the water in St. Peter comes from, but I am now told that the people who use water in St. Peter are getting sick. I have insisted that the Report from the Chief Medical Officer should be put on my desk. I received a Report yesterday morning and it did not say that the water was dirty.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the Minister should try to mislead this Honourable House. The most recent test carried out in Speightstown is quite the contrary to what the Minister says, and this is a serious matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order! It is a point of elucidation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Since he has raised the question, I will have the matter investigated. I am sorry the Minister of Health is not in his seat. I would not give credence to what he says. People will always get a stomach upset and so on, but it does not necessarily follow that the drinking of water was responsible. Some people get a stomach upset from eating sardines and so on.

Mr. HINDS:

I can tell the Minister that tests about two months ago showed what was floating around in the water.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I would not pursue that, because I cannot give it any credence. I will investigate; I will take the matter up with Mr. Wells, and I am prepared to give the hon. Member an answer because I do not think it is true. As a result of the drought, water is becoming a very serious question in this country.

Mr. HINDS:

The Minister ought to know that the fluoridation of water in the Speightstown area has been extra heavy.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I hope you will forgive me because I want to bring home to my countrymen the vital necessity of having a pure water supply in this country. I am appealing to the citizens of Barbados to conserve as much water as possible. Water must not be wasted, and we must take good care of this precious commodity.

The Question that Head 34 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.55 p.m.

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the amount of \$5, 546 provided in the Approved Estimates has proved insufficient and therefor supplementary provision of \$420 is required. This is due to the fact that the amount provided included provision for a part-time gardener at the Housecraft Centre, but during the course of the year a full-time gardener was assigned and hence supplementary provision in the sum of \$420 is required under

Item 6.

Under Item 7, the amount of \$4, 900 provided for groceries at the Housecraft Centre also has proved insufficient because of the increase in the cost of the commodities, because of the increased number of practical demonstrations required by the examinations of the City and Guild Certificate and also because of the number of students who have to be writing the examinations again this year. The sum of \$500 : therefore required as a supplement to Item 9.

I beg to move that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre - Stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, for our part the sum of \$500 could have been \$1, 000 or more, but not for exactly the same reason as set out here in the Addendum. We feel, Sir, that the time has come when the Housecraft Centre should have stretched its wings out and had extension programmes and some centres established throughout the country districts so that our young men and young women could find gainful vocation, and under those circumstances, bearing in mind now our transportation difficulties and what not, I am sure that the Ministry now finds itself better staffed for carrying out its teaching programme at an increased number of centres for the Housecraft Centre than in the past. There are many more teachers who are willing and are available now, and I believe that if the Minister were to direct his attention to this, he will find that when this comes next year, or at some future date, he would be coming back to this House for an increased amount for the purchase of groceries and what not, because it would be spreading over a much wider area, and the I number of students writing examinations would be very considerably increased to the benefit of the community as a whole. I sincerely hope that this matter will be gone into as soon as is reasonably possible.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say lest there be any misunderstanding that the programmes of the Housecraft Centre are not limited to its headquarters at Bay Street. The Housecraft Centre provides courses at other centres throughout the country and these take place in the evening, using the facilities at the schools spread throughout the country.

Mr. HINDS:

All we are saying is that we do not have enough centres.

The Question that Head 36 - Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 46 - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations - was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the two items under Head 46 are fairly straightforward and simple. There is an additional amount required for the national insurance contributions consequent upon the increase in the amount of contributions payable from January of this year. The other item is for a small sum for

additional communications which are primarily overseas telephone calls and cables.

I beg to move that Head 46 - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations -stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution as amended for the sum of \$784, 775 do now pass.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 42 Head 4 - Auditor General - was called

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 4 - Auditor General - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 9 - Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 9 - Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) General - stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Head 9(3) - Rates and Taxes Division - was called

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 9 (3) Rates and Taxes Division, the various amounts are listed under Unestablished Staff, Casual Staff, Personal Allowances, Furniture and Equipment, Land Tax Stationery, Land Tax Relief Board. On the last item hon. Members would probably like to hear something at this stage. The position is that the receipts of land tax to 22nd February, 1974 are \$3, 530, 229; land tax arrears \$1, 582, 372, and general arrears \$275, 657 making a total of \$5, 388, 158. I would like further to draw to the attention of the Committee that the Board when it was set up as required to

process a total of 5, 663 applications, 84 of which were applications which came under subsection 9(3) of the Act whilst the balance of 5, 579 came under section 44. The applications under section 44 comprise 3, 398 old cases which date back from 1966 and 2, 794 cases for the year 1972-73. 5.05 p.m.

The Board over the ten month period of operation has processed 3, 661 applications made under section 44 of the Act and has recommended to the Minister that the total of \$125, 163.08 in taxes due to Government by bona fide old age and national assistance pensioners be waived. The amount of \$60, 121.23 is the total recommended to be waived by the Board. The old taxes date back as far as 1966 on which no relief was ever granted.

Under section 19 of the Act the Board has granted relief to 51 cases, rejected 12 cases and deferred nine cases for further investigation and information. Two of the cases rejected did not qualify for relief while the other 10 were not applicable Under this section. The Board issued 51 relief certificates for the year 1972-73 and refunded a total of \$12, 719.50 out of the total of \$50, 217.50 collected as stipulated on the Demand Notice.

To date, Mr. Chairman, a total of 1, 415 applications have been received for the year 1973-74. These applications have not yet been dealt with because the Board is still working on the balance of the old cases. That gives an idea of what is going on as far as the Relief Board is concerned.

With respect to the established staff, many of the Clerks and other Officers are there on a temporary basis, and you find we need a supplementary because many of these posts will now have to be established. I beg to move that Head 9 (3) stand part.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, this question of the 1965-66 tax refund to me raises a very serious and important matter. Quite recently a number of persons have been receiving notices from some persons who say they have authority to collect taxes, and those notices are referring to land tax which is alleged to be outstanding since 1964 and 1965. It is common knowledge that time does not run against the Crown, but on the other hand in many countries today the Governments have been bringing the Crown more in line with civil practice and therefore limitations are applying in like manner to Crown proceedings as they are applying to other Litigants.

I think it is unfair, unjust and unwise for a Government in 1974 to encourage or aid or abet or employ anybody who will now send out Demand Notices stating that somebody has not paid taxes in 1963. In any commercial business in the general practice of law a person is required to hold his documents for six years, and you are telling me in 1974, nearly ten years after, that somebody is now going to ask for payment. If you want to search for something in the Registry they tell you to go to the Archives, so how can somebody send out notices to tell people to pay taxes outstanding since 1963? I think the Government should recognise its responsibility to the citizens of this State. If it has been lax in collecting taxes and time has elapsed I think it is but fair to write it off because it is unjust to ask a person ten years later to say whether or not he paid his taxes in 1964. Why wait ten years to employ some Collector who tells you that you must pay these taxes? Probably you have paid them before, and I

think the Government should look at this very seriously and put a stop to it. I do not agree with it at all.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand how people use words, you either owe taxes or you do not owe them. When you ask a man to pay something he owes, that cannot be unjust.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member wears two hats, and he has two tongues. When I came in here and challenged the Waterworks Department for billing people twice, what is he saying now?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I say that if you owe taxes once you are alive and capable of paying, and you are asked to pay, that cannot be unjust. How can you characterise a Government as being unjust if it is asking somebody to pay something which the person knows he has not paid? You may quarrel with the bill, or the inconvenience, but not with the justice of the cost. If you have used water and you are called upon to pay for it at any time in your life, you may quarrel with the inconvenience, you may quarrel with the fact that you are lulled into a sense of feeling you do not owe it, but if you have not paid it, it cannot be unjust to ask you to pay it. A lawyer is in here using the word "unjust".

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, the ex-Attorney General forgets that there is a statute which states that at the end of six years you cannot sue for debt.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

He has just admitted in his statement that according to the Jaw time does not run against the Crown, so what nonsense is he talking now? He says that some Governments are changing the law, but until that time arrives, we will continue in this way. His argument does not hold water, as long as the law is that time does not run against the Crown, the Government cannot be characterised as unjust to ask the people to pay money they legally owe.

5.15 p.m.

That is all I want to say. You must pay what you owe. This idea of coming and using words like "unjust"....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order. The hon. Member is really soft in his head. He knows that I showed him a Bill from the Waterworks Department asking someone to pay money which they have already paid. Can the Minister tell me when he paid his land tax in Jamaica ten years ago?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

All I am saying is that if a person is billed for an amount he has already paid, it is inefficiency; but to

call on someone to pay a Bill that he has not paid is not unjust and could never be unjust in any part of the civilised world.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Chairman, I really did not want to get into this debate because much of what has been said I have been trying to draw to the attention of the Government year after year. The Minister of Communications and Works has asked if it is unjust for a person who has not paid his tax to be asked to pay it. What the Minister does not understand is the system which has been operating in the Rates and Taxes Division for many years.

There are quite a number of people who have paid their taxes. What we are saying is that there are cases where these people have not been able to produce their receipts and who have been called on to pay. There are cases which I know of where people have shown their receipts and they have refused to allow these rate collectors to get in possession of the receipts and to carry them away. What we know is that even when receipts are carried in there is no corresponding duplicate that can be found in any part of the Rates and Taxes Division.

There are cases where some land owners have been sued in Court and judgement obtained, but they have been brought to Court again and in some cases two judgements have been obtained for one debt. No Head of a Department likes to know that his Department is being investigated. I would like the Government to know that the Rates and Taxes Division should be investigated.

We are satisfied that with the best intention, the most efficient officer carried to that division will be brought to nought because he cannot be expected to discharge his functions responsibly in the type of atmosphere that prevails and must prevail in the Rates and Taxes Division. This is one Department that has been very suppressed under its former Head. There are very good reasons why the former Head and those associated with him suppressed this Department to the extent that it has been suppressed, and you will find, Mr. Chairman, that the Rates and Taxes Division has no use for anyone who wants to be honest.

I am saying all this because I want the Rates and Taxes Division to be investigated. If it is not investigated today, it will have to be investigated if it is 10 years from today. I know some of these poor old people. Some of them have paid their taxes. A lady came to see me the other day. She has paid for 1971-72 and for 1970-71, and someone sent her a form showing that she has not paid for 1969-70. You have a receipt showing that you have paid for the last two years and then someone comes and says that you have not paid for 1969. I believe that someone will get blood thirsty enough to give some of these people something which I think they deserve.

There have been cases where some of these people have gone to levy. It was fortunate that the people who were to be levied on knew someone who could come to their rescue, and then it was found that the amount to be levied for had been paid seven years ago.

I know that the Minister, if this was 1961, would have been talking with the other side of his mouth. He is talking with the ministerial tongue. I remember him talking about water meters. A lot of people in the Housing Estate have paid thousands of dollars to buy a little plot and their money has gone and there is no proper accounting. They do not know what situation they are in.

The whole thing wants investigating, and what needs bringing into line should be brought into line. I quite agree that there can be lapses here and there in the most perfect system. I have already told this House that in respect of the northern parishes there was an officer who issued receipts to people, but the duplicates could not be found anywhere. In those days you could pay a part of the tax, and when this was done there was no duplicate. They purposely waited until the officer left the island before any action was taken.

The Minister told us about the Relief Board. It has not been long established, but it already has a backlog of work. What is the Minister going to do at this stage? Applications for relief must come in from time to time, and right now property owners should have had another tax bill in their hands. So it means that when the Government sends for taxes that should have been paid earlier there must be more applications for relief, so that you will find that the Relief Board will not only have a backlog today, but more of a backlog day after day. 5.25 p.m.

I certainly hope that we are not going to find that this Board is going to be sitting out there and people are going to be oppressed. The Minister told us that 51 certificates for relief were granted and taxes have been waived. I want to hear from the Minister about this; if one of these old people died and left property for somebody else, I want to know if that beneficiary would be called upon to pay the taxes that we are now hearing have been waived. As far as I have heard, this is a tax against the land and not against the owner, so I want to hear what explanation the Minister has got to give. These are matters of interest to this community. People want to know that they can leave their property for somebody else and that if the taxes are paid the person who inherits the property would not have further trouble. If I inherit a piece of property — although I do not expect anything — I want to know exactly what will be my position, because it is important to know if you waive the tax, if you waive it for the lifetime of the present owner or what is the situation.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I have heard a great deal said under this Head. Now, Sir, I have been informed by an hon. Member — who by the way happens to be my adviser — that you cannot collect taxes for more than six years. That is, what I have been advised. But what I want to talk about is of the other difficulties, such as getting relief. Now let us start at the top. You cannot properly buy or sell land in Barbados unless all the tax is paid. We cannot even begin to litigate a land dispute unless the tax is paid; if the tax is not paid you have the greatest possible trouble. There is also a problem when it comes to the machinery relating to appeals against land valuation, and constantly people find themselves as it were tied up because although decisions were taken they cannot get a certificate without going to a lot of trouble trying to get it from the Rates and Collector of Taxes Office. Since the officer concerned is here, I hope he will go to some trouble and see what is going on and devise some machinery for stopping it.

Sometimes a lawyer will intervene and get some kind of a solution but you are not always in a position to know in whose name the tax is being paid. I know cases where persons will have to pay taxes on land after for more than a year trying to get a certificate, and all the time the collector is asking "have you got your receipt for 1973 74?" I remember my late father having been very careful to pay all outstanding taxes and eventually being thrown a notice telling him that he was to go to court. On that occasion he had paid all of his taxes but yet he was dragged before the court. Somebody in that Department enjoyed seeing Sir Grantley summoned before the court, no doubt. Mr. Chairman, this is something that has been

going on for years and recent events have brought it home to the public's eye. I suppose the former Attorney General characterised the whole system as unjust. 5.35 p.m.

The law of Barbados not only says that after a certain time you do not have to pay the tax because the time has expired, but that after a certain time if you are squatting on the land you will get the land. Of course, what the hon. Member for St. Joseph says is true. You ask about the tax; you make arrangements to pay it and, suddenly, form nowhere, a tax bill turns up. I have been told that by people who have paid their taxes. From the figures, there must be many millions of dollars still outstanding for taxes. I hope that the figures are accurate, and that people are not seeking to collect taxes which have already been paid.

Sir, the criteria for getting a relief certificate and the legal criteria might be somewhat different, and I should like the Department to operate by what is written down in the laws of Barbados. The Ministry of Finance has never given any guidance on what should determine the amount of relief to be given to an old age pensioner, or a person in any other category, once he gets such a certificate.

I am reliably informed that old age pensioners and other persons whose resources are limited do not pay tax when they apply for relief. It may well be that some people can afford to pay half of the tax, one-quarter of the tax, or ten per cent of the tax. There may be many of us who do not want to pay, but the Collector of Taxes may feel constrained to relieve some of the members of this House who were able to pay originally. What I know is that every criticism the Opposition has made about taxes, whether in or out of the House, has been shown to be justified at the earliest stage where it should be shown. Members of the Opposition did that all over the West Coast of Barbados, and pointed out that the assessments were too high when people were being asked to pay more than was reasonable. I say that the valuation was too high, and within my experience and the experience of Attorneys-at-Law nearly every tax appeal has been allowed. This has meant that an enormous amount of time, energy and money is being spent by the Government and by landowners in correcting the mistakes which members of the Opposition all along has said were present in the system.

Sir, I should like to predict that, perhaps, the Government would end up by collecting not more than two-thirds of the land tax which was originally submitted by the infamous valuation a couple of years ago. All of this the members of the Opposition have tried their best to draw to the attention of the public. I hope that when the Minister makes his reply, he will be able to give us some idea on these matters which I am canvassing. We hear about the applications which have been given relief. What we would like to hear from the Minister is how much of the tax will be collected, even if he may not be able to agree with us that the matter was messed up. Let him give us the information so that we can draw our own conclusions as to whether too much was not asked for in the first place. I hope that this system will be operating in a better manner than it has been, especially in respect of the collection of tax on people's land.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I have listened very carefully to the complaints which were made by the respective speakers, and especially the last two. I do not think the hon. Member for St. Thomas was in here when I gave the first set of figures regarding the amount of money collected. I said that the amount of land tax collected on the 27th February, 1974, was \$3, 513, 229. The land tax arrears were \$1, 582, 272 and so on.

The hon. Member for St. Peter queried what was meant by the word "waived". I thought we were perfectly clear about all of this. During the 10-month period we have processed 3, 661 applications and have recommended to the Minister that a total of \$125, 163.08 in taxes due to the Government by bona fide old age pensioners and national assistance pensioners be waived. Those people will not have to pay any taxes. It is not a question of the tax being charged on the land and a future owner or beneficiary will have to pay it. When the tax is waived it is waived. All sorts of interpretations are now being put to a perfectly straightforward matter.

Mr. HINDS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister was in his place when the Minister of Finance told me that it was a tax against the land and not a tax against the landowner or words to that effect. How does he relate the Minister of Finance's reply to what he is now saying? When you waive the taxes it is levied against the land.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

That is a legal matter. The land tax is charged against the land, but the land does not own itself. Some human being must own the land. The land tax is waived for a human being who is either an old age pensioner, or a national assistance pensioner, and the two things must be co-related. There is no encumbrance against the land. The land will be free of the tax as long as it is waived. A Land Tax Certificate will be given to the person concerned. 5.45 p.m.

In other words, this is a new department which has been set up and it is trying to salvage all the faults and defects of the old Councils and the Vestry System which has been going on for years. For the first time this Government is trying to put this on a proper footing having abolished the old system and this will take a little time. There are many complaints which are made. I am aware of some. Certain inconveniences are being caused and certain mistakes are being made, but in time I suppose all these defects will be remedied with a proper and fully organised staff which is on a permanent basis, because if you have people on a temporary basis, they do not do as much as if they are on a permanent basis with a proper salary and a proper opportunity; so this Department will in due time take its place. Only yesterday I had a few calls on some of the defects. There are many cases to be found where taxes are paid twice while there are people who have not received any tax bills at all and the bailiff should try to find those people and not hound down those who are paying. There are some people who have not received a tax bill whatever. I had to ask for mine, not that they wanted to leave me out, but I wanted to make sure that I do not lose my piece of land. I do not mind paying whatever they charge, but I do not want to have any confusion at this stage on the little land to which I am legally and lawfully entitled. I want to retain my ownership in respect of this land. We will have another debate on this question later when the Estimates come up.

The Question that Head 9(3) —Rates and Taxes Division — stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 10 — Accountant General — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10 — Accountant General — stand part.

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. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$69, 675 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

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

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

**RESOLUTION RE THE LEASE OF
LAND TO CENTRAL FOUNDRY
LIMITED**

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease of land at the Dock Site, Bridgetown, to Central Foundry Limited.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, this is in effect a renewal of a lease albeit on different terms from what obtained before. Ever since 1931 the land in question has been leased to Central Foundry on varying terms. This renewal, the terms of which are clearly set out in the Schedule, differs from the past one in a number of respects. The rental for the land as set out in the Schedule has been increased considerably by as much as 700% or more. Under the terms of the old lease, there was a royalty at the rate of 20% on dues collected and paid over to the Treasury. Under these new terms the lease is at the rate of \$7, 200 per annum before a royalty of 20% on dues is collected over \$36, 000.

I think it would be of interest to hon. Members to know how this would affect payment in relation to the old terms of the lease. Under the new terms, the Government would be collecting over \$5, 000 more in revenue than in 1965. If you look at the most recent year's takings and possible takings, we find that the Government will be expecting to collect over \$7, 000 more than two years ago. In other words, what I am trying to point out is that the terms of this new lease are in fact very favourable towards the Government in terms of money. What is more, we have also included in the lease a provision whereby the Central Foundry has to make the land in question available to Government for the purpose of docking. This particular term and several others are set out in the Schedule to the Act.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has made it clear that the Government has negotiated terms that appear to be more favourable than the last negotiated terms relating to the Dock Site, and we on this side would like to question this. What kind of lease is it for an industrial operation as necessary to Barbados as a small craft foundry such as the Central Foundry carries on that can be managed with only five years' lease? "Now I say that these new terms suggest an unexpressed cooperative venture between Central Foundry and the Government, but the present facilities, I am told — and I can only say what persons tell me and what indeed some of my clients have told me because I once used to have a certain contact with persons who use this dock — are inadequate, that the present dock is not large enough for some of the work that it carries on, that we once had a lien in the term of efficiency over comparable facilities in neighbouring islands and we could attract to Barbados much work from the smaller islands of the French and Dutch Leewards not to speak of persons who maintain boats in St. Vincent and Grenada, but that some of this work has been lost in recent years to facilities in Trinidad and Venezuela. 5.55 p.m.

As I see it — and I hope that the hon. Member for St. Michael South West with his vast seafaring experience will be able to make some contribution to this debate — but if you want a foundry to be allowed to develop docking facilities in a modern world, you must give it time enough to put down equipment that does not have to pay for itself and be written off over five years. It is true this is the longest lease they ever had. It compares very unfavourably with leases granted to private persons of Government lands and other places. I believe that the hotel business which was allowed to take over the fish market in Holetown was granted much more favourable terms than these. I cannot recall what length of time was granted to the Barbados Oil Company, but I am informed it was a longer time than this. How can you expect people to put the necessary capital investment to modernise the industry if they do not know what will happen at the end of five years? The Government must have plans for harbour extension, but I have not heard of any plans for the Careenage extensions, and if this is the reason for restricting the lease it is here and now it should be said.

I do not believe that anyone on that side or elsewhere will say that the facilities we now enjoy are facilities we will have over the next five years, and I would really like the Minister who has given us a very clear exposition of the immediate venture to give us some idea of the Government's thinking behind granting such a short term lease. There is a time when you have to call people in, sit down and

discuss with them what their projections are and whether the Government's needs cannot be better served by a longer operation in which they would be able to seek long term finance to deal with the problems that beset everybody. The shrimp business was given some of the most favourable terms by Government. A company that does not have financial resources was backed by an enormous Government guarantee at the First National City Bank. I regard this facility as being one closely related to shrimping and being necessary for the proper carrying out of shrimping in Barbados. As far as I can judge the shrimp boats would be well repaired as well as the few Government water boats. Is the Government satisfied that the Central Foundry can do the job that the shrimping fleet anticipates with only a five year lease of the dock site? I am not suggesting selling the land outright to any company, perhaps at another time I would suggest that the Government go into the business itself, but a five year lease to my mind makes no sense one way or the other.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the dock at Central Foundry is about one of the last of the two sections in this world. The draught on that particular spot is short as compared with years, ago, and the ships which frequent the Careenage today are much larger than what we have been seeing and I take it it is a matter of draught more than anything else. If you take a ship in the spring time and it could go down enough, then you would have to wait for a similar time, two weeks or a month after, when you would have a similar tide, and this is the reason why today ships of a shallow draught and a lot of the latest type with draughts over 12 feet when they are unladen would go there. You could go into it from the point of view of enlarging it or making it different but you would have to have a completely different type of dock. At one time you had to give notice 24 hours before you could operate it but now it is being operated by electricity and to talk of modernising it you would have to have a completely different device.

I do not see that much could be done to it with the type of dock limitations today because the sections are about seven feet long and there will have to be about 33 sections and 50 odd feet, but these sections are right down to bottom in about nine to ten feet of water and I do not know if the Central Foundry is interested in getting a new device but I do not think any useful purpose will be served. I do not think it would be wise to improve this type of dock, you would have to put in a completely different dock. I would say that the docking facilities for carrying out the necessary work in the machine shop are something completely different. While in Trinidad and Martinique you can bring in your own mechanics to do your work and pay just the dues, in Barbados they want us to buy our own paint, use our own materials but we cannot bring in our own workmen. In these other docks you can pay for the material you use and carry out your own job with your own workmen. All these are the problems which we have to encounter in the docking business today.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has explained in technical terms why these proposals are here. I can only say from what I have read in the files that this area of land.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of explanation, the point I was trying to make which I think was misunderstood is that the docking facilities are now out of date, and the Minister has added to my arguments by saying that you get bigger ships in the Careenage, and I am asking the Government if it does not regard that as a problem. 6.05 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I was going to say, Mr. Speaker, that this area has been used as a dock site since 1889. The company has been using this dock site since 1889. The company is aware of the expansion possibilities. If the company wants to have the lease further renewed in order to have an extended dock site the Government will give the matter consideration.

As the situation now stands, the company is asking for a renewal of the lease for a five year term and conditions that are agreeable to the Government.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1973-74,
(CURRENT) RE EXPENDITURE
FOR PORT DEPARTMENT**

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next item is Order No. 2 standing in the name of the Minister of Communications and Works. It is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the expenditure of \$384, 950 required to supplement the Estimates, 1973-74 Part I — Current, of the Port Department as shown in the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Resolution sets out the purpose for which the supplementary is required. I promise hon. Members that during discussion of the Estimates which begins next week I will give in greater detail the plans for the Port Department for its expansion.

I have a meeting tomorrow with members of the Inter-American Development Bank, and if I make a statement now, when I meet with the representatives of the Bank tomorrow, what I say now to the House may not be true. I hope that when the Estimates come up for debate next week I will be in a better position to deal with points concerning Port expansion.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, far be it from me to expose the private views of the Party of which I am Chairman. The Minister has spoken of certain anticipated negotiations. He anticipated my asking for a very full statement at Estimates time on the development of the Port Department.

We do not often have an opportunity to discuss this in detail during the discussion on the Estimates, but this year we will do our best to reserve such time as to give the Minister a large canvass on which he can paint a large portrait.

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

THE BILL TO AMEND THE EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT, 1967

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I propose to deal at this time with a Bill to amend the Exchange Control Act, 1967. I beg to move that this be the next Order of the Day.

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, this Bill provides for amendments to the Exchange Control Act, 1967 (Act 1967-53) consequent upon the issue of the Barbados dollar in accordance with the Central Bank of Barbados Act, 1972 (Act 1972-6).

Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Section 41 of the Exchange Control Act, 1967 as amended by the Exchange Control Act, 1968, the controlling authority is vested in the Minister of Finance and Planning, and he is the Exchange Control Authority.

On the 28th February, 1974, an Exchange Control Order which is attached as an appendix provided inter alia that no person, whether an authorised dealer or otherwise, shall in Barbados enter into any transaction which involves the conversion of the Barbados dollar into foreign currency or vice versa at rates of exchange other than those determined by the Bank pursuant to section 29 of the Central Bank of Barbados Act, 1972.

There is an amendment which deletes the definition of "scheduled territories" in the Exchange Control Act, 1967. The Order which was published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette on 28th February, 1974, will expire in 30 days pursuant to the provisions of section 41A of the Exchange Control Act, 1967.

Therefore, Sir, this Bill has come before us, and it is intended that the Order shall cease to have effect, and the Act will take over from then.

As I have said, the Bill in Section 2 seeks to delete the definition "scheduled territories", the words "sterling or East Caribbean" and the substitution therefor of the word "Barbados" and deletion of the words "East Caribbean" in line 1 of sub-section 6 and the substitution of the word "Barbados".

Section 3 of the Bill provides for the insertion of a new section in the principal Act to authorise the Central Bank to set out the rates for conversion of Barbados dollars into foreign currency or vice versa.

Under Section 4 of the definition of "foreign currency" as set out and Section 10 of the schedule prohibits residents of Barbados to engage in any monetary deals. It prohibits except with the permission of Authority —

"(a) the receipt outside Barbados of any monies due to a resident of Barbados or to any other person in respect of the sale of any property located in Barbados or goods exported from Barbados or services performed in Barbados; or

(b) the acquisition by any resident of Barbados of any property located outside Barbados; or

(c) the transfer to any person, or the creation in favour of any person, of a right (whether present or future and whether vested or contingent) to receive a payment outside Barbados or to acquire property located outside Barbados."

The main point, Sir, is that since the setting up of the Central Bank it has been necessary to introduce this measure in order to protect the Barbados dollar by making stricter provisions. 6.15 p.m.

For instance, in the case of a sale — let us look at the Schedule, if you look at the Restriction Clause, Sir, you will see that on the Restriction on disposition of certain property it is stated that (a) no person resident in Barbados shall transfer or do any act forming part of a series of acts calculated to result in the transfer by way of sale, exchange, gift or mortgage of any land, buildings or other hereditaments situate in the Island or any instrument or certificate of title thereto, to a person resident outside Barbados. This, Sir, is subject to the permission of the Authority. So, no hardship is imposed on a Barbadian although he is resident abroad. It is the non-resident who will stand to lose, but we must have control over the Barbados dollar.

It goes on to state (b) no person resident outside Barbados nor any person acting on behalf of any person so resident shall transfer, convey or do any act forming part of a series of acts calculated to result in the transfer or conveyance by way of a sale, exchange, gift or mortgage of any land, buildings or other hereditaments situate in the Island or any instrument, or certificate of title relating thereto, to any person wherever resident; or (c) no person wherever resident shall purchase or agree to purchase or to accept a transfer or conveyance by way of sale, exchange, gift or mortgage of any land, buildings or other hereditaments situate in the Island from any person resident outside Barbados or any person acting on his behalf, or pay any money to any other person in consideration for, or in connection or association with, any such transfer or conveyance.

So that the object, Sir, is to protect the Barbados dollar and to enable the Central Bank to have complete control over the exportation of the Barbados dollar, unless we have the permission of the appropriate Authority. So, the operative word is "resident". You must be resident here in order to enjoy the facilities. If you are not resident, you would not enjoy it unless you get permission from the Central Bank.

So that these amendments, Sir, to the Exchange Control Act, 1967 (1967-53) would all tend to protect the Barbados dollar and see that no foreign transaction is made, and that the Barbados dollar is not sent abroad without the knowledge of the Central Bank. It is as a result of the setting up of the Central Bank that we have brought in this Bill, and the order has been duly signed by the appropriate authority, and, all that is necessary for a measure of this sort has been provided.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, I really do not know where to begin with this Bill. When a Barbados currency was first mooted and discussed in here, I think it was the hon. Member for St. Michael North West who introduced it - but I can recall issuing a warning that many persons in Barbados would hasten to get their money out of Barbados before the Barbados dollar comes into operation. 6.25 p.m.

I do not regard that figure as being an exceptional one. As much as 10 years ago Mr. Douglas Lynch, a member of the Party opposite, and a man with a great deal of financial expertise, said that \$75 million was held by Barbadians outside Barbados, and a statement such as that has to be respected from a man with his contacts in the Barbados Shipping & Trading, in financial institutions and many commercial businesses in this country. I have argued in here and elsewhere upon the basis of Mr. Lynch's statement. I am quite willing to believe that \$50 million or more has left Barbados over the last year.

I am sure the Hon. Minister will recall a few brief and mooted words in here, when we spoke about exchange control and the flight of money from Barbados, after it was known that Barbados was having its own currency. The moment it was known that Barbados was having its own currency, the people took the opportunity to send their money outside Barbados. I spoke about this long before these Pundits in Barbados started to ask what the Opposition was doing about the matter.

Now, the Prime Minister has always been reiterating a statement regarding foreign currency and our currency which I hoped had been known to the Exchange Control Officer in the Ministry of Finance. I have, personally, conducted negotiations with the Exchange Control Officer when seeking to get moderately substantial sums of money out of Barbados, and I have noted that the Exchange Control Officer seemed to be unaware of certain things when he gave permission to send out the money. For over two years there has been a wide open loophole in our laws which allowed persons to send money to London, hold it in an External Sterling Account, and then distribute it wherever they wanted to send it. I believe that for a long time many people in Barbados have been making use of this loophole.

Anyone who has been reading the Financial Journal, any Banker, any Attorney-at-Law, or any Accountant, will know that there is an absolutely cast-iron way of sending money out of the country which was available until now. Until the closing of the loophole you would not know what was going on. If some persons have been frustrated it is their own fault. They should have gone to an Attorney-at-Law to advise them.

Sir, several people have accepted the advice of the Ministry of Finance and done nothing more about the matter. It is the experience of almost every country in the world that sooner or later you will have to introduce a measure of exchange control. Barbados is like many other countries because for many years we have been getting foreign investments. Confidence in Barbados has been diminished to such an extent that money is not flowing into Barbados as before. Such countries are no longer interested in Barbados or the Prime Minister.

It will be recalled that the U.S. dollar was under the most brutal pressure a year ago, and it is now strong again. The Japanese Yen was also under pressure a few years ago, and it is now seriously moving upwards with countries in Western Europe. Unless there is a change in the Government of Barbados, we will not regain the confidence we once held. When there is a change in this Government, we will regain the confidence once held in Barbados; money will begin to flow in Barbados, and we will be able to

allow money to flow to and from this country. We cannot create in this country a demand for goods and services such as will give our people a satisfactory standard of living by ourselves.

Sir, we have put an absolute reliance upon tourism, an absolute reliance upon foreign investments, and an absolute reliance upon foreign remittances. We rely too much upon invisible trade, and the economy of Barbados cannot grow under such conditions. You can reorganise your social system in Barbados, your economy and so on, but all you will be doing is dividing a small cake in different ways. If you wish to make the cake bigger, you will have to find something which, at the moment, we cannot produce. We will have to create a certain amount of confidence among the foreigners on whom in the foreseeable future we will have to depend, if we are to improve our standard of living. The most intensive nationalist or chauvinist in this Island cannot deny that we have to depend on an outside force to maintain us and to make us stand where we are.

It has been said that the Barbados dollar must be protected. The Leader of the House is showing more fear for the Barbados dollar than the Members of the Opposition have shown. We know that the Barbados dollar should be protected, and you should take measures to protect it. 6.35 p.m.

I sincerely hope that the stable door has been closed in time for these measures to be of some effect. A balance of payments problem such as we have and a problem of money wishing to leave Barbados and not so much money wishing to come into Barbados on the capital account both point in the same direction. There is only one direction in which they point; they point to the direction of a weakening of the Barbados dollar, the traditional solution for which for any currency is devaluation. I have called on the Prime Minister to make a statement to restore confidence in the dollar. What do we get instead? We get a statement from the Leader of the House, not an economist; a good man, a man who has devoted his life to the service of the public of Barbados, but I do not think one who puts himself forward as an economist manager. We have had a statement from the Leader of the House emphasising the protection of the Barbados dollar. In my mind that statement will do more harm to the dollar than a statement from the Prime Minister saying exactly what his plans and intentions are. Is it his intention to cut the dollar free from sterling and link it up with the United States dollar coupled with a devaluation such as was done in Jamaica? Is it his intention to devalue the Barbados dollar but allow it to be linked to sterling such as was done in Guyana? Is it his intention to let the Barbados dollar stay as I believe the Barbados dollar can and must and should afford to stay at its own level of valuation now as in Trinidad? You cannot leave the public in doubt about these issues if you "seek to have yourself regarded as a responsible leader, and I am accusing the Prime Minister throughout this Parliament of showing the one quality which in the years before 1961 the public of Barbados came most to associate him with, that is the quality of irresponsibility. In those days it was the irresponsibility of radicalism and the irresponsibility of aggression. In these days now it is the irresponsibility of a man who does not care, a man who wishes to cut himself off from the political process, because he enjoys power more than he understands the exercise of it in the present conditions. He enjoys his position more than he respects the people who put him there, and I say this seriously. This is not political talk. This has been going on for over a year, and the constant holdings back that I have felt in my breast not to do anything to weaken Barbados' international position, those restraints are no longer present, because the dangers have been recognised by the Opposition and by the Leader of the House, not by the man whose duty it is and who has been put there by the people to recognise them; a man who has enjoyed a confidence for years. He enjoys a confidence for certain things. Winston Churchill enjoyed the confidence of the public of Great Britain for the purpose of conducting war. When the transition to peace came, it was known by the

public that Winston Churchill could not handle it.

The present Prime Minister enjoyed the confidence of the people at a time of expansion when Barbados would have expanded no matter who the Prime Minister was; at a time when a foundation had been laid, when world conditions were right, when everything was in Barbados' favour for expansion. Barbados went through a period of unparalleled prosperity in 1968—69, ably presided over in many ways by the Prime Minister, but he has shown himself incapable of handling a situation in which things have turned against Barbados and it is time for the Members of his own Government to recognise this. The Members of the Opposition have recognised it long ago and the public are coming to recognise it. It is time that something is done to take the economy by the scruff of its neck. If sacrifices are called for, let them be called for. Abuse of the Civil Service is no substitute for constructive policy. They look at the Opposition and ask the Opposition what it would have done. That is an exercise in futility, an exercise in blowing bubbles. My saying what I should have done is not going to make any difference to Barbados unless my words are hearkened to, and with the type of Government we have in here, nobody on that side sees anything other than 18 — 6. They believe that the circumstances which have given them a dominating numerical position have somehow also given them a dominating intellectual or political position, have given them some kind of capacity better to understand what is going on than persons who do not feel themselves, let me assure the front bench, in any way lessened by the fact that we are in the minority in the House; but it is time for somebody to talk about these things.

Now the Leader of the House is the Deputy Prime Minister. He has made another statement in here, and I say this entirely in sorrow, not in anger and not meaning to be in any way personal; he has taken section 33 as set out in the Schedule of this Act and started to read it out. Section 33 is an Aliens Land Holding Act in effect. Section 33 says that no Barbadian shall sell property to a foreigner. It said it before except that it did not say "Barbadian." It said nobody shall sell property to someone outside the scheduled territories. Understand what that means. It means you cannot sell land to an American. Understand what that would do to land values. It now means entirely contrary to what the hon. Member has said, that you cannot sell land to a Barbadian resident in England. Do not think that saying so in the House means that a Court would interpret that in that way. It says quite clearly that no person resident in Barbados shall do any of these things to a person resident outside Barbados. That is the standard form in modern times of enforcing aliens land holdings.

Now what more dangerous statement can be made than that? What will happen tomorrow if this statement is believed by the newspaper and repeated over C.B.C. to the real estate agents who are trying to sell a piece of land advertised in the West Indian world to Barbadians living in England. What would happen to all the people who are developing condominiums, doing some construction and giving work to Barbadians, if you read there is some doubt as to whether you can sell land to foreigners. This is a statement whether you can sell land to foreigners. That is a statement of the utmost danger, but fortunately it is not a statement which is accurate because Section 33 is not in force. When the original Act was passed, representations were made that to introduce the then Section 33 would be to introduce an Aliens Land Holding Act through the back door, and it was never brought into force. When the Exchange Control Act was brought into force Section 33 was not then enforced, and I know, as a result of my reading of it, and the taking of advice today, I wish to say that I have not come to the House today with this subject fresh to me. The fact that the Bill is going through all its stages in one day is fresh to me, but over the last few days I have been advising and having my advice sought and getting advice on the operation of the Exchange Control Order. In fact the advice such as I have been able to get at is that

this Section 33 will no more be enforced than the old Section 33; so it is still possible even though you read it here to sell land to foreigners, and for the moment the construction economy in the condominium field and the development field and tourist development field need not collapse because of the appearance of what has gone on here today. All these are the dangers of a Government that does not know where it is going. If this matter was properly discussed in Cabinet we would either have a statement that Section 33 will be brought into force and you can only sell land to someone resident outside Barbados if you get a licence or nothing would be said about it. Now something having been said about it, I expect that the Deputy Minister of Finance, if he does not mind my calling him that, the de facto Deputy Minister of Finance, or the Leader of the House will make a statement about Section 33. A statement about devaluation is called for and a statement about Section 33 is also called for. Barbados is simply not geared at the present time to any legislation by which by a stroke of the land may not be sold to persons resident outside Barbados. We are not geared to it, and this is exactly and precisely what the Minister has said in his speech of introduction. If this is to be so, it must be so with bells on, not by accident, and other Members of the Cabinet who may have some knowledge of these things owe it to the House and to the public to let this entire matter be properly and completely exposed.

Now, Sir, to wind up; this business of having Bills passed through all their stages in one day: I have been able to make a statement about this because I have some knowledge of it over some period of time, but it cannot be right to come to the House to deal with matters such as the future status of Barbados' currency, its strength, the position of property owning in Barbados in one day. The House cannot expect to go on meeting every two weeks then to have measures such as this come down all in one day. The words of Sir Hugh Wooding, a great West Indian, on similar activities in Trinidad, when he pointed out that in the Trinidad House the most popular means of producing legislation was to suspend the Standing Orders and put everything through the House in one day. 6.45 p.m.

These words should be taken to heart because they more than anything else show that disrespect for Parliament and the extra parliamentary functions shook that country to the ground in 1972. How can a Bill such as Exchange Control and devaluation be produced in an Extraordinary Gazette — which I have not got yet but which I believe has been published — and then an adjudicated Bill not published, not subject to the normal pressures, not given the normal notice that we would expect from these things? What kind of administration of the House of Assembly is this? How many Members of the Government feel themselves confident that they can deal with this matter? For too long it has been thought evidently that nothing matters but numbers. It is precisely this moving from stage in point, to stage in point, without having a target in view, that is bedevilling the Government of Barbados since the 1971 election. An Israeli said that no Government can remain secure without a formidable Opposition, but I say an Opposition has not got to be formidable in talent and intellectual ability, it also has to present a threat of actually moving a Government. This Government feels secure for the moment that whatever cracks may lie beneath the surface with the great stone man pressing under his mighty feet the people below, that while he is there the Government cannot be moved. It does not think that its factions will ever break apart, but Barbados cannot be ruled that way, and we are seeking and paying for it now.

Anybody who looks at the circulars which come from the Accountant General, at the collections of taxes, at the sales at Christmas time, at the sales of motor cars, will know that there is less money in the people's pockets every year. Where is the \$100, 000 in new construction the Prime Minister promised us by the end of this financial year? Those words will be forgotten so long as the Prime Minister is accustomed to mouthing words which his own Party does not take seriously. Everybody knows that

things are worse in Barbados, but who is trying to do something about it? They are like masons trying to build a wall with sand and it is time — God knows we in the Opposition should be glad to see things going bad — but it is time that all of us get rid of that idea, It is a malicious thing and one which other Oppositions have wanted, but it is time everybody understood that all of us in here are men of goodwill who want to see Barbados pulled out of the rut, and this is why today is a day for frank speech. It is time that the entire Cabinet try to wake up its own ideas and those of the Prime Minister so that you do not leave too thorough a mess when eventually — rejected by the electorate, — because it will be — it goes out of office.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, may I begin by congratulating the Leader of the Opposition on a very incisive and highly critical speech on a Bill which has come rather hurriedly to this House, and I trust the Government will find in it quite a lot that will warn it. Up to now the Government has turned a deaf ear to quite a lot of the soundings which have been given by the Opposition over the past few years, and if one looks at the haste with which this Bill has been introduced today, and if one looks at the fanfare with which the Exchange Control Order, 1974 was brought into being, one would think that the problem was now and prior to the coming into being of the Central Bank Act, 1972 this Government did not have the power to have prevented the evil which they have sought to prevent only since 28th February, 1974.

Indeed the authority under the Exchange Control Act happens to be the Minister of Finance himself, and if he was monitoring the financial situation of this country correctly, he would have recognised that some 18 months ago, there was a movement of currency from this island. The Leader of the Opposition not only spoke on it in his own right as shadow Minister of Finance, but he made speeches on this as head of the political party to which he belongs. I spoke about it myself not only in this House but also on an occasion when I was invited to open a branch of a bank. I would have expected that the media would recognise that when public figures in the political life of this country make statements such as those, which have substance in them, would publish them, especially C.B.C., but C.B.C. would prefer to neglect anything said by any Member of the Opposition no matter how much it is in the interest of the country and they would publish something said by people carrying favour with the Government.

The figure of \$50, 000 has been drawn from a hat. When I spoke in June last year \$43 million had already gone out of the country, and I mentioned the figure specifically then and not a Member of the news media took it up, and the Government turned a deaf ear to it. We are deeply conscious of the fact that you can only preserve your financial institutions and you can only have reserves when people, even if they are your own citizens, have some faith and confidence in the economic future of the country. The Leader of the Opposition is quite right when he says that the investing Barbadian, and the investing public as a whole, have lost confidence in this Government and in the ability of the Government to manage the financial affairs of the country.

Let us take one of the instances. The then Acting Minister of Finance brought down an Order, went on television on the point, that he had raised the interest rates in order to keep money in this country, so he knew when the interest rates went up that money was leaving the country, and it took the Government from September to February to plug the hole. 6.55 p.m.

I warned then, and I continue to warn that piecemeal measures such as this will not answer the fundamental problems of our economy, and I predict that over the next few months one will find that the

Government is forced to introduce a proper prices and income policy in this country.

It will not be only because the Opposition has often suggested it to them. Amending the Exchange Control Act is not the only answer to it. I predict that the National Debt of this country will keep rising rapidly over the next 18 months, and the Government will have to finance its deficit out of external borrowing for some time.

The Government has been borrowing in order to meet short term finance expenditure. If the people who write in the Press do not understand what we on this side say, I cannot help that. I predict that the Government will not only be spending on the capital account but borrowing massively.

There is a real fear of devaluation and it came when the Prime Minister introduced the measure for Civil Servants' salaries in here. I told him that he had a real fear of devaluation to pay those salaries unless productivity went up.

There is a great deal of inefficiency which has been brought on, and this does not only involve the movement of capital, but a misunderstanding of public financing like the crematorium at Warrens. The Government must stop wasting money. Let me state here and now that I do not believe that you can in one breath challenge your other West Indian people and say that you want your own sovereignty where currency is concerned and then quarrel in the next breath when they move their Eastern Caribbean dollars out of Barbados.

The Government should have known that there were substantial deposits of Eastern Caribbean Currency in Barbados, and if they have been moved out, you cannot quarrel. It is a great tragedy that each territory must now bring in separate exchange control legislation.

There are few West Indians who, despite the crisis in Grenada, will move their money into Barbados, because although we have not got the political unrest that there is in Grenada, there is very little confidence in our economy. I believe that the Government should go about creating that confidence.

There are a few measures which I will suggest are necessary. It is not enough to bring down this legislation. The Government must issue a definite policy, and issue that policy over the news media as to the administrative apparatus which is available for the repatriation of funds lawfully invested and lawfully brought into this country.

Let me state that my experience is that the Central Bank which now deals with exchange control is very efficient, and better than when the authority was vested in the Ministry of Finance; but I do not think that that department is being sufficiently publicised, and often there is in the minds of people a misconception as to what are their rights in taking out money invested here or deposited here. It calls for a positive decision and the publication of this sort of information. That is what the Government Information Services should be doing in telling it to the nation.

I hope that the Government will go about trying to assuage the thirst for knowledge of a lot of people about these measures.

Another thing is the need to police the people who are taking money out in valises. The Exchange

Control Act, even when it came into operation in 1967, did not stop that, and does not stop now people who are taking money out in valises. Some of the people who are making pronouncements should themselves be carefully checked on this matter. It is well known that people are using children to take currency out of the country. I am wondering if the Government is aware of these matters.

Now, in order to buy a book, those of us who live in Barbados have got to get control permission; but we find that businessmen are going to be able to draw as much currency as they want. I must confess that the greatest contribution which the ex-President of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association could make is to counsel his other fellow businessmen to obey the laws of the country. I would have thought that we would have seen among some of the people of this kind more patriotism and less mouthing.

There is a necessity for the Government to deal also with the speculative profits made from land sales. It is known that \$300, 000 was made from the sale of land in the Rockley area by someone who had no more connection with this island than Nicodemus had with Jesus. He held Accra up to ransom, including Mr. Ashby. We are asking the Government to deal with that sort of situation, because if you do not penalise people who are harming our country you will create less confidence among the Barbadians themselves in their country. When \$300, 000 goes out this way, it is a drain on the currency of Barbados and I have talked about it before in this House.

It is necessary for the Government sometimes, at least to listen to some of the pronouncements which are made by the Opposition, particularly on financial matters. I know that the Government Party is projecting their financial policy on the wishes of the Prime Minister; but sometimes wishes do not come true. 7.05 p.m.

Sometimes it is necessary to come down to realities.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a terrible state of recession which calls for more than piecemeal measures. It calls for complete economy; it calls for restriction on unnecessary public spending. That is what it calls for. It is not only a question of world recession; it is that in the world recession, we have been too slow and late, and I suggest that a valid criticism of this Act is that its provisions have come too late to prevent a crisis that has been in existence for too long.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that hon. Members on that side who have spoken on this Bill have somewhat supported this Bill which we have just brought down. I am unable to generate much heat and passion in my speech. For one, I am not the acting Minister of Finance. I am unable to generate as much heat in my speech as has been generated by the other side over a measure which is as necessary and vital as this one.

Looking through the speeches of the other side, I can only find lengthy speeches, and there are only three points which I think are worthy of further debate. I am not replying. It is for the Honourable Leader of this House to reply on this matter; and those points as I am able to identify them are exchange control, devaluation, and I think the Leader of the Opposition referred to Section 33 of this Bill. The hon. Member for Christ Church West in his speech spoke about exchange control, and there is no fault in that. He spoke about exchange control as something that he himself had advocated about six months ago or thereabouts. I believe that the Leader of the Opposition spoke in similar terms. I want hon.

Members on the other side to know that during the debate of no confidence in the Government October last. I tried to counsel them at that time as to why exchange control was not possible. I was very reluctant to do this; not that I was reluctant to give some knowledge to Members of the other side. It was only that I did not think it opportune at that time to be speaking on exchange control when in fact we were introducing a new currency in Barbados. I said at that time, Mr. Speaker, that exchange control was not possible. It was not possible because it was not a decision of Barbados to take. That was in October last. At the end of December, it was not possible for Barbados to take any action of its own to impose exchange control as regards sterling, and the reason was very simple. This is what I tried to explain last year. We could not unilaterally make a decision to impose sterling control; that had to be a decision by the Authority, and our Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, however since 1968 had been trying to urge his partners in the Caribbean Currency Authority to impose sterling control. This was since 1968. So when you come here and talk about six month ago, that is only yesterday, so to speak. The Prime Minister has been advocating sterling control fully six years ago but it was not possible for us to do it. This was not a unilateral decision to make, We had to make it in conjunction with other members of the Caribbean Currency Authority.

It was only December last that Barbados broke loose from the Caribbean Currency Authority and by February — two months later — we imposed the sterling control that should have been imposed six years ago; not six months ago. This, Mr. Speaker, as I suspect that the hon. Members on the other side have agreed, is a very necessary piece of legislation. The Central Bank happens to be the controlling authority, According to the Act, the Minister of Finance was the Exchange Control Authority of Barbados but that Authority has been delegated by the Minister of Finance to the Central Bank of Barbados, so in fact the Central Bank is the Exchange Control Authority; so what we are imposing today is a further measure — further to the question of interest rates , which were imposed last year. The whole object of this is to try to control the outflow of the capital from Barbados.

Sir, today we are taking a further final step to that which was taken since the end of last month. That other final step is to control the outflows of capital from our country; and that, Mr. Speaker, is the position of exchange control. That is the position of sterling control as far as Barbados is concerned.
7.15 p.m.

Sir, the two other matters are simple. Section 33 is a necessary adjunct to the proper control and outflow of capital. I do not think the Leader of the Opposition wants me to say something about Section 33. He referred to it this afternoon, and he knows that it is still possible for a non-resident in Barbados, or a non-resident outside Barbados to Hold land here. He knows that, but he does not wish to say it. That Section particularly says that the permission of the Authority is required. It can be done with permission, but that bit was left out. Section 33(1) says:

"Except with the permission of the Authority —

(a) no person resident in Barbados shall transfer or do any act forming part of a series of acts calculated to result in the transfer by way of sale, exchange, gift or mortgage of any land, buildings or other hereditaments situate in the Island or any instrument or certificate of title thereto, to a person resident outside Barbados."

The point I am making is that it is still possible to do a number of things, but you have to get the

permission of the Central Bank which is the monetary agency of the Ministry of Finance. Do not come here and say that we are imposing the Aliens Land Holding Act through the backdoor. I believe that when this Act was first discussed in this Parliament, it was said that it was merely a question of controlling the movement of capital out of Barbados.

As regards valuation, there is very little to say about it. Jamaica and Guyana had special reasons for doing what they have done. Those reasons are not present in Barbados, so do not advance Jamaica or Guyana as an example for Barbados to follow. At the time when they had their valuation, the Eastern Caribbean could have done the same thing. The factors that caused the Central Banks, or the Governments in the respective countries, to do certain things are not the same as what obtain in Barbados, and I hope they will never come to Barbados. It is not a question, Mr. Speaker, of lack of confidence in the management of the affairs in Barbados. If that were so it would be applicable, but no country in this world outside of Russia can say that it has not felt the pressure of this adverse financial situation. From where does Barbados get its capital? It gets its capital from those countries that have, strong currencies. The Leader of the Opposition said not very long ago that the U.S. dollar was strong and the Japanese Yen was poor. The American Dollar is now giving strong competition to the European and Oriental currencies. These were the traditional markets for the inflow of capital. These countries have also had their financial problems, and it is only a question of time when they will have enough money to spend in Barbados. The money remains in the places where the currency is strong.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order. Is the Minister saying that the Barbados currency is not strong and money will not come here?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Obviously no point of order!

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I am sure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke with his tongue in his cheek when he referred to the Prime Minister in the manner in which he spoke. What the Minister of Finance in Barbados has forgotten, they have not yet heard. I remember when I was in hospital in London, my physician came to me and said "How is your Prime Minister?" He then said "He is a very great man. We wished we had him here in England to direct our affairs." That is the kind of respect with which the Hon. Minister of Finance and Prime Minister of Barbados is held in the outside world.

I, honestly, cannot carry on in these terms, because it appears to me, from what has been said, that Members on the other side have agreed to support the legislative measures that we are bringing down in order to have effective control of our own currencies.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, both hon. and learned Members of the Opposition have spoken in support of the principle of this Bill. We have heard them in their respective spheres, because each of them has a different *modus operandi*. In one case, the Deputy Shadow Minister of Finance, the hon. Member for Christ Church West. has made many flowery speeches in here, but if you read them carefully you will see the position. He deplores piecemeal measures and so on. This is another example of the speeches he has made. 7.25 p.m.

On this occasion he did refer to the crisis and the economic policy which he thinks should be gone into, and I think that a matter like that should be examined. The Shadow Minister of Finance of course elaborated and levelled certain personal attacks on an expert, our Minister of Finance. The proper authority is the Minister of Finance.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I levelled no personal attack on any expert. All my attacks were directed at the Minister of Finance.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

He is the proper authority under the Exchange Control Act; so his contribution may be examined later on, but I want to give the Opposition the assurance that there will be no devaluation of the Barbados dollar as such even though it seems the Opposition is anxious to see that happen. The Barbados dollar is strong and we have brought this measure to protect it, and it is for that reason that we are seeking to have the Exchange Control Act passed this afternoon, and I want to give the assurance that as far as section 33 is concerned, the operative word is "resident", and nothing is being done in this Bill to impose any hardship or restriction on anyone who is resident here and is transferring property or mortgaging property from one resident to another, or in the case of a Barbadian who may be resident abroad who is conveying property or mortgaging to anyone, resident here. Many of the interpretations which have been given are not strictly in order. We are not doing anything to hinder; we are merely trying to control, and provided the consent of the appropriate authority is given, and in most cases it is automatic, then all the transactions will flow. The main thing is to have some record of transactions which take place and see that the flow of capital is at least controlled and taken care of.

This measure may be long overdue in the eyes of the Opposition, but the Central Bank has only been set up here recently and it was only on 30th December last year that various steps were taken when we issued our own currency; so like this all these things cannot be done overnight, but now that we have come here we are hearing that we should have done this since June last year and that over \$43 million have been exported and all that. Anyhow I think members will have an opportunity to make a regular speech on the financial situation of the country when the Estimates come up next week. I can hardly say anything further but I want to make it crystal clear that nothing is being done under this Bill to impose any hardship on any Barbadian who may be sending his money⁵ here and has intentions of purchasing property here, because in many cases you find Barbadians living abroad having every intention of returning here and resuming their residence; so nothing is being done under this to impose any hardship on them. This will only occur in a case of their taking back money abroad when they need permission. There will be no hardship and no discouragement as far as Barbadians who are assisting the economy of this country are concerned.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed. Clause 3 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, this is a difficult Clause. Read on the face of it, it would mean that ever taxi driver who takes an American dollar and gives two dollars in change or service for it when the Bank rate says it should be \$2.04 would appear to commit an offence, and I hope the Minister of Finance will find some way of ameliorating the immediate effect of it. It will also mean that those hotels which give \$1.80, as I understand it, when the rate is \$2.10 will be committing an offence, and I look forward to seeing in those circumstances the hotels warned and if necessary, punished; but I am suggesting that there should be a greater tolerance in respect of commission and brokerage fees only which are included in subsection 2 of section 29A. This is not a matter of principle for which the Opposition will seek to pursue a division, but I think it is a matter with many practical difficulties involved in it.

There are many persons who in the ordinary course of business change United States currency in this Island. When the original Exchange Control Act was passed before many hon. Members were in this House, I remember pointing out on that occasion that many of the sections had been taken wholesale from English Exchange Control legislation where they were not appropriate because Britain did not share the pound with any other countries as the day to day currency where we shared the Eastern Caribbean dollar with many other countries. The point made by the hon. Member for St. Michael North West was taken many years before we achieved serious ministerial responsibility for finance; but also it seems that the fault is still being followed, because legislation such as this may be taken from Jamaica which is itself taken from Britain which is not a country where foreign notes are in day to day circulation. Those of us who have lived in Britain will know that you will go a very long time without seeing any note other than a pound note. I do not believe that for all the years I have lived in Britain that I saw an American note offered in payment for goods or services anywhere. People go and change their money at a Bank and spend it, but when we take the legislation copying it directly, we will run up against problems in Barbados that were not envisaged by the people who originally drafted it, and I would like to think that any taxi driver is going to be prosecuted for a minor infringement of Section 29A because he does not know the American dollar went up that morning and he only offers \$2 for the changing of money. I suggest that those responsible take some look at this section and see if they can find ameliorating words to protect persons who in good faith make a change of money that happens to be in breach of this section.

As a further point of principle, which I would suggest to the responsible authority — and just in passing, the titular Deputy Minister of Finance informed the House that the authority throughout the Act means the Central Bank. That is not true.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

On a point of elucidation, what I said is that the effective authority is the Minister of Finance who has delegated it to the Central Bank.

Mr. ADAMS:

I did not catch the point, but I am suggesting to the authority, whoever it is, to look at a scheme that may in the long run do more for the protection of our foreign exchange than any number of measures of exchange control, and that is to give the Central Bank the ultimate and sole power to be changers of foreign currency; to do away with this system by which the commercial banks are allowed to collect American dollars and put them in boxes and export the physical dollars away, because there is no control over the banks themselves. Their books are not going to show these transactions where currency notes themselves are being moved at their direction. 7.35 p.m.

I would suggest that in the long run it will be found very beneficial to Barbados if the Central Bank and the Central Bank alone in both a physical and technical sense becomes the sole authority for dealing with foreign currency, that it must all pass through the Central Bank before it goes anywhere else.

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

Clauses 4 and 5 were called and passed. The Schedule was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, does the Government intend to bring section 33 into force? Apparently the Minister who is responsible for finance in Barbados does not know that section 33 has not been enforced, that when the Act was proclaimed section 33 has been included? It is a very simple question. I may have missed the proclamation and it may now be in force, I do not know, I am asking if it is in force now, and if not, is it intended that it be brought into force. This a vital and important matter. Just to say that permission has to be granted cannot alter the fact that the entire approach to the selling of land has altered, because a real estate agent can no longer advertise and sell to whomsoever he likes, he has to tell a non resident that he has to go to the Minister and to the Central Bank. If this is in force it is introducing a factor into Barbadian life which was not there before.

A physician in England told the Hon. Minister that the Prime Minister is a great man, I am sure that the physician is not the hon. Member for St. Michael North Central. I am surprised that the fate of Barbados is entrusted in the hands of a Minister who would repeat a diplomatic remark made by a physician trying to make him feel good. The Minister studied law in England and he should know that the English are the most polite people in the world.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Sir, when we come to section 33 the hon. Member would say how the physician interpreted section 33.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

I will be guided by you, Sir. If I was guided by the Member for St. Michael North West I would have to believe that we must vote for section 33 because a physician in England thought the Prime Minister was a great man. In any case, I do not believe I would be guided by him. I would advise the hon. Member to keep off the law. As far as I can judge he can administer the Ministry of National Insurance perfectly well, but he cannot administer the written word because he does not hear the argument and he does not have enough day to day experience in dealing with it, and I say this not in any offensive spirit. He managed to give a lot of misunderstanding on the interpretation of my speech, because he only heard me talk of Jamaica and Guyana, he did not hear me go on to ask if we were going to go like Trinidad. We really need an answer to this because various Ministers are unaware that it has never been brought into force.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. Member, as learned as he is in matters of this sort, the hon. Member should know that from the time the Order was signed by the appropriate authority, meaning the Minister of Finance, and published in the Official Gazette it is now in force, and I said that. That will remain in force until this Bill takes the place of the Order. The hon. Member should also realise that in so far as people who are resident here are concerned, no permission is necessary. In the case of Barbadians living abroad they will be regarded administratively as though they have not lost their residence.

Mr. ADAMS:

If the Member would let me finish my speech, he has with great respect not taken my point. I am fully aware of section 41 of the original Act. Perhaps the hon. Member has not got in his file the Governor-General's proclamation which brought the Exchange Control Act into force. It then exempted section 33 which has not been in force in Barbados. I am advised that we would amend the section which is not in force, that that does not bring it into force, therefore unless the Minister has in his file a more recent proclamation, section 33 will not be law in Barbados. 7.45 p.m.

I know that the Exchange Control Order will be revoked; but will you kindly tell me something that I do not know? Is it intended to bring in the rule under Section 33? I am not worried about the interpretation. That is a matter for the Registrar, or maybe by the Crown Law Officer who may differ from what we say in here. I do not take interpretations from myself when I am in Parliament. None of us can decide whether a Barbadian resident in England is a resident here. The fact is that Section 33 may be just something in the air unless the Government intends to bring it into force. It is not the law in Barbados at present. I am sure that the hon. Member for St. Michael South sees the point.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the Order has been duly signed and published on the 28th February, 1974, and it appeared in the Official Gazette. It is law for a period of 30 days. When this Bill is duly passed, the Act comes into force.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next item is.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, we have been here from 12 o'clock and it is time that everyone should have dinner, not only Members of the House but the staff.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order. It is a point of convenience.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I know that we have been considered hogs and pigs; but even they have to eat sometimes.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Sitting is now resumed and we are still on Government Business.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1974

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next Order is Order No. 3 standing in the name of the Right Hon. Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Establishments. It is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order 1974.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Order was duly signed by the Appropriate Minister, and the Resolution seeks to approve the Order to provide for adjustments in the following departments:—

In the Crown Solicitor's Department, the establishment on a permanent basis of a temporary post of Stenographer/Typist \$2, 280 — 6, 000. In the Registration Office, there are a number of posts which were on a temporary basis and which are now being established on a permanent basis. They are five Clerical Officers, five posts of Stenographer/Typist two post of Vault Attendant, two post of Machine Operator and one Binder. There is also the creation of the following new posts — one Assistant Accountant, one Machine Operator and one Telephone Operator Grade 2.

In the Customs Department there is the proposal for the deletion of the post of Keeper, Powder Magazine, which has become redundant because a Security Guard unit has been provided for the protection of the new Powder Magazine at Gun Hill.

Under Defence and Security - Regiment, it is proposed to have a Commanding Officer, and therefore it is necessary to delete the post of Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master. The post of Adjutant was merely on a part time basis, and it is now felt that the post of Commanding Officer should be established on a permanent basis.

When it comes to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Prisons) the proposal is that there should be a post of Senior Clerk for the supervision of clerical and accounting staff. Under the same Ministry it was proposed that there should be a trial period in the Electoral Office during which the clerical staff requirement would be assessed. It is now felt that it is necessary to establish seven posts of clerical officers as well as one post of Clerk/Typist on a permanent basis.

Under Post Office, a survey of Postmen's routes has disclosed the need for revision of the routes at Christ Church, Worthing and Eagle Hall Post Offices, and seven additional Postmen are required to cope with the workload on these routes.

Under Ministry of Health and Welfare it is proposed to appoint on a permanent basis one post of Consultant and two posts of Registrar/Senior House Officer, and for the St. Michael's District Hospital, it is proposed to provide a post of Hospital Manager as well as posts of Works Supervisor and Assistant Storekeeper.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that. 7.55 p.m.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I made use of certain words in reference to another Department of

Government and I have got to apply the same term to the Registration Office in this Item which we have here before us. It is to be regretted that this particular department has been allowed to degenerate into what it is now seen to be. It cannot be claimed by anybody that it is serving the public as effectively as the cost of keeping this department going, bears out, and we are sure that the attempt made here to appoint on a permanent basis the few posts that have been temporary from time to time will not in any particular measure bring any sort of relief or satisfaction to anyone except to the appointees themselves. But we are saying here arid now, nothing can be shown to satisfy us that even in creating these posts on a permanent basis that the public stands to benefit in any measure. My reason for saying so is this. Nobody can say that the Registry is a place where any officer cares about any other senior; not at all. I want to say here and now that the Head of the Registry is undoubtedly a perfect gentleman, and I think that is the limit of his achievement. No officer serving under him has any respect for him. Every officer in the Registry is doing as he pleases; he does what he likes. What is more degrading especially is to find in the Registry, the Registrar himself sitting down to a ledger doing accounts.

Mr. Speaker, you will find that the Registrar will call on someone to do something and that he is ignored, and the person is not disciplined, and he will be satisfied with going and doing it himself. Can the public be served in those circumstances? We do not want to have this any longer.

You will find, Mr. Speaker, that there are lots of officers here who are acting and they do not know what is going on in the particular section in which they are placed. There is an officer who is doing vital statistics in the Registry; if that officer is absent today, there is nobody who can go and carry on. If he is absent tomorrow nobody knows where he has left off and where to start, and, you and I must know how important the Registry is to the life of the community.

You will find, Sir, that in the Supreme Court section nobody knows what to do at any one given time. Surely, Sir, we cannot be happy voting money and creating posts merely for the satisfaction of the holder of these offices. We want to know that the public is served and that people who go the Registry will be treated with respect by everyone in the Registry; but that is not the case. We appreciate the fact that everyone who goes there is not in a position to explain himself or herself as some of us in here can, and it is here where our concern must be for those persons who need officers in the Registry that can be concerned with the plight of their less fortunate brethren; but it is a case where everything in the Registry can best be described as in chaos. There are records to be found, matters relating to title deeds, property and so on, and there are those in the Registry who do not know where to find them. I am to say here and now that our demand is for a complete change in the whole staff of the Registry. A complete change is the only answer. It is not enough to have people acting and when they are placed in a difficult situation they can be absent for two or three days. This kind of thing cannot go on.

There are two vault attendants; to do what? Who can control them? They go into the vault and nobody knows what to look for; they have to wait until somebody can go with them to find this and that, and time is wasted in the Registry, and now we are creating more posts here. 8.50 p.m.

I believe that the physical accommodation there leaves much to be desired. This in itself might be responsible in a great measure for the inactivity in respect of the service of the staff, but we are satisfied that the public deserves much better service than we are now getting at the Registry for the amount of money we are spending on that Department. I sincerely hope that the appropriate Minister will take to heart exactly what has been said here, and let us see what can be done to make the situation, at least

appear to be better.

With regard to the binding work that is carried on at the Registry, there is a man who has been employed to keep the books in good repair. There is only one Binder at the Registry, but you should have, at least two other persons in training there under the supervision of the Binder. The Binder has been working there for several years, and he is now making his way out. As soon as this Binder is no longer available it will be difficult to replace him.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that your experience will tell you of the number of times persons have gone to the Registry for documents which are in the Registry, and yet they have to go there several times before the documents can be found. Nobody know where to find anything in there. Are we satisfied that the Registry, as presently constituted, is serving the best interest of the public?

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Electoral Office, we are told here that when this Department was established it was considered that it should be for a trial period. We know that -there has been no assessment to determine whether or not the work has been progressing satisfactorily as a result of this trial. As a matter of fact, the trial has not yet ended, as far as we can gather. We are not seeking to deny the establishment on a permanent basis of any post which has been temporary, but in doing this we must try to find out whether we are not trying to create a situation in the Electoral Office where we are satisfying a few people and at the same time closing our eyes to many other more vital Departments where you have people who have been acting for much longer periods not only on a trial basis, but in very substantial posts in other Departments and the Government has made no effort whatsoever to promote, or to confirm them, or to do anything to make them feel that the type of service they have rendered in a particular post was appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, you will find that at the Electoral Office you can go there and work and as long as there is this trial period, whether your work is satisfactory or not, you will be employed on a permanent basis. We do not want to deprive any officer from having his temporary appointment confirmed and placed on a permanent footing, but this matter should be gone into carefully.

We have been hearing of a survey of Postmen's routes with respect to the Post Offices at Christ Church, Worthing and Eagle Hall. If the Minister of Communications and Works, under whose portfolio the Post Office falls, is really serious about his commitments to the country, he must tell us in no uncertain terms when the coming into being of the 5-day-week (Monday to Friday) - the iniquitous Monday to Friday — will take place. After he has carried out his survey stretching from Eagle Hall to Worthing, he should be able to give us the necessary information.

Mr. Speaker, while we are asked here to create posts, or to do something to satisfy the results of this survey in respect of these Post Offices, what is the Minister doing in respect of the Post Offices in other areas where householders are suffering as a result of the non-delivery of their mail?

Mr. Speaker, it cannot be argued by the Minister or anybody else that the coming into being of this 5-day-week (Monday to Friday) does not create extra work at every Post Office. It must be so. There has been no case where it has been established that Postmen were idling in the past. Each Postman had his route and he had to cover it. We now find that for some reason we are merely told about the routes in Worthing, Christ Church and Eagle Hall. There are many other Post Offices to look after. Let us look at

Welches Post Office. I cannot understand how the Minister of Communications and Works feels when he passes by Welches Post Office. I do not know how civil servants can go there and work. 9 p.m.

Look at the Welches Post Office and its immediate surrounding. That in itself looks like a fire hazard. Mr. Speaker, it is a terrible sight. I do not want to create any hardship for anybody, but definitely something has got to be done about the Welches Post Office.

We come now to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker. The Ministry has admitted here that the quality of medical care has not been what we have been hearing in these lengthy speeches by the Hon. Minister from time to time nor from the Leader of the House with respect to the number of nurses who are turned out through our Tercentenary School of Nursing, and about which we at one time felt we were in a position to carry out a healthy export trade by exporting nurses to serve in hospitals abroad. Alas, what we do find is that the quality of service and the medical care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as the District Hospitals is not what it should be, and what we are really trying to do here is not even touching the hem of the garment where the problem is concerned. Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister ought to be concerned himself with the number of poor people in need of medical care who are outside and cannot get into these institutions. They are neglected.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I would like to assure the hon. Member that I am so concerned that we have proposals for doing something about that.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's proposals have not yet reached paper to come before Parliament, so all we are doing is hearing from the Minister that they propose doing something. In the meantime he must remember that these are not young stallions that can go up and down the paddock. These are the old mares and others who have given to this country of their blood and sweat with tears and now need somewhere where they can get a regular pint of milk. Well you cannot get it now, but in the past they only had milk in their coffee on Sundays with all the sacrifices that our people have been making all the years. It has been a crisis from generation to generation, and you will find, Mr. Speaker, that up to the present there are large numbers who are outside and cannot get accommodated in the institutions.

As for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, what are we going to do about the situation there? It is known that you cannot keep the ones that you take in for long. As soon as the breath is in their body sufficiently that they can make the door, they are politely being led by the hand and shown the door. In other words they are asked to leave, not that they have been cured of their ailments. (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Have you ever been in there?)

Mr. Speaker, it would appear as if the Minister believes you have got to be sick and go there and die like some of the others to know exactly whether or not the people are really being left about these institutions to die because of lack of proper medical care, because this note here tells us that Government is aware that the quality of the medical care is not what it should be. We have had instances, Mr. Speaker, of some of these people in the District Hospitals being so neglected that they have got to go to the garbage bin and make up a meal. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is not true.) At the St. Michael's District Hospital there are still old people going into the bins. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: They are mentally sick.) What you will find is that there is not sufficient supervision at that institution to make sure that the groceries

that go to the institution really reach the patients. These people are hungry. This is no joke. Nobody is trying to put anything on anybody. You have nurses and other people who work in these institutions, and when the relatives of some of these patients go and look for them they have a story to tell. I am saying here and now that Government does not show that it cares sufficiently as to whether some of these people die or live, because what is being said now has not been said for the first time.

I am going to say something further. The Minister of Health ought to know that when one woman who worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital tried to dissociate herself from some of the unhealthy conditions in the kitchen when she said that the school meals programme is now in progress and there is no reason why anybody who is working in this department can claim they have to carry home something for their children since the school meals programme should be taking care of the situation, everybody in that particular department tried to make her life a burden to her, and I am saying that one of the people she ran to was the present Minister of Health, and she ran to me too. The Minister of Health cannot say that he does not know or did not know of the situation that was obtaining, but nothing has been done to remedy the situation. What we want to see is that if we spend \$X in providing for these poor people or for the people who have to go into these institutions, that it is prepared in the kitchen and reaches them on their beds or wherever they are. You will see a lot of activity going on at these institutions, but is the activity going on for the benefit of the patients? We are saying it is not the case at all times, but the Government is not prepared to offend these people who are offending against these poor people. That is the kind of trouble you are finding in these institutions. You are spending a lot of money, but who is benefiting from the money we are spending? Not the poor people. 9.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the question of staff control in these institutions, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as the District Hospitals, is one big joke. I am saying it is extremely difficult for the doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to control the nurses, the senior doctors cannot control the junior doctors, and some of the doctors have shown themselves to be so irresponsible that it makes it more difficult to exercise any measure of control. You will find what I am saying here now is nothing that is unknown to the Minister of Health, the Minister knows of all of this but he cannot control any of them.

With the appointment of a Hospital Manager at the St. Michael's District Hospital we sincerely hope that the officer will have more opportunity to manage even the unmanageable, because at these institutions there are some people there who have gained their appointment by merit and there are others who are there because of political favours. When you appoint a Hospital Manager those who have been appointed because of their political association are going to make it extremely difficult for the Hospital Manager to function properly, because as he has to discipline some people they run off to the Minister who is responsible for their being there, and we are asking the Minister of Health on this occasion to see wherever possible that with the appointment of your Hospital Manager things are allowed to work as smoothly and as effectively as one would wish for the better treatment of the people who have to go to these institutions. We want the Minister to bear this in mind. He must know. These people have gone to these institutions not because they want to, but it was brought to my attention that the Minister made an appeal some time ago to the relatives of some of the old people there to try to take them back into their homes and help relieve the Government of what they would have us believe they have been trying to do for these poor people, but I believe the Minister would be able to tell us what response he has got to that appeal.

I think he knows his Barbados as well as any of us on this side of the House, and to ask some of the

people, who have got big as if overnight to take back these people, will come to no avail. I have said in this Honourable House already that we have some civil servants today whose parents made what we can almost call the supreme sacrifice to get them where they are, but when they take their friends to their homes the last thing they want their friends to know is who their mother or father is. They are now ashamed of their parents after the parents made all this sacrifice to bring them to what they are, and the Minister must know this, that asking these people to take some old aunt or great aunt out of a district hospital to be what we call a pest around them will not take place. I would like to hear from the Minister what response he has had from this so far.

Mr. Speaker, one last point I will try to make is based on the posts of Works Supervisor and Assistant Storekeeper to supervise the maintenance staff and to assist the Storekeeper. They are now establishing these posts on a permanent basis, but you establish these posts when you find that they have been functioning on a trial basis and have proven to be a success. We are sure that in these cases there is no evidence whatsoever that the Government had been able to effect a saving, Government had been able to find that the clothing for the patients in these institutions lasted longer or anything like this. You will find that a number of bed sheets and pillow cases are given out for laundering and the laundry staff will see to it that during normal working hours as little work as possible is done, but when the time for going home approaches the institution has to be run, bed sheets and pillow cases are wanted, so they have to put in some overtime because these items have to be handy. I would really like to hear from the Minister of Health if this situation is not presently obtaining in these institutions, and if that is the case, how can he justify coming here to ask us to appoint on a permanent basis a Works Supervisor and an Assistant Storekeeper and the like? He has had them on a trial basis on a temporary scale, and if they have not effected a saving and speeded up the work of the institution we say that he is not justified. We are not here to try to prevent any officer from getting confirmation after having served for a period in an acting position, but we are asking the Minister to see to it that he creates a permanent post and let the people understand that they have to do more than report for duty and slip back through the gate and work somewhere else.

We are asking these people to serve the institution faithfully and well, and when they do this they are serving the poor people who are related to them in some form or fashion, however one looks at it, because as I see it we can hardly escape, when we look at these poor people, that this poor fellow or that poor old lady is related to some of us if not here somewhere, because we are a small people in a small country. 9.20 p.m.

We do not want to see these people suffering as they have been suffering in the past. We want to see the Minister examine the situation and do as best as he can in the circumstances.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

There is just one point under Post Office. We have gone through the Welches Post Office very carefully to see if we could put up a better office; but it is cramped, and there is no room for expansion. Until we can get the site that we want, it will have to remain there temporarily.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

The hon. Member for St. Peter seems to be more aware of what is going on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital than those who work there. His knowledge on these matters seem to take the people in charge by great surprise. They seem to think that if they look carefully they might see him under one of the

beds in this institution. I will do my best in the circumstances.

I would like to assure Members that at all times I try to do my best but at some times, life takes more than doing your best. I would like to remind the Member for St. Peter that the Ministry is now engaged on a programme of modernising and upgrading the St. Michael District Hospital.

He knows as well as I do that the conditions of service in the past were not of the quality that one should see in a hospital. I do not want to advert to the conditions under which the St. Michael District Hospital used to exist; but what I want to stress at this moment is that the Government has started for more than two years now on a programme of updating this hospital.

This, Sir, has called for the spending of money to provide appropriate staff, nursing staff and medical staff and other staff that one should find in an institution called a hospital. We see the need for a manager of the St. Michael District Hospital. We can no longer go on with the idea of having a superintendent which might have been suitable in the times of the almshouse, but which is not suitable in terms of a hospital.

We are looking forward to having the necessary skilled staff to run a geriatric hospital. The trend nowadays is to have an administrator properly trained in hospital administration, rather than having a doctor who knows nothing about administration and who is interested in practice and may have little time for the administration of the hospital. We are looking for a Geriatrician to look after this hospital.

This is an area where specialised training is necessary and the proposal before us is to have a Consultant Registrar who will be in a position to look after the needs of the hospital.

I would point out that this is not merely an exercise of changing the physical concept, but of changing staff. We are putting in trained staff. We are putting in trained nurses, and not only doctors and nurses but other staff as well. We have to ensure that the staff that goes in there is equal in quality to staff that goes into any hospital.

One of the problems that confront me in my Ministry is that I cannot say who shall be appointed, and to what department. That is a matter for the Public Service Commission. No Minister can control that. We can make our recommendations, but the final decision rests with the Public Service Commission.

One of the problems that face the various Ministries is the slowness with which discipline is brought to bear on Civil Servants when necessary. It is so slow as to make it appear that it is not in existence, which makes Civil Servants behave in the manner to which we have become accustomed.

When one talks about food leaving these institutions, we have heard many complaints even before I became a Minister. I think that the hon. Member for St. Peter in his other role as a newspaper editor used to write a lot in his newspaper about the goings-on at the kitchen of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I do not deny that people have complained to me about the state of affairs in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but at the same time I would like to stress that the discipline which has to be meted out does not come from me, but from the Public Service Commission, and while I am sympathetic towards these complaints, and may even agree with the members making complaints, the matter is not in my hand.

Maybe if it was left to the Ministers to enforce discipline we would hear that we are doing things for political motives. One of the things that underlie some of these problems is the relationship existing between various members of the staff. One of the problems is the inter-social relationships existing not only at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but at other institutions. One of the problems which seems to exist in our society is that we tend to look at people from the background of their parents rather than the contribution that they can make. 9.30 p.m.

We can legislate for so many things but there are things we cannot legislate for, and one of them is the attitude of people, and the problems of the St. Michael's District Hospital and other institutions such as that, are such that my Ministry is very concerned as to how these problems will be solved. I, as Minister am very concerned as to how these problems will be dealt with. We can have discussions with people and try to convince them that their attitude is wrong but very often these very people go back and continue with their same attitudes, and one of the serious problems engaging my attention is how to resolve the various problems existing in these various institutions. As soon as you resolve one, sooner or later another occurs to take the place of the one you have solved. It is difficult to succeed in improving the behaviour of some of these people and until the people in this country become more community minded you will find that for a very long time many of the things to which the hon. Member referred will continue to plague this society. So I think we have to go a little further than we have already gone, and get down to the problem and the crux of the matters which are adversely affecting the structure of the Barbadian society because you find that the people who go into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the District Hospitals are drawn from the Barbadian society and it is in these institutions that the Barbadian society reflects the attitude which obtains in the other societies outside. Sir, it is difficult for any Government Department or any Minister to eradicate the traits these people have in this society by virtue of their being part of this society.

We get complaints from time to time that they go into the institutions and that because an orderly or nurse who lives in their district had some words with them, they abuse the orderly or the nurse in the institution. However, no amount of criticism will change this overnight. We have to get down to the problem of removing these unfortunate circumstances that exist in Barbados.

There are again, the people who consider themselves as having a right to rule; they believe they have the right to rule, and as it were, to govern Barbados, while others have no right, and the people who consider themselves having the right to rule, look disdainfully on those who may not be as fortunate as they are. These are some of the problems of Barbados.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Standing Orders are suspended it is true, and I do not want hon. Members to think I am hindering them from speaking but I will just remind them to bear the staff in mind. The hon. Member may proceed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Very well, Mr. Speaker. In view of that, I will not proceed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That being so, I will put the question.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the next Item is a supplementary Resolution of which I gave notice earlier today. I am about to make a motion that this be dealt with. It is a Resolution for the sum of \$146, 135. Sir, I beg to move that this be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1973-74 No. 43

The Resolution for the sum of \$146, 135 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. Members of the Opposition for their consideration. This really is a non-controversial matter. It is a Supplementary Resolution for \$146, 135 and.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, at this stage I beg to move that we deal with this matter in Committee of Supply. At the same time I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Members may discuss this money Resolution and no other. 9.40 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1973-74 No. 43

A Resolution for the sum of \$146, 135 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 36(1), Item 43 — National Insurance — \$145, 645, I merely wish to say that this supplementary is necessary to meet the increase in the National Insurance

Contributions from January, 1974. In addition, the original amount was underestimated.

As far as Head 36 — Item 1 — Temporary Staff — is concerned, the sum asked for is \$490. This is consequential on the fact that certain members of the staff attached to the Department of Youth Affairs have obtained additional qualifications and, under the provisions in force, they are entitled to payments for the additional subjects which they have obtained. This is merely to ensure that the members of the staff are paid in accordance with their qualifications.

I, therefore, beg to move that the Resolution in the sum of \$146, 135 do now pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

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. L. E. SANDIFORD, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C E. TALMA:

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

I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Monday, the 18th March, 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 9.45 p.m.