THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 18th March, 1974

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.30 a.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); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., (Econ.) LL.D., (Prime Minister); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Home Affairs); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.:

Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P. (Chairman of Committees) Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J.M.G.M. ADAMS, M. A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P.M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); 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 Honourable House for the 12th March, 1974 are before you for confirmation. If there are no alterations or amendments or corrections, the Minutes will be confirmed. (Pause} There being no alterations or amendments or corrections, the Minutes for the 12th March, 1974, are hereby confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Parks and Beaches Commission Act (Act 1970-12)

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

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

Hon. C. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Escheat Act, 1899 (Act 1899-1).

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

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

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. R. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Parks and Beaches Commission Act, 1970, be now read a first time.

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

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

Mrs. G L. EASTMOND entered the Chamber and took her seat.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Escheat Act. 1899 be now read a first time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
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.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 16, 18, 20, 21, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, the instant Order of the day stands in the name of the Prime Minister, and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending on the 31st March, 1975.

Sir, I beg to move that this be the instant Order of the day.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, the total appropriations on current account for this year amount to some $161, 501, 426 and the amount sought to be appropriated by the Bill, which, according to the Constitution and the 1964 Financial Administration and Audit Act would include those amounts which are not fixed by law amount to $103, 529. By a very rough calculation Your Honour will see that the amount which is fixed by law is approximately $181/2 million and we are precluded from discussing those matters which are fixed by law because those have already been ordained by various statutory instruments. But in dealing with the second reading of this Bill I will of course, look at the global figures and give a very brief summary of the situation on current expenditure for this year.

During the past twelve years - I say twelve years because this is the bench mark which I can remember most readily and refer to most accurately because it was the year in which I assumed duties as Minister of Finance of this Island. In 1961-62, if Your Honour has any reference by Estimates, say of 1970—71

figures where we reviewed the ten year time sequence -and we never go back more than ten years in the Estimates - you will see that the revised Estimates for the year 1961-62 amount to something like $26 million. In that figure of $26 million on current account was included amounts which the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and the Comptroller of Customs would be expected, to refund to taxpayers and importers. Very early in the exercise I took out these figures because they inflated Government expenditure and revenue on both sides of the Balance Sheet, unnecessarily, because they were self-cancelled, because an amount was put in which was equal to the amount of drawbacks and the amount of income tax which would have been refunded to the taxpayers. So the more accurate figure for the year 1961-62 would have been in the region of 24.5 or 25.6 million dollars.

When you look at the Government expenditure for the year 1974-75, there has been an extraordinary increase in revenue and in Government expenditure and this has been accompanied, as members would see from the Development Plan and the Statistics which we have furnished here, by a significant increase of persons employed in the public sector. Now I do not want to go into any discussion as to whether that increase has been justified or whether the productivity of the public service has increased even in arithmetic progression with the increase in numbers of persons employed far less in geometric or some other kind of progression which is a bit above the level of. simple arithmetic. My personal view is that the productivity has not increase at the rate that I would have liked during the period which I am referring to but this is not the time to, go into that because I did not make the public service or the public officers; not even the Public Service Commission made them but whoever made them, if he made them in his own image is not a very good looking person, and I am not referring to the Almighty. 10.40 a.m.

I am not referring to the Almighty. There are almost fifteen thousand people working in Barbados and being paid out of the Treasury. In spite of what the hon. member for St. Thomas may say, with the exception of two people who got their salaries two days late, they have drawn their money religiously every month since I have been in office. We do not have to do like the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and borrow money from the Oil Company to pay civil servants, or to do like some of the other places. We do not have deferred payment of public officers for three or four months, or for any longer period.

On the occasions in which we have granted increases in salaries to the Public Servants, whereas they take an average of nine to eleven months to compute the pension of a single Public Officer who has retired from the Government Service - so that he and his family have to beg for bread, or to borrow money to support themselves during the time between the actual date of his retirement and the time he receives his pension - they have, Mr. Speaker, an efficient way of working out all the calculations, without the aid of a computer and even faster than a computer, for overtime and the elaborate figures or computations, for back pay. They can do all of this in 9 days to get $2 million in back pay.

There has been a significant increase in the number of persons employed in the Public Service, There have been tremendous increases in the scope and field of Government activity in this country. We have taken over the work done by the Local Government Authorities - about $5 million, $6 million, or $7 million - but these figures have been inflated during the last few years. We have taken most of those officers, and we have paid them the same salaries as their comrades in similar Departments. There is about $1/2 million set aside for such things as refunds for Income Tax and so on.

The magnitude during this period of $125 million is the amount by which Government expenditure has

risen during the last 12 years. It has not been accomplished by a commensurate amount in taxes - taxes which should have been introduced a long time ago such as the Property Transfer Tax, which you will see from the Estimates still continues to make a considerable amount. We had the introduction of the Common External Tariff during the last 12 months, say, October last year, but long before that there was this steep increase in expenditure and in Government Revenue. Government has to find the revenue to take care of expenditure. As the expenditure increases, in some form or other we try to do what some misguided people call balancing the Budget. In some years revenue has exceeded expenditure by $10 million, and we have been accused of overtaxing the people when we have a surplus. When we have a deficit, they say that the Government has no money. When we have a surplus, we are accused of overtaxing the unhappy population in Barbados - unhappy because the people on the other side always try to frighten others and make them unhappy.

Mr. Speaker, you only have to watch the children going to school who are receiving school meals, which they never received before to see the improvement. Look at the absence of rickets and children walking on legs like spindles which I saw in my day and in your day, Mr. Speaker. I believe you were going to school at a time when you did not have the advantage of achieving your learning under this Government but, probably, under the administration of your schoolmaster you were able to inculcate something with obvious results.

During this period, far from overtaxing the people personally, income tax has been considerably reduced. The level of taxable income has been increased, on more than one occasion allowances have been substantially increased, so that the net taxable income is much higher now than it used to be before when every man working for £200 had to send in a return. At the moment the incomes of husband and wife can be separated. Some people say that the rate of tax is responsible for the increase in Government Revenue, but the growth of the economy as well as the level of activity in the country has created a much greater tax base.

If I may make some comparison regarding the gross domestic product - do not ask me to define this. Let us call it the national income with certain percentages taken from one side or the other and that the increase is not more than 10%. Let us take the national income and not per capita income. Let us use the last figures regarding the national income. The national income of Barbados, according to the Development Plan, has increased during the same period from about $96 million to something like $350 million. I am speaking subject to correction, Mr. Speaker. It is clearly obvious that, on the growth aspect alone, you have a multiplier of 4 and, therefore if you multiply the national income by the figure of 4 by 96, let us say $350 million, then you should get a commensurate increase in Government revenue using the same multiplier. 10.50 a.m.

That would give us a Government revenue of, say, roughly $100 million. $24.5 million by four should be $100 million, but we were faced with a Government revenue of $140 million in this year's exercise. So then there is another $40 million, and we can attribute this largely to the increase in Government receipts such as, for example, Seawell International Airport. As far as I remember both Antigua and Barbados in 1961 had revenue from the airports of about the same figure - I worked on the Antigua figure in another capacity - about $180, 000, and despite the howls of anguish from the airlines and the International Air Transport Association we have imposed more realistic dues and fees on persons using the airport and the services there, and as far as I remnnber again - I am not professing to be an expert on remembering things which I have not recently read the revenue from the airport was well over $5

million during the same period. This is how we account for the extra $40 million which would be left over after we used the same multiplier and index from the growth in income and the growth of Government revenue.

We have had a growth in the imports into the country, and whereas the Deep Water Harbour was designed to handle 150, 000 tons of cargo when it was completed in 1961, we are now on the verge of a new expansion of the Port facilities because we are handling transit, entrepot and domestic cargo pretty close to 400, 000 tons, and naturally if you have 400, 000 tons of cargo you would expect to get a greater amount of revenue from import duties.

During the past year we have witnessed of course certain economic phenomena predictable in a way firstly by inflation of at least 25% during the past financial year, and if you have 25% inflation and you have salary Increases, naturally one would expect that Government expenditure would necessarily have to increase because it is not only the individual consumer of the traditional basket of consummable goods that one has to consider when you are dealing with inflation, it is all the people, whether they are business firms or individuals in the private sector, and then the public sector as well which is too frequently a victim of these inflationary spirals. During the same planned period we have witnessed another phenomena, the steeply rising import prices for petroleum products. Again, Sir, I am not giving the accurate figures, but my recollection is that the Island will need to find something like $13 million this year to pay for the same quantity of fuel that it consumed during the financial year 1972-73 as a result of the action taken by the Organisation of petroleum exporting countries. I am not critising them because we are a developing country in increasing prices of petroleum products and crude oil out of all calculations of ordinary humble people like myself. Twelve months ago, Mr. Speaker, the posted price for a barrell of 42 gallons of crude oil was something like $US2.50 a barrel. The posted price, not necessarily being the price at which petroleum products, particularly crude oil, would have been trading between the supplier and refinery - but the posted price being the price at which Governments calculated the royalties which would be payable to the Governments of those countries from which the oil was being shipped or sold to refineries.

Here we have a situations in Barbados where our local refinery refused, neglected or declined, or all three, to pay the producers of local oil the posted price or anything close to the posted price for reasons which are difficult for the ordinary layman to understand, but which they claim were due to the peculiar admixture of the basic ingredients of the crude oil to give them the best marketable proportion of products so that they would get the right amount of asphaltic base, the right amount of bunker 'C', the right amount of heavy diesels, light diesels, all the way up to the refraction stopping at premium gasolene. As far as I remember, the price that the local refinery offered the producers was something like $1.18 a barrel. Since the action taken by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the same refinery which objected to the quality of the oil, not low quality but high quality, and did hot find it possible to pay more than $1.18 is glad to get V every barrel they can at the price of $US7.00 within the period of six months. That is why we are producing more oil than we have been producing in the past not because some oil was not there, but because the price was not right, and it did not pay the people who were prospecting and drilling for the oil to offer oil below the posted price based on the platt gram which is a formula which the Government of

Paris and refiners all use in arriving at posted prices. There has been no sudden discovery of oil in Barbados. There is no real fuel crisis in Barbados, Any crisis that there was is, the kind of crisis which is

created by people's expectations, and the long queues of motor cars which you may have joined from time to time, if like myself you did not enjoy the facility which was offered by the Government - I have never availed myself of that facility and those who availed themselves of it will not be criticised by me because it is a privilege Which was offered to all parliamentiarians, I understand, God knows what for, but it was offered — were merely the victims of a selfimposed crisis of people expecting prices to rise. 11.00 a.m.

We are really the victims of a self-imposed crisis because people were expecting a crisis to arise. Let me explain something very simply. I have had discussions here in Barbados, in Puerto Rico and in Venezuela with oil producers, and it does not pay any country to .cut back by 400 barrels a day. We are talking about countries that produce refined products. (Mr. BOLDEN: He is repeating what I said in here before); If the hon. member for St. Joseph accidentally makes an accurate statement I cannot then take the opposite view like some of his other colleagues, that would not make him a genius. I am saying that it does not pay any oil producing country that has something like two million barrels a day to cut back Barbados by 400 barrels a day. Their calculations cannot work in that kind of backyard, because when you get down to 300 and 400 barrels a day and they load up a tanker with 20, 000 or 40, 000 barrels, a small tanker, then it does not really pay an exporting country, and I pointed this out to them at the very early stages.

I would not say that at no time during the so-called fuel crisis were the tanks at the refinery dry nor were they below the level of reserves which they would normally carry from day to day, from week to week and from month to month. If they want to say I am not accurate they can always go to the hon. member for St. Thomas, but I would challenge him to produce figures. I had some discussions with them at a very early stage and told them it was a lot of nonsense, that Barbados was too small a country. Happily for us we have reasonably good prospects. I do not want to put it higher than that because a lot of people when they think about oil get a rush of blood to the head and they get excited. We have difficulties of a geological and geophysical nature which began with the creation of the earth if you believe Genesis. It is due to the peculiar substructure of Barbados and the faulty and geographic features which took place with the creation of this Island, whether it was created or emerged from the sea around it, but it emerged in such a way that it makes recovery extremely difficult. One good feature is the by-product of our intensified reclamation, and that is that we have given the go ahead to the Natural Gas Corporation to utilise the gas which accompanies the reclamation or recovery of oil no matter where the oil fields may be.

As I said before, the additional amount of money which it will take to pay for the same amount of oil and petroleum products that we consumed last year, and the new prices which are all over the place, from U.S$7.00 to U.S.$17.00 a barrel, but whatever the price is we are paying now I hope that those prices will not increase significantly because it will make nonsense of all the calculations and the economic projections one has to do from time to time. Twenty-five percent of all the power consumed in Barbados is used by the Waterworks Department. That is something people should remember. There is no hydroelectric power in Barbados, all of our power is generated by diesel generators and other generators which also consume a certain amount of oil. By the end of this year we have reasonable expectations of supplying the refinery in Barbados — if there is one — and whatever other refineries there may be, and I should like to remind members that the refinery in Barbados will not have any monopoly over the other refineries. We shall be supplying the refinery with at least 30% of its requirements. The activity you are dealing with is one which is very peculiar, you cannot really project

what will happen, but let us hope that Barbadians, whether on this side or on that side of the House, will realise that we can recover some over the next two years and if we could have some for export it means that the burden of inflation will be cushioned to a much greater extent than it is, at a mere 30% of our local requirements. 11.10a.m.

Then there is the question of our export industries and how as a result of these increases in the price of fuel our export industries will be affected, some to a small degree and others to a greater degree. Then they will become a little less competitive with countries which are in a more advantageous position, like our neighbours to the south, Trinidad and Jamaica, so that we would expect that the competition which we face from the export industries of large countries will be fairly fierce so that our manufacturers and businessmen will have to double their efforts to maintain, far less increase the benefits they have enjoyed since the establishment of the Caribbean Free Trade Area. I do not state at this stage, but I shall very soon, the strategy which I propose to adopt in order to combat and if possible overcome, and if not entirely overcome, ameliorate the effects of the increase in fuel prices, inflation and the increase in the onerous adverse balance of payments.

When I say very soon, I mean within three or four weeks, and it may be shorter; because when we are in a situation like this — although you do not operate on the ill informed mouthings of political aspirants or leader writers in the newspapers or both (and sometimes they are identifiable despite the names that we see in the newspapers) often times the editorials are written by political aspirants or your political opponents. There is a similarity of style which is not disguised even by their speeches.

I am not being irrelevant, but to say that the Prime Minister should make a statement about inflation or about devaluation is nonsense. I have never heard the Chancellor of the Exchequer make a statement about revaluation or devaluation except at the precise moment or point in time when he proposes certain measures to make adjustments in the economy.

All this talk about the flight of capital and devaluation, when they — which God forbid— become the holders of the reins of Government, they can devalue the Barbados dollar every day if they want to. If I ever devalue the Barbados dollar, you will hear about it on the radio first and not in here. You may hear it in here the same day.

I have never been afraid of having to discharge my functions as Minister of Finance. I can say like all of us in here that we pay taxes, and in designing my strategy to combat the influence of inflation, I will bear in mind that all of us are taxpayers, and that all of us want to make our incomes stretch as far as we can make them stretch. At the same time we will have to be realistic and realise that the whole Caribbean community is in a state of siege. Of course, I may say that we are always in a state of siege because the Public Service is always besieging the Treasury. We are completely encompassed and beset by a perennial siege.

I am talking about a real siege now in which all members of the Community will be called upon to look at their expenditure, If I was going to give some gratuitous advise, as I have been giving in the past few months to people that I meet and who have complained about the price of gasolene and other things, I will say that if you really want to live on your budget all you have to decide to do is to spend not more than you spent last year, say on gasolene.

Some adjustments can be made on a voluntary basis by citizens, and others will have to be made by the Government in restricting its expenditure and watching carefully the demands for non-recurrent items as in these Estimates, and those other items which may be imposed from time to time especially by politicians who believe in making the people happy.

We have not got to the subsistence or survival level yet, but we can make adjustments which will be promulgated in due course, At the same time, because expenditure is increasing one does not just say cut down, for example, the Police Force by half, reduce the Health Services, close down some of the schools or stop giving school meals to half of the children.

It does not operate like that. A Government has certain principles if it is in its right senses and has a philosophy of redistributing the national wealth on the principle of maximum social advantage. We cannot, in order to justify the conditions that exist just say that if you have a 25 per cent inflation, reduce all your services by 25 per cent.

That is the reason why despite the fact that no matter how carefully we prune what we consider unnecessary demands, there are certain irreducible, steady, relentless increases in the national expenditure which are unavoidable, and if we manage to contain Government expenditure to $161 million this year, I think that we would have done a remarkable job; but at the same time, I should like to warn that although this Parliament may approve expenditure to that level, I shall be doing everything in my power to make sure that that level is never reached by a very careful supervision of the requests which appear on Ministers' desks from time to time for recurrent expenditure.

I have had the problem. I know that my own Cabinet will tell me that the House has approved the money and therefore we want it because it has been agreed by the Legislature. I am sure that members of the House will agree that it is no discourtesy to the Legislature because they have approved a certain level of expenditure if the Minister of Finance decides to keep it below that level, if the Minister of Finance decides on review that certain things are not undertaken because they can be done without. All that will happen is that the estimated expenditure will not reach the level that we are asking members of the House to support today in Committee of Supply. 11.20 a.m.

So, Mr. Speaker, if we compare last year we will see that there has been a substantial increase in projected expenditure, but I should like to remind hon. members that we agreed at the time of the salaries review when the proposals came to this House, that there should be an automatic escalation, or whatever you like to call it, in the two successive years, that is 1974-75 and 1975-76, of five percent on Government salaries and wages. At the moment the Government is spending something like $62 million on wages and salaries and that was approximately 50% of the total budget on curtent account. Therefore, there will be a five percent increase on that and there will be additional staff taken on in certain departments during the course of a year, so that the total wages and salaries bill maybe expected to rise by more than five percent during the coming financial year.

I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a budget speech. If I have given some indication of my thinking about the state of the economy those remarks are not made as an inducement to anyone to rush out of this Chamber to go and gamble on the stock exchange or to try to export dollars from Barbados or try to buy certain goods or commodities whether it be oil or anything else because I have given no such indication. In the fulness of time we shall know all, it will be disclosed, and there shall be

nothing hidden and it shall be taken to all and sundry the strategy which I propose to adopt to cope with the economic situation which has overtaken not only us but our comrades in the Caribbean and indeed in the whole of the civilized world.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks of introduction I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Speaker, we have listened to a speech which ranged wide over the activities of the Government. Like the Prime Minister I would like to say that I am not one who seeks to disagree with something merely because it has been said by a member of the opposite side, and therefore I particularly wish to agree with what he said about the oil crisis. I am agreeing with his agreement with members of the Opposition, in other words, for during his frequent absenses from the House debates have taken place; the oil crisis has been significant among them, and we on this side have emphasised that there is no need — that we can see no need — for what is being thrust down our throats in the crisis. I take it now, from the Prime Minister agreeing with the hon. member for St. Joseph and by implications agreeing with all other members who have spoken in a similar vein, that he will have also to agree with us.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. What I was agreeing with in the statement made by the hon. member for St. Joseph was that there was no need to cut back Barbados' supplies, and I then went on to explain that the crisis was created by the expectations of people. That is what I said. I will not rise again.

Mr. SPEAKER:
That was a point of elucidation.

Mr. ADAMS:
The Prime Minister interrupted me at the point where I was going to say.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
He interrupted you legitimately.

Mr. ADAMS:
I do not object to his interruptions, Mr. Speaker. I don't object to them. They are often of use. One cannot predict beforehand which are going to be nonsense or which are going to be a contribution, and therefore I am prepared to hear all. But he interrupted me legitimately at the point where I was going to invite him to agree also with the Opposition that these expectations of which he speaks, the crisis atmosphere into which the country was thrown, was created and caused primarily and particularly by one of his Ministers, Senator Taitt, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce. In our view, when we said that Senator Taitt fooled the country, that is now confirmed.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Is there not some Standing Order which says that you should not

refer to people by name in this Chamber?

Mr. SPEAKER:
You cannot refer to any member in this Place, but there is no rule in the Standing Orders that prevents a member from referring to a member in the Other Place by name,

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
If I find it, Sir, will I have your indulgence?

Mr. SPEAKER:
Yes. I will be most appreciative. You cannot refer to a member in this Place by name but you certainly can refer to a member of the Other Place by name.

Mr. ADAMS:
If you wish to speak of a member of the Public Service by name I believe you have to give.....

Mr. SPEAKER:
We have also ruled in extension in this Chamber that if you want to speak ill of a member who is in this Chamber.....

Mr. ADAMS:
In his personal capacity. I am not worried about the ruling Sir; but we have said in here in relation to the oil crisis, that the Government should review the present Mobile monopoly. There is no - as the Prime Minister said quite truthfully — necessary refinery monopoly in Barbados. There is only a monopoly so far as I know, in the importation of certain oil products, tod if we find that the present Mobile monopoly is operating to the detriment of Barbados, we in the Opposition would be glad to support the Government in establishing another refinery or encouraging another refinery to come here in order to ensure Barbados' supply of oil. The very figures which the Prime Minister gave — although I think he may have misread them — have already been canvassed by the Opposition; figures for the potential production of oil in Barbados. We called on the Government to ensure that the resources were made available and the necessary legislative machinery created to allow oil exploration in Barbados to continue to the point where it could produce one third of our requirements daily. I think it is a little - I use the word "mischievous" of the Prime Minister to speak of exporting oil, because I think that to have even the hope of exporting oil is to raise the expectation of Barbadians to a point - because after all the word of the Prime Minister is the word of God for hon. members on the other side, or so they pretend — is to raise the expectation of Barbadians to a point beyond which is reasonable because the most ambitious surveys by the General Crude Oil Company have not spoken of production beyond 1, 000 barrels a day. 11.30 a.m.

As to natural gas, I was very glad to hear what the Prime Minister said on that. I remember that the hon. member for St. Michael South West was the Minister of Trade when he introduced a Bill in this House dealing with natural gas, and it was revealed that Barbados was importing liquified petroleum gas from abroad to make up for the lack of supplies. I urged then the necessity of a proper exploration in Barbados, and I was told that there was no natural gas which could be obtained easily. The areas which are now being explored for gas are the same areas which I had mentioned in here, and the Natural Gas Corporation has now proved, after five or six years, that what we were saying on this side was right. We

now see the short-sightedness in this Government in not pursuing the matter at the time. (Asides.) I appreciate the comments made by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I hope he will get on his feet and make those comments in the fullness of time and recognise the wisdom of what the members of the Opposition have been saying in here.

Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that never before in the history of Barbados has the words of the Opposition that the Government is borrowing its way out of trouble been so totally proved as in the Appropriation Bill in which the largest increase is the charge for debt which amounts to $81/2 million, and that can be found in the Current Estimates. It is admitted in these Estimates that the national debt of Barbados to the end of this financial year is $2 million. It is admitted by these Estimates that very man, woman and child in Barbados will be carrying the burden of $400 each so far as the national debt is concerned. We see under the Head of Charges of Debt that it is sought to increase the amount of $8% million by $11 million to nearly $20 million. This is what the public of Barbados will now have to pay annually for the years of economic expansion presided over by the hon. member for St. John, What does this mean, Sir?

We look at the Head of Communications and Works, and we ask ourselves: Is the Government taking seriously its responsibility to the people of Barbados to give them a road system, proper drainage, an increased water supply and so on? Is it carrying out what has been mentioned in the Development Plan and the promises it has made from time to time? I am sorry that the Minister of Communications and Works is not in his seat, because I want to commiserate him on this occasion. I am here to praise him. He has never at any stage, as far as a Minister of Communications is concerned, proved to be other than a competent Minister. Has the Prime Minister taken this view? No. When we look at the Head of Communications and Works, we see that the appropriation has been reduced. The Government is admitting its inability, even in the light of what the Prime Minister says, to carry on a road building programme, a road maintenance programme, and the drainage programme which the Barbadians expect from the Minister of Communications and Works.

With regard to the Ministry of Housing, the Minister of Housing shows a capacity to administer his Department in the technical sense, but the hon. member for St. Michael North West has not been given a vote big enough to do the things which should be done. We understand that it will be necessary to have 7, 020 new houses to service the applications in Bridgetown alone. We find that the subvention under the National Housing Corporation has been reduced by $2 million. It is not in the Opposition's place to tell the Government that it must not reduce expenditure. We do not like to see money wasted, but the Government must have a proper sense of priority. Does the Prime Minister think that the provision of a Coast Guard Service is of a greater priority in Barbados in 1974 than the provision of houses for the people? The Coast Guard Service will cost $2 million this year, and that is the exact amount by which the cost of building houses has been reduced. The Prime Minister should not seek to justify a Coast Guard Service with a recurrent expenditure which already doubles that of the Barbados Regiment.

Let me take a closer look at what I have mentioned a moment ago. Under the Ministry of Communications and Works, we see that expenditure has been reduced by almost $1 million on the maintenance of highways, parish roads, guard walls, surfacing material and feeder roads, for replacement, repairs and maintenance of tools to reinstate highways and roadways broken for repairs to water mains and hydrants, etc. How do they arrive at the priority of things in Barbados? Already comments have been made about the condition of our roads in Barbados. Maybe the condition of our

roads is due to the large number of cars and heavy-duty vehicles which use them, but nobody can be satisfied about the condition of our roads. I suggest that Government should give priority to our roads, because our highways are always being talked about. With respect to the question of drainage, we have had some serious floods in Barbados in recent years. Flooding has taken place in St. Michael as well as in Christ Church where there were no houses before and the roads were less well drained, but the type of roads we now have has shown that drainage is becoming a very big problem in Barbados. Although the Government has spoken about a Drainage Programme, it has sought to cut the cost of drainage in half. 11.40a.m.

Mr. Speaker, even at the Waterworks the maintenance of equipment has been reduced, and I think we should be given an explanation in the fulness of time by the Minister why the maintenance of Government pumps has been cut by $600, 000. All of this is in the face of a situation where it is still thought necessary or wise or desirable or feasible to continue with the plans which I freely admit were supported by all sides of the House for the establishment of a Coast Guard Service at a cost of $2 million.

I am going to return to borrowing in the course of dealing with the general economic arguments canvassed by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has commented that the increase in Government Expenditure and Government revenue has not been accomplished by a commensurate increase in taxes. I am not sure whether he meant taxes or taxation. What I understand is meant by that is that levels of taxation and direct taxation have not been raised. This may well be true, but this has little relationship with the taxes that people pay, because an increase in Government revenue has largely been accomplished by inflation. Anybody would understand that the reason why a Deep Water Harbour could be entirely built 15 years ago at a cost of $20 million or whatever it was where the same harbour could not be built today for less than two and a half that amount is inflation, and the Prime Minister has admitted that there has been a 25% inflation during the c irrent financial year, a figure well above what is regarded as the danger mark by past orthodox economics. I do not say that you have to take every doctrine on orthodox economics as gospel. In Barbados the Prime Minister can turn us all on our heads and convince us that 25% inflation is good for us. Inflation has advantages, we understand six or eight months ago when the crisis was not so fierce, and there are certain good things about inflation. We have the word of the Prime Minister for that, and as I say sometimes, you have to believe him. On that occasion I did not, and I think that he perhaps is having doubts about it as well. Anyhow time will tell. What I see is that we warned against inflation. We spoke of Barbados facing its greatest economic and political crisis since 1937, and the next Appropriation Bill reveals that inflation has gone to the extent where Government is withdrawing the purchasing power from the economy because that is what Government borrowing does. That is the way that a Government in a big country has to attack inflation, reduce the purchasing power in the economy, and the Government is reducing that purchasing power by maintaining high interest rates and itself borrowing all available funds on the local market.

I have looked at the charges of debt appropriation and from a rough calculation, again the Prime Minister will have to tell me how accurate this is, because he is the administrator, he has the secrets, when you subtract the amortisation from the increase, you still reach a figure of approximately $6 million which is a straightforward increase in charges of debt. I do not know at what rate he is proposing to borrow money. If he proposes borrowing at 10% one presumes that the increase in interest of $6 million will mean he is going to borrow around $60 million. If he is lucky to borrow at 6%, it would only be $36 million. I would have to hear the projections and hear what he has to say in dealing with

that, but it is clear there is going to be another substantial increase of not less than a third and perhaps as much as a half of the national debt during this financial year.

I wonder how many people are aware that when you hear the Government is raising a loan from commercial banks and you go and ask to borrow money to build a house, you hear that the interest is all right, the security is all right, but we have not got the money. How many people are aware that the Government has withdrawn that amount of your potential purchasing power from the economy to stop you from employing carpenters and masons and giving people a little work in helping the construction industry in this Island, and that when the Government occupies the available funds to balance its budget or meet expenditure or pay firms in Bridgetown which it owes, that the Government itself is reducing the purchasing power of each and every citizen in this country, Never before has there been anything comparable to the Government increasing the debt by as much as one-third far less the potential figures to which it can go, We have reached the height of absurdity where Item 18 under Charges of Debt reads $1 million for Temporary Borrowings to pay interest during the forthcoming year. Who is this money going to be borrowed from? "To pay interest on money borrowed temporarily from Joint Consolidated Fund and other sources." This is the first person I have heard borrowing money from itself to pay interest to itself. This is the first time I have heard of paying $1 million to yourself, borrowing from the Joint Consolidated Fund to go back to the Joint Consolidated Fund, presumably to help pay the army of occupation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I just want on a point of explanation to say that the hon. member spent a long number of years in the United Kingdom, some of them studying, other times doing other things.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Make the point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

It is germane and relevant. He spent a long time in the United Kingdom. We did not rush to greet him on his return, but he is here. I thought all the time he was in the United Kingdom he would understand that the Joint Consolidated Fund referred to here is not The Consolidated Fund. It is a fund which is managed by the Crown Agents and sometimes we can get money from 5 5/8% on the London daily average, and if we have a bill to pay frequently we would say pay $2 million for something or the other from the Joint Consolidated Fund. It is a pool of cash reserves managed by the Crown Agents for the Colonies who are now called Commonwealth Agents which we borrow on the London daily average and all the Governments do it; so in a sense we are borrowing from ourselves. We may have $100, 000 in the Joint Consolidated Fund and might borrow $1 million. In that sense he is accurate but when he confuses the Consolidated Fund with the Joint Consolidated Fund according to the Barbados Constitution Order in Council of 1966, then a lot of those years he spent in England were years that the locusts have eaten.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister is not listening as carefully as he should. I am absolutely sure that the last remark I made before he interrupted me was borrowing from the Joint Consolidated Fund to pay to the Consolidated Fund. Now again I can only say that the public will judge whether indeed the expression "borrowing its way out of trouble11 has been justified just as the public has come to its own conclusion as to whether the expression "no money in the Treasury" was justified. I am

hearing so much about those two poor Civil Servants who did not get their wages. I cannot help if C.B.C. picks up one thing, the only thing a Reporter cam understand, out of a whole press interview and confuses himself and the Acting Minister of Finance. How am I to help that? If he picks up the fact, which was a fact, that two Civil Servants did not get their salaries and assumes this is the only justification for saying there was no money in the Treasury and the Acting Minister of Finance also assumes it, I cannot help it. I remember the Prime Minister laughing at what one of his supporters said - that he knows of no recipe for ignorancy that any doctor can give you. I cannot give one either. I can tell the people that the Government has been unable to meet its financial commitments in Bridgetown. I can tell the people that the Chamber of Commerce circulated a document to its members asking them to say how much was owed over the normal period by the Government; and I can tell that certain members and friends of the Democratic Labour Party persuaded the Chamber of Commerce not to publish that document. I can tell that it would have shown that several millions were owed outside the normal repayment period at that date. I can tell that the Government also undertook certain borrowings in Bridgetown over and above the ordinary Government borrowings or borrowings financed by Government paper at a time when it was in difficulties about meeting its debts. 11.50a.m.

I can tell that when somebody sees all those facts put in front of them they can come to an explanation that at that time, to use a popular phrase, there was no money in the Treasury. If the Prime Minister seeks to hide the fact that the public was dissatisfied at the time with his answer that only two civil servants - which in itself is not even accurate - did not get salaries at the end of the month, if he thinks that is an answer to the people's worries let him continue to think that. We in the Opposition will tell the people otherwise and it is us they are believing. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is why you have six seats). That is why we have six seats now, because people unfortunately believe lies from time to time, but I am happy to say that the scales are falling from the eyes of the deceived. I hope the Prime Minister, when the time comes, will be in a position to hear me perhaps tell him that is why he got, not six, five or four, but perhaps two seats. I would like to see the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and the hon. member for; St. John in here next time, The hon. member for St. Michael South Central has to be my friend, his work has been made much harder and I can assure him he will get the assistance and cooperation of the Opposition because we can see he is not in favour with those who hold the purse strings, When he cannot perform the duties of his Ministry satisfactorily we will be able to lay the blame where it is due. He deserves to be treated better than that, it looks as though cooperation with the Opposition seems to be the path of advancement in that Party.

On the question of taxes and this statement that no increase in taxation has taken place. This is to hide the fact that the personal allowances, the subject of some flippant and irrelevant parliamentary answer given to the hon. member for St. Joseph last week, I really thought we were in Parliament where civil servants and Ministers sought to give straightforward answers to straight forward questions and not merely to score a political point, but the personal allowances have not in fact kept pace with inflation. The Prime Minister should know that the amount of income tax they collected must surely be more than twice what it was when he came to power, considerably more than twice. The fact, to use his phrase, that there is a much greater tax base is merely another and hopefully palatable way of saying that many more people are paying tax. The expression about some misguided people not balancing a budget, we have never seen anything other than projected surplus financing in here. The Prime Minister himself has come in here and apologised - he did not use the actual words "I apologise" - but the tone of his speech has been an apology for the fact that the machinery of Government was unable to spend the funds available for it to spend on development made available by taxation during certain of the years in the 1960s.

When we have come in here and said that the Government has under-estimated revenue and over-estimated expenditure the Prime Minister said that they had a development plan but they did not have the machinery to do this, that or the next.

The great project of the Hilton Hotel which absorbed the surpluses of those years every year being paid for out of taxation and conventional money raising. We see that our perennial complaints about the Hilton are once again proved true if we look at page 11 of the Estimates. It is estimated that the Hilton will produce on $350, 000 this year, that this is a decreased on estimation of $115, 000 estimated last year, that in the year when I am quite sure I heard the Prime Minister say he needed three quarters of a million dollars to get some money in the Hilton, despite that it has only made $300, 000 in 1972-73, We have kept asking in here what is the cost of the Hilton and we are told it cannot be given because it was financed out of revenue. That has been said in here.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
The cost of the Hilton Hotel has been given in here several times.

Mr. ADAMS:
We have asked for the cost of the Hilton so that we can relate the return of the Hilton with the capital cost and we were told it was not financed that way, it was not paid out of a particular fund to which repayments of it related, that you have to add up the amounts spent on the Hilton from year to year out of general revenue, and figures were given by adding up what was appropriated each year for the Hilton, and subsequently when there was a law suit a settlement of $1 million was added on. Let us see the true cost of the Hilton so we can relate it to the money it brings in every year, but we have been told it should not be done that way. In fact, the Hilton was an example of capital being financed out of general revenue. Suppose you say the Hilton costs, excluding the law suits and the large sums of money paid to certain hon. members of this and the other House as legal fees, suppose you say $10 million, you would expect.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
On a point of explanation, any money paid to members of this House in respect of legal fees were paid on that side not oft this side.

Mr. SPEAKER:
What is the point of explanation?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
He is accusing members of the Government of getting money out of the Government. I want to make it clear that it has been on that side at all times.

Mr. ADAMS:
I said this and the other Chamber. If this is an indirect way of reading Senator Phillips out of the Democratic Labour Party let the Prime Minister say so, but I said this and the other Chamber. I do not believe that there are any counsel at present on the other side who in the normal way would be available to advise on such a high power level. Not in this House.

That is only a digression and will not divert me from the Opposition's continual purpose in pointing

out that the Hilton was something that cost $10 million, that $10 million at that time would have been an 8% investment, and that year after year we see a 2% or 3% - and a hoped for 4% - return on a figure of, say, $10 million. In other words, a return far below what is reasonable in construction such as this. I thought tourism was supposed to be expanding, Sir. 12.00 noon

I thought that tourism was industry No. 1, that this was a country where when you put down a Hotel it will employ more people than growing canes. I would have thought that with all the financial reports that you have got, tourism by now would be able to give a proper return on capital; but even with the increases in hotel prices, even with the rates that the Hilton charges its guests, it cannot show a reasonable return on its original rate base, if you care to call it that.

Anyhow, we will go into Committee. I have heard about the figure of $161 million. I have heard the Prime Minister give the national figure of $315 million. I would ask the Prime Minister very seriously to consider whether he is satisfied with that. I think that the Gross Domestic Product at 1972 was $357 million. It is a pity that we do not have the up to date figure. If we did, the point that I am making would be easier to see.

We know that over the last three years there has been no real growth in the Barbados economy. The point that I am seeking to make is about the relation to Government expenditure in relation to the overall Gross Domestic Product. Perhaps orthodox economics is being overtaken by more spectacular approaches to controlling the development of the country, but the figure of 40 per cent has been the figure on which advice is given to the Government which would of necessity mean that the country is not going to progress.

If you spend 40 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product on Government activity, you will find that it will tend to stultify the private sector which in a mixed economy such as ours is necessary for proper expansion. I would have thought that a lower figure would have been appropriate because the Government is not involved to such a large extent in the national life as is the case in the USA, countries in Western Europe and other developed countries.

I would ask that a serious look be taken at this. It is the next step that will give the Government trouble. The Government has been warned about balance of payments. The former Minister of Agriculture was always a convert to good advice even if his conversion was too late. He has made it clear about imports substitution and that the failure of the Ministry to achieve certain levels were important factors to be taken into consideration. Now that he is out of the Ministry, the questions that he is putting on the Order Paper reveal that the words of the Opposition did not fall on deaf ears.

The question of balance of payments and its difficulties are after all these years reflected in the Prime Minister's speech today because he spoke of the adverse aspects of the balance of payments. A look back at the replies to the last budget speech will show that the same emphasis on these adverse aspects was made, and this year the Minister of Finance is forced to recognise the validity of the Opposition's remarks on this aspect.

We now have a galloping inflation and these are danger signals to the economy. You are now going to get a situation where the Government will have to withdraw so much purchasing power from the economy that the private sector will remain stagnant, and the Government sector will spend and generate

an increasing flow of the national revenue, but not in productive enterprises, but spending it on charges of debt because the biggest increase is revealed in that area.

The next is welfare which is old age pensions and the general administration of the Ministry of Health. Charges of debt is 81/2 million and Welfare is $4.2 million. That is a very substantial increase, but not an increase of our capacity to generate more revenue to allow the Government to run the country without increased borrowing or increased taxation.

This year the method of increased borrowing has been followed. Next year it may be taxation when the milch cow of the money market has been drained dry and the Government is saddled with a national debt of $150 million.

Things are not right in the eyes of the public of Barbados, in the eyes of the Opposition or in the eyes of members generally. I do not think that anyone is happy over the state of our economy. People are looking to the Government for a better performance than what it has been able to achieve since the people entrusted it to run the country with a 3-1 majority.

It must not be thought for one moment that we are glad to see the Government hounded from pillar to post because we are all suffering. No man is an island. Perhaps Your Honour may be more familiar with the words of John Dunne than I am. We in the Opposition find that we too are being dragged over the slope into the sea of Galilee,

The Prime Minister is resting his hands on slender reins when he rests them on a few members opposite. It is in his hands that the whole economy of the island rests. The other members opposite can only assist in managing the economy. All that they can manage are his policies. It is his grand design which is leading the country now.

He intervenes in every thing - the oil crisis and Communications and Works even though the Minister is quite capable of handling that. Let the hand that is holding the brake, managing the steering wheel and changing the gears and cutting the cane - even if he holds the blade the wrong way - clearly recognise that when things go wrong, the fault is the fault of the Prime Minister and the Government over which he presides.

Do not come and ask the Opposition why we do not do something. Fortunately, I have been in politics for a long time and I have patience; but when people tell me that I would not do anything different if I was in the Government it is impertinence. It shows that people do not believe in politicians at all. The people sent the Government to execute certain policies. The Government are the executioners and if the guillotine falls on the people's necks the Government are the executioners in the other sense. 12.10 p.m.

If you want to vote against somebody, vote against the Government, but what I am saying is, let the Government be tried and let it be weighed in the balance and found wanting.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I rise because the hon. member of the Opposition has just spoken. I have listened to his speeches from time to time and I find that today, now that the Prime Minister is here, his speech is a little different from when the Prime Minister is not here, and that is why I am a little worried about the

whole tenor of politics in Barbados now. When the Prime Minister is not here, it is true that some of the other Ministers are less positive than the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition takes advantage of this situation. In terms of his speech, he looks like a round-about, and he is saying don't blame the Government'. Now he has been having some say about the Minister of Agriculture; as Leader of the Opposition he is at one time praising the Minister and at another time he is criticising him. I do not see how the Leader of the Opposition could be criticising him every now and again, and he has praise for him now. The hon. member must be clear.

Now with regard to the Hilton Hotel, the hon. member criticized the Hilton Hotel and from his remarks, he did not regard the hotel as an economic development. Now we have just come out of a big strike with the hotels, and I may have some different Views from the Prime Minister, but be that as it may, when you come to economic development, you have to look at the Hilton Hotel as economic development. Now what has happened with the hotel industry since the Hilton Hotel was constructed? Since then the whole hotel situation has improved. The whole employment situation in the hotel industry has improved, and there is a hotel now which is employing about 200 people, so in terms of employment you will have to look at the whole hotel situation as having improved.

Now too many of the old-fashioned economists regard economic development in the context of economic growth. It is time that people begin to understand that we must identify your economic problems and not make vague generalisation. You can have an economic growth and yet do not understand what economic development is. Through economic development you can put more people to work. In Barbados you may show a low economic growth but you will have to look in terms of what your economic development is, and that is, the number of persons employed now as compared with the number of persons employed five years ago.

Now in a community like Barbados you may have to spend more on public service and the majority of your public service is going on by persons working for wages and salaries — persons — so the bulk of your expenditure is going to be on persons. It is people that matter, so the Government's wages bill is going to be higher all the time as time goes on. And the Government is not the only place in which your wages bill is going to be on people. This is everywhere; not in Barbados alone, but in the United States of America, in Europe and everywhere, a large percentage of the income is going to be spent on persons. So when I look at the remarks made about the Hilton Hotel I do not think that the Hilton Hotel is a problem; the importance of the Hilton Hotel is that it is able to employ people and it has to be able to employ people.

Now what we have to understand is that we have some old-fashioned business people here who do not accept changes, and I have had the same experience of them in dealing with the hotels here three months ago. They want to carry on with the old-fashioned hotel system, but what we have been able to introduce has brought about better systems and standards and injected better methods into the hotel operations and the whole technique of public relations. 12.20 p.m.

I do not, Mr. Speaker, have any qualms about the Hotel Industry. If a man comes here to do business in any sphere, he will have to comply with the norms. If a man wants to do good business, he will have to work in accordance with our conditions. I am satisfied, notwithstanding all that I have heard about the difficulties in Barbados, that nothing is wrong here. Sometimes the Press writes about a woman losing her purse at Sandy Lane, or some criminal act which takes place on the West Coast, as though Barbados

is the only place where criminal acts are taking place.

Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States was assassinated; his brother was assassinated, but his other brother has not decided to leave Massachusetts to come to Barbados and live. The President of the United States has been faced with the greatest situations, but he is still there. One can think of what has taken place in Ireland, but people are still living in Ireland. You have heard of things taking place there that should not have taken place in any civilised part of the world, but people are still going there. When certain acts take place in Barbados some people say: "What is going to happen in Barbados?" You cannot expect Barbados to exist as a community without a Mental Asylum, a Fire Brigade, and so on. What do you find? You get these half-baked, half-choked, lukewarmed statements being made and people will go around repeating them.

With regard to the condition of the economy of Barbados, I should like the hon. member to identify certain things rather than making general remarks. The economy of the country is not the Prime Minister's business alone. The condition of the economy is the business of everybody. The Prime Minister is the Leader of the Government and he has to preside, but, in so far as the economy as a whole is concerned in Barbados, the Prime Minister does not go to work for everybody. The people who go to work do not go to Culloden Farm to see whether the Prime Minister has got up. The economy of the country depends on the people who go to work.

If the hon. member has any ideas, or if he thinks that the Prime Minister has done something which has an adverse effect upon the economy of this country, then he should make direct statements. On this question of confidenee, some very stupid statements have been made. The Opposition seems to be treating this as a political matter. The members of the Opposition have done great harm to our economy by making stupid statements, and the stupid newspaper will print what has been said. If the Leader of the Opposition says that we do not have any money in the Treasury, some people will believe it is true without trying to prove whether it is true or not. There are one or two people in Barbados who like to have their own way. I have had some experience with them. I have come in contact with many of these bandits.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Leader of the Opposition should not make a statement on the basis of generalisation. He must be in a position to show that something is a fact, and he should be prepared to show that it is a fact. If the Hilton Hotel costs $90 million and the return on the money is not enough, he should say so and the Prime Minister would be in a position to give him an answer. My answer to that is the Government is not in the same position as a private entrepreneur who would expect to make big profits on his investment.

When the hon. member speaks about roads, water and lights, you cannot have the social developments unless you have money because there are not revenue-bearing. With regard to water; you cannot have a water rate system that can pay for every gallon of water coming out of the earth on an economic basis. You must regard water as something which will have to be assisted from taxation. You cannot run a hospital on the basis that it is an institution in which the very rich would be able to pay for services. If you decided to do that, very few people would be able to pay for services in the hospital. These things will have to be taken into consideration in setting out your fiscal policy structure. 12.30 p.m.

Now it is admitted that inflation is international in character. I am not a believer, Mr. Speaker, that

because inflation is international in character each country has to plan its own policy in order to survive, but let us be clear in our minds that it is a fact and even notwithstanding what I hear some of the economists say, that people buy too much from outside, which is true. But let us examine that statement, Mr. Speaker, in the Barbados context and see if you stop buying from outside what you will have. Barbados has been unfortunately a predominantly importing community, and if you look at die members in the House of Assembly, starting from you, there is nothing that you are wearing that is indigenous to Barbados. Every rag on all the members in here, the spectacles they are wearing, the hair grease they have put on this morning have all been imported. They did not go at the back of the market and rub against something and get some pig grease and say we do not want any of the grease that comes in. Far from that if they pick up a man or woman and they smell too natural, they feel they would not be able to give them a lift in their motorcar. So when it comes to these things, let us be very frank.

There are some things that we have to examine. We have to look at our agriculture, we have to look at our local products. We have to take time to do these things now and see where we can have import substitutions. I have listened to the hon. member for St. Joseph, but when you pass his place youhear pumpss pumping. These are not made here. Once he came to me and said he wanted to get something imported and the Minister of Trade was giving him a hard time, and he told me about the difference in cost of getting that from different places. I am only saying that those who believe in local products have to import things. Japan is a place that has a lot of manufactured articles, but they still have to import. So even with import substitution they require a certain percentage of basic imports coming from outside. How many motor cars do we have in Barbados? Notwithstanding what Mr. Demas said about not starting to make a bicycle, if we start to make a bicycle we have to send out people. The education that was given to Mr. Demas was not in Togo; it was at Cambridge University. Sometimes the rebound I get is hearing people who have been to the North Atlantic; I am not going to say North America. The education explosion that took place in the North Atlantic may be six or seven years ago and the people who imbibed that education are the ones we exported earlier and are using now, but they must understand that they are using the same systems they imbibed in the North Atlantic communities and the same economic ideas they acquired, because they have to use what they know. Lawyers utilise the legal system they understand. They do not institute a system they do not understand. When you look at the economic system in any community, there has to be a question of judgement. As soon as you are dealing with a matter that requires judgement, there are many factors you have to take into consideration before you can say your judgement is the only one that can be taken into consideration. That is why I say on this question of international inflation that many parts of the world introduce many different systems to deal with it.

In Barbados I feel we have our own situation and I am satisfied that the Prime Minister has a set of information that the community does not have. He has the understanding and the capacity to discern what the community would be passing through to be able to assess the situation in the light of what he hears and sees. For example, many people used gasolene in the fuel crisis. I have said on many occasions that the fuel crisis is very visible and we know there are many reasons for this. A crisis arose and many people had more gasolene available because they heard that gasolene was going up, and everybody with a half a tank ran to the gasolene station. I believe what is the problem is that you find more people rotating around Barbados with more gasolene in their tanks continuously because of the fear of being left without any gasolene when the squeeze comes. When everybody does that then the situation arises. I do not think you can regard this in itself as a problem.

The Prime Minister has just returned from Venezuela. He has information from Venezuela and I hive some information, not the same kind he would have, but they have set up a petroleum organisation in Venezuela, and Venezuela has more money literally as a result of the oil crisis than they can actually utilise right now. (ASIDES). They have set up a fund in order to help the other countries in Latin America. It is as simple as that. The amount of money they have available they could not put to work in Venezuela right away. Some of us have more money than we can spend. I am not referring to if you give a man $1 million a month and he goes and throws it in the sea to show that you can get rid of it. I mean useful expenditure of the money; so even in countries you find this. We agree there is an inflationary situation. The airlines have increased their fares as a result of OPEC prices at the moment. What is disturbing to me and the community generally is that there must be a means of halting what is likely to be an Inflationary system that is likely to become very catastrophic, and this should be looked upon as a very serious matter. 12.40 p.m.

I say to the Prime Minister that this is one of the areas I do not regard as a political area at all, I think it even transcends a political area. I think it becomes more national in character that the onus would have to be upon the Government to make sure that what is already a serious situation does not get worse, because the price levels have risen in Barbados at a general rate faster than what you can very well even ask people to pay in wages and salaries. The Government made a statement about 5%, and I can say this to the Prime Minister, we have negotiated an increase with the Government two years ago, but since we negotiated that agreement and since that 5% I can tell the hon. member the cost of living has risen more than 24% and what has been given has more than been absorbed in the rise of the cost of living. If this position continues you are likely to get a situation where the Opposition will continue to say there is no money in the Treasury, because the Opposition are likely to create disunity and harmful effects when they make extravagant and unsupported statements. Some people get their own satisfaction in pulling down their own country even if they think they can rebuild it from the ruins.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I think the hon. member for St. Michael West was very mistaken to comment, probably rather derisively, on the attitude taken today by the Leader of the Opposition in making the main speech from this side of the House, but there are perhaps three reasons why the Opposition, and indeed the shadow Minister of Finance, would want to talk on such an occasion in very measured terms.

First, I do not believe that there is any member of this side of the House who has ever failed to show the respect for the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister of Finance when he speaks on financial matters, and we do so with more respect today in circumstances where his language has been severely toned down and he has been able, I think, to come rather steadily into the House to introduce the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. For our part, since we likewise have the national interest at heart, we think it but appropriate that in replying our language should be similar. I should trust that this atmosphere will continue during the debate on the particular Heads of the Estimates.

There is also a second reason why today we will show a similar approach. I think it must be admitted that this country is facing a very tight economic situation, and despite the manner in which the hon. member for St. Michael West dismissed the statement made by the Opposition, I think if he reads the Prime Minister's speech correctly he would see that the Prime Minister has not sought to minimise the gravity of the situation facing the country. We have said from time to time that this situation could have been seen since last year. Indeed some of the root causes of the situation preceded the energy crisis, and

I think it is correct to say that since 1971 we warned that various sectors of the economy were liable to suffer from drastic recession. I can never understand people who believe that if you are an Opposition spokesman you have not got a duty to speak up about the things you think are wrong. You are not necessarily saying you are right, but you are at least giving a warning, and sometimes we wish the Government would heed our warnings, because I think it is quite true to say that all stupidity does not reside on that side or indeed on this side. Likewise it is not all commonsense which resides on that side or on this side, but it is because we are concerned that you will find we will welcome the opportunity to take a national look at the matter with the Government, and if we might take up the hon. member for St. Michael West, we certainly consider that the present situation does not call for a narrow partisan approach to the problems confronting the country.

I think we on this side have been willing not only on the reading of Appropriation Bills but on other occasions to join with the Government in any measures which we in oar way of thinking consider would be helpful to raising the economic standards of this country. I regret that the Prime Minister did not see fit on this occasion to vary his well known method of dealing with the Appropriation Bill and his presentation of the budget after the Estimates. I believe that his style of Government since he came into power in 1961 was to support the actual measures he will take to correct the economy from the actual presentation of the bill he was asking us to pay. In other words, we get the bill first and the correcting measures a little later. This time he has said that during another four weeks we will be hearing from him, and put in blunt language we understand that to mean that the situation is so grave, despite what the member for St. Michael West may say, that it warrants one of the earliest budgets that was introduced in this country. I believe there were only two budgets since 1960 which were early, but all other budgets have come about May. Certainly they have not preceded May, other than I think, if I read the record of Hansard correctly, on two occasions since this Government assumed power in 1961. That should lead to the conclusion, contrary to what the hon. member may say, that the situation is grave.

Only a while ago we on this side were urging an early budget to correct some of the measures. We have been warning time and time again, even prior to my coming into the House, of the steep increase in prices and the steep increase in the cost of living. It is all right to give $2 million increase in welfare, but when this $2 million is wiped out by spreading inflation, it is in my view higher than the 25% and this is not really keeping the inflation down. The hon. member for St. Michael West underscores the point when he speaks about the increase in the level of wages and salaries. 12.50 p.m.

We have made this point repeatedly; and if the point is now coming home in a year that cannot be considered a campaigning year, let us hope that the point has come home enough both to the country and the Government and that they will be prepared to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, members must not underscore the fact that in the Caribbean territories today the most difficult, role is not the role of the Government, but that of the Opposition. The Opposition has the difficult role to get the Government to understand that it wants to play its part in a truly national way. I would think that one of the things which the Leader of the Opposition did today was to show; that he could make a speech in measured tones, and hold forth the olive branch to the Government,

Naturally, any Opposition wants to be the Government. That is how democracy works. The electorate decided otherwise. At first we were annoyed, but we are prepared to play our part. During the time that we debate the Appropriation Bill and we can give any ideas to the Government we would wish the

Government to take them seriously. That is how we would be approaching these Estimates today.

Mr. Speaker, I am again rather concerned, and it is the concern of the Opposition about the role which the manufacturing sector has played over the past three years and the outlook which the Prime Minister had painted for it. In speaking of our export industries I think that he said that they are necessarily affected by the increase in oil price, and that they will become less competitive with industries in other places. We will be less competitive with places like Trinidad in particular and Guyana, because of course Guyana has perhaps a less higher wage structure than we have here; but we will not necessarily be less competitive with Jamaica although Jamaica has shown that it had a head start in the manufacturing sector, and the growth of its exports under CARICOM has been much swifter than exports from Barbados to the other trading partners in CARICOM.

I would hope that the Government would see fit to prime the manufacturing sector sufficiently that it can perform better and that the Government will take all steps to put what ever expertise and management that is available into the export sector of the manufacturing industries; and I would hope that the manufacturing industries would reciprocate. They must begin ;to weed out bad management, they must set the lead in productivity and recognise that: they must become competitive with the other territories in CARICOM and with countries outside CARICOM while at the same time trying to keep down prices in the Caribbean.

I am sure, Sir, that the Shadow Minister of Agriculture will have a lot to say as far as the Estimates affect Agriculture; but I think that as a member of the Opposition making the second speech on the Appropriation Bill I may in passing say that we regret very much the lack of emphasis which seems to have been placed on Agriculture.

We feel strongly that Agriculture must be primed at a tremendous rate if we are to maintain our cost of living within reasonable bounds, and that where our import substitution is concerned, the first area in which we should seek to push this concept is within the field of agro-industry.

Certainly, Sir, if the Opposition can be accused of making; stupid statements, it can never be said that it has ever failed to place emphasis on the necessity for priming agriculture to the level where it produces a high level of earnings to the people still left in agriculture and at the same time contributing to the economy in terms of foreign exports and holding our balance of trade, and at the same time reducing pur cost of living.

If there has been one aspect of our policy which has been consistent, it has been this. Blame us for not getting across to the country, but surely the Government should be wise enough to realise its significance; and the failure to accept the ideas that we have given must not rest on us.

The Opposition does not have to become cane cutters to satisfy the country that it is serious about agriculture. We have always recognised the importance of agriculture to this country. Part of the decline in Government revenue over the last few years has been due to the steady fall in sugar and its failure to contribute to the economy as significantly as before.

I think that last year it. was showing a contribution of 7.7 per cent according to the figures in the Development Plan. I trust that whatever measures the Prime Minister brings down, in due course to give

teeth to this Appropriation Bill, a tremendous amount of emphasis is placed on this sector and on the trade patterns of our country.

That is what we feel, and as an overall policy we will wait to know whether emphasis is now going to be placed on having proper trade commissions in the CARICOM area to monitor the trade patterns and to see that we earn more money from dealing with our trading partners and others, or whether the emphasis will be placed on keeping luxury embassies which could probably be pruned down at this stage.

We would like to know whether the Organisation and Methods report is available to show where we can prune expenditure in the public sector. Although in these estimates we cannot interfere with the expenditure which is fixed by law, we feel that we should appeal to the Public Service to appreciate that the greatest increase over the last three years in public expenditure has been on the Public Service, not only in employing more people, but also in paying a higher level of wages; and we must let the public sector know that the Opposition in this House would appreciate an increase in productivity from the public sector because we think that it is in that sector that the lead will be set for the country as a whole.

The Opposition is not one to use derisive terms about the Public Service as an "army of occupation". There are some places where you need an army of occupation to clear up the mess that has been left. The Public Service has a long tradition in this country and we hope that that tradition will not prevent it from being forward looking and willing to give that little extra effort despite the cynicism which has crept into politics and which is gradually creeping into the Public Service of this country,

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, to discuss the Appropriation Bill without the measures which give teeth to that Bill is not a good thing at this particular time in the economic life of this country. An early Budget would be welcome. We are dealing with a Prime Minister who has strong views and who sometimes speaks in very strong language. I think that we are dealing with one who understands the message. Although it may not be politically expedient for him after so many speeches to vary the technique, let us say that we are quite prepared to come here as soon as possible and get on with the Budget which we hope will not be so deflationary that it stops economic progress but will meet with the favour of all sectors of this island and that particularly in these days of high prices it will contain some ease for the poorer sections of the community which must be facing more than — I almost said hell - who must be facing damnation in these trying times. 1.00 p.m.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for one and a half hours.

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

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

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:
This Sitting is now resumed. When this Sitting was suspended, second reading had been given to the Appropriation Bill.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

HEAD 1 - GOVERNOR-GENERAL Head 1 — Governor-General — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $60, 867 under Head 1 -Governor-General - 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 2 - SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 2 — Services Commissions — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Charman, I beg to move that the sum of $232, 123 under Head 2 — Services Commissions — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one comment on the operation of the Police Service Commission. I think that a number of posts are to be filled in the Police Service as a result of which there are a number of appointments to be made. I would like to see the Police Service Commission expedite these matters and fill the vacancies; one is that of the Deputy Commissioner of Police and one is also that of Assistant Commissioner of Police, and also to be filled are the posts of persons acting in various capacities. Sir, I know that politicians should have no say in directing who should fill the posts but I would urge that the Police Service Commission should expedite these matters and have these posts filled as soon as possible.

The question that the sum of $232, 123 under Head 2 .— Services Commissions — stand part of the Schedule — was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 3 - PARLIAMENT Head 3 — Parliament — was ceiled.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $315, 504 under Head 3 — Parliament - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, this is the first opportunity I have had since attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's; meeting to speak on any item regarding the CPA and I am very glad to see that the Government, despite the difficult position of finding the necessary revenue, is continuing its support to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This Association from time to time puts members of this House and of the Other Place in contact with their colleagues throughout the Commonwealth and give opportunity for the exchange of views.

I would like to say that on the occasion that I had the honour to travel to a CPA meeting I was very ably led by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. I would certainly like to place on record in this House the experience which I gained and the help which I gained from him, and I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not say that he approached his staff with great seriousness, and indeed, I do not think he would say this for himself, but I would say it for him, that his contacts with Leaders in the political field from outside Barbados certainly redounded to the credit of this Island. He had close friendship with the Premier of Nova Scotia and he left no stone unturned pressing the interests of Barbados in particular and the West Indies as a whole as a tourist centre and international contact. I know it is unusual to have members getting up on the other side giving others praise which is well deserved, but I would like to say that praise for him is well deserved. It was a good delegation, and I certainly would like to praise the hon. member for the sterling leadership which he gave.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I certainly would not like to cast a note of discord on what the hon. member has said but what I am about to say now is something which I really cannot postpone. Although we have voted money for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association I want it to be understood that we have

decided that in future all persons travelling at Government expense will be travelling economy class. All Ministers including the Prime Minister and all Parliamentarians should pay for themselves if they want to go first class passage. There will be no passengers travelling first class. We will all travel economy class. A small Island like Barbados cannot afford big delegations travelling first class and costing the taxpayers twice as much as it should cost. 2.40 p.m.

This is one of the measures on which we have decided. I have already warned the Cabinet about it, and I have just asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to co-operate and stifle their predominance for conspicuous patterns of behaviour.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with Item 9 — Refreshments. I came back here and heard that members of Parliament were either impecunious, or that they wanted to get refreshments free. I have always been able to pay for anything I want and for my meals particularly. I think it is fair to say that the members who are in this House are given refreshments because the hours of Parliament are such that they make it inconvenient "to go out and have refreshments at- their convenience. I think all Hon. members would agree that it would be better to go out and have a proper meal than to eat the meals served here. I do not want the impression to go around that members of Parliament are asking for an increase in the vote in order to obtain meals, or that they are unwilling to pay for their meals.

Mr. Chairman, in the past the House was adjourned for half an hour, and now it is three-quarters of an hour. If we had to go to a hotel to eat our meals, then it would be difficult to get a quorum to continue the meeting. I cannot see how it would be profitable for anybody to cater to Parliament for 1 day a week without knowing whether Parliament will meet for one hour, or half an hour and so on. We have to come here and eat what is given to us, because we have no choice. On this question of refreshments to Parliament, it is the least the taxpayers can pay for the inconvenience suffered by the members of Parliament who have to perform certain duties. I want to eradicate any erroneous impression held in the mind of taxpayers on this question, if I had to pay for my meals, I would gladly do so, but I want to point out that the question of providing meals for members and the staff of Parliament as well as the police is a matter of convenience and is being done to facilitate the work in this Parliament. It is not a question that Parliamentarians do not want to pay for their meals.

I do not know if some system could be worked out whereby Parliamentarians are prepared to come here and work for a few hours and bring along their meals, or if it would be possible to purchase meals here. I have read in the headlines that members are impecunious and want free meals. We came here and found that meals were being provided for Parliamentarians, and I want the public to understand that the sum of $24, 000 is provided for refreshments for members and Staff of Parliament, and it will have to be provided so that we can comply with the Standing Orders and do our work.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it is very seldom that I have to agree with the last member who has just sat down. On this occasion I have to agree with him wholeheartedly. I was also absent when the statement was made, and I should like the general public to understand that, while $24, 000 is provided in the Estimates for refreshments for Parliamentarians, all of this money is not spent on them.

When the amplification system in this Chamber failed and it was proposed that the public business

must be carried out without the necessary amplification, I went to the Lunch Room and asked for a drink. I was told, in the presence of the hon. member for St. George South, the Speaker, and one other member, that there was nothing available. However, as soon I was told that arid I was about to turn away, I saw that a postman from downstairs was given a cold beer from the top of the refrigerator. Despite the fact that $24, 000 is voted, it is known that Parliamentarians do not get all of it. I agree with what the Minister of Communications has said. We came here this morning at ten o'clock, and we may not leave here until 7.30 p.m. We cannot even to go into Broad Street.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member who has just sat down has said, I, too, have to agree with what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has said. I am thoroughly tired of hearing certain people coming here and making the statement complained of by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and the hon. member for St. Joseph regarding refreshments for members of Parliament. Quite recently the members of Parliament have been given restaurant facilities in order to enable us to carry out our work.

When the question of paying for meals was brought up, some members who Were prepared to eat what was given to them free, were not prepared to pay for meals which they considered were not up to standard. Very often we come here to work for 12 hours. I do not see any civil servant who will come here from nine o'clock in the morning and work until nine o'clock at night. We will be doing 12 hours of work a day for the community, and we should be able to go and get something to eat when we want to. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central raised a most cogent point on mis matter. In 1961, when the caterer was of the right political persuasion, they tried to sell meals here, and the Prime Minister and a few others were able to pay for their meals. Now, $24, 000 is being voted to provide for the feeding of 50 persons. It is, therefore, obvious that 24 members of the House are getting less than half of this amount. We know that 24 members of the House do not take their meals here, and that some of them prefer to go home for meals.

I have heard so many things said about this food business, that I consider it is time to set the records straight, I was in the House when a member said that we should pay for the food which we eat. I remember hearing the Prime Minister say that he would prefer to be in an aeroplane with the man from Rhodesia than to eat with members of the Opposition. I was here when Mr. Boxill, a former Minister of Communications & Works, took a plate of food and ran out of the Dining Room. 2.50 p.m.

I was present when the Prime Minister told a Police Sergeant to go and arrest an hon. member and the hon. member for St. Joseph, the Leader of the Opposition told the Sergeant not to go in there. All of this happened through an argument about food. It is time that it stopped. Food arguments in the House do not enhance public respect for the members of the House of Assembly. When the hon. member for St. Michael West who eats food with the rest of us and like the rest of us does not leave a tip, and when he gets in the House and attacks members for eating, he is aiming at the wrong target. It is the public's business which is facilitated by the restaurant facilities. I hope this is the last contribution I will ever have to make. I do not want to say that the food is bad. I hear the hon. member saying "deal with the quality of the food". I have made one comment about the quality of the food. What we pay for the food here as far as I know is more than any item on the menu of the Pelican Restaurant from which the food comes, and I have never seen stakes supplied en masse for members, I suppose that is part of the price we have to pay for the facility. I do not care to go into it. It is true I was on a Committee with the

Speaker and the Leader of the House and it was my refusal to append my signature that perhaps led to efforts being made to put it out to tender, but it went to tender and if no persons other than the present caterers cared to tender and if no lower tender was received, that would have to be as it is. if nobody cares to supply members with food, leave it at that. The food is not very good, but sometimes you see an effort. A big effort is being made today to make the food and services good. I hope that outsiders do not believe that hon. members always eat so well.

Sir, very briefly I want to mention Item 8 — Members' Library. I want to ask that the Times Newspaper be again subscribed to. We are not well served by the press in Barbados. The daily press is in a monopoly position and there are so many aspects of its operation which deserves criticism that I would not embark on any of them for fear that I over-run the time limit; but I would suggest to those responsible that a good overseas newspaper carrying news from around the world, giving the sort of commodity reports and money market reports which are of interest and value to hon. members in assisting the upturns and down-swings of the economy and assisting in making contributions to discussion of public business in this Chamber is a necessity. It used to come but it does not seem to come again, and I very much hope that a subscription to the Times Newspaper will be taken up.

I would like to comment finally on the decision to let everybody travel tourist class. Sir, I always used to be a big upholder of this and I believe I am the last person to travel first class on a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association activity, because after I had so travelled and was very handsomely entertained by our then Ambassador to the then United Nations and had a British West Indian aeroplane held for me at Kennedy Airport, no fault of mine, but after all that I got there and was ushered very politely into a seat at the back of the aeroplane and there were several Civil Servants already perhaps seated in the tourist class section. I reported this to the Committee of the C.P.A. rather hoping that a decision would be taken in the sense of the Prime Minister's announcement today that Civil Servants will be brought into the back with the rest of us. The hon. member for St. Michael West who fulminates so powerfully against members having free food made a very strong speech and said that if the Government of Barbados or anybody else sought to send him away tourist class his organisation would pay tHe difference so that he could travel first class, that his days for travelling tourist class are over. Following that the C.P.A., it was the general body, took a decision that everybody would travel first class. I have seen a lot of cheeseparing in the C.P.A. I believe Government made a big mistake in not offering to host either a regional conference or indeed a major C.P.A. Conference. May I say that although it would mean some discomfort to me, I am quite willing later on this year to travel tourist class. It would be a greater discomfort to the Leader of the House who is a man of rather more mature years than I can as yet pretend and he deserves greater comfort in his travel than he would get squeezed up in the 18 inches of space available on the tourist class of whatever airlines they choose to use, and also Senator Allder whose legs may not be quite as long as mine, but quite long enough to suffer inconvenience on the seat in front. Although this will cause discomfort, I welcome it if it means that by the savings achieved we will be able to have greater participation in C.P.A. activities.

There is one thing; I hope there will not be one rule for Peter and a different rule for Paul, if there is to be a rule I hope it will be a rule all around, not one rule for some and another for others. It is true the Government can pay its way, but let us pay the tourist class and let the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister of Civil Aviation represent to the airlines that it is important for them to have the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet travel first class and see if the airlines can come to some accommodation by which the facilities for free travel which they so liberally extend

from time to time to politicians with which I believe many Cabinet members will be familiar can be extended on these occasions. See if the airlines are willing to understand and accept our position and fill a few first class seats where they are available. I do not think this is unreasonable to put to an airline.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Before you put the question, there are just one or two points, Mr. Chairman. The question of food and refreshment has been harped upon on many occasions recently, and it seems to be a matter which is engaging the attention of hon. members. As far as I am concerned, I think refreshments are in order. We do not come in here for refreshments as such. We come in here to get Government's business and Opposition matters considered; so the question of food should not engage the attention of this Chamber as often as it does. It is very regrettable to think that members are thinking of food and refreshment, and I would hope that this is the last occasion we will hear of this food situation, taxpayers' money and things of that sort which are being utilised just for feeding members of Parliament. I think members of Parliament are properly paid today and the question of food and refreshment should not really be a predominant factor in engaging the minds of this Chamber. Let us get on with the people's business for a change.

In so far as travelling by first class or economy class is concerned, as long as I get where I am going I am happy, and if the Minister of Finance says that .we should travel economy class, we will get there. I am not too old to get there. I am not old yet and I will get there very comfortably.

The Question that the sum of $315, 504 under Head 3 — Parliament — stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 4 - AUDITOR GENERAL Head 4 — Auditor General — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $78, 186 under Head 4 -Auditor General - 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. 3.00 p.m.

HEAD 5 -JUDICIARY Head 5 — Judiciary — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $211, 965 under Head 5 -Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I think the time has come in Barbados when there must be a very serious look at the

administration of justice in this country. We find that there are many things wrong at the moment with the administration of justice.

One, there is a very long delay in the hearing of appeals, particularly criminal appeals, and it is known that in one case a man had been convicted and had to wait as long as 22 months before his appeal was heard. I do not believe that this can be right at any time of the administration of justice in any part of the world today. There is the case of a man who spent, I believe, 10 months in prison then to have his appeal allowed. We find that there is a delay very often in the giving of judgements in the Supreme Court, a matter which I believe the Judicial Advisory Committee had to take up recently. We find again that there is need to have a set of Court of Appeal rules, and that we are still operating even after almost eight years of Independence without the establishment of our own Court of Appeal.

These are things which delay justice in this country, and I need not advert to the fact that the delay of justice is the denial of justice. We find that there is a need for reform of the various aspects of the law, particularly in the field of the land law, the field of criminal law which needs a complete re-examination, in the field of domestic law which also needs a complete re-examination. I have advocated in here on many occasions that the time has come when perhaps one of the Supreme Court Judges could be taken off and paid an honorarium and be given the duty of reforming the laws. We have had the experience, and I will deal with this at a later stage, of a law revision, and that is why I would advocate taking someone who is interested and in part and parcel of the administration of justice in this country and who knows the day to day problems which confront the administration of justice to do the job of law reform as distinct from law revision.

There is need also in the case of the law library to have something done about the appointment of a Law Librarian. We on this side of the House advocated for the longest possible time the use of one of the members of the staff of the Public Library who could operate between the law library as situated in the courts and also the law library in the Attorney General's Department, and who would be able to index, bring up to date and ensure that you have a proper law library. 1 find it strange that lawyers who deal with books and things like this should have a vote of $6, 900 and in the case of the hospital a vote for $15, 000. I find that there is something basically wrong with this. It might very well be that the department responsible for handling the law library needs an advisory board, a board to advise on the texts that are needed, and this again is one of the things which the Government should look into immediately.

I see a provision here for the cost of; law books for the Magistrates' Courts, but nothing could be a bigger joke, the law books in the Magistrates' Courts of this country are not always up to date. I am not saying the Magistrates do not use the books, but you find very few Magistrates' Courts with law books. I have advocated, and I will continue to advocate, the centralisation of the Magistrates' Courts, perhaps with one or two exceptions, as in the case of Speightstown, but no harm or inconvenience can come to persons having to travel from the country districts to Bridgetown because they have to do so for the Supreme Court where you have centralisation, and I think that the Government should carefully look at centralisation of the Magistrates' Courts because I believe it will lead to greater efficiency in this respect.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Prime Minister speak earlier about saving as much money as possible this year. Once again I have to comment on Item 15 for $1, 300 to provide for payment of fees of $15 per

session plus travelling at the schedule rate for members of the Liquor Licensing Authority. I have said before that the way this Authority operates is such that it wastes time, it holds up court procedure and again it brings a number of persons into the courtyard when it is absolutely unnecessary. I would have thought that this would have been a wonderful occasion for a token vote of $1.00 to be inserted, because if the Prime Minister is saying there is no reason why liquor licences cannot be granted or renewed without people coming to court this would be a good opportunity to stop it. I have never been able to see justified the reason for hundreds of .people queueing up in the courtyard only to go into court and say "I do" and walk back out and get a liquor licence. I know some magistrates like the pomp and circumstance of having people stand up before them, but the same way you get a bicycle licence and a gun licence by application I do not see the reason why people have to leave their places of work and spend half a morning in the hot sun waiting to go in when their names are called, step back out and then go and pay the $50. I will bet now that not 10% of the applications are ever turned down in this country, and I do not see the reason why this money should be wasted.

It is time that if a man applies for a liquor licence and the police find something wrong he should be summoned like anybody else to justify why the police are withholding the liquor licence from him. Apart from that his licence should be issued in the same way as gun and car licences. This is a misuse of money and good energy.

The question that the sum of $211, 965 under Head 5 — Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.10p.m.

HEAD 6 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS Head 6 — Ministry of Legal Affairs — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 6 for the sum of $241, 219 stand part.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, I am going to make one or two comments on the question of the revision and the printing of the Laws of Barbados. I believe that this has been going on for some eight years or more. (ASIDE They are being printed). I understand from a voice in the wilderness that they are being printed. I understood when the Hon. Minister for Communications and Works was Attorney General that they would have been here since August, 1973.

We have paid out large sums of money to various people for the revision of these Laws and I sincerely hope that the person who really did the work on the revision of the Laws will be adequately compensated. I hope that the person who was one of the Law Revision Commissioners and who had to do the donkey work at the end to see that these things got off to the printers will be adequately compensated.

Everyone knows that he had to do all the work in the latter years and that even one of the Commissioners who received a large sum of money from the Barbados Government went back to England with some of the transcripts and at one stage could not be located.

This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs because I believe that it has cost the Government about $1/4 million to date and we have not seen one publication. I believe in paying people when they do their work. I believe that Mr. W. K. Fergusson had to do most of the work in the final stages to ensure that the Laws went to the publishers, and I hope that he will be adequately compensated. There is no question but that he has done the work of the original Law Revision Commissioners.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I share the views of the last speaker that the Laws are too long in coming forth. I am assured that they will be available some time in August or September. I feel strongly that the exercise has been too long. The hon. member knows the reason, in that of the two Law Revision Commissioners one became Vice Chancellor of the University and the other became Dean of the new Faculty of Law. I think you will understand that this did hold up the exercise.

The Government is also conscious of the assistance of the person to whom the hon. member made reference and whose work contributed to the finalisation of the endeavour, and he can rest assured that when the matter is finally determined due compensation and due reward will be given to those people who have completed this task which, I agree with him, has been years in coming to fruition.

I hope that this is the last time that we will have to apologise for an exercise that ought to have been completed particularly during my time as Attorney General.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the people in Barbados know that nearly every lawyer in Barbados can be convicted of larceny. That is a bold statement. I have been hearing for a long time that the new edition of the Laws will be coming "this year". The Hon. Minister who has just sat down said that the Laws would be here in August, 1973, that they were finished and were just being checked. He has got the belief that he can go on fooling Parliament and fooling the people. Now he says that they will be ready in August 1974. Last year it was August, 1973. Next year it will be June, 1975.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. I am not the printer nor a Law Revision Commissioner, If I come and say what I am advised, and next week I am advised differently I would have to come and tell the House. The time is liable to shift.

Mr. BOLDEN:

The Hon. Minister came in here last year when he was Attorney General (ASIDE Not last year.) He was dealing with the people who were supposed to be doing the work.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of elucidation. As Attorney General I was never a member of this House. How could I have come here then and said something in this House? When I was Attorney General I was a member of the Other Place.

Mr. BOLDEN:

He made the statement in the Other Place, and he came here and repeated the Statement. It is like the

amendment to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act. When we were seeking to introduce it he said do not do anything. He said "I cannot tell you next year or the year after but up to now we cannot get one." Up to now he cannot tell us what is going to happen to people.....

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
I would like to know how much money these gentlemen have drawn and how much work they have done. If, as he said, the Laws were printed, why did you have to bring in Mr. Fergusson to do the donkey work? This particular member has been fooling this country about the Laws of Barbados too long. He has deliberately misled the House.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
On a point of order the member cannot impute improper motives to me. He cannot say that I deliberately misled the House. He must withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member has complained about a statement and I am asking the hon. member for St. Joseph to withdraw it.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Withdraw what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The "deliberate" part.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I withdraw the word "deliberately" unconditionally.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak again about the Law Library because although perhaps it was spoken of by the member for the City under another Head I think that we should emphasise the urgency which surrounds this particular item in the Estimates. The Government acquired the W. W. Reece Library. That part of the library is used in what is supposed to be an air-conditioned room. 3.20 p.m.

Prior to the energy crisis there was considerable problems surrounding the air conditioning unit and more often than not the unit has broken down. The room is usually overrun by dust despite the efforts of the attendants to keep the area clean. Many of the books in the Library are in need of repair and need constant attention being paid to them. In addition, the function of the Library is not properly known and the time has come when we should take the Library in hand properly. The Library's function is not only to provide books for practitioners and High Court Judges but also to assist other courts which have to dispense lots of the business in this country. The magistrate's court often has twenty times as many cases as our High Court and are in great need of Library facilities. It is highly inconvenient for a magistrate serving in the north to come to town and find a copy of the laws of Barbados and I doubt that in recent years any books have been provided for them. In addition, they find it difficult to obtain copies of the

Law Reports or decisions given in the other courts, which affect them.

From the time I came into Parliament I have heard it said that the Estimates Committee was considering this question of the Law Library and I witnessed nothing done about it. It is true the vote here also includes an increase for the provision of more room but we need more than this. A proper library service should be provided and there should be a librarian attached to the main Public Library whose function would be to service the library in the Court as well as Parliament, and then people should be trained under that so that there would be frequent attention to this aspect of Governmental affairs, and I trust that we would not have for the balance of the Parliament's life to be continually diverting to the lack of action in this sphere of Government Business.

With respect to the revision of the law there is no doubt that this has been a long way in coming. I am glad we have heard that soon we will see that some steps have been taken with regard to the revision of the law. There is no doubt that Mr. Wilfred Fergusson who has tremendous experience in this field has made a good contribution in pushing on the work that has been done in the last two years on this revision. It is a pity that he was not around at the time when the revision was first undertaken - he was then outside engaged in other duties — because a lot of this work would have been got through earlier. I trust that the Government would make sure that he gets through and is rewarded for the task of revising the subsidiary legislation. Sometimes there are Government Departments which have not got copies of subsidiary legislation and certainly know not what subsidiary legislation applies to in this country. This matter should be brought up to date and these laws are necessary so that each aspect of the Governmental structure can function. Indeed in all Parliaments there is a lack of proper law books, and the Laws of Barbados are not available to this House. I have had to borrow from my own office a copy for a 1970 case because there was none available to Parliament itself, and I think it is very sad for those of us who make the laws if we make the laws and cannot get copies of the laws, and I appeal to the Government to see to it that we get the revision of the laws as soon as possible.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, like certain hon. members who have spoken here I am a lawyer but unlike them in some respects, particularly in regard to the politeness I see lawyers dealing out to each other and the extremes of politeness which I see being paid and which in my few years I have never been the recipient of; but, Sir, be that as it may, dealing with this measure, I do not believe we should go through more or less the continual expressions of regret that the law reform exercise is not carried out or the law proper is not in a state as far as it possibly should be. All of these things we talk about in here. Up to 16th March, last year Parliament was informed that except for six laws, all the laws had been revised, proofs made by the printers, and they were returned to Barbados for final correction. That was a year ago. I am going t to call names. If Dr. Patchett and such others have been paid more than it is felt they should have, they should be made to pay back some. If civil servants are found to have allowed these exercises to go on for six years without paying attention to them, they should be disbanded before the Judicial Legal Service Commission. I have seen day after day the incapacity of some of the legal committees of Government to take the initiative to do things with the expedition with which they should be done in a small country like Barbados. I will give a small example. 3.30 p.m.

I have had one or two advantages in obtaining the laws of Barbados. I have a set of laws indexed up to the end of 1973, and I do not believe that any other practising Attorney can say so. I have an almost complete set of subsidiary legislation similarly indexed. I did not get them from the Attorney-General. I

got them through my own instrumentality. Mr. Chandler is a man who can put his hands on anything, and anything he has to do will be done properly. I had to telephone the Chief Justice and ask him if he wanted a set of the laws of Barbados. I had to telephone the House of Assembly to find out if they wanted a set and pay for them out of my pocket. Of course, I was reimbursed later. I did that as a private practitioner who prefers to see things done properly, and I went to the trouble of getting something done. No Chief Justice of Barbados has had a complete set of subsidiary legislation for serveral years. What credit does that reflect on the Attorney-General? What supervision is he exercising over his staff to justify his position? What is being done in the matter of law revision? Sir, I appreciate what the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, who was formerly the Attorney-General, has said. He knows that if he has done a bad job, then his successor has done a worse job.

The hon. member spoke about the Judiciary, but I do not believe the Judges are responsible for what is happening. (Asides.) I gather that the former Attorney-General, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, wishes me to attack the Chief Justice and other Judges. If he wants the Chief Justice attacked because he did not get the votes in Pine Hill, then let him say so.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Sir, all I am saying is that when the Head of Judiciary was taken, the hon. member did not open his mouth. Now that the Head dealing with the Attorney-General is being discussed, he is attacking the Attorney-General.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, the Judges have to carry a share of the responsibility for the lateness and the delays, but that is an administrative matter. Some Judges are prepared to sit down and allow a man to spend 12 months in prison before he comes up to be tried, and then he may get off. It is felt that you should not add to a man's sentence more than 6 months when he is tried by the Court of Appeal. I have my own views as to what should be done by Magistrates, but that is not casting any reflection on my Party. I believe in justice and the freedom of people in this country. I also believe that it is time for people to get up and say what should be done.

I see here that last year $5, 812 was spent on the Law Reform Committee including clerical and legal assistance and equipment. In what conceivable respect has Barbados benefited from any activity relating to law reform? At least when the Minister of Communications and Works was the Attorney-General we used to get some publicity because pictures would be taken and the matter was brought before the view of the public. What is the Attorney-General doing to justify the holding of his office? He does not appear in court. His particular work is that of Minister of External Affairs, and he is competent in that field, I am dealing with the Ministry of Justice's aspect of the matter. My Party's view is still that there should be a Ministry of Justice in this country to deal with all of these matters.

To deal finally with the Law Library, it is really time that the Law Library should be organised physically and the books indexed and put in order to save them from dilapidation. I do not like to belabour points over and over again, but the Reece Law Library is kept separate. However, very valuable books are kept outside the security section of the Law Library — books that are very valuable

to practitioners, and books in great need of air conditioning. Certain Law Reports are left outside, and they are not regularly painted to prevent them from being eaten by worms. I repeat that they should be in an air conditioned room, and that they should be properly indexed and so on. 3.40 p.m.

There are many antiquarian books there which should be given to the Barbados Museum to see what it could do with them because nobody is going to look into first editions of 18th Century reports. They should altogether be got rid of and modern reprints such as the English Reports which are more complete and which give a better presentation made available to practitioners. Something must be done about it. You cannot go on voting money every year even although I see there is an increase of $25, 000 for legal affairs and having arguments and criticisms voiced every year. This is like hon. members' food. We come in here and say the same thing year after year with a House full of lawyers and nobody ever seeks to do anything about it.

Sir, I can compare productivity in private practitioners' offices with. productivity in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, because I am one and I see others at work, and if I thought that any practising barrister or I could get by with as little work as I see being got by with up there in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and get half my salary, I would be glad. I would take the relaxation. It really is time that somebody takes this problem by the scruff of its neck and effect these reforms which alone would make this Ministry and this whole operation of legal affairs meaningful within the context of an independent Barbados.

The question that the sum of $241, 119 under Head 6 - Ministry of Legal Affairs ~ stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 7 - REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Head 7 — Registration Department .— was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $114, 120 under Head 7 — Registration Department — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, it is rather obvious listening to the speeches made by other members on this side that they do in some degree agree with me that there is something wrong with the administration of justice in this Country. One of the things which I find and will continue to find rather strange is that you have a Ministry of Legal Affairs and under that you have Legal Affairs, Registration Office and Crown Solicitor, and then you have a separate Head for Judiciary. Perhaps those responsible for the establishment can deal with this, but I would like to know why it is that the Judiciary is separated from the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I would have thought the time had come in Barbados when there must be the establishment of a Ministry of Justice in which the Judiciary, Legal Affairs, Registration Office, Crown Solicitor and all matters appertaining to justice would come under the portfolio of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. I think this would in some way lend to greater efficiency and would

remove the inefficiency that now exist, and perhaps members would not have when they come to Estimates to criticise and make the comments they do which seem to fall on deaf ears, I can see absolutely no reason for having a Minister of Legal Affairs being in control of the Registration Office and Grown Solicitor, and then having the Judiciary which must form an integral part of Legal Affairs under a separate Head.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member has been practising law for ten or twelve years, and up to now he does not seem to recognise that the Chief Justice is in charge of the Registration Department.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

If this is so, then the Civil Servants are telling us lies because I see at the beginning of this Head "summary of estimated expenditure, under responsibility of the Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Head 6 — Ministry of Legal Affairs, Head 7 — Registration, Head 8 — Crown Solicitor". I am not putting forward any new idea. What I would like to see and it is very fundamental is that the Judiciary is not anything separate from the administration of justice in this country, and I do not see why it should come under a separate Head. There should be a Ministry of Justice where the Attorney-General would be responsible for the entire operation of the administration of justice.

Sir, I want to go on to another aspect of it, and I believe if this was to happen, you would find that the comments made on the Ministry of Justice would not be forthcoming, because if you do that you would centralise the Departments under the Minister of Justice and he would see that his departments are run efficiently. I know what the Leader of the House is talking about. Prior to the last election and when the hon. member for St. Michael North Central was Attorney-GeneraLRegistration Office never came under the Attorney-General's office at all, but he made a mistake. The Registration Office did not come under the Attorney-General; it was under the Judiciary, but since the last election — I do not know if the Minister has more faith in the present Attorney-General than the former Attorney-General, but he has given him the Registration Department which the former Attorney-General did not have, and I would sincerely hope he has more faith in him by the next Estimates and put Judiciary under his head.

I want to deal with legal aid in Item 11, and to do this I must relate it back to something which I will deal with under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare at a later stage where you find that $250 is being provided for the cost of legal assistance in bastardy, affiliation and alimony cases. It is rather obvious to those who have anything to do with the administration of justice that the legal scheme needs to be extended to include husband and wife cases, affiliation cases and divorce cases and certain other constitutional matters, and certain other domestic matters where quarrels arise between husbands and wives. Although my Party feels this, I believe also there should be certain cases to include tenants where we find that tenants are being oppressed by landlords, and once again we put it to the Government to investigate the possibility of extending the legal aid scheme to include the cases I have mentioned.

Now, Sir, there is one other aspect that I want to deal with. I did not want to deal with this under that Head, but the time has come when there must be a physical separation of the duties of the Registrar of the Supreme Court and the duties of the Registrar of things like Birth and Baptism, a person known as Registrar General. The space now used in the Registry is hopelessly inadequate and we on this side urge the Government to look into the possibility within this financial year of having a physical separation of the Department of the Registrar of the Supreme Court and the Registrar General dealing with

Companies, Birth and Baptism and things like that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, the aspect of the Registration Department which I would like to bring to the notice of this Committee is the physical circumstances confronting people who work in that department and whose daily business brings them in contact with that department. 3.50 p.m.

There is no doubt that the Registry has outgrown its size and has done this for a very long time too. It is virtually impossible for the public who deal with the Registry to be properly accommodated when they are there on legitimate business. Those of us who see people going for birth certificates, certificates of death and baptismal certificates sometimes feel sorry for them for the manner in which they have to stand around rather than being able to enjoy some commodious compartments in the Registry. But if it is tough on those people who come to the Registry for limited periods, it is tougher on the staff who have to spend long hours in that Registry collecting revenue for the country in some instances, and seeing that the wheels of justice are properly oiled. Indeed the facilities available for the female staff happen to be scandalous, and they are almost as bad as the facilities available for female jurors and for people who go to carry our their function in the law court.

I know that it is not customary to treat Attorneys-at-Law in this country with much respect, simply I think because too many of us have probably gone into politics and it is a good thing to decry them as having a vested interest in a privileged class, but I think this is a wrong view. Anyhow, this is not the time to belabour that point, let me say that I am totally dissatisfied as a member of the public to see the manner in which the articled clerks have been pushed into a very hot compartment to look at public records to carry on their day to day business-

The same thing applies to some of the young ladies and the men who work in the section dealing with baptismal certificates, etc. Government promised some time ago it was going to make available the old Waterworks building and the Synagogue to improve these facilities, and I think that something concrete should be done about. It is impossible for these young men to go there and to produce sufficient details during the day for their principals, and indeed to speed up the business of the court and Government's business in some respect without feeling that they are suffering from exhaustion, heat, congestion and everything else, and a cursory visit to the Registry will satisfy any Minister that there is some urgency in putting this right. I have appealed to the Government to see whether in due course they could make temporary facilities available and probably in one of the development plans to look at the whole aspect of providing better facilities for the administration of justice in the country. If we are going to put the accent on productivity, if you want Civil Servants to produce more they must have certain facilities in which they can work properly.

I do not know if Government has done any complete survey of the use of the floor space and office space available for all the Government Departments, but one of the Departments suffering must be the Registration Department, and it is only fair to the staff to say that they can never produce better if they are not given surroundings in which they can work, I trust that the provision of some of the money here for office expenses will help to provide enough filing cabinets for that department. Although there has been a slight improvement it is still obvious to anyone that the security of files, particularly in doing law, is absolutely lacking in that department. All I am saying is that we have to make the circumstances available to improve this sort of thing.

Visitors to that department will see the almost callous disregard there is for files that have great importance for the people whose business happens to be in the Registry. I am at a loss to understand why it is taking so many years to put this small but important matter right. There is another offfice upstairs, right at the top of the Registry, which is a mass of absolute confusion. You cannot find any real public record there under three or four hours of searching with yourself and probably three or four other people, and it should be straightened out as soon as possible. There is no proper vault space which allows the Registry some room for storing documents, and despite the fact that Mr. Chandler has removed some of the old documents down to the Archives Department, there is still confusion upstairs and in some instances records that are relevant to matters before the court can hardly be found in the mass of confusion. This should not be allowed to go on indefinitely, and I would ask Government even if they have to provide temporary staff to take steps to put this right.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I am not one that would disagree in any way with what the hon. member who has just sat down has said. I have seen the Registry multiply in staff and appear to shrink in size over the last few years, and I would support any move to take the Department of Vital Statistics out of the present Registration Office and into the old Waterworks building.

I would like to select one or two Items under this Head, Items 5 and 9. Item 5 I see is to meet the cost of paying travelling allowances to six Deputy Marshals. The Marshals have a travelling allowance and nobody has seen fit to make sure that they get gasolene. I know that I was prepared, and I told the Marshals this, that if they cared to give me the details for transmission to the Crown Solicitor to make available my position at the privilege pump which like the Prime Minister I do not use, for the benefit of the Supreme Court Marshals who are expected and directed by law on Government Business to drive to Pie Corner, St. Lucy or Belleplaine, St. Andrew to serve a writ of summons and yet have no facilities for putting gasolene in their private motor cars so to do. I have seen one or two documents suggesting that this has been taken up by the Crown Solicitor with an expedition that in the circumstances must be admired. I would like to be assured by hon. members on the other side that this has in fact been done. The travelling allowance in any case strikes me as a little small, bearing in mind the price of gasolene, but no doubt the necessary memorandum has been circulated.

I would also like to deal with Item 9 -Chief Marshal's General Expenses. The note says "Fees for renting of bonds for storage of items on which levies have been made, also watchmen's fees, cost of transporting items, towing etc." I would like to know how this Item is in the Estimates but yet the Chief Marshal can tell you he has no vote for transporting items to be stored, and I have been invited by letter of the Chief Marshal to get my own transportation and pay for it, otherwise he will not be able to carry out his duties. This is only a small point but I hope that those who have ears and who have to deal with it will take note. I have before now with my own ears heard the Chief Marshal tell the Registrar that he has nowhere to put things which were to be stored, the Registrar told him to rent a warehouse and get the space, put the things in and charge it. In due course it will be paid for because there is a vote. 4.00 p.m.

Speaking for myself, I have always found the Registrar extremely helpful and knowledgeable of the affairs of his department. I would be glad if he could succeed in imparting some of his knowledge to the Marshal Section. I understand that there is still some -I would not call it warfare-but differences between the two departments and that the Provost Marshal is not always subject to the directions of the Registrar.

I hope that he understands that although the Provost Marshals Act still exists, the general provisions are there to help him carry out his duties. I am not speaking of any one Chief Marshal, but of those appointed to act and otherwise in the department. I hope that they will not be seeking to frustrate Attorneys-at-Law and other persons who have business with the relevant department.

On the question of Legal Aid, you cannot find in these Estimates how much money is spent on legal aid because this is a new Act and I do not see any vote, but it does seem, no matter what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central thinks, the fees paid for legal aid are too small.

There are barristers who are prepared to appear in court sometimes for persons who are already clients for the very small fees involved; but it can be a diminuition of self respect. This can be the case when you charge a man $1, 000 and you feel for him and do the job for $350. One or two members of the senior Bar are prepared to render this service to their clients, but it should be met by an increase in the legal aid fee, and it should also be recognised by those appointed to administer it.

Someone has asked me to criticise judges. I will do that. I know of one case in which counsel was well placed to argue an appeal and was prepared to do it and one of the judges, the Head of the Judiciary - I cannot remember who was the holder of the post then - specifically told the Registrar to withdraw the name and give it to someone else.

All these are things that should be taken note of. I wonder what would have been the position of the Prime Minister when he was at the Bar if he had been placed in that position and found out all the circumstances of the case. He above all people will understand how these little things can create a disturbance in the free flow of the administration of justice.

In so far as the Disciplinary Committee is concerned, I am looking forward next year to be on that. All that I will say at this stage is that doctors are not run down and persecuted when their hands slip or when there is a terrible decision to be made and it is made the wrong way. I do not see dentists sued when they take out a tooth rather than advising that it be filled. I do not see architects sued.

I am sure when a criminal does something criminal and gets off easier than he expected and then writes a letter asking back for money no such matter should be considered by the Disciplinary Committee. I believe that there is a file against every lawyer who has practised. The Prime Minister will know about this.

It is not the function of the Disciplinary Committee to run down legal practitioners in this manner. Some machinery must be set up by which the circumstances can be sifted beforehand. I myself have had, like people who were former solicitors or former barristers, to deal with situations that were very difficult indeed and with which other members of this House would not have to deal - with murderers, rapists, arsonists, as well as people who have been carrying on land disputes for 30 or 40 years and chopping up each other. It is hard enough to deal with the people and then have to deal with Disciplinary Committee as well.

I have on one occasion gone to a person's premises with the Chief Justice and she shook her fist in the Chief Justice's face so that he had to call his chauffeur to hold this old lady. Her grandson was there with

a cutlass. I have been in the same district in a case where a man made a complaint against a member of the Bar. I was in the road and I saw a Police Constable's head go back like that and the cutlass went like that.

Those are the people that you have to deal with at a Bar. These are the people who have complained to the Registrar about the conduct of counsel. This is what we have to put up with, and we should not have to put up with harassment as well. 4.10 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw attention to the words "Executive Expenses" under this Head. I would like to state that the word * 'Executive" should be deleted.

I would like to explain to hon. members some of the difficulties which we have. We have under one summary, five Heads which deal with the Governor-General, Services Commission, Parliament, the Auditor General's Department and the Judiciary. Then there is under another summary the Ministry of Justice - the Registration Department, the Crown Solicitor, and the Ministry of Legal Affairs which come under the responsibility of the Attorney General and the Minister of Legal Affairs.

Now in the Registry you have basically two functions - the servicing of the Supreme Court and the registration of documents and deeds, and I say documents and deeds because you have things like the registration of births and the registration of deaths and the registration of baptisms, and the Registrar is, as far as I know, he and the Deputy Registrar are the only two Notaries we have in Barbados - rather, the Registrar and two Deputies - (ASIDES: Three.) I am not questioning whether there are two or three but I understand that there are two Deputy Registrars. In my day there were the Registrar and the Deputy, but I understand there are three now. Be that as it may, we are in the peculiar position that we are dealing with these people, and I am not sheltering under any parliamentary privilege. The situation we have in the Registry is that nobody seems to know who is responsible to whom. The thing is, you cannot do anything about it, they are people who are withdrawn into themselves. It is a case of "Back to back, belly to belly, I don't give a damn." This is the situation you have over there. You have a situation over there that there is 80% representation of the legal profession and not one of them has mentioned anything about the Judicial Advisory Council or the position of the rules - which has been mentioned particularly by the member for St. Michael West on previous occasions. I do not think the Judicial Advisory Council has had a meeting since I started practising law, and I could say that during my time I have given a lot of free legal advice to the Government.

It has been said that the people of Barbados are not getting justice. I tried to see that they were getting justice when I was practising; and I am now wondering whether the small man in Barbados is getting justice. Now there is much delay in decisions given by the Judges in the courts and it seems as if they are afraid. Since I was not afraid when I was practising law I do not see why they should be now that I am Prime Minister of Barbados, but it seems that it depends on the way the lawyers talk to them. The fact is the people who should be upholding the Constitution are not upholding the Constitution. The people who should see that there are no delays in the law are causing delays in the law. They take long to deliver written decisions; they can come and give you a decision but cannot give you reason for it until about three years after. Every lawyer who came out here during the past twenty five years has had some knowledge of the case of Johnson and Johnson, a case which comes from the parish where I happen to be born, and that case is not finished yet. 4.20 p.m.

I do not understand why they do not go to St. Lucy and lock up everybody down there. Those are vexatious litigants in that they decide to disturb the peace. I am wondering whether the small man in Barbados gets justice. There was a feeling in the Public Works Department, even after this Government came into power, that some people could not get jobs there, and some people in this country feel that they cannot get justice. There is too much of this sort of thing going on. Most of the people, who are supposed to be educated, are dropping words in people's ears at funerals and so on. This does not augur well in the administration of justice in Barbados. All cases should be determined in the law courts, and any member of the legal profession, or any litigant, who approaches a magistrate about a case other than in the law courts, is doing great harm to the administration of justice.

Sir, this is a small community and that is the reason why justice should not only appear to be done, but it should be manifestly seen to be done. When the father of the hon. member for Bridgetown was here, he was very good at giving us the quotation about Caesar's wives. I am not sure which one of the Caesars and which one of the wives. I have heard the quotation in here, and I am sure what it means, but I got the impression that it means you must be beyond reproach. Now, we are not happy about what happens to the man in the street. Some people have to go to the law courts and stand in the court yard thirty or forty times before their cases are heard. The magistrates should be blamed, because they should not let the lawyers get away with this sort of thing. If a lawyer cannot cope with all his cases, then he should give some of them to somebody else. When we have reached the stage of 4% or 5% non-employment, I would like to know how many man-hours are wasted day after day without any successful attempt to tell the people that they cannot be dealt with at such and such a time. However, somebody in a white suit will go to a magistrate, and he will be told that he will be dealt with at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Now let us look at the medical profession. They are very well respected, for what reason I do not know because they are only a continuance of the barbers profession. Barbers used to cut off people's toes and so on. We have had a survey done in these areas, and the medical profession is supposed to be the highest paid in the professions, because they deal with people in a state of distress. That is why the Leader of the Opposition is trying to get people in a state of distress. He believes that if people are in a state of distress, he will be looked upon as a sort of creator of mankind.

Sir, you will go to a doctor's office bleeding to death and he will not touch you, if he can avoid it, because he does not want to go to court to give evidence. Doctors have taken an oath to relieve the suffering of mankind, but they do not want to go to court and waste time giving evidence. They have doctors at the Hospital who do not want to go to court. Whatever strictures the member for St. Thomas may have against the profession must be levelled at them, because these matters involve the misfortunes of the poor people of Barbados.

Sir, the people who are responsible for the administration of justice do not care about the poor people of Barbados. I and other members of the legal profession have certain views on these matters. I do not know of one single profession that is guilty of so many sins against humanity as the legal profession, and I am not proud to be a member of the legal profession. It is the poor people in Barbados who are suffering all the time.

When I was practising at the Bar and I looked outside the window of the court and saw the great

masses of humanity standing in the broiling sun, it reminded me of what I used to read before the French revolution when they had throngs of people doing nothing productive and people were degenerating in the society. It is all right to catalogue our commissions of sins, but one may ask: "What is the Government doing about the matter?" I have to be very careful sometimes when I speak about these exalted people in the Public Service. I have to be very careful sometimes to say good evening to them, because people like the member for St. Thomas may get up and make snide remarks to the effect that certain persons are always in the Prime Minister's Office, so I keep far from them. 4.30 p.m.

I keep far from them, but only as close as we can get in our official duties.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, is the Prime Minister accusing the member for St. Thomas of making snide remarks? I would submit that is a reflection on my motives.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I never said that he made snide remarks. I said you are in danger of being the victim of snide remarks. I would not press that if I were you because you might get into deep waters.

Mr. ADAMS:

I was only going to say that it may not be that he keeps far from them; it may be that they keep far from him.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Apart from my colleagues here, I keep far from all the members of the Legal Profession. There is a calypso which says "Uh fraid Karl" and he is a friend of mine; so I keep far from all of them. I keep far from the members of the Bench and far from the members of the Judiciary because no one would be able to make snide remarks to intimidate those people who have to administer justice in Barbados by saying they are friendly with the Government. They could never be accused in Barbados of being friendly with the Government; so they are like Caesar's wife. If the ordinary man in the street does not get justice, it is no fault of the Legal Profession, I want to make this clear because there would never be any collusion between the members of the Legal Profession. The idea of selling out a case in Barbados is completely unheard of because even within the same political party you will find that one lawyer does not speak to the other lawyer. There are some lawyers who would never get invited to the House of certain members of the Legal Profession. In other countries you would find that the Legal Profession acts like a fraternity. The public in Barbados need have no fear of the Legal Profession colluding with one another to set out any cases because they do not speak to one another, and some of them do not invite the other to have a casual drink by accident. (Mr. MOTTLEY Those are the exact words he used previously about a man.) I am saying that the ordinary litigants are not in any danger from the Legal Profession because they do not speak to one another. I am merely saying that from that point of view the general public has nothing to worry about. They do not sell out cases because they curse one another in the Courts and on political matters. Even within the same political party you still have all these little splinter groups, and you have more caste systems in the Legal Profession in Barbados than you have in the Republic of India. I am not at all responsible for the administration of justice. I am not even responsible for getting the salaries. I have myself protested against conditions in the Courts since I have been Minister. Whatever they have requested they have got. We have asked for a system of microfilming documents and nobody seems to be interested. If it is being done at all it is not being done

in a way which has improved the efficiency in the Registration Department. Altogether the picture is not a very rosy one, but up to now I cannot understand why if you have a professional association that that association cannot ask the people responsible why it cannot have up to date rules of the Supreme Court or any of the Courts in Bridgetown, rules about the landlord under the new Landlord Act - in fact it is not new, it is now about twenty years - rules under the development of tenantries and Security of Tenure Act. There are no rules after all these years.

With respect to the Divorce Court the person who introduced divorce into Barbados is the hon. member on my right, the Leader of the House. I understand that soon after he introduced the Divorce Bill it was not necessary any more, but he persevered with it. That was in 1946-47 and we are now in 1974. We have not got rules of the Divorce Court yet, and the last really authentic rules you can find were done by Sir Herbert Greaves back in 1913, I believe, or something like that. All I can assure hon. members now is that they also have a responsibility as members of the profession to agitate for improvements in the conditions under which litigation is conducted in this country. They have a responsibility not only to their clients but to the community to see that poor people are not made to suffer because they want to assert the rights which the Constitution guarantees to them. A Government can only spend money but it cannot go in and usurp the functions of the people who are paid to preside over the administration of justice in this country, and the people who are working close to the Throne of Grace, the people on the other side, are the people who should not be afraid to stand up as Mr. Croney, a former barrister was not afraid to stand up some 50 years ago to a magistrate called Mr. Massiah or the case of Ann Bard and the Attorney General of Trinidad when he wrote that justice is not a cloistered virtue. There are people who believe that you cannot question anything they do and as long as no person who is a big person gets his corns mashed, the small person can go to the wall. I do not ' want to live in a society like that and I have vowed that I will not be returning to any situation like that in Barbados when I decide not to continue with the function which I now perform.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down, the member for St. John, I will have to say ex-lawyer because he always refers to other people as "them lawyer boys", is Minister of Finance and he is Prime Minister, but he is completely out of touch with what is going on. He is as far away from Barbados and the Legal Profession as the satellite which is somewhere up there making its way to Mars. He has just said that the Judicial Advisory Committee has not met since he stopped practising law. I believe he has been sleeping all this time or obviously he does not read the reports which go to his office, because at the end of each year the Judicial Advisory Committee prepares a report which is sent to the Cabinet. One has already gone for last year and I can say that the Judicial Advisory Committee met up to last week. He must not in order to appeal now to the poor people whom he has cried down for so many years get up in here playing he is pleading for them now because he is doing it on a wrong basis. 4.40 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The hon. member said they sent reports but they have not reached me. I would like to ask him what subsidiary legislation has the Committee printed during the last 15 years.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, if they have not reached him the only person he has to blame is the Minister of Communications and Works who has so ably defended the Post Office in here.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, he has to establish whether they were delivered by hand or by post; perhaps they used a police orderly.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Here we are shifting the buck now, Sir, and he is passing the blame on to the Minister of Home Affairs. Obviously neither the Government nor the Prime Minister is aware of what is going on. It is obvious that the Prime Minister has not been at Cabinet meetings or statements to him by his Ministers are unknown to him or are untrue. Only a month ago when I charged in this House that the Judicial Advisory Committee was under pressure and that it needed a legal person attached to it who could act as Secretary and could assist in the drafting of rules and legislation the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works said they had no intention whatsoever of supplying such a person to this body because you had the Judges and Lawyers who could do the work. When he was Attorney General he knew that the Judges had to sit in about three different capacities and he sat in here and said he was not supplying anybody. The Prime Minister must not say these things otherwise it means the Minister of Communications and Works has again been misleading this House and has been making statements which are absolutely untrue. They have a habit over there of talking about making Hansard look good, but it is no wonder that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Communications and Works cannot get on.

We go a bit further. The Prime Minister must not say that the -poor people of this country have to stand up in the courtyards because of adjournments by Lawyers, Here again it reflects that the Government is not aware of the administration of the courts. Why do people stand up in the courtyards? I have said earlier that four times a year every courtyard in this country is packed with people applying for liquor licences, and the Prime Minister himself had something to say about that. The Magistrates in this country are over-worked. We have a Magistrate who sits at District "C" and "B" who has resigned but is still acting because there is not another Magistrate to sit on the Bench. Every time a Magistrate goes on leave the court is shut down until he comes back, the volume of cases rises considerably but there has been no increase in the number of Magistrates to take care of the increase of the work. We have just lost the late Mr. Garfield Sargeant who has been in and out of hospital for at least four times and each time he took sick the court had to be closed or the cases had to be tried by another Magistrate, and there is always difficulty with part-tries cases. People go in the courtyard and stand up for other reasons as well. Whenever the police summon doctors to court, particularly in indictable cases, they will tell you they are not leaving that day and even now you. have to provide police transportation for them.

I think they should increase the number of Magistrates. I have put up suggestions over and over again for increasing the number of Magistrates in order to make the court more workable and nothing has happened.

When the question of the centralisation of the Magistrates' courts came up in the House the Government members said they will not do it because it will overload the transport system, when in truth and in fact if you want to get to District "C" and you live at Pool, St. John you have to catch a bus to come to town and catch another one to go to District "C". When we asked about the centralisation of the Magistrates' Courts in order to utilise the courts more effectively the Government members opposed it simply because the idea came from the Opposition benches. Let us talk about proper courts.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On apoint of explanation, is the member saying he brought a resolution and the Government opposed it?

Mr. BOLDEN:

I did not say that, I said I made a suggestion and the legal profession made suggestions which were opposed in this House. Ask the Minister of Communications and Works.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I never said anything like that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I Will look for the debates of this House, but let me go further. Who said that the Government was going to build a court in Oistin and they were not going to centralise anything? Ask any member of the Government when was the last time anything was done with any of the courts, except Boarded Hall a few weeks ago when somebody nearly fell through the floor boards? Ask how many times the court at District "C" could not operate because of the stench from the policemen's toilet? Look at District ""F" in the old Dr. Johnson building. You have to pass under an arch to get into it and the people have to stand in the public road when they want to get in there.

Let us talk now about the Supreme Court rutes which the Prime Minister spoke about. They have been amended up to last year, the Magistrates' rules have been amended and are in the throes of being amended again, but the same Judicial Council which the Prime Minister said has stopped practising did all this. Why was the new Judicial Committee appointed? You talk about the Security of Tenure Act, but it is the Cabinet which passed this Act and now has the landlords of this country paying high taxes but cannot increase the rents. Who is responsible for that? It is the Cabinet. Look at your own laws and see, Mr. Prime Minister, do not place the blame on somebody else. 4.50 p.m.

We have asked questions in here because landlords are aware of the fact that when the taxes exceed the rents they cannot increase the rents because no rules have ever been made. We have asked questions about a new Divorce Bill for more than two years now. Are you going to say that the Judicial Advisory Council is responsible or that Lawyers are responsible?

Lawyers have been the most generous people in this country. The member who is Secretary of the Trade Union has said that where severence pay is concerned, if lawyers charged people what they should the people would not get anything. How many of us have been working for people and not charging them the fees that should be charged?

This reminds me of the independence debate. You had at that time people who called themselves the underprivileged saying that the lawyers were the under forties and were charging people this and that. I have never seen the Prime Minister who is an ex-lawyer go into Court by himself. He brings lawyers from Guyana.

Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister would care to look at the Laws of Barbados 1965-34 in which is an Act to provide for the control and development of tenantries he will see under Section 8(1) that 'The

Cabinet may make regulations for fixing the rent of any lot or lots in a tenantry and generally for carrying out the purposes of this Act."

Sub-section 2 says: "All regulations made under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of the Legislature as soon as may be after they are made and if within a period of forty days beginning with the day on which such regulations are so laid before it, either House of the Legislature resolves that the regulations be annulled they shall therefore be void but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder or to the making of new regulations."

Mr. Chairman, this has never been done. Mr. Hanschell wrote a letter in the newspaper complaining about this state of affairs. Everyone of them over there is now trying to put the blame on someone else. You have judges sitting in first instance. What about appeals? When magistrates finish a day's work they have to write appeals. I told one magistrate that he was a good man. I said honestly that I could not work for any man and go on three weeks holiday and then come back and try to catch up with my work. If they belonged to a trade union they would go on strike, but they are looking for good names. In Bridgetown alone you have" 200 traffic cases on Call Day.

When I come here and call for decent salaries for judges and magistrates we never hear anything; but even under Legal Aid.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
On a point of order. The member cannot say that the very man sat down there, and point at me.

Mr. BOLDEN:
What I was saying, Mr. Chairman, is that even when we were dealing with Legal Aid he sat at the back and said "it does not matter what you do, when it gets up there I will do as I please."

I want the Prime Minister to look carefully at the Courtis. The Courts, including the Supreme Court are in bad state of disrepair. The Prime Minister should also make a visit to the Registry. The dining room is next to the toilet. Those are the conditions that people have to work in. And then you come here and abuse them. I bet that the Prime Minister would not work under such conditions. We have lady jurors, and the magistrate of the District A Civil Court has no common room and no toilet facilities. People must go and look at the Courts before rediculing them. They do not have to operate in that environment, so they stand aloof and look down and criticise.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, before you put the question I would say that I have listened carefully to the comments about the functioning of the Law Courts. The hon. member for St. Joseph put up an able defence. Be that as it may, there are certain , matters affecting the Law Courts which belong there and not in here.

I want to get it on record that as far as the Divorce Law is concerned, I am not a big lawyer or a lawyer at all, but I have done more and I made a bigger contribution to the country in so far as legal action is concerned than many Q.Cs in the past.

I have put on the Statute Book a new divorce law based on die Matrimonial Causes Act of the UK in 1938 so that there would be no question of just adultery as such, but cruelty, desertion without cause for

three years and incurable insanity as well as reducing the time between decree nisi and decree absolute from six months to six weeks. These things were not done by Q.Cs. I became a Minister and I did it.

The hon. member talked about helping the poor people in Barbados where getting divorce is concerned. I had incorporated these regulations in the Act itself, but they were taken out eventually with the result that the rules are not existent today.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of explanation. We have been agitating on this side that legal aid be extended to include divorce cases.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
All I am saying is that getting a divorce in the eyes of the general public is a luxury. I am saying that at one point I tried to get the Divorce Law amended whereby poor people could get it freely, and that was taken out. How many people have got a divorce free up to now?

The question that Head 7 - Registration Department - for the sum of $114, 120 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 8 - CROWN SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

Head 8 - Crown Solicitor's Office - for the sum of $17, 969 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 8 - Crown Solicitor's Office for the sum of $17, 969 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 9(1) - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Head 9(1) - Ministry of Finance and planning -for the sum of $418, 950 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 9(1) - Ministry of Finance and Planning for the sum of $418, 950 stand part.

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

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

5.00 p.m.

HEAD 9(2) .- MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING - PLANNING DIVISION

Head 9(2) - Ministry of Finance and Planning - Planning Division - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $245, 000 under Head 9(2) - Ministry of Finance and Planning -Planning Division - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, there appears to be an omission in the printing, because Head 9(1) (Asides) Oh! no. It is fairly in order.

Sir, I beg to move that Head 9(2) -Ministry of Finance and Planning — Planning Division — for the sum of $245, 000 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the Prime Minister would give us some information with regard to the expenses of technical assistants, because the Note is very sparse.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, this particular Item covers quite a few things. We have certain expenses which we have incurred and included in this is the expenses regarding the cement plant; but the Item covers a few things.

The question that the sum of $245, 000 under Head 9(2) - Ministry of Finance and Planning - Planning Division - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(3) - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING - RATES AND TAXES DIVISION

Head 9(3) — Ministry of Finance and Planning - Rates and Taxes Division - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $126, 318 under Head 9(3) - Ministry of Finance and Planning — Rates and Taxes Division — 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 9(4) - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING - CENTRAL PURCHASING DIVISION

Head 9(4) - Ministry of Finance and Planning — Central Purchasing Division — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $706, 191 under Head 9(4) — Ministry of Finance and Planning— Central Purchasing Division stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, you will notice that there is an increase of about $500, 000 between last year's Estimates and this year's Estimates particularly in respect of this Item, Item No. 8. The reason for that is because of a decision which I made with regard to the purchasing of all stationery for the departments and the type of stationery which is to be obtained from time to time. That is why we have increased the total expenditure between 1973—74 and 1974—75 and it is now in the nature of $500, 000.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, for some time we have been criticising the departmental policy in purchasing material required for the Government, and we are glad to see that the Central Purchasing Division has been set up, and I would like to go on record as saying that according to reports I have received, it has been very carefully administered in the past, and we look forward - despite the limitations which prevent them, as I understand it, from having the full technical expertise - despite that we look forward to seeing good work in the future. 5.10 p.m.

I hope that these difficulties will be finished with. I would not have to tell the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance about the Central Purchasing Division, to suggest how it should be run, or to suggest that he will have to seek cheap sources of supply. If you are ordering in bulk, why pay agents to get goods? He has shown his awareness in here by admitting the shortcomings of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, from which, I am sure, he has drawn experience in his own Ministry which would prevent a repetition of their mistakes. I know that he showed some resentment when he thought that he was accused of running things badly. At that time he said that he was running one of the biggest businesses in Barbados. I hope that he will run this along sound lines.

Since there is a new departure in respect of sending a Report from the Central Purchasing Division to the Minister of Finance monthly, I suggest that the Report should also be laid in Parliament by the Central Purchasing Department so that we can see what economies are being made in this Department.

Many Departments report to Parliament, and some of the Reports are not worth while. Something which involves expenditure of nearly $700, 000 deserves, in my opinion, some overall view so that both sides of the House can see whether the Department is operating adequately in the light of its terms of reference.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was not here when I first spoke on this matter. I drew to the attention of the House that the increase of $600, 000 was the result of a decision made by me.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of elucidation, Sir. I was standing outside. The hon. member must have misunderstood my speech, because I am aware of the increase by $600, 000. I meant to say that there was a total vote of $886, 000 of which $600, 000 had nothing to do with administration.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

What I am pointing out is that the purchasing will be done by the Central Purchasing Department, and the Department is responsible for distributing the stationery which goes out on requisition. The procedure in other respects, in my opinion, is not satisfactory. I have investigated the claims alluded to by the hon. member in respect of goods purchased as long as 10 months ago and the Central Department is having difficulty in getting the Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health, to pay the money to the Central Purchasing Department. The bills were due in Bridgetown on account of local purchasing of supplies. We have explained the position to the merchants.

Now, I have organised a course for all Accounting Officers to explain to them that there is no reason why people should not be paid within 30 days. The real problem is that the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964, has imposed an obligation, or duty, on the part of Permanent Secretaries and other Heads of Departments to be Accounting Officers when they are not trained. My contention is that they do not have to be trained accountants. It is merely a question of bad management. The Officers, who are Accounting Officers under the Act, will not pay for the goods delivered to their Departments by the Central Purchasing Division. It looks to me that next year we will have to put all of the supplies in this country in the hands of the Central Purchasing Department. I am giving consideration to the question of putting the whole requisition in the hands of the Director of the Central Purchasing Division, and the various Ministries can have their subsidiary accounting procedures.

Sir, some of these Ministries do not want to release the money for goods. It is a peculiar system where you have one Government Department delivering goods to another Government Department, and then it takes eight or ten months before the money is paid for them. I will try to get this matter straightened out before the 31st March, 1974. They have taken away the best man we had at the Hospital, who is a qualified Chemist, and placed him at the Central Purchasing Division. The Hospital owes the Department about $1/2 million. I had summoned a meeting of all Permanent Secretaries to have a confrontation with the Ministry of Finance to tell them that we have been getting complaints from the merchants, and they told me that it was a question of reconciling their books and they did not have the staff to do that. This sort of thing has nothing to do with the Treas I hate to disillusion the hon. member for St. Thomas. When we want money, we will get it.

The question that the sum of $1, 906, 191 under Head 9(4) — Ministry of Finance and Planning —

stand part of the Schedule — was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(5) MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING DATA PROCESING DIVISION

Head 9(5) Ministry of Finance .and Planning — Data Processing Unit — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $112, 064 under Head 9(5) — Ministry of Finance and Planning — Data Processing Division — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 9(6) MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING - LAND VALUATION DIVISION Head 9(6) — Ministry of Finance and

Planning — Land Valuation — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $146, 041 under Head 9(6) — Ministry of Finance and Planning — Land Valuation Division — stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, with regard to the Assessment Tribunal, I am very glad to see that the Tribunal is now appointed, and I am sure that a group of men with qualifications will be able to handle any petitions expeditiously. 5.20 p.m.

I believe that under the Land Valuation Act in particular it is necessary to make certain regulations so that the provisions of the Act can be carried out. If I may be specific there is a provision under the Act where a person who appeals from the ruling of the Commissioner on an objection has to give security for the prosecution of the accused. No specific legislation has been made on this point and I trust that the Minister responsible would soon be able to get his subsidiary legislation on this part of the matter up to date. So far the persons whom I know have been appealing have gone on and appealed regardless of the specific procedure and detailed rules which are necessary but I hope this will not hold up the adjudication of some appeals which have been outstanding from the time the first set of rate notices went out. Unless we get these adjudicated in a hurry, people will still be in doubt as to their liability to tax, and the Crown of course will not get all the money to which it is entitled. Some people still have not paid although the Act says they should, but some people have been delaying payment in circumstances such as these.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, there is one aspect of this matter I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister. We have a bit of a problem. My organisation is not a profit-making organisation, but we are.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

That has been dealt with. It has been reduced from $537 to SI20. I do not have such a fantastic memory but I dealt with it at 1 o'clock this morning.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I am dealing with the situation where the land tax we had to pay was something like $2, 500, but then we found it was not the Government's fault. We found ourselves with people living on land which they occupied for some time. One came with $2.36 where we are paying $25 an acre for the land on which the person is standing. We have told him that it would be easier for him to go and pay the Government the tax. We have a situation where if people other than ourselves are involved in something like this it is going to be a very serious matter, because on land that would cost $10, 000 people are paying anything like $10 a year in rent, and they would have to pay the kind of land tax that is likely to be a problem. I believe there are areas where the Prime Minister would have to examine this whole question of tenantries following the passing of the Land Tenantry Act because I think this has now created a new problem. If in anticipation the Minister says they have fixed it at 1 o'clock this morning, I would be pleased to know that we will be relieved of this taxation.

The question that the sum of $146, 041 under Head 9(6) Ministry of Finance and Planning, Land Valuation Division — stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(7) MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING - STATISTICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Head 9(7) Ministry of Finance and Planning — Statistical Services Division — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $77, 993 under Head 9(7) Ministry of Finance and Planning — Statistical Services — stand part of the Schedule.

I would just like to make an explanation here. The Data Processing Unit and the Statistical Department will be moving into the new National Insurance Building which is now at least two months ahead of schedule and will be completed early in November. We have a problem with acquiring the fourth generation computer. The House voted some money some time ago for us to buy another Computer from the factory at Grazettes but we are having some legal difficulty and we may not be able to acquire it and we are renting computer time from the I.B.M. in Bridge Street.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, under this Head, dealing with population census, preliminary figures of the 1970 census have been made available, but I think we have been starved of information as to how long this project is estimated to take and when we are likely to get completion. I think the 1960 census took an extraordinary long time and I understand there were some difficulties concerning the 1970 census in that the computer they had available at the University of the West Indies oh doing the final figures had been giving trouble and had broken down and this is very vital information for the Commonwealth Caribbean as a whole and certainly for Barbados, and I wonder if the Prime Minister could give us some idea as to when we may get the final figures under this Head.

The other thing I would like to ask about, Mr. Chairman, is the question of the reorganisation of labour statistics and whether the Prime Minister anticipates he is going to centralise this in the Statistical Department. It seems that there is some great difficulty in "planning in labour matters particularly in the employment section in the absence of proper statistics being available, and I wonder if the Department is now geared to take over this aspect of the matter so that we can have some up-to-date statistics of unemployment, employment and man power in general.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I understand that the labour statistics will be centralised and would be processed by the Data Processing Unit. As far as the 1970 census is concerned, certain information has been fed back to Barbados from time to time, but I am not really in a position to say when the full published report of the 1970 census will be available, because as the member stated it is being processed by the University under the supervision of Professor Roberts arid I got no recent information on it.

Mr. BOLDEN:

It is obvious that the Labour Department is in a very difficult position in respect of statistical figures, in respect of our man power position that is available to labour, the number of persons between specific ages and their qualifications etc. which I believe is going to be very vital in the Caribbean during the next three or four years if we are to make any meaningful development. I would like to know if the Prime Minister envisages that this survey would cover a situation like this. I understand there is no economist or statistician in the Labour Department, and I asked a question here hoping to find out what the records were like because it is practically impossible to know what our labour force is going to be like if we are planning any expansion in the country. 5.30 p.m.

It is practically impossible to know what our labour force is going to be like if we are planning any expansion in the country, and I wonder if the Prime Minister can say what plans he has in order to utilise this most expensive machine in doing some of this work. He has said he was unable to acquire the machine from the Grazettes Company, but we told him so when he first came to the House with it, and again they never like to take any advice from this side, but I think at this time the Prime Minister should be able to tell us what alternatives are being made in respect of these machines, whether or not we are going to continue to rent or if there are any plans for acquiring machines of our own or working in conjunction with other machines which I understand are in the country in order to cut down on this heavy bill.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Because the hon. member said that there was a legal dispute it does not mean that the Government should not buy the machine for a reasonable sum. These two rotary converters with four tapes were what

we needed and I felt it would be advisable since this would be the second generation of computers to have that so that we could capitalise, but precisely what I predicted has fallen upon us. Our 1401 has broken down particularly in the tape drive department.

I discovered last week that the legal difficulty has been overcome, that Mr. Moseley wrote offering them the machines and was told that the Government was not interested. I have sent to find out which Government was not interested because I certainly did not make such a decision. We may have to get a new one, but at the sail, time it takes about two years to get one shipped here. I will reopen the question of purchasing the second 1401, although we need four rotary convertors, and try to reactivate the 1401 in the Treasury Building.

The hon. member made one other point about the manpower survey. We do not think that it would be advisable to have duplication in the Labour Department in order to gather and collate the information which is necessary to carry out a manpower survey, but he made a very interesting point about Caribbean leaders. I think it was the seventh Heads of Government Conference held in April last year in Guyana which selected a team headed by Professor Mclntyre of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, and Mr. Eric Armstrong and other people precisely to carry out a manpower survey of the whole Caribbean area in collaboration with the local statistical office, and I understand that Barbados' is the only one which is collated up to now. The purpose of that survey was to decide what kind of technical and academic training we needed to underwrite at the University of the West Indies to find out precisely the areas in which there would be a demand for certain skills and professions, and that report has not yet been delivered. There was an economic advisor in the Ministry of Labour who has now gone back, and we also have for a very short term a technical expert who will look at the whole problem of labour statistics.

The problem of labour statistics, Mr. Chairman, is one of manpower itself, of getting the people with the necessary training who will be able to put the thing in order for us and then we will go on from there on a continuing basis, but to create the kind of structure inside or outside the department is a monumental task, and even the team highly trained as they are have been .finding some difficulty in getting the other West Indian Islands to give the Heads of Government the manpower requirements of the region. In so far as one could make intelligent appraisals and prognostications — a very long word but one which the Opposition likes to hear — you would find a lot of information in the Development Plan which I tabled two weeks ago. I think that as far as our plan is concerned the information which is contained there is as close as you can get.

The question that the sum of $77, 993 under Head 9(7)— Ministry of Finance and Planning, Statistical Services Division — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head 10 — Accountant General — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $158, 950 under Head 10 — Accountant General — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
By the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Mr. Chairman, the Accountant General of Barbados is charged with certain duties in relation to reporting of accounts for laying in Parliament after having been passed to the Auditor General and so on. This has to be done within six months of the end of the financial year. I believe I am right in saying that the last accounts must be for the year 1969—70, and certainly the last Auditor General's report of which I know I believe the accounts are two years in arrears.

This is an old perennial and it will not be answered by speeches however able from the Minister of Communications and Works to the effect that the Government knows this perfectly well, nor will it be answered by the Prime Minister's course for all the Accounting Officers, nor indeed has it been answered by the Public Accounts Reports pointing out that no attention is paid to the accounts of this Island and to the Financial Administration and Audit Act. It is a scandal, and the fact that Government members agree with As on this side that it is a scandal.....(Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Should

we shoot them?) Fire some of them, as far as I am concerned.

I am going to pick out one because he was mentioned by name in the last Public Accounts Report. I believe he is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. He is mentioned by name as a person who did not understand the Act. He did not reply to the Public Accounts Committee saying that he appreciated his responsibility, he indicated that he did not think it part of his duties to read the report of the Auditor General. Why I pick him out is that he rose in the Service in the ranks of accounting, he was an Accountant when he entered the Service so there is no excuse such as the Prime Minister made for many other Accounting Officers which is quite valid that they had no service accounting experience before they became Accounting Officers by virtue of the position of Permanent Secretary. They are the ones of whom an example should be made and it is time that something drastic is done. 5.40 p.m.

Junior Clerks cannot get away with it. When the junior clerks' books are wrong they are subjected to a great deal of pressure from the Heads of Departments and they can even find themselves in the hands of the Police, although a lot of them get off. Why should people at Permanent Secretary level be exempt from this? Why cannot the Accountant General get the public accounts of this island up to date?

I believe that there is a balance sheet to be published with the assets and liabilities of the Government. I have been searching through my parliamentary papers, and the last one I can find is for 1971. There are some individual departments which have shown that they can reconcile their balances quite effectively. I was agreeably surprised during last month to be getting Customs Receipts properly balanced, properly entered and analysed, as far as I can judge, up to the end of last year, that is within six weeks including the Christmas period. I believe that the Inland Revenue Department does the same thing.

We hear that with some departments things are difficult. They are difficult in the Ministry of Education because teachers' salaries are difficult, and in die Ministry of Communications and Works because Waterworks bills are difficult; but they cannot be difficult for so many years. We cannot go on

like this without taking disciplinary action.

If a public servant is not Carrying out his duties he should be suspended, and this is what the Public Service Commission should be asked to do in the case of the officers in connection with whom it is shown to be true. Officers can be suspended for small matters. Some school teacher because she goes into a Broad Street store; gets a little nervous and picks up something without paying can be suspended. It is always the junior ranks of the Service who seem to suffer.

We see that some departments are more expert than others. We have seen cases where one department shows $750, 000 more in Barclays Bank than is there and others which show that there is $250, 000 less than should be there. That is some complicated matter which I cannot analyse, but these things should not happen.

You talk about productivity in the Public Service and the necessity for Civil Servants to perform better, but unless an example is set from the top, they will not perform better. There are some officers who are known for their efficiency. I have heard that those in the Cabinet Office are an example of this. I have heard that this is an office from which you can get accounts out within the statutory time.

I am sure that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance who has a greater knowledge of the problems of public finance than anyone else here should lend his experience and take what measures are available to him as Head of Establishments, although the Public Service Commission is not responsible to him. Although that is so, he is the person who recommends their appointment and he should draw it to the attention of the Governor General and have him pursue this matter of discipline when necessary. The public of Barbados is not prepared to accept that there should be two years lateness in accounts in a small place like Barbados.

Rt. Hon. E. W, BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with nearly every word that the Leader of the Opposition has said. I cannot see why every afternoon they cannot strike a balance and by next morning have the figures for every department in the Government available. With our system it is not difficult. They have a vote book and they should know what money was spent. I do not understand what the problem is. 5.50 p.m.

The fact is that he really does not always give his friends in the newspapers — his newspapers friends- the right information so he just jumps to a conclusion and accuses the Minister but he understands where the problem is. I cannot sigh to pay money out of the Treasury but they have the vote books there to do what should be done but they just will not do anything more than draw their salaries at the end of the month. A certiain gentleman in here now said to me one day in respect of a certain Government Department that all of them should have gone home a long time ago, and that is how I feel about them too.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on Item 9. Sometime ago I raised a question in this Chamber about the Government providing a local market. Now when one looks at the sum of $550.00 which is allocated to purchase badges for boatmen and hawkers, I consider this an exercise of futility. First of all, I believe that hawkers do a worthwhile trade particularly when it comes to the scale and peddling of local handicraft, and I have asked before why must the Government go on making badges for the meagre sum

of sixty cents.

I called sometime ago for a local market into which the people of Barbados could go and sell their goods and foodstuff; I believe it would be some assistance in attracting revenue from the tourists, Again, it would give people an incentive to be involved in handicraft work when they know there is an area into which they can go and sell them. As it is now, we find people selling in Broad Street and the policemen wasting time to put somebody in court to make them pay $9.60.

I was recently in court in a case in which it was shown that the management of Half Moon Hotel has an idea that it has a private beach. It was a very unpleasent incident which was aired in the District "B" Court in which case it was given in the evidence that a watchman, or guard, attempted to drown three girls, and he said the management of the hotel did not like to see people selling curios on the hotel property and he gave instructions to throw diem off the beach, and he was convicted in the District "B" Magistrate's Court. The girls said he was trying to drown them. (ASIDES) It is absolutely true; this is absolutely true; and I contend that if we had a market in which people could make and sell their little bags or whatever is that they might have, they would not have to trespass on people's private property, because this was a serious incident and I promised the magistrate that I would raise it in Parliament.

The District "B" Court has it on record that the man said that the management of the hotel told him that if people were within a certain distance of the sea he must move them out of the sea, He was convicted before Magistrate Johnson in the District "B" Magistrate's Court and I hold that they should also have brought the management into court and give him seven days. I am not condoning any person trespassing on people's private property because I know if you do not want me at you, I am not coming, and, I think the Government should look into this matter.

Now when you talk about badges; the time which some civil servant or some clerk in some of the magistrate's court would have to spend writing up the sale of a badge, balance that time and the money involved, against the taxes which you can get from these people. I would like the Government to seriously look into this and consider setting up these local markets in the tourist area where people can go with their goods. I have seen in Trinidad and Britain where such markets are provided and I think it is time that if we talk about tourism we should seek to do something more positive and this is one of the ways in which we should seek to bring about some development. When you go to buy one of these badges in the out districts you find yourself in the same place as somebody who has gone to buy a licence for a motor car or a lorry, and the time spent in printing the books to write up receipts is not worth the problem put into it. As it is, we are making criminals out of people who are not criminals.

I was concerned in an instance in the District "A" Court when a man came in from the country and he was convicted after being involved in selling hats in Bridge Street. Now I consider this an unnecessary conviction, because if we had an area where he could go and sell his items he would not be convicted.

Again, I think such markets should operate in such a way that they are not restricted by the Shops Act which in my opinion is holding down this country, and I have called for a repeal of the Shops Act. I think our Shops Act is too restricted. There are some countries like Spain where on Sunday mornings you could go into specified areas and sell all sorts of things. If we are talking about trying to make money as result of people coming into the country, I think these are avenues which we should investigate. I believe we should develop the country in such a way that we give incentive to these people

who want to make a living. It comes back to labour statistics; you do not know what you have unless you give people an opportunity. Barbados has nothing to offer to tourist. If you go into Broad Street stores you see goods marked "made in Japan", or England or somewhere else. What are we making? We are producing badges. (ASIDE) You forget that you are the person who said you did not want a local market here? We are speaking about hawkers and badges. I want the people to be enlightened so that they can have an honoured profession.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I rise to deny that I ever said that I did not want any local market here. Anyway, that is by the way. .

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to remind the hon. member that about a year ago a Resolution came down for money for independence celebrations and when I raised the question as to whether the Government would consider providing local markets, the Minister who was in charge of the Resolution replied to me saying that he did not want a local market here.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I deny that. Nowhere in the records of this Chamber would you find any allegation like that in reference to me. The hon. member has a confused memory. At no time at all during any debate in this Chamber have I made any such statement. 6.00 p.m.

I would be mad to make such a statement. With regard to the Shops Act, the hon. member is not au fait with what is going on in the country, otherwise he would have known that a release had been made not so long ago to the effect that we would be amending the Act. We have already informed the Unions concerned that we propose to amend the Act.

The question that the sum of $158, 950 under Head 10 Accountant General — was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 PENSIONS

Head 11 —Pensions — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2, 362, 110 under Head 11 — Pensions — stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief on this matter. We have heard complaints that some pensioners have to wait for 18 months before receiving their pensions. It is disgraceful that it takes so long to compute a man's pension. The pensioner has no way of living unless he has money - other than by going to a Bank and borrowing money at a substantial rate of interest on overdrafts while waiting for his pension. It should not take any Department long to forward the necessary information regarding a pensioner to the Ministry of Finance. Some people seem to think that they are doing a favour to work out the pension for someone who has retired. I have seen that attitude in other things.

However, there is a large question than that outstanding. With regard to the $25 and $30 a month, the Prime Minister must understand that giving a flat-rate cost of living allowance, from time to time under pressure, is not the true answer in a time of galloping inflation. A man who retired from the Public Service 15 or 20 years ago -and there are many such persons — upon a salary based on $400 or $500 a month gets $25 or $30 more, but in the course of last year all of that has been entirely wiped out by the 25% increase which the Prime Minister calmly admits to the House. When certain Officers retired years ago, the cost of living was about one-third of what it is today, and it is all the more reason why pensioners should speak of their difficulties.

Mr. Chairman, I imagine that, if the Barbados Democratic Party continues in power for a very long time, unless something is done about it when we come to be pensioners we will find that the cost of living is taking care of our pensions. Even the $2, 400 a month which I look forwarded to receiving at an early date will be used up. I say that because we on this side believe that we should be working towards a National Pension Scheme. I am not saying that this is something can be done overnight. I am in favour of having one proper Pension Fund. Government pensions are non-contributory, but the National Insurance pensions are contributory. We should have the non-contributory element of the Government as well as the contributory element of the National Insurance. We should have a Pension Fund large enough that it could be operated in a manner to take care of the cost of living.

Mr Chairman, this business of managing the economy by means of inflation cannot go on for ever. In Russia the cost of living went up by 3%, and the Russians had to give up certain things. I believe that there is a general question of inflation which will be with us for a long time. The people with fixed incomes are the people who deserve most of our assistance, because they are the people who suffer most. All of us know that pensioners find it more and more difficult to make ends meet because of the inflated circumstances of the world around them.

Now, the present system of National Insurance is not good enough. There is an increase of $1 million under this vote, but I very much doubt whether this will be able to improve the standard of living of the pensioners. I am suggesting that the Government should try to work towards an overall National Pensions Scheme. It may not come during the lifetime of this Parliament or the next, but steps should be taken to do something about the matter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I want to get the record straight, because the hon. member was a member of this House when I stated on two separate and distinct occasions that I was working out a National Pension Scheme. He wants to get his speech in the newspaper, and he is getting on like Rip Van Winkle. I said that I have introduced something whereby Public Officers can go into the public sector and then come back in the Service, and that can only be done under a National Pensions Scheme that we are working on. Anything that is new will take 7% years before the civil servants in this country can get it going. It took me 61/2 years to get the Central Bank established, and I have been working on the Central Bank from 1966. 6.10 p.m.

I have been working on the Central Bank from 1966. On the national pension scheme I have had advice from some big insurance companies, I have had advice from Gambia and the taking over of the Port has taken me three years up to now, so I will have to come here .one morning with some kind of

thing written out saying this is the Act for taking over the Port because I will wait for another ten years. The national pension scheme is something I have been working on. We have 15, 000 Civil Servants, but when it comes to producing, unless you sit in your office at 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock in the morning and write out something or use a dictaphone or tapes like Mr. Nixon, you would never get anything done because if you give them tapes they would do a split tackle with the tapes and the whole thing gets wiped out. You have to do everything in your own hand writing and work long hours to get anything done in Barbados. Getting money out of the Treasury to pay salaries is no problem. A cost of living bonus you can get in 75 minutes for the whole public service, but if you want to project any new image in this economy here, you take 71/2 years. That is my experience. I just want to get it on the record that we have been working on a national pension scheme, because that is the only way you can recruit people from the private sector and let them come in, I just want to say that the $75 cost of living rate that we give pensioners from time to time is not the best way, but we do not know of a better way, for the simple reason that the people who are at the top who are getting a salary of $400 do not like offering Mr. Greaves down in Martin's Bay who comes under Item 7 $1, 500. He was getting $8, so when he got $75 he was getting $83. He was working on the railway. A man who is drawing $400 woud be getting over $250 as a pension and I cannot see the justification of giving him a proportionate increase which would give a man $400 a month which was more than that person would work for and Lisle Greaves would get only a 30% increase which would take his $8 to a little over $10 after all these years instead of the $83 he was getting when he died, because the railway pension was only $8. It is all right to say it is not good enough to give a lump sum, but can you tell me a fairer method of compensating a person like that? A percentage increase in pension only perpetuates a class distinction which distinguishes people at the bottom rung of the ladder from the people at the top. When you give a man working for $900 a 30%, you give him $300, and you only give Lisle Greaves $2 and bring him to $10, and they want to tell me that my method of giving everybody the same amount of $25 and $30 to everybody is not the fairest method. If they can show me a better method I would be glad to implement it, but as far as I am concerned I have examined every procedure whereby we can give effective increase to the cost of living and have come to the conclusion that this method is the fairest to all concerned because the man at the bottom gets something which makes him able to cope better with the exigencies of this life.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I do not want to speak at length on this, but the Prime Minister has adverted to the fact that it took over seven years to get the Central Bank going and three years to get the Port taken over, and it has taken him a long time for various things done, but when it comes to Civil Servants' salaries they get them quickly. It leaves me to wonder what is happening in Barbados and if the Government is really running the country or the Civil Service are running the Government. Week after week we hear complaints about Civil Servants. If they are so bad — I do not know if they are bad — if they are so indifferent, I would like to ask the Prime Minister what steps he is going to take to remedy the situation, because it seems rather obvious that the Civil Service is a big sector, and if this is so, what is the Prime Minister going to do in this situation?

The question that the sum of $2, 362, 110 under Head 11 — Pensions, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division,

HEAD 13 - CUSTOMS Head 13 - Customs - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chariman, I beg to move that the sum of $273, 156 under Head 13 - Customs — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, quite recently in this Chamber we had certain accusations made against the Comptroller of Customs. Now I did not join in the condemnation of the gentleman whoever he is that holds the post, and what I would like to say under Customs.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
On a point of order, I would like to read the Standing Order which I had promised His Honour the Speaker I would draw to his attention. This is in respect of the remarks being made by the hon. member for St. Joseph. It is Standing Order 28 No. 10.

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

(b) Any member who desires to refer in debate to the character or conduct of any person in his official capacity must deliver to the Speaker written prior notice of the proposed reference; the notice must set out the facts on which such reference will be based and must be signed by the Member giving it."

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, a lot of people in the country where I was born and raised usually talk about gallows baits. If the Prime Minister wants to bait the Comptroller of Customs or wants to talk about him, I do not want to talk about him. The Prime Minister is unaware of what is happening. He should have been in here last week when his own members attacked the Comptroller of Customs and read that to them, not to me. It looks as if the Prime Minister has to hold night school for his members, What I said and will repeat is that last week there were some grave remarks made against the Comptroller of Customs in this Chamber, I did not join in them.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
On a point of order, the hon. member may be correct to a certain point, but when he is going to quote something he should quote the entire matter. The Ministry of Finance has granted certain concessions to boat owners and it was not clear that the boat owners were complying with the regulations.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am not prepared to accept that. That has already passed this Chamber and all hon. members voted then on it. 6.20 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:
They want to get at the Comptroller of Customs, but you will not get at him through me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There is no one in here who wants to get at the Comptroller of Customs.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, what I want to say is this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would like hon. members to look at standing Order 28(4) which states "It shall be out of order to reflect on any vote of the House or attempt to reconsider any specific matter upon which the Hbuse has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for recission." Therefore, that matter is closed. The hon. member may proceed on Head 13.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I will leave Head 13 for another day.

The question that the sum of $273, 156 under Head 13 — Customs — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 - DEPARTNENT OF INLAND REVENUE

Head 14 — Department of Inland Revenue — was called.

Rt. Hon. E.W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $41, 406 under Head 14 - Department of Inland Revenue - stand part of the Schedule.

In moving this Head I would like to say that there have been certain difficulties with die new income tax form which should be resolved by now. In reply to what someone asked me a few days ago, I should like to say that there are officers in the Inland Revenue Department who are there to assist the general public in making out their returns, so do not think that we need to have any store-front, advertisements setting out a fee for getting this done, because we will assist the general public, and as far as I am aware the forms are available.

Hon. C.E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I would say this very briefly. I know there are people employed to assist the general public in making but their returns there are other people who are not there to assist the general public in making out returns but they assist them.0 The Department of Inland Revenue is full of tax experts as far as I am concerned, but the only thing is this. I know it is a very small vote, and a tremendous job is done in Inland Revenue with the resources at the Commissioners command, but I hope all of the officers are like Caesar's wife, above reproach, and confining the making out of returns to the desks provided at the Department of Inland Revenue for that purpose, and never on any account allow anyone to believe that persons who help make out returns also have something to do with vetting them after they are made out. It is a Department which is full of persons whose severity is tempered by what I observe as a very keen sense of contempt. I know some officers handle the taxpayers very roughly, but when the interest of the

revenue and indeed the interest of the taxpayers are at issue certain procedure are involved. I mention that as a warning and I hope it will be passed on to anyone concerned, and I do not mean the Prime Minister. In exactly the same way as the Prime Minister has asked members of the public and the Magistrates not to have conversations about forthcoming cases, I would suggest that it is one of the worst possible things to have any discussion with the taxpayer about, whether it be a politician, a member of this House or anybody else relating to his tax problems, other than perhaps in the comfort of your own parlour giving advice.

It is true that the Prime Minister has asked, informally, members of this House to discuss tax problems with him, and I believe that all persons must be extremely careful not to go beyond the formal atmosphere to discuss tax problems.

This Department has a total expenditure of $649, 587. I do not know if there is any individual taxpayer who pays as much as that, but there are many taxpayers who pay over $100, 000 which means that the ten top taxpayers are alone contributing to the Tax Department. We owe it to these officers to give them a proper staff so they do not have to depend on, the Attorney General's Department to keep them waiting for weeks, months and years perhaps before giving an opinion. I know of a matter in the Attorney General's Department which took a very long time, and that was 33 years ago. I am suggesting that if the Prime Minister finds the money to spare in the fullness of time that he makes sure that the Inland Revenue Department has the services of a legal officer. If possible, employ some Attorneys-at-law on a six month contract, give them three cases to audit, pay them well for the six months to bring in perhaps $80, 000 or $100, 000 in taxes that might not otherwise be collected, but perhaps the Department is satisfied that it can manage at present, but I am suggesting it needs its own legal advisers.

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue and his predecessor, admirable men, are not lawyers and they deserve more instant guidance and assistance sometimes than I think they are getting at the present time. It is a Department that we in the Opposition never criticise, and I do not recall at any time we had any serious complaints about. It predates this Government, our Government and the Conservative Government. This is one thing that independence, trial and turmoil have not changed for the worse. I am only too glad to exempt the officials of that Department from any strictures against the army of occupation to which the Prime Minister refers occasionally.

Mr. FORDE:

Sir, I think I would like to advert to Item 8 - Legal Expenses and the increase which it is anticipated will occur during this year in relation to the Tax Appeal Board, especially under sections 60 and 61 of the Income Tax Act, 1968. I think the fact that last year there is no actual figure shown is due to the fact that there has been a delay in getting appeals heard, some of which had been pending for a considerable time before this Board. 6.30 p.m.

There have been problems occasionally confronting the Board in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Tax Appeal Board has other duties which took him quite frequently outside of Barbados. I anticipate that in the coming year there will be many more appeals before the Board and there are some which have been pending for a considerable time and which need to be adjudicated.

I believe that the delay has also been caused by the fact that in the Attorney General's Department there are only two officers who specialise in tax matters to any extent. One is now an acting judge and

the other has just returned from a course on Immigration. Taxation is a specialised matter. It is more difficult when appeals are long standing especially when tax legislation does not deprive the Treasury from getting the full amount. Under the Local Government Act one did not have to pay where there was an appeal pending. In this case some taxpayers feel that they should have rapid adjudication since they have already paid their money.

Another point that I want to raise is one which has already been raised dealing with the Department of Civil Aviation. The attachment of a Senior Crown Counsel to that department has led to an improvement in matters dealing with Civil Aviation. Perhaps the Minister of Finance could adopt this and have more specialises officers dealing with the Tax Department in order to speed up the work of the department. I do not think that the Prime Minister needs any convincing about the neccessity of making the profession of tax gatherers as honourable a one as any other profession. Indeed, he gave a lecture on this point at the last gathering of tax people from the Caribbean as a whole, and I think that we should have a sensible approach to this subject.

I think that this year $9 million will derive from taxation and of that $8 million will come from Income Tax, and then there is the increase in hotel tax. I think that after Customs this is one of the biggest revenue collecting sections in the whole of the Government apparatus.

It seems to me that those who formerly set up the establishment of the Civil Service in the old colonial days did not look at this department as they should have looked. Avenues for promotion should be there, and the posts should carry in some instances a much higher grading than they have. May I say that this is one of the Departments of Government that I have heard people say that they can go to and be met by a receptionist who at least knows how to address the public in a good manner, and that there is generally speaking co-operation from the officers of this department. I trust that this aspect of the department will continue.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, there are two points I want to make. The first is that I would like to see the Prime Minister revise the income tax structure as far as money paid to domestics is concerned. I am of the view that this should be taken into account because they form an important part of the labour force. If this is done, income tax payers would be able to pay their domestics better. I hope that provision would be made in future that this can be a legitimate expense. The other point concerns the House of Assembly. I am a taxpayer, and I have to have my income tax deducted. I have to spend a little time on my own checking my income tax returns. I do not get any privileges from the Income Tax Department. What I am saying is that I have not got my slip yet from the House of Assembly. I understand that there is a surcharge if you are late in paying. I would like to see something done as regards the receiving of Income Tax slips from the House of Assembly. This is the latest that I have received and I am wondering what has gone wrong, I hope that the Prime Minister will see that people get their Income Tax return slips in time so that they can make the appropriate returns.

The question that the sum of $49, 406 under Head 14 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15(1) - CABINET 6FFICE Head 15(1) - Cabinet Office was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, there is a correction which I would like to make. The sum of $3, 600 under Item 8, Compensation should be deleted and the sum of $8, 600 inserted. So, under Total Expenditure it will be $612, 439.

I beg to move that Head 15 (1) as amended stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. M0TTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I think that the amendment made by the Prime Minister is under the Item of Compensation, and that is an item with which I want to deal. 6.40 p.m.

I think that the time has come when the Government should seriously give thought to paying compensation to certain persons who were injured in the course of certain activities. I believe the time has come when the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force who have been injured in the course of their duties should be given compensation.

There are two cases the case of the man who was shot by Dr. Rat and the case of P.C. Ashby who had his hand amputated. I do not know if the man who was shot by Dr. Rat got compensation.

I would like also to raise the question of persons assisting the police when the policemen are executing their duties; persons who are injured under such circumstances should be paid compensation, and persons who are injured in the course of dangerous activities by the Police or other public servants should also be paid compensation,

Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise the question of ex gratia payment, and the Government should take into consideration the case of Mr. Boyce who was shot while passing along Barbarees Hill as a most unfortunate incident. He died, I believe, leaving a family, and I hope the Government would investigate the possibility of making some sort of ex gratia payment to the family of Mr. Boyce who died in the Barbarees Hill incident when the police officer ran amock, I believe it is also a question of considering the young person — Jordan's daughter — who was injured as result of the shooting which went on, and it is believed that she was injured by a police bullet. I feel also that she should be compensated. I think she is blind in one eye, and I would like to urge on the Government the possibility of investigating these matters to ensure that both Jordan's daughter and the family of Arthur Boyee receive some sort of compensation.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, before the Prime Minister replies I would like to say that with regard to what the hon. member has said, I share his views. In my maiden speech twenty nine years ago, I raised a similar question when a prisoner got away from Glendairy Prison and ran amock. I said on that occasion that I felt that though the victim at that time was not a person who merited some concession by the Government, they should be given some sort of compensation. However, the legal authorities in the Government gave reason why the Government could not hold itself responsible after such action, but I do feel that today our social conscience has been removed from those days of 1945, and I am sure the

circumstances, moreso especially the one the hon. member mentioned of Timothy Boyce who met his death in very unfortunate circumstances merit consideration. This could have happened to the Prime Minister. He could have been passing and the same tragedy occur, and that would be a national tragedy, but it could happen to anyone of us. Many people pass along Barbarees Hill during their lunch hour and this could be the person's lunch hour when this incident occurred, and I feel that in these circumstances the Government, without persuasion, must look at this matter and show us some social manifestation. I am sure it would redound to the credit of this Government if the Government go on record as showing not sympathy in words but sympathy in tangible form in these present circumstances. I know the Government has helped in other areas which were not as deserving as this.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear what has been said by hon. members on this matter, and I would like to assure the hon. member who raised the matter that members of this Chamber together with the Chief Welfare Officer and members of the Social Welfare Department have been giving attention to these two cases. I would like to point out that they are trying to assess the extent of what would be needed. The matter is being pursued by the Social Welfare Department and the Chief Welfare Officer and as soon as a total assessment and a total needs of the two families have been made, I will be in a position to draw this to the Cabinet and a reasonable grant would be made eventually for assisting these people.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe we have reached the point in development where we should consider the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act which has now become prevelant in most developing countries. Once you have a conscience and realize that a person has become injured in any circumstances as referred to by previous speakers, some assistance should be given by way of compensation because we must appreciate that you may be in your house and somebody may break into your house and injure you.

Quite recently we had cases of rape which appeared before the court and a few years ago there were instances of bag-snatching in which people were injured. While we know that the offenders have paid their penalty in many cases, when it comes to the civil side, what we find is that in most of these cases the culprit is a man of straw and therefore if anything may be recovered it may be recovered over a long period and it might not be fit for the injuries which the injured person might have suffered and this person might merely find himself to be the victim of misfortune. I know that the English Act makes provision for £5, 000 and I know that a Board is set up to assess the injuries and the compensation which should be made from the Treasury funds to the victim. 6.50 p.m.

As the Hon. Minister of Health has said, the Social Welfare Department has worked on one or two cases. This is not, in my. opinion, a case for the Social Welfare Department, and some sort of provision should be set aside to take care of certain things. For instance, let us take the case of the girl who has lost her sight. God knows how long she will live, or what assistance will have to be given to her. It will be necessary for her to have special training. For the time being she will need special domestic assistance, and we do not know what will happen to her later. These are cases where lump-sum payments should be awarded. We should leave the Social Welfare Department to deal with day-to-day cases.

Let us take the case of the policeman who lost a hand. At District "B" Police Station a man was massacred, and I understand that he had trouble to get something from the Police Department. I am sure he did not get adequate compensation, because it was said that he was still employed. There should be

an Assessment Board comprised of a Government Medical Officer and somebody from the Government. I should like the Government to amend the Act along those lines, so that victims of the atrocities would have some sort of compensation provided for them by the State rather than leaving the matter to people of straw.

Mr. Chairman, I should also like to deal with Item 7 — Conferences and Delegations. The Prime Minister spoke at length on this matter. I hope that, when Government Officers go abroad to attend conferences, there will be somebody left in the office to carry on the work. Quite recently those of us who deal with Government Departments have found that when you telephone a Government Department you will be told: "The Permanent Secretary is out of the Island, and we cannot do anything for you until he returns." This sort of thing has retarded the progress of the country as well as the volume of work which should be produced by the Department, Whenever I telephone a Department and I am told "Mr. X is out of the country. Call back next week."I always ask the person what would be the position if Mr. X dropped dead. There seems to be no continuity of work in the Government Departments.

Mr. Chairman, quite recently I was dealing with a matter in a Government Department, and I was told that I would have to wait until the Permanent Secretary returned from the United States of America. If the Permanent Secretary has gone away with a delegation, then there should be somebody in the Department who is capable of carrying on the work instead of leaving everything to wait until he comes back. It seems to me that certain Permanent Secretaries hold up certain aspects of their work and nobody else can deal with it. I will have to say something further on this when we come to deal with the Town and Country Planning Department. When you make an application to that Department and you telephone an officer to ask about it, you will be told that you have to wait until Mr. X comes in. When he comes in, he may tell you that an investigation is going on and you have to wait. When a certain Head of a Department was in Jamaica, I was told that I could do nothing until he returned and that when he returned he would be going away for two weeks. I should like the Prime Minister to see to it that some provision is made for the continuity of the work in these Departments when officers are out of the Island.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that the Social Welfare Department was carrying out certain investigations regarding Jordan's two children. Is it a question of giving the boy and girl a lump sum. of money?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I believe that the Social Welfare Department will make a suitable recommendation.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, there is a slight increase in the vote for Conferences and Delegations, and I do not want to delay the proceedings by stressing the necessity for economy even under this Head of Government expenditure. The point I should like to make on this Item is that very frequently Ministers of Government go abroad to Conferences that we consider very important to the country, and this Parliament is sometimes at a loss to know the outcome of the negotiations or discussions. Whilst I appreciate the fact that there are certain aspects of the business conducted at these Conferences which cannot be immediately disclosed, for instance, the Prime Minister may be discussing with his colleagues matters of defence, and for certain reasons the House may not be given all of the information on that

matter. On the other hand, this House would not want to know about the day-to-day outcome of routine matters. It is true to say that the House as a whole, certainly during die period of time that I have been here, has very infrequently had any significant Reports from Ministers who have attended Conferences or discussions of importance to this country.

Sir, I can think of things like External Affairs and the Trade Negotiations regarding the E.C.C. I think that very limited statements came from the Government in relation to pur position in the E.C.C. I think the Prime Minister has reported rather tentatively on the Heads of Government Conferences, and I am asking the Government to use Parliament as a means of disseminating information regarding some of these Conferences. The Minister of Communications and Works has just returned from a Regional Conference on communication within the Caribbean. This deals with the question of transporting people as well as goods within the area, and we should be told about these things, The Prime Minister has just made a visit to Venezuela and Brazil, and he did not go there merely to witness the inauguration of the Presidents. He must have discussed the question of oil for Barbados and things in other fields of similar significance. 7 p.m.

We should like to hear in this House statements being made. I have on many occasions had to garnish from the radio the odd press release and statement made to the press as to what has been discussed and what is happening, but I think this House is entitled to know some of the outcome of some of these conferences, and I am appealing to the Government to occasionally have ministerial statements made to the House, and perhaps if we could institute a set system of Question Time, sometimes Ministers could make themselves available for oral questioning rather than having to set down questions for a long period of time and wait for weeks and months before we get an answer on the matter so that the House and the country at large can be informed of what is happening at such conferences.

The question that the sum of $612, 439 under Head 15(1) Cabinet Office - as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 (2) - GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Head 15 (2) - Government Printing Office — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $274, 531 under Head 15(2) — Government Printing Office, 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 16(1) - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Head 16(1) -Prime Minister's Office, was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, there is a correction under Item 9. Delete figure "480" under Column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "1, 480".

I beg to move that the sum of $285, 461 under Head 16 (1) — Prime Minister's Office — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that under Item 16 there is a token vote for the establishment of a memorial to the late Sir Grantley Adams. I think this Committee will

This is the system of Government which the Prime Minister has conducted for the last two or three years. We had it in the hotel strike for instance, and now it is said that the oil crisis was solved by his going to Venezuela.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order. I never said anything like that. I said that we are now getting 98 per cent of our amount. I said this morning that I called in people and said that I saw no justification in a small country like Barbados for a cut back in supplies. There is no question of taking credit for anything. The hon. member is always calling on me to make a statement on this or that or the other, and when I tell him the truth he accuses me of taking credit for something. I do not run my Government by the newspaper.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Prime Miniver has retreated from any suggestion that there was a crisis which he has solved The Prime Minister has now agreed that he has not solved anything, but has said what the Opposition has said. Formerly I was warned about the Prime Minister producing the figure 7. The figure 98 is seven times multiplied by two.

The Prime Minister has no justification in saying that we are getting 98 per cent of our supplies. Since the so called fuel crisis there has been one tanker coming to Barbados which brought the normal supply of fuel and another tanker was due this month. This 98 per cent is only phony.

What has really happened is this. I want the Prime Minister to listen if he wants to. He has made a number of small errors. If you read the OAS reports you will see that the December report said that members of the OAS other than the USA need have no fear of an oil crisis.

Point No. 2 is that oil companies all over the world in a moment of panic, thinking that they had to safeguard supplies to the USA sent out circulars about cut backs. The Barbados Light and Power Company panicked twice. Senator Taitt panicked and many motor car owners also panicked and they were queues at gasolene stations. We had a similar situation sometime ago when there was no rise in price allowed on gasolene and stations rose in strike against the Government and we had stations opened for limited hours and we had long queues then. The situation was that you could not get gasolene before

you got to work on mornings and the stations were closed before you got back home on evenings.

It does not need any preaching or any word from the Prime Minister that except for the USA there was no real oil crisis. Figures published by countries in Western Europe showed that it was the USA which suffered from the impact of the cut back.

Now, this being so, it is clear to thinking people that tsudng into account the OAS report, and the fuel supplied by the tanker which arrived here in January, that the short fall has been absorbed by the USA. So it is clear to all that there has been no energy crisis except in the USA.

We have been saying so in here. There has been absolute nonseiise such as drive 20 miles an hour and you will save more gasolene than if you drive at 30 miles per hour. We copy these Slogans automatically without understanding the reason behind them.

The Light and Power Company increased their rates and we had the Public Utilities Board saying that it was a good thing. We had the Light and Power Company panicking about reducing the current we use. We had the Minister of Communications and Works talking about reducing water consumption. I do not believe in doing things through the back door, but on this occasion I had to admire the Minister of Communications and Works. The use of our water supply is a sore point with the Waterworks Department, and I appreciate that the Minister has tried to use the opportunity to save water by means of the power cut back.

The Minister of Trade has not been heard of since the Prime Minister came back. If he has been responsible for that, I commend him. The Government was running around like a chicken with its head cut off and could find no justification for finding that there was an oil crisis. 7.30 p.m.

We have said in here, Mr. Chairman, that only things that are said about the Prime Minister are reported to him, but useful contributions to debates do not get reported to him.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say one or two things more. Nobody is a prophet to have predicted that the price of petrol would have gone up, but the fact is that the producers of oil have been able to increase the price. We cannot blame anyone if the drivers in Barbados have decided that the best place for the Island's gasolene reserves is in their tanks — in the tanks of their motor cars — the first price increase came quickly and the second also came quickly, so it is not surprising if people have decided to keep the gasolene in the tanks of their cars and so we find numerous motor cars are driving around and that everybody have decided to secure petrol despite the sudden increase in price.

The oil crisis has caused driers to queue up at gasolene stations and I can assure the Prime Minister that whatever steps the Government takes in order to remedy the situation, it will get the support of the Opposition.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the Mobil Oil Refinery monopoly is not to the advantage of Barbados. The Government should review the monopoly which Mobil has for refining oil, and if it is found to be unsatisfactory to Barbados, the Opposition will support the Government in having another refinery established.

The question that the sum of $286, 461 under Head 16(1) — Prime Minister's Office — as amended, stand part of the Schedule — 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 progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 10.30 tomorrow, 19th March, 1974.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 7.40 p.m.

On resumption -

Mr. SPEAKER:
When the sitting was suspended last evening the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 16(2) - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE -CIVIL AVIATION

Head 16(2) - Prime Minister's Office ~ Civil Aviation — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1, 465, 341 under Head 16(2) - Prime Minister's Office - Civil Aviation — stand part. I think that hon. members have been given a lot of information on what is going on at the Airport. We had a published statement in the Press which gave full information on the background so far as the Airport Development Project is concerned, and I know that the majority of members here are au fait with what we are trying to do. It is known that Barbados depends on tourism.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to differ from the Leader of the House in respect of his statement that the majority of members here are aware of what is going on at the Airport. I have already spoken about Government Ministers making statements in the Press rather than in Parliament. We are supposed to represent the people, but Ministers will call a Press Conference and they do not have the common decency to tell the Opposition about it. I am sorry the Minister of Information is not here, because he seems to think that he is a God unto himself. He calls a Press Conference about eleven o'clock, and he does not have the decency to ask the Opposition to attend. The only way the members on this side can know what is going on is when we read the contents of the biased report in the Advocate, and this is put over C.B.C.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday you had reporters in this House. They reported the Prime Minister's condemnation of lawyers in the Court, but they . have not had the decency to report the reply to the Prime Minister. When I hear the Press and C.B.C. talking about the Independence of the Press and so on, I sit down and laugh at them. We want a new Press Act to put all of them in jail.

Now, the Minister of Information said in here that he could not give any information about the Airport because there was going to be a big-scale model of the Airport. There are questions on the Order Paper regarding the Airport, but up to now we have not received any answers. How can the Minister say that the majority of members in here know what is going on at the Airport? A year ago the Minister said that he would give us a model and we would be able to see what is going on at the Airport. The Airport looks the same way as it was two years ago. Policemen are complaining about sleeping conditions up there; the Control Tower Officers are complaining about what is taking place at the Airport and so on. Where is the Statement on the Airport? Where is the published Statement to show us what is going on at the Airport? When something suits a particular Minister it is printed in the Press.

With regard to the maintenance of buildings, it is very difficult for one to analyse the Estimates because there is this fantastic, major development taking place at Seawell. On the other hand the things which people have been asking for all of these years have been put off by saying that the Airport is being developed. I should like the Minister responsible to make a Statement on the Airport, or to lay a policy Statement in this House so that the Opposition will know what is going on.

Mr. GREAVES:

On the question of civil aviation, within the last couple of months we have been hearing of plans which the Government has for building another Airport in St. Lucy. As a matter of fact, this matter was mentioned on the Floor of this House some time ago. I was looking through the Development Plan 1973—77 to see whether mention was made of this proposal, but it does not seem to be in the book. I think it would be in order for us to know the position of this development, whether the Government still has it in mind to put down a runway in St. Lucy, or whether it has decided to scrap the proposal. At least, I think the people in St. Lucy and everybody in Barbados would like to know the true position about this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, I think this a matter of importance in the context of development, and I hope that some light can be thrown on it, not only for the benefit of the people in St. Lucy, but for the people throughout the length and breadth of Barbados.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in so far as the remarks of the last speaker is concerned, I think many of us will know that certain areas of land, or plantations, were acquired quite recently in St. Lucy for many purposes, and this is one of the purpose which the Government has in mind.

With regard to the Training Centre for Pilots, Trinidad will be doing the training, and training will no longer be done here.

Certain lands and properties have been acquired for the setting up of at least another runway in order to avoid the inconvenience which we have experienced in the past. Our life-line depends on tourism, and we must have more than one runway. We once had an accident here, and we would not like to see a recurrence. The hon. member should have no fear in that certain plans are still afoot to establish a runway in his constituency in St. Lucy.

In so far as the hon. member for St. Joseph is concerned, he spoke of lack of information. I must say that, in the Prime Minister's absence, the fullest information was given by the Department which controls Civil Aviation. In truth and in fact, I had a lot of information here but I was denied the opportunity of giving it. However, all the plans and information relating to Seawell International Airport did appear in the newspaper. We mentioned the loan of $10 million by the Canadian Government for the development of Seawell International Airport in this Parliament.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I should like the Minister to tell me when the plan appeared in the newspaper, and when were they divulged in this Chamber.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister's Permanent Secretary is the man who sees after these matters apart from the Prime Minister himself. I took it upon myself to give the fullest explanation of the Airport Development Programme. 10.40 a.m.

I was so happy that he did it because the main thing is that he did it in a proper way so that the public was aware of what was going on at the airport.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, the Hon. Leader of the House must not try to put over these accusations. This is Parliament; this is the Chamber that votes money or gives approval to the Government to do certain things. Nothing has been laid in this House and I am complaining about the disrespect to this Chamber.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
That is not a point of order; that is a point of interruption.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would like hon. members to understand that I must decide what is a point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, all I am trying to say is that I gave a certain amount of information in here and we had a full account and statement of the entire thing; in other words, something which would enlighten the

public as to entirely what is going on at Seawell in the last year, and it was given to the press the next day. To say every time Civil Aviation comes up that the public is not aware of what is happening up there is not correct. It was given a full disclosure in a debate we had in here around November. The Prime Minister is here now and if he wants to hear him on that he will give it chapter and verse.

Mr. ADAMS:

I thought the hon. member for Christ Church West had caught your eye first. Civil Aviation and the airport at which as much has been spent or will be spent as was spent on the Harbour, the work has been through many vicissitudes, the story of a second airport nownot to be I gather from the Leader of the House, an airport that has been in the public eye and the Leader of the House.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I did not say "not to be"; I said now will be. I said that we had realised the necessity of establishing another runway on the Island and the Minister of Civil Aviation has devised ways and means of establishing it so that we will not be inconvenienced in the future. There will be another runway and certain lands and property were acquired for that specific purpose, and some of the land is earmarked for that purpose.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I wonder if I could in order to shorten this debate speak at this point. The question of an air training centre was an original Barbados proposal and then all the Caribbean countries on the literal coasts as well as the islands got together, Surinam, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Associated States and Jamaica at one stage and had a meeting in Mexico under the sponsorship of the IADB. It was the firm conclusion of all the experts that the best place to have the training centre would be in Barbados, but we had made our plans for training in Barbados even prior to that because we felt there was a requirement of the Caribbean and instead of sending people to the United States and England for various aspects of air service training it should be done in the Caribbean/This meeting took place in Mexico last year. The Director of Civil Aviation for the Associated States arrived late. The post of Director of Civil Aviation was then vacant in Trinidad, and the Director of Civil Aviation for the Associated States is a Trinidadian and he went to Trinidad and was two days late for the meeting and when he arrived at the meeting after all the rest of the conference had decided that Barbados would be the correct place, with all the proxy votes from the Associated States and Trinidad and by a fairly narrow majority, it was decided that the training centre should be Waller Field. It is still the opinion of all the experts including Barbados that this is the most inappropriate because it is directly in the flight line of the international Airport at Piarco. We have gone along with the decision because it does not cost us a lot of money but at the same time we had already purchased Springhall Group of estates for agricultural extension services and so on also to be sponsored by IADB. That was 1, 700 acres of land and out of this land 75 acres have been allocated and reserved for the alternate runway in the north of the Island, quite independent of the air services training for which we have actually designed the buildings and everything else and which I still think, despite the regional centre which is projected for Trinidad and for which a Managing Director has already been appointed that we are going to need air service training in Barbados. We already have more sophisticated and better equipment than they have anywhere in the Caribbean, including Venezuela and Columbia, and it is a question of 75 acres of 1, 700 acres being earmarked for the new runway which will be able to take inter-island crafts as well as private aircraft, and that is the position at the moment. I did not want ot say too much because of the Caricom Agreement which was being signed around the same time in Chaguaramas, and I did not express my full opinion against the manoeuvrings that went

on, but I know that all these things will come to nought because it is against all the laws of co monsense that the centre should be located in Trinidad.

I do not want to say anything more at this state, but I should like to emphasise the additional runway in St. Lucy would not depend upon the establishment there of the regional training centre, because we think that there is a requirement for opening up the north of the Island, and we think there is a requirement for an alternate runway in case of any major accident as happened with Pan American when the Airport was closed for two days because one aircraft went off the runway and we lost substantial sums of money in our landing fees and other charges at the Airport.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to the matter of Seawell Airport from the information point of view.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member for St. Thomas was speaking.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, you can treat what I said about the Airport as a question which the Prime Minister has answered. I will speak later.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman. I did not recognise that fact. From the Government Information Service point of view, the information services issued a release on October 25, 1973, through a spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office concerning development at Seawell Airport. This release was approximately five pages long and gave in great detail development which is taking place and which will take place at Seawell. This was reproduced in part by the Advocate News. It is numbered 1026 of 1973, and since I have not heard to the contrary I assume that the Shadow Minister of Information, the hon. member for Christ Church West is still getting all the Government Information releases as it was arranged, and therefore I am sure he will be able to give his colleagues the fullest information regarding Seawell Airport.

With reference to the model which I referred to, and which the hon. member for St. Joseph mentioned, clearly we cannot do that until the plans are completely finalised, and I am quite certain that once these plans are finalised, the Minister of Civil Aviation will have a statement to make concerning the new development of Seawell in the long term.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Before the hon. member makes his speech, this is what I complain about. The hon. member in his speech said that these plans were finalised and he was just trying to get a model made and would make a pronouncement to Parliament. Now he says the plans are not yet finalised. 10.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member in his speech said that those plans were finalised and he was trying to

get a model made and that he would make an announcement to Parliament, but now he is saying that the plans finalised are not finished.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, that is not a fact. I did not say that the plans were finalised, I could not possibly say that the plans were finalised. I know they were not finalised and at this present moment I do not know because that is a matter for the Minister of Civil Aviation.

Mr. ADAMS:

I do enjoy when the hon. member for Christ Church North Central rises with insincerity blazing from his eyes to contradict the hon. member for St. Joseph. The fact about the plans ; surely is that we were asked to approve a Canadian loan and we did not then have an idea of what the development plans for Seawell Airport were. Whether it was given to the Advocate-News after we kicked up a fuss, whether the Government Information Service is sending the releases to the correct Shadow Minister or not;, the point is that we did not have the plans before us for Seawell when we were asked to vote the money.

I want to deal with Item 17 - Cleaning. Why is this being increased by $35, 560? To my mind the area has been increased no doubt by 70%.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The hon. member will be well aware that a public contract has to be entered into and undertaken to observe the Labour Clauses Contract Act. That was an ILO Convention which was implemented in Barbados, but it was not less favourable to those in similar occupations and so on. Since the contract the wages have gone up by at least 40%, and in addition to that there has been considerable expansion of the arrival hall, the main departure hall where the airlines keep their passengers waiting most of the time, but all this extension has been considerable. I cannot remember the area but it must be at least half the length, if not two-thirds, of this Chamber and all this has happened since.

We have also taken the Meteorological Officers there and all this has happened since the original contract was entered into.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I hope that with the increase you will now get some clean lavatories, a floor free from bits of paper and the general mess which I have observed during the currency of the present contract. The Prime Minister with his very close contacts with the contractor will not be unaware that the contractor has had numerous labour difficulties, and will also not be unaware that the contractor himself..... (Asides). The cases are in court and the Prime Minister should know about some of

them.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The only reports I have is that I have insisted that every day the Airport Manager should make an inspection tour of the entire airport and write in about any complaints which he receives and they must be signed by the contractor so that he cannot say he did not know about them. The internal difficulties the contractor has is no concern of mine, we are only concerned about how he carries out the contract.

Mr. ADAMS:

The Prime Minister should be aware that the contractor himself has complained of finding that some of his employees are not persons up to the standard he had hoped, and yet other persons were saying the contract was being carried on by persons who could not be entrusted with the airport. I am not aware that any former persons engaged at the airport had ever had any difficulties with the law. Certainly the standard of the airport cleaning in the eyes of many members of the public leaves something to be desired, and it would be most undesirable if unknown to the contractor he was to discover that some of his employees are not only robbing him but also seeming to rob passengers, airlines or whatever at the airport. It would be a most undesirable circumstance if our airport should now get into the same position as the Port when it comes to the allegations of slippage of cargo.

Inspection Services. I daresay the Minister for Tourism and Information can throw some light upon this, seeing he is always ready with a plaster for every sore whether it fits or not. He could perhaps tell us who was responsible for telling the Press and the airlines concerned that they could safely bring jumbo jets down here, that the passengers would be inspected in flight and that there would be no waiting at the airport, and allowed the airlines to go ahead and bring down these jumbo jets at the same time when the airport was trying to look after other visitors, so that the North American visitors fresh from the Canadian winter had to spend so many hours at the airport waiting to get pass the Health and Immigration desks. This is most disgraceful and it is the more disgraceful when the Ministry which is responsible for Tourism is also responsible for information and could not warn the carriers, passengers or the newspapers that the promise to have inspection services in flight could not be fulfilled. It was a shocking thing, it attracted the newspapers and it went on for so long that there was time even for the Advocate-News to get photographs upon the occasion of the landing of a jumbo charter.

Inspection Services now has a vote, but the persons concerned should never have been misled into thinking that inspection would have been carried out on the aeroplane and the passengers would not have had to wait when they arrived. I have been up there and actually clocked the Immigration Officers at work, but you cannot blame any of them, they only go by instructions, and the amount of time that the three Immigration desks take to deal with people who are not going to be refused entry is appalling. That is the point. 11.00 a.m.

These are just the people who could easily pass through because their documents are in order. It could take 30 or 40 seconds or just over a minute in some instances. It is not London Airport with people signing certificates as to the truth of what they say and a check having to be made.

This is a charter flight from Canada where everybody has a return ticket and it may be safely assumed that they will leave Barbados and go back about their business. I wonder if some simpler form could not be devised to deal with such persons.

I would like the Prime Minister to make a statement as to how exactly inspection services are going to be carried out. Are the people going to be sent up to Toronto and New York to check before they can board the aircraft as well as on the flight? It would be more convenient to have a pre-checking of baggage by Custom Officers and by Immigration at the country of entry at the departure point.

You cannot check a passenger's baggage in flight. Is it not more feasible to check the baggage at the airport of departure so as to facilitate travel to Barbados? One of the most cynical remarks I have ever

heard by an airport official in this building was when he said that is why we keep them so long in Immigration because they would not have a long wait for their baggage. This is is still too long a method to deal with the mass movement of passengers.

I would be happy also to see a better inflow of air-conditioning in the arrival hall. I know that in relation to the oil crisis people were told to cut down on air conditioning, but this is a necessity when you are dealing with a very large number of people arriving in the afternoon from the cold interior of an aircraft and you should have some air conditioning in the arrival hall.

I am also worried to some extent about health checks. I can never understand this business of Immigration cards. One officer asked me to put down the exact place in Christ Church where I live. Suppose I had refused. What could the Immigration officer do? Arrest me and make himself a fool? Take our sister island of St. Vincent. Senator St. John and I had to travel there several times a week for a couple of months some years ago, and it proved no nuisance about passports. Without any difficulty the St. Vincent Immigration Officers accepted our I. D. cards. On one occasion Mr. St. John travelled without his I. D. card and he told the officer "I forgot my card; this is my wife's" and he was accepted. I cannot see such an informality happening in Barbados. A Barbadian must be in possession of a passport to enter Barbados, but not in America.

I would be glad to hear what proposals the Government has for carrying out this inspection service. I understand that this is to accommodate the officers concerned in the part of North America where these flights are setting out from.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, about this question of passports I do not see that there is any problem. What I will say about the airport is that while I agree with the extension that has been going on for a long time, I have had the experience of coming in at the airport on one of these jet aircraft and fortunately it was not raining.

What I would say is a joke at the airport is that I do not know who advised the Prime Minister on building construction, but you put up a building to accommodate these jets and if the jets land when the rain is falling passengers have to remain in the rain. I do not think that anyone has any right to remain in the open air when they are coming into an airport.

This building cannot accommodate 300 people, and they have to line up Indian file, so many will have to be back on the tarmac. There is something peculiar about passengers landing from or getting into an aircraft. They seem to have the idea that the back of the aircraft is not going the same place as the front. There is always some sort of anxiety. I think they should carry out some kind of psychiatric treatment at airports and ask people to be calm. Airline stewardesses ask people to sit down when the plane is about to land, but some of them cannot sit down and then they want to sue the airline for million of dollars because they broke an arm because they were standing up when the aircraft was landing.

There is always a problem when you employ people in services. The airport is a service and if those employed at the airport are going to be efficient they must be able to meet their commitments at certain levels.

I do not agree with everything said by the Leader of the Opposition. He is joking when he talks about people being kept back in Barbados at the airport. Have you ever been to Miami? Have you ever been to Jamaica? If you meet a Jamaican airport officer who is over 40 and is still looking at passports you will find that he looks at your picture then looks back at you and at your height; because that man has not reached anywhere higher than looking at passports and he is over 40, and he will put on a lot of style. So you get customs officers who are ready to retire who will go to the bottom of your baggage while the younger and more efficient officer does not have that time.

Again, some of our officers, when they see a lot of people get nervous, while others tend to show off. 11.10 a.m.

In a general way, the people are accommodating and the policemen are quick and efficient at the Airport. They give some people a hard time but it depends on the information they get.

It is no use having Pan American airline and BWIA airline coming in here and a charactered airline in here at the same time and you have a single chute at the airport and you have to push your luggage through the single chute, because this is how you are creating a problem, so the Prime Minister must create a system which would bring about some improvement at the airport also where luggage is concernned. If you go to the airport, when you reach the point where the baggage is to be unloaded you find you do not have enough accommodation to get off 900 pieces of baggage simultaneously. This is where I think we have a problem. If in Barbados you have an airport that is to accommodate two jets that are likely to arrive once a day the problem is, do you have reasonable accommodation at the airport for all the passengers that are going to arrive as against London and Miami airports where this is an occurrence which will take place more regularly. So the point is, if something is not done you may find yourself with an airport that is definitely not capable of providing all the accommodation that is needed, and added to this you may have a problem where cost is concerned. Your passenger load is also going to be a problem.

There is no point asking the whole community to pay for every little thing at the airport. The community has to pay up to a point. I believe that some of the airlines operating in and out of Barbados have reasonable facilities as compared with the costs they pay in other parts of the world, and therefore this is another aspect that would have to be examined.

So far as the cleaniness at the airport is concerned, I agree with the hon. member. Cleaning of the airport is not a problem to the contractor per se. It is a question of what kind of cleaning facilities you are going to use at the airport. Are you going to keep the airport periodically clean, or what? The fact is that too many people like to jump on the backs of other people, and particularly smaller people, but I think that the people who do the job of cleaning up there are doing a good job. Inside the airport building itself is kept clean, but the airport can be dirtied by some respectable citizens and the persons responsible for keeping it clean are expected to keep it clean: I agree that it is an airport which should be kept clean and in any case Barbados is a place that should be kept clean, but some people think of running down their own country and they think in no other terms than running down their own country.

Now let us be frank. You cannot expect an airport to be used as a public parking area for all and sundry. If you want to go up to the airport and park you can go where you like to go but you must pay for it. The airport must be set apart for people who work there and who travel. People take their children

to the airport to see the airplanes come and go and you do not want to prevent them from doing so, but the point is, a reasonable fee should be charged. Any child should go to the airport to see what is going on at the airport and any such facility which would help them to see what is going on should be provided but I feel that the community should be able to draw funds by these facilities because it is done else where without any injury to the community.

I think the Prime Minister must look into this question - that a passenger should not be called upon to remain in the rain when at the airport. I am not looking at it from the point of view of a passenger, and you do not have to be a tourist because there is too much of this idea that the tourists should be treated as privileged people. 11.20 a.m.

The tourists go all over the world, they go to London and to Europe, and they have to live with whatever conditions they find in those countries. A Barbadian is a very pleasant person. Every Barbadian is a self-appointed policeman. Where could the tourists go anywhere else in the world except Barbados and receive such treatment? I go to the beach on mornings, and when I come out of St. "Lawrence Gap and there are vehicles on the road, I will be told by somebody: "Hold it skipper. You can come now." This sort of behaviour is indigenous to Barbados. A Barbadian will do nothing that will harm people.

I do not want the Leader of the Opposition to talk about the little fringes. The important thing about Barbados' tourists life is that the tourists have security in this Island. If other countries had the same respect for human personalties, then Barbados would not have been able to attract so many tourists. I should like the Prime Minister to look into the Airport from the point of view that entry into the Airport is not adequate. The Government is responsible for immigration and health services, and more than two people should be asked to do the work at the Airport. I have seen two persons being asked to clear something like 400 people at the Airport.

Sir, I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition that there should be a special dispensation for people who are coming here because they are coming on a chartered flight. If people come here on a chartered flight, then they must land here like anybody else. They must go through the formalities. If you go to the United States of America, you have to go through the formalities Some people seem to think that when they are coming to Barbados they will be landing on the sand. I am of the opinion that we should provide the necessary facilities to prevent people from being held up unnecessarily when they land at the Airport. Intransit Cards could be provided for those passengers who are intransit, because it is not necessary for them to go through the normal procedure.

Sir, even in the United States when a passenger has to transfer from one airline to another he has to go through certain formalities. Some countries regard this procedure as part of their security measures. I feel that the Prime Minister should look at the Airport from its physical point of view, having regard to the recent expansion, and make provision for increasing the staff. The Architects should look at the space' for accommodation and ensure that when a building is constructed it will be able to accommodate the number of people we have in mind and we will not be disappointed.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to answer some of the points raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I should like to refer to the advent of the 747 Jumbo Jet. At the present time the only 747 service we get

in Barbados is an air flight twice a week from Toronto, The problem relating to the arrival of that flight is that the flights for arrival and departure from Toronto are severely circumscribed. No flights are allowed to leave Toronto before 7 a.m., and no flights may leave Toronto after 11 p.m. In order to make maximum use of the flight it is necessary for the plane to leave as early as possible in the morning and arrive in Barbados and go back. If it were decided to overnight in Barbados, it would mean that 400 people would have to find sleeping accommodation and we would not be able to accommodate them sometimes.

Mr. Chairman, the Jumbo Jet must arrive some time before two o'clock in the afternoon and depart about four o'clock. The problem at Seawell arises when a flight is delayed and large numbers of people are at the Airport. A flight may be delayed because of the weather, for mechanical reasons, or other reasons. During that time another aeroplane arrives from another destination or even from Toronto. When this happens you can find people all over the place and even standing on the tarmac. On the other hand, the Jumbo Jet may arrive at the same time as other flights arrive, but the Jumbo Jet may not have been expected to arrive at that time. In ordinary circumstances there is no jam at Seawell Airport when the 747 arrives on time.

Mr. Chairman, it is for these reasons that we decided to initiate a Scheme to enable the Immigration Officers and the Health Officers to deal with these problems on board. The Prime Minister had made this suggestion. It was an excellent suggestion, but it was not implemented after Wardair saw how efficiently Seawell Airport could deal with 400 passengers. In the circumstances, they asked us not to implement the Scheme to send Immigration Officers and Health Officers on board.

With regard to the Customs Department, that is a different problem. The Customs presented a very difficult problem. In the first instance, Barbadian Customs Officers would have to go on Thursday to Toronto and Windsor, and on Saturday to Toronto and Montreal, and this would be a very expensive factor. Another problem which the United States had encountered with flights from Canada was the legal point as to what authority an American Customs Officer has when he is inspecting baggage on Canadian soil. If they can get the planes here when they are supposed to be here, no problems will arise. I hope that satisfies all the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I should just like to add something to the very ample explanation made to the points raised. The question of Immigration and Health is one which was raised between myself and the officials at Seattle before the first Jumbo Jet rolled off to come here. 11.30 a.m.

I had a meeting with the directors of Boeing which lasted for over two hours and we discussed the problems of the introduction of the Jumbo Jet and since I am interested in logistics, the logistics of aviation particularly, I raised this problem with them and they were thinking of course in terms of either the abolition of certain requirements which would be impracticable from an international standpoint or the increase in the number of persons who would be there to service the passengers deplaning at the various airports. In my discussions with them I pointed out that there was no reason why the economics of the airline industry should impose additional burdens on Governments and airport authorities, and that the only way that could be circumvented would be to pass this on to the airlines which would again affect the economics of wide-bodied aircraft landing. I then suggested that since a 747 could carry up to 490 passengers, there was no reason why ten places could not be reserved for immigration and health

officials and I think they took up this idea, and when Mr. Ward the Director of Wardair came down to discuss the inauguration of these services, I passed on the idea and it was agreed between the Minister of Information, Mr. Ward and myself that this would be a good time to implement such a scheme. It has not been done for the reasons which were stated by the Minister, but even if it had been done we are left with a further complication and this was the question of customs clearance. If you have 400 passengers arriving in one aircraft, you have that many pieces of baggage of an average weight of 22 kilos of baggage per passenger, and it means that a certain amount of time would have to be spent by the customs officers and even if they did not insist on the opening of the passengers' baggage asking certain questions as a matter of formality, and the greater the pressure the more likely the customs officers would tend to rush through their jobs which we do not discourage. We do not discourage them to rush or not to rush; we only ask them to work with dispatch and therefore the efficiency of customs inspection would be lower. Even if they only had a cursory examination by asking one or two questions, it would still take time for 400 passengers to pass through customs and get their baggage put into the taxis. So until we can devise a method of configuration of seeking and disposal of baggage in the aircraft itself whereby you can have passengers' luggage on racks either upstairs or downstairs when we get to that stage, people will just land and take off their baggage themselves. We will probably have some trolleys and they can go to their taxis because we will be able to get customs officials on board the aircraft; but there is no point in putting them on the aircraft now because the baggage has to be off-loaded from the holds of the aircraft, it has to be taken to the customs hall, put on the conveyor belts, identified by the passengers, and the more passengers there are, the more pressure there is around the conveyor system and the more difficult it is for people to identify their bags. Then these bags have to be taken on to the conveyors by the customs officers and the customs officers have a duty to do some kind of , investigation, whether it is spot investigation or whether it is the green system whereby you only examine one in every ten, but some kind of inspection has to be carried out.

The problems we have at Seawell Airport are not peculiar to Barbados. We have been criticised for building an arrivals hall which is not large enough. I have explained already in a previous statement this morning that we have just doubled the size of the arrivals hall, and if there are passengers left in the sun or rain, it is their fault. When people get in large gatherings they tend to be like sheep, and I have witnessed the spectacle of being in a queue, not here in Barbados and a man standing up behind me reading a newspaper for twenty minutes and then he asked me what the queue was for. This is not a story I read; this happened to me. He was reading the newspaper for twenty minutes and then it occurred to him ; when ten other people had gathered behind him and did not know what the queue was for either, but they saw him reading the paper and saw me in front and the other people in front of me and they joined the queue. People who arrive at Seawell see a line of passengers and they form up behind the line and do not go into the hall. They probably do that for two reasons: (a) because they think this is what is required and (b) if they do not join the line they feel they would not get through as quickly and other people would join the line in front of them; so they join the line and extend out into the rain or sun as the case may be when there is ample room in the arrivals hall at Seawell Airport. I am satisfied that over 600 people can be accommodated in there without any discomfort.

When it comes to air-conditioning, the air-conditioning is not only there but I am surprised the hon. member has not seen it, because one of my slight reservations about, the air-conditioning is that it is the first thing you see when you go through the door. They have not put them on the roof; they have been put in .the hall back to back; but no matter how efficient an air-conditioning system is even in this Chamber here where we are never overcrowded on certain days the air-conditioning is working at full

blast, and once you get people inside here, the temperature of the room rises, and if the outside air temperature has risen, the temperature inside rises more because air-conditioners can only reduce the outside temperature by a certain number of degrees. Let us say that the number of degrees is 15% which I believe is the maximum an efficient air-conditioner would work at; an air-conditioner can never pull the ambient temperature down to zero, so if you have a temperature of 85% outside after it has been working for three hours, it brings it down to 70% and if you put 300 people inside there it rises to 90% because the average body temperature is 96%. So if you introduce 400 people at a body temperature of 96% you are sending up the temperature inside the room; but the air-conditioner has always been functioning. I was not here during the so-called crisis and I do not know if it was turned off, I do not see how it could fail to be functioning then because there is no ventilation in the arrivals hall so you would have to have the airconditioner on or people would stew.

In so far as the remedy for the incoming passengers behaving like sheep, rationally or just deciding they are not going to lose their places is concerned, the passable solution to that I have been thinking about, and I have remarked on several occasions at the airport and to the Director of Civil Aviation, to the project Manager of Seawell Development project and others that the airlines should employ dispatchers both on the outgoing passengers side and on the arrivals side to facilitate people with the through-put, through immigration, customs and health and also to do what some airlines do, that is, for reservations or shifting from one aircraft. All they do is to put somebody there to confirm reservations, and I think the solution to that would be to put chairs in rows in the airport arrivals hall where the passengers can sit down and the dispatcher, whether he is a Government employed dispatcher or by the airlines would say "the next four, please", and the next four people in the row would go up to immigration and customs and get cleared and in this way everybody would be out of the sun. This means we have to invest some money in furniture, but we cannot reasonably be expected to build a larger arrivals hall when we are building a new terminal. 11.40 a.m.

We cannot reasonably be expected to build a large arrival hall when we are building a new terminal. Why should we build a new arrival hall when we have just spent about $200, 000 making the place more presentable and air-conditioning both the Customs and the arrival hall. We cannot spend more money on temporary accommodation, it does not make sense when in about two or three years' time we will have a new terminal.

In so far as the jumbo jets are concerned, we cannot design the airport at this stage to facilitate the arrival of passenger jets per week when we have two hundred and fifteen other arrivals every week which would not require that type of accommodation. We have over 32 or 33 flights per day, so you cannot design the airport to carry out the charters of Wardair twice per week, it does not make any sense. If Mr. Ward or anybody else waits that kind of facility they can do what is done at John F. Kennedy Airport and build their own terminal. We have to look at the overall picture and try to design our facilities to try to cope with the existing traffic bearing in mind that we are spending quite a large sum, of money on a new terminal.

The Question that the sum of $1, 465, 341 under Heed 16(2) - Prime Minister's Office, Civil Aviation — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 - ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION

Head 17 — Establishments Division - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1, 050, 452 under Head 17 - Establishments Division — 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 18 - TRAINING DIVISION Head 18 — Training Division — was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $506, 188 under Head 18 - Training Division - as amended stand part of the Schedule.

There is an additional Item to be inserted, Item 13 - Furniture and Equipment in the sum of $1, 620. The note will read as follows:

"To purchase water cooler, cabinets, filing racks, chalkboards and easels".

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, this Committee's time was taken up yesterday to a large extent in talking about the necessity for improving the law courts, and I have no intention of traversing that ground again, but I would tike to leave with the Committee the suggestion that some attempt should be made to train people who perform clerical and other duties within the Registry and the law courts as a whole.

If I may take a particular issue of the administration in that Department, I would like to refer to the company law, trade marks and patent sections. The trade marks and patents can provide Government revenue with a considerable amount of money and so too can the company law section. From time to time you find that we are saddled in that department with part time clerks most of whom have not had an opportunity for specialised training in the departments or in the subjects with which they have to deal. Likewise in the Supreme Court section which calls for specialisation to some extent in all the rules of court, and again there seems to be no attempt made to provide training in this field.

I would like to suggest that there is a case for in-service training in this particular department and some attempt should be made at improving the efficiency of the Officers who are there. I think for the last few years Government has sent out three Officers for training specifically in company law, trade marks and patents. Of those Officers one subsequently became an Attorney-at-Law and is now with the Crown Solicitor, one was an Assistant Secretary in the Cabinet Office and the third has since been transferred somewhere else, so that the benefit of their training is not available within this department.

Sometimes I note that Government revenue in this area seems to go by default in collections, it has really not collected as efficiently as it needs to and indeed the provisions of the existing laws in this respect are not even enforced in the way in which they should be. I think quite early the Training Division should have a look at this part of its administration and see whether it can devise in conjunction with the University of the West Indies and the Bar Association some form of courses which could improve efficiency in this department.

The Question that the sum of $506, 188 under Head 18 — Training Division — as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 11.50 a.m.

HEAD 19(1) - DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Head 19(1) - Defence and Security - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment in respect of Item 4, National Insurance. There appears under that item the amount of $3, 372. That figure should be deleted, and the amount of $8, 720 inserted. The new total would be $12, 09.5.

I beg to move that Head 1R(1) as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E, TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. chairman, we in the Opposition supported this matter about the Coast Guard Service, but we cannot support the Appropriation at this rime when the Government is going through a period of financial strigency which is reflected by the fact that many of the heads are increased less and some show a slight decrease.

The money required for social development in Barbados cannot be found. The Housing Authority and the Ministry of Communications and Works are reduced. Barbados has to borrow this year an amount of money which will result in Charges of Debt being 5 per cent of the total expenditure. For years Barbados has got by with less than 5 per cent of the total expenditure being attributed to Charges of Debt.

Some of this increase presumably is to cover the $2 million for the Coast Guard Service. I know that the Prime Minister will no doubt get up and say that he does not have to explain or publish a White Paper. The amount asked for is quite a lot of money and we do not know how the commanding officer will be appointed, whether it will be an exercise under the discretion of the Governor General. We do not know how many officers and men will be established or what training facilities will exist for the officers and men.

This is going to be of the nature of a navy as well as a Cpast Guard. I have never seen a White Paper in Barbados since the one in connection with Barrow vs the Barbados Daily News and I heard the Minister

of Education talking about a White Paper which was published in 1965. Meanwhile development goes on daily.

The Minister of Tourism is young in politics and may be forgiven if he thinks that a Press release is a substitute for the White Paper, but I think that he should be sufficiently familiar with Government in England to know the importance of the publication of a White Paper for public discussions and to set the mind of the public entirely at rest on particular aspects of Government policy, arid to know that that forms an integral part of the governmental process in the UK.

The sum of $560, 000 is not peanuts. It is twice what the Regiment is being voted in the ensuing year. Again, what I have seen with my own eyes is that a road which has been used from time immemorial has been blocked by a large structure across it. I know that legal advice is being taken as to whether a highway can be blocked by Government or anyone else.

Is it intended to close that road, Charnocks Road, in the parish of Christ Church? I cannot go with a bulldozer tomorrow and drive down a road. I would like the Prime Minister to let me block the road to Culloden Farm and let him drive through the mahogany trees and tell the that the road is not blocked, or let me put a block in Broad Street and ask you to drive through the Fountain Gardens.

If the Government thought it desirable that they should have a beach there they should have put the groyne a little closer down and create a beach. I would have thought that a site across the road would be more suitable for the Coast Guard Service. I would have thought that for sailors to cross 20 feet of roadway would not be insuperable.

The sand is building up very quickly and eventually it will rise to the level of the break water and start going over the side because there have been some exceptionably scowering tides. (Aside) Of course Senator St. John is objecting. He is one of the land owners. He invited a newspaper to take photographs, and he is one of the people seeking legal advice.

This was a most unhappy thing to do with any consultation with the persons in the district, to block a road leaving them without the slightest -knowledge of what Government intends with respect to future development to the island, to leave them without any knowledge of the Oistin's Development Plan which should have been published long ago.

I believe that the Minister of Agriculture is as ignorant of the whole matter as the other people in the district. I have riot heard him address a public meeting and explain anything. He has not addressed a meeting and said that St. John will be able to use the beach in the same way that the Minister said that St. John had 30, 000 hoes and dung baskets to send people back into the fields. 12.00 Noon.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, There was a general vote, but at least we should have some statement. We should have some statement as to what is the Government's intention in view of the fact that the amount for the Coast Guard service is $563, 000, I am asking if we cannot have a White Paper; let us have some idea of what is involved.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I have no objection tor answering any question because we do not conduct the

Government's business on a basis of conspiracy and the people are entitled to know how their money is being spent.

Now I never promised any White Paper on the coast guard question. I have satisfied myself that the Leader of the House did say that a White Paper would be brought out in the course of time, but I have never made any promise of any White Paper on the coast guard question. I read the debates because there were sent to me by the Leader. They were delivered to me personally. (Asides) He is going to challenge now that I have read the debate.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not challenging whether the Prime Minister read the debate but if he has read the debate I want to point out that certain privileges are not extended to other members of the House because the rule that hon. members cannot.....

Rt. Hon. E. W, BARROW:

I have read the debate and if he wants to challenge that, he can do so, but I have read the debate and I have said that die Leader of the House made a statement. If he can find any Statute Law under which he can prevent me from reading the debates of the House of Assembly let him produce it. Statements were made by members of my party which the public were not given the opportunity to read. Two full years of debate have disappeared and will never see the light of day. I do not want to make any accusations against people who have gone to the Great Beyond or against Ronald Mapp who was Editor of the Beacon but two years of debates which were published during the regime of the previous Government have disappeared — debates of this House - but the debate which I have read is available. 12.10 p.m.

I am saying at this juncture that there are two years of Debates which will never see the light of day. We employed a gentleman, who is in this Chamber, to go through the Debates, and you can ask him about it. For two years the Government's Archivist, or nobody on earth, has ever been able to find those Debates, and that took place during the regime of the former Government.

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, the absence of the missing Debates has been raised in here before, and this is the first time I am hearing that they were sent to the Beacon. I will give the Prime Minister an undertaking to take up this matter with all of those responsible for the Beacon and make the records available to him. I know that a lot of old papers are there.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I should be glad if the hon. member would make a search. He can ask Mr. Ronald Mapp, because he used to edit the Debates before they went to the Government Printer. It is now for him to investigate the matter. (Asides)

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Leader of the House promised to present a White Papeif. I was not here, and I did not promise to present one. If they want a White Paper they can have a White Paper, because the hon. member prefaced his remarks by saying that I am not constitutionally bound to give them any White Paper. I know that and he knows it. The Leader of the Opposition knows that he is not constitutionally bound to submit a White Paper. The, Leader of.the House did not say whether he would present a White Paper tomorrow, Christmas morning, or the 1st January. When we are finished with the

Development Plan, the Estimates, the Budget Speech and so on, we will get down to the question of submitting a White Paper.

Now, systematically, from time to time, we have come to the House with a Resolution for the Coast Guard Service. We have had an Agreement between the Government and the boat builders; we have explained why we want a Coast Guard Service, and members on the other side have agreed that we need a Coast Guard Service. Without any division this House agreed to the purchase of some fairly expensive boats, but certainly the cheapest which we could get at the moment. I inspected them at the Bahamas along with certain officials, and we are satisfied that they will meet the purposes of this Island. Some of these boats have already arrived in the Island. Now that the boats are equipped and here, we are being asked to leave them to collect rust. We are being asked not to employ the 62 Barbadians some of whom will be trained in navigation and other maritime work such as engineering and so on. This will provide new professional work for some of our young people. We have already received applications from Barbadians overseas who want to join the Coast Guard Service. We have investigated the possibility of having these men trained with the help of the Trinidad Coast Guard, and we hope to have similar assistance from the Bahamas. We are not now trying to get a vote of $500, 000 to create a Coast Guard Service. The members on the other side are now saying that we should turn back because of the energy crisis!

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I said that there was a shrinkage in Government Expenditure. I said not one word about the energy crisis.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I withdraw that, Sir. When he rambles like that he is very difficult to follow. It is my fault that I have misunderstood him. After the Opposition has agreed to the purchase of these boats; after the Opposition has seen in the newspapers that the boats have arrived, the hon. member is saying that this is not the time to proceed with a Coast Guard Service. We cannot anticipate what will happen tomorrow. We are committed, the Opposition is committed, and the country is committed to have a Coast Guard Service. If we do not want to carry on with it, we will still have to pay $11/2 million for the boats over the next five years, and we will have to do something about the maintenance of the boats. We would also be depriving 62 men of learning a profession.

Mr. Chairman, some members of the Opposition look at the Estimates and they try to work out newspaper headlines for their newspapers. I want to exculpate the two on the left and the two on the right.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Do you want to exculpate me?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am referring to the vanguard of the Opposition Party, Mr. Chairman. They like to see their pictures on the front page, and to read that Mr. So and So said this and that. They do not consider what they would do if they found themselves in similar circumstances. They spent a lot of time making electioneering speeches. We have already agreed to a Coast Guard Service, and I cannot understand the argument some of them are using today. The position is as follows

$

Salaries and allowances for

62 persons ... .. 256, 000 Six of these are persons who will have to travel and travelling is

estimated at 1, 200 Uniforms at approximately $200

per person 124, 000

Fuel and Oil 125, 000

Maintenance of equipment .. 81, 000

Ammunition 12, 000

Electricity and water .. 15, 000

Training of personnel .. 30, 000

Office Expenses 10, 000

Contingencies and goods for air/sea rescue operations and so on, including food and first aid equipment 12, 000

This amount might never have to be spent. It will only be spent in the event of a crash.

Insurance of all buildings and equipment 22, 000

Total .. $563, 000

12.20 p.m.

Now that was the original estimate. The total amount we asked for amended is $585, 626. I do not have the information avilable as to the increase, but it is probably in respect of the fuel since the prices have gone up since this paper was prepared. Let us deal with a specific problem. There is no question that he asked that I cannot answer. The hon. member said that one of the members of this party objected to the station being built and that nobody discussed anything with the residents. Let me tell you who the residents are. Apart from the hon. member who I believe lives somewhere by Sea Rocks, you have the Maternity Hospital, the Infirmary, Scarborough. They are the only three residences before you get to the Coast Guard station. After that you get certain other people going right away up. So let us say that the right of passage has been interfered with. The person closest to the Coast Guard station is the step-father and mother of one of the Leaders of his party, now deposed or abdicated. Deposed is probably a more accurate term to employ in this particular instance; supplanted or replaced. The Permanent Secretary and I went up there and discussed in detail with those two persons who would be the last to deny this. There

was a very affable and genial kind of discussion on the diversion because they are both people who are not young people, and if they were accustomed to walking into Oistin they would be the people. All the tenants behind in that strip of land next to Scarborough, we discussed this diversion with and even discussed the possibility of bringing the diversion next to Scarborough, but there is a steep rise as the hon. member will know next to Scarborough, a very narrow pathway which could be widened, but there is a steep rise very close to the intersection by the "Y" where the gasolene station used to be which would be hazardous and dangerous to traffic; so we went up by Keizer Hill and looked at an existing road that comes out at Keizer Hill and sent the engineer from the Seawell Development project and others up there and they looked at this road and the Government came in here with a Resolution to acquire the 20, 000 square feet to put the diversion about 100 yards from Keizer Hill back on to the Sea Rocks Road. So those four or five people who live to the right will turn right and people like the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would turn left and continue on their way rejoicing.

Now I want to say that there is a small diversion around the building at the moment. At the appropriate time when the road is closed the Minister of Communications and Works under the provisions of the Highways Act will have to come in here and apply for the abandonment of the existing road up to that point, but this is not the time because (a) the new road has not been dedicated in full, the widening has not been completed and (b) the old road had not been abandoned and the Minister will have to come in here to abandon that road. When the Sandy Lane Road was diverted, I had to press the then Government for about 21/2 years to apply for abandonment of the old Sandy Lane Road, but there was a gentleman — I do not know if he is related to the hon. member and I am not being offensive — called Mr. Thorne who only his watchman know how to deal with, who kept telling the Government that the original road through Sandy Lane was not the Government's anyhow, that it was Sandy Lane's private road. I would have to search the archives, but speaking under correction — and I humbly apologise if I am wrong, but I am sure I am right — up to now they have not abandoned that road officially.

The hon. member drives home every day and I am sure he does not go up Keizer Hill. He makes a small detour around the building. It is not a smooth detour because I go and inspect the work about twice a week to see how they are getting on and to watch the same groyne, and although he lives up there he says that very soon the sand is going to be up to the level of the groyne. The sand is up to the level of the groyne already, but it is not filling because there is a scouring action going on inside the groyne which is L-shaped. He says that the Hon. Senator who is a member of his party is objecting. Well, it is very simple. He is only now trying to persuade me to put on a development charge on anybody who goes and builds a hotel there as a result of the accretion which has occurred through Government work. I am sure he would not like that to happen to his colleague because I have heard talk of people in the area. One lady who has a hotel already said she is very pleased, and I know some very bright people up there who are already in the construction business who are thinking in similar terms; so I do not think the protest is going to come from the quarters he is expecting, and if he must get a fee in the mean time, all I can enjoin him is "what thou has to do, do quickly", because they may change their minds if they were ever of that opinion. The hon. member may be assured that when we are ready to abandon the road it will be done by the Minister of Communications and Works in the proper manner. We apologise for any slight inconvenience which may be caused the hon. member having to use the diversion to get home. The Keizer Hill road would not consume a lot more gas so if he does not like the unevenness of the diversion, he can use the Keizer Hill road, but we will abandon the coast road and we will give him and any other member the right of entry at any time to inspect the premises or if there is a through-way to drive through if he wants to; they can reserve some kind of right of way provided it does not interfere

with the operation of the Coast Guard Service, but we would be providing a much better road which the House has already approved by the acquisition of additional land. I do not think that the people in Oistins are unhappy. As a matter of fact, so successful has this whole operation been that we are actively considering constructing a similar pier for the fishermen so that the fishing boats at Oistins will be able to come right alongside without having to resort to the moses to bring their catches ashore. We are actively considering that and I have been discussing it with the project manager at Seawell so that before the taxi extension is finished, with any extra lip fill, boulders and so we have we can probably start this in a very short time once we are satisfied of the precise location; so that no scouring will occur in the beach further along, and we would be able as a result of this experiment to construct a proper jetty for the fishermen at Oistins, so that all round benefits are accruing to everybody in the district, including the hon. member who now has a decent beach to go and bathe without having to go to the former Royal Barbados Yacht Club.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to mention one point. I have never from the time I entered politics made any remarks about members of other parties. I have always believed in fair play and a clean campaign, so much so that when we were debating the whole Coast Guard Service the Leader of the Opposition made a very forcible point that the whole idea of a Coast Guard Service stemmed from his party and that Senator St. John had a very big part to play in the whole thing. As a matter of fact credit should be given to Senator St. John for the establishment of the Coast Guard Service at Oistins. That was the point made by the hon. member for St. Thomas. I am surprised today to hear that it is causing concern to the residents of Oistins, because I did not take part in that debate. I do not believe in false glory. I do not want the praises that belong to somebody to be sung for me; I had no say in the establishment of the Coast Guard at Oistins; it was being talked about before I entered politics and when he made the point I accepted it.

12.30 p.m.

I am surprised to hear now that the same thing which was advocated by Senator St. John all these years is now causing some concern to the residents of Oistin.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I want to make this clear. As far back as 1970 or 1971 our Government set up an Oistin's Development Programme of which I was Chairman and that was one of the precise things which were recommended. There were four recommendations made and only one was implemented which was supplying the airport with the fuel and setting down the pipe-line, but there are three other recommendations which have not yet been implemented, and this is part and parcel of those recommendations. If the whole plan were to come into operation it would mean that we will have about an acre or two of the land in Oistin, so this is just an initial stage of development which had been recommended since 1971 before the last election. When we see this development and other developments of necessity take place, what is now a District Hospital could be one of our biggest hotel sites in Barbados.

I just thought I would mention that. I happened to be Chairman of the Oistin's Development Programme which was sitting for about a year and a half, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs was also a member, and the recommendations are there to be implemented. In the fullness of time with the financial

resources and provision made at the appropriate time the entire area will probably be changed and you will find not only a proper hotel site there but probably the whole of the shrimping industry as well.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to join in any controversy about this Defence and Security, but I do not think it would be fair for me to sit here and allow the Minister of Agriculture to make an inaccurate statement about Senator St. John. I consider it to be unfortunate. What Senator St. John always advocated was a jetty at Oistin where the Coast Guard Station is now.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

On a point of order, I was only referring to the debate on the Coast Guard Service. The Leader of the Oppisition made the point that this has not come about because of the present member for Christ Church South Central, he made the point that Senator St. John had been very instrumental on the question of the Coast Guard Service for Oistin which is in the debate.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, let me just elucidate this. I have not had the advantage of seeing the debate but when I deal with the Minister of Agriculture he is an honest person who I am sure will not seek to tell lies on anybody, therefore I am not going to contradict him on this unless I have the document in front of me. I will say I am sure I never said Senator St. John advocated the Coast Guard Service, I said he advocated having a jetty there, and if the hon. member would check I said that it was in our Manifesto that there should be a jetty at Oistin to accommodate fishing boats and that this was what Senator St. John had been advocating for years. To my knowledge I have never heard Senator St. John speak about the Coast Guard Service until the Government proposed it, and if anything I said in the debate has misled the member I regret it because I am sure I could never have said that. What we have spoken of is the development of Oistin.

On a further point of elucidation, I would not mind if the Prime Minister would elucidate something else. He obviously misunderstood something I asked him, whether the station should not have been put on the other side of the road, and that is the question I want answered, not whether Keizer Hill is steeper that Sea Rocks Road or otherwise.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

All the land on both sides of the road up to the place where the the building has been constructed which belongs to the Government, the reason why it would not be feasible to build on the opposite side of the road would be the servicing of the ships, because it would be impracticable to have the people ferrying backwards and forwards across the road. It is as simple as that. There are going to be workshops and gantries to lift the ships off and it would be impracticable to divide the two functions in that way and have maximum security.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, just one or two points I would like to have clarified. We have heard that the Barbados Labour Party voted for this measure when it first came before the House, but I remember the circumstances under which it 'came before the House. It was pushed into our hands one day as an amendment to the Capital Estimates and we did it last year under the Capital Estimates.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
On a point of order, I am sure he knows the rules of the House, especially that one which states that no member may reflect on a vote of the House in the same session. This House has not be prorogued.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There was no division, as I recall, on the matter.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
As I was saying, when this matter came before the House it was brought one day, pushed into our hands and we agreed to it under the circumstances on the basis that the money being provided then under the Capital Estimates was the final cost of the entire Coast Guard Service. We were not told at that stage that the $650, 000 which was voted last year was only a quarter of the total amount that the establishment of the Coast Guard Service would cost Barbados. 12.40 p.m.

We find that in the Estimates last year a sum of over $12 million vas voted in the Capital Estimates, and we find that again this year we are going to be asked to vote a sum in the region of $1H million in the Capital Estimates for the Coast Guard Service in addition to the $1/2 million that we are being asked to vote under Recurrent Expenditure, so that in the course of two years we find that the Coast Guard Service is costing Barbados in the region of $2 million. So, Mr. Chairman, when it is said that we did not object to it when it first came before the House, that is true; but it was never represented to us at any stage that the Coast Guard Service would cost this country in two years over $2 million.

For the Prime Minister to say that a White Paper was promised does not make any difference. I remember quite clearly that the then Leader of the House or the Minister of Communications stated that the reason why a White Paper had not come at the time of the Supplementary Estimate for $300, 000 was because the Government was going to publish a White Paper on the establishment of the Service itself, dealing with the number of persons, how the service was going to operate and things like that.

That was what was indicated to the House on the occasion when we were discussing the Supplementary Estimates and we did not vote against it at that stage. It seems to me rather strange that we are called on to vote a Supplementary Estimate on the basis of the cost of two instalment payments on the cost of four patrol boats, while in the Development Plan it is stated that a loan totalling $1.8 million was obtained for the purchase of four boats from a U.K. firm.

I would just like to seek some clarification on this, whether the money that we are voting is to purchase the boats or pay the loan. It is said that this loan was by the U.K. Government to be repaid over a period up to 1978.

That is one of the defects of not having the Development Plan published at an early stage. I want to get the point clear. The other point which I would like to have clarified is that with the establishment of the Coast Guard Service, what is going to become of the Harbour Police? Is it the intention of the Government to incorporate the Harbour Police into the service that will be performed by the Coast Guard Service or will they remain separate?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, all I have to say is that you will be surprised to know that the Debates on the Estimates

for last year are not yet ready, so I am not going through what I said then on the Coast Guard Service. On the 18th December, the sum of $373, 000 was then voted by the House for supplies specifically for the Coast Guard Service. The hon. member is only being wearying. I have an energy crisis every time that he gets up and speaks.

The question that the sum of $12, 095 under Head 19(1) — Defence and Security stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19(2) - BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head 19(2) — Barbados Regiment was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, the amount of $211, 207 is required under this Head. There is a note 16 which should be inserted under Item 16 Travelling and it should read "Includes travelling allowance of the Armourer and Senior Store Keeper at the rate of $16 per month". The total should therefore be $211, 207. I beg to move that Item 19(2) for the sum of $211, 207 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, the Government indicated last year through the Prime Minister that it intended to do a reorganisation of the Regiment and that there would be plans before Parliament in due course setting out the provisions for a National Defence Force. 12.50 p.m.

I think from time to time we have heard little bits of what it proposed but never anything substantial of the overall plans. I appreciate that it takes a Government some time to make up its mind and to have concrete proposals, and I am sure we can argue as to the necessity from time to time to bring down White Papers or whatever you want — (Asides) Yes; or Black Papers or Blue Papers — but what I want to"Sleave with this Committee is that when hoii. members on this side ask for information, it is not because we disagree with Government policy but certainly in Committee we must get some idea of what is involved, whether plans are reasonable, and so on, and I would ask the Government to prevent the disagreement which has gone on on the question of the Coast Guard Service, and that certainly in relation to the National Defence Force we be given some concrete proposals ahead of time, because we expect that in this year or later the Government would be coming with plans for the National Defence Force and we are entitled to see the Government's plans and know what they will be, and I would just urge that the Minister in due course would give us the required information.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, there are two points I would like to make, and one is in relation to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition, and that is that the Coast Guard Service costs more than the Barbados Regiment. Under Head 19(2) you will see that personal emoluments for the Barbados Regiment amount to $59, 252. Now the personal emolument for the Defence Force amount to over $250, 000. The Barbados Regiment is not a permanent establishment. It carries a very small office staff and it is a

volunteer regiment, so in one instance you are talking about a well equipped Coast Guard Service with an establishment of 62 personnel and on the other hand you are speaking about a volunteer regiment and in this new system today there is a total of 10 persons on the establishment, and this would be found in the Schedule of Personal Emoluments which have been produced in the Estimates laid on the table. So it is ten against two, and the Leader of the Opposition is making a great deal about what the expenditure of the Barbados Regiment is and what the expenditure on the Coast Guard Service is. If you apply direct arithmetical calculation you will see that the Coast Guard Service with its personal emoluments cost six times as much.

Coming back to the point made by the member for Christ Church West, I do not know what kind of democratic institutions he is studying because the way that they discuss matters in this Chamber you will think that there is an open democracy whereby you have a commissar who would be sitting in in every meeting that goes on in a Government so that they would be kept fully informed and that they would know what is in your mind before you make up your mind; they want to know what plans you have before you have plans. I was never brought up in that tradition and that is not what I understand of democracy. Under the Constitution the money voted by Parliament must be spent in a proper way. There is no provision in our Constitution that you must have consultation with our commissars sitting in office.

In the fullness of time the 15, 000 public servants are paid and they are paid to investigate, to formulate, and to assist the Ministers in their duties. When the Cabinet comes to a decision that decision would be brought here if it affects the people of Barbados. It is not every decision which is made which we have to bring to the House. There was an inquiry to which members of the Opposition were invited sometime ago and which some attended, but the Government cannot fill up the Order Paper with a lot of garbage as they fill up this Chamber ...

Mr. FORDE:

I must object to that. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I object to the Hon. Prime Minister saying that members of this side clatter up the debate with garbage. The hon. Prime Minister is speaking of members of the Opposition and it must be members of Parliament here that he is talking about. 1.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member has taken objection the word "garbage".

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I withdraw it. Let me give you an illustration of what has happened. The hon. member for Christ Church came in here and made a big, sanctimonious speech — pseudo-Oxford and salt water English — bewailing the Government for not establishing branches of the Savings Branch in three districts Belleplaine, Oistins and Speightstown. The members on this side wanted to get up and correct him, but I allowed him to go on for 40 minutes.

Mr. FORDE:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member must not mislead the House. I have replied to him already on that matter where he misrepresented the Debates. If he wants to take off again he can take off.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The point is made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, at the time of his speech, we had for 12 years in this Government established 14 Branches in Post Offices, but he did not know anything about them. He has a very strong Narcissus complex.

Mr. FORDE:

I object to that, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the hon. member has a similar Narcissus-complex.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, he is pleased with himself, and is infatuated with his own demeanour. He is a very beautiful boy, and I have no intention of making any invidious comparisons. I would like to withdraw the statement, if the hon. member feels that I was making an invidious remark about him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I am asking all hon. members to speak in simple English so that I can understand what is going on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On the question of the Regiment, there is no point in the Government coming here with a lot of half-baked plans. We have to review the entire situation in the light of what is taking place. There will be in-service training, training in industrial arts, training in agriculture and so on for the members of the Regiment. We do not want a lot of foot soldiers doing sentry duty. That is a waste of their time and our money. There are a lot of people in this country who are always in a rush to get things done.

Mr. Chairman, democracy does not mean that every time a tin cup rustles in Harts Gap that we must rush in here with a White Paper to say that there was a dog in Harts Gap running through the street with a tin cup tied to its tail. We will come and explain things about the Regiment. We are thinking about sending an expedition to other countries to investigate the possibilities of getting more fuel, and they want us to bring a White Paper on that here.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I think that all I have been hearing in here during the last few minutes are snide remarks between family-in-laws. I am sure that not one of us in here is interested in hearing that. They are all lawyers, economists, undergraduates and so on. I think the hon. member asked a reasonable question, because I am interested in knowing what is the position regarding the reorganisation of the Barbados Regiment. I think it was some four or five years ago when the Prime Minister hinted that he was giving consideration to having an army established in Barbados, and at that time he referred to it as a Defence Force. After five years we have heard nothing about it, and I think it is a very reasonable question to pose to the Prime Minister. I should like to hear what is going to happen to the Barbados Regiment.

Mr. Chairman, I would support a Defence Force, but I have my reservations regarding the Coast Guard Service. At the time I asked to be told in what country we would find a similar National Defence Force. I feel that the officers and men in me present Regiment as well as a lot of the boys you see every day at the street corners should be conscripted to serve for an 18-month period, and taught certain skills. Five

years is a long time since the Prime Minister has been talking about this matter.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister has been at the Head of the "Army of Occupation" for several years, and if he is unable to control the army he should get out of office. If I were in charged of the "Army of Occupation", I would not have got in here and treated civil servants in that manner. If he were in Dominica he could never do that sort of thing, but Barbados is a very quite place. I am sure that the Coast Guard Service we are talking about today will turn out to be like fishing boats where friends will go and meet. People will use them in the same way as Harp's boat was used. The Coast Guard Service will prove to be an arrangement whereby the Prime Minister and his friends can have more fun.

You will soon hear about an Air Force, and the Prime Minister will be one of the Pilots. He is making a mockery of the country. It serves the country right, because we are always told about 18 seats and 6 seats. I am not going to talk about Culloden Farm and any dung basket. I am not talking about curtains in Culloden Farm.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Let us get back to the matter before us.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, you are not young enough to fight. You are now seeing the evening of your days. I hope the Prime Minister will get up and give us the information asked for. I do not want a White Paper, a Blue Paper, or a Pink Paper. 1 should like to hear about the re-organisation of the Barbados Regiment so that I will have something in Hansard. 1.10 p.m.

I do not want a White Paper and I feel it is high time after four or five years to know something. If I am not mistaken there is a Colonel already in the Regiment and something should be said, because I do not want to be caught napping. I was not here when the matter was discussed, but had I been in my seat it could have been the same thing, but I am told that you were caught napping when that Resolution was brought here, but that is the business of the Government. These things can happen, but I would never have supported any Coast Guard here for catching people who peddle dope. I was never in support of it, but I have to cool it because it has already gone through. As the Prime Minister said you have the boat? so all you can do is send them to Dominica or Grenada, but I would like to hear from the Prime Minister before we go to lunch about the reorganisation of the Regiment since this was dealt with about five years ago.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege, we have been in here since 10.30 a.m. and we have suspended the rules on the understanding that at a certain time we are going to lunch. I think the time has come when the House should be suspended for lunch. I am moving that the House be suspended for lunch.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
You are completely out of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I tell you he does not know law and that is why they had to remove him from being Attorney General.

I beg to differ from all my colleagues on this side about the Regiment and the Coast Guard. I sympathise with the Hon. Prime Minister because every White Paper he has given to this country has misled the country and turned out wrong, like the Independence White Paper which stated that independence would cost us $500, 000.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I ask the hon. member to withdraw that every White Paper I have produced has misled the country. The Leader of the House said I have only produced one White Paper; so I misled the country into independence. They think that by coming in here and shouting at the top of their voices that that is representation.

Mr. BOLDEN:
What do you want me to do? I am willing to withdraw anything you want. Do you want me to withdraw that every White Paper he has issued has misled the country? I withdraw that. The White Paper issued by the Hon. Prime Minister about independence was misleading because he told us in that White Paper that independence would only cost us $500, 000.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Again I do not know what that has to do with the debate, but the hon. member is not speaking the truth.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I object to that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
It is not true to say that I said that in any White Paper, and if he Says it and it is not a true statement, then lie is not speaking die truth.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I am saying he has misled the country on the White Paper about independence.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
On a point of order, the hon. member is being irrelevant, he is being boisterous and he is not conducting the debate in the fashion in which it was conducted before.

Mr. BOLDEN:
He cannot do that and he is not the Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
This is something I would have to decide.

Mr. BOLDEN:
You issued a White Paper and it said independence would only cost $500, 000 and that is why you do

not issue any more White Papers because the country would catch you out again as it caught you out then. We told the people what it would cost, but my colleagues are asking for a White Paper. I agree with you not to put yourself in the same vice again because the 250, 000 people would find you out if you issue a White Paper, and you can therefore reserve the right to change your mind whenever you feel like. Why didn't you say that C.B.C. was wrong when they said that you said there was never a fuel crisis?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Let us get back to Head 19(2).

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
On a point of order, the hon. member has not made any reference to Head 19(2) throughout the whole course of his discussion. No wonder the hon. member for St. Michael South Central wants the sitting suspended.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I wonder if he would like to send the hon. member to the Drill Hall-and put him on the firing range. That is the total regard he has for that member. I am agreeing with the Prime Minister and saying that all he has to do is not to issue a White Paper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That has absolutely nothing to do with the Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chariman, do not be misled by the hon. member. The Prime Minister said that the Cabinet can change their minds every day; so what do you want them to bring down a White Paper for? (A VOICE That is irrelevant). I think the hon. member must take off his dark glasses and then he would see clearly. Like yesterday he does not know what is going on.

The question that the sum of $211, 207 under Head 19(2) — Barbados Regiment — as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALNMA:
Mr. Chairman, 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, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.20p.m.

On resumption:-

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now reverts.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 27(1) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3, 005, 042 under Head 27(1) - Ministry of Education, General Administration - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise one point under Item 8 — Teacher Training. It was mentioned to me quite recently that teachers who go to Erdiston College are compelled to take a subject at the Community College, but once they are registered for the course they have not got to go regularly to take this subject because it does not form part of the qualifying examination nor does it go anywhere towards the person acquiring a certificate from Erdiston to show that he has had the necessary teacher training.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would ask the hon. member to note that Head 27(4) deals with Erdiston College.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I am speaking about teacher training and there is an Item under General Administration which provides the sum of $255, 840 and this is part of the aspect of the training.

At the moment, as far as I can understand, the teachers who go to Erdiston have quite a lot of extra curricular subjects which they must undertake and I do not see the reason for asking teachers to go to the Polytechnic or some other place to do an extra subject when in truth and in fact it does not form part of the subject which they must pass in order to receive an Erdiston certificate. I would like to hear the Minister of Education explain the reason for this and say whether or not teachers .can opt out of this particular subject. I am waiting to see if the Minister heard what I said.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I think I should preface my remarks under this Head by saying that the substantive Shadow Minister of Education is overseas on public business, and I am sure he regrets very much his absence from this House which would have afforded him the first opportunity since he was ; Shadow Minister of Education for expounding his knowledge on the subject of education in this country.

There is not too much difference between the main political parties in Barbados as to the path which the educational policy of this country should follow, and indeed there is not too much difference in some of the areas of priority in the implementation of that policy. When the Barbados Labour Party formed the Government of this country it did, as this Government is now doing, recognise the significance of education in the whole process of development, and a cursory look at the expenditure over the ten year period would show that there has been a consistent rise in the vote for education over that period. I think it has moved from something in the region of over $5 million on current account up to the position today where we are voting something like $37 million, just under 30% of the budget as a whole.

I think that whenever we are discussing, the general policy of education it should be made quite clear to the country that wherever there are disagreements it has not been done, certainly as far as the Opposition is concerned, from any position of thinking that there is a very wide chasm on the general direction this country should go in education. We feel however at this time that the time is now appropriate where there should be an added emphasis on the primary sector of education, and where Government must recognise that there is still a large segment of the population who are never fortunate to move into the comprehensive or secondary grammar schools. Although I know this is a year of stringent pruning of expenditure, yet we will caution the Government to make sure that if possible the people in the primary sector of education have many more educational aids than they at present have.

I believe that the Barbadian tests the success of the educational policy on, to some extent, how many people get Barbados Scholarships — that was the test in the past — and more recently on the number of people who pass the 11 plus examination. That is an unfortunate concept and it is one which I hope the Minister will not take too seriously although it happens to be some gauge as to whether or not teachers are performing adequately and the system is responding to some of the challenges in the community. 3.10 p.m.

I believe that the true test must be whether we are catering to the total needs of the man regardless of whether he has an inclination to or the qualifications to get into the professional field, administrative, technical or any other grade in the society.

What I would like to see is the emphasis being removed both under Capital and the Current Account from the Comprehensives which have been well treated and the secondary section, and move back some

emphasis on the primary stage.

When it comes to the general policy, arid the legal apparatus under which that policy should be pursued, I know that the Minister recently indicated that his department was working actively on an Education Act for this country to up date the Education Act of the 19th century. I would hope that by now he has received comments from the relevant teachers' organisations and has been able to sift these comments and will be in a position within the next few months after the recess to introduce a substantive Act in this House.

I can assure him that as far as the Opposition is concerned, we are willing to cooperate in any amendment which may be necessary for the institution of a Teachers' Commission. I have spoken on that before and I believe that we have expressed to the Government through this House our desire to have a unanimous change in the Constitution when and if it is necessary.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the teaching fraternity will probably get more consideration than they are presently getting from having their own Commission established. There is another thing which this body and type of organisation would do. It would bring about an integrated Teaching Service. I believe that we have been slow in moving towards an integrated Teaching Service, and like so many other segments of our national life we have been working under what the Prime Minister would sometimes in his particular derisive terms call separate republics in the country.

I know that teachers are more than unduly touchy about interference from political heads in the day to day functioning of the Teaching Profession; but I can assure them that in other countries this has been tried and has been proved successful without any danger to the Teaching Profession as a whole and without any decrease in their productivity and performance or in their professional standards. We look forward to the time when, for instance, there may be a greater inter-change of teachers between schools — and that is not too far fetched — where for instance a specialist in the field of French will be able to assist at all of the schools rather than at one particular school.

Mr. Chairman, the country is still far away from being placed into zones. This is something which will call for some expenditure and I would also think for the construction of additional Comprehensives. With the greater equality that is being introduced in educational opportunities, we must get to the stage where it seems that we will have to zone admissions to our secondary schools on the basis of residence particularly.

Perhaps, the Minister has already looked into this and has had a report on it. This is one of the segments of the administration of the department that calls for early consideration.

There will be other particular heads, and I have a special interest in one or two particular branches of Education and I will be speaking a bit more in this debate on these matters; but so far as general policy is concerned it is our view that we should begin to switch the emphasis.

Again, I do not believe that at the moment the economy can afford us in one fell swoop to pay the full cost of free secondary education. I know that the phrase has been used that we have free secondary education in Barbados; but as I have pointed out before, this is only true to a limited extent because there are several thousand people with children in the Grammar Schools who not only contribute to the

upkeep of these, but also contribute to the education of their children at private secondary schools.

I am aware that from time to time the Government has been increasing bursaries at these schools, but I think that we must look forward to the occasion — not when independent secondary schools are not functioning in the island because there will be always people who will prefer to go to these schools, some on the basis of snobishness and some on the basis of religion. I suppose that in a free society we must tolerate all of this, but I look forward to the time when education at all levels happens to be truly free to all children who have the ability to benefit from it.

Mr. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak under General Administration. I am referring to Item 8 which deals with Teacher Training. I have been checking through the rest of the Estimates to see exactly on what aspect of this head focus should be placed.

Sometime ago, probably about a year or so now, in making a contribution to the debate on training I made reference to the need for some kind of training programme for people who are in positions of leadership in the various schools in the island. I am talking about headmasters, deputy headmasters and people in the category which would include female heads.

I think that the Ministry does have some organised programme for this kind of persons; but I would also like to see this kind of course offered more often because I feel that it is extremely important. When we examine, for example, the size of the schools going up in Barbados, one can appreciate the tremendous problems in administration which naturally face any person who is in charge of these institutions, problems which will necessarily arise from day to day and which could be solved in a smoother manner than at present; because there is no doubt that there are too many areas of conflict between heads and staff, and I feel that these matters could be smoothed out or avoided being brought in the open if the people in charge knew exactly how to deal with the various problems which arise from time to time.

It would seem to me that there is a crisis in the administration of some of these schools and I would like the Minister seriously to consider having a going programme which will encompass, as it were, the problems which heads will from time to time encounter in administering the schools.

This is important because if teachers and heads do not get on too well this is going to have an effect on the pupils and must have an effect on the entire educational system. As a matter of fact the efforts that are being made to improve educational facilities will be nullified because of these problems. 3.20p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and all other members of this Chamber that we are following the rules and Standing Orders of this Honourable Chamber and my concern at the start of this debate was to ensure that we were acting in accordance with the Standing Orders, as I hope we are. I would like to refer to Standing Order No. 66(2) which states "Upon consideration of the Estimates, the Clerk shall call the title of each Head of Expenditure in turn. The Minister responsible for the Head shall propose the motion that the sum".....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Are we discussing procedure or are we discussing agriculture?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is no point of order. I have to hear first before I can decide.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, is this relevant or irrelevant?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to your attention that certain Standing Orders have been suspended and this sitting is going on every day.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I was only waiting until the Minister had completed his sentence to say what I intended to say relative to his reference to Standing Order No. 66(2). It is I who have to decide the Standing Orders.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for this particular Head I wish to reply briefly.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but as the Leader of the House I am the appropriate person to undertake what he is doing. T is is not for him.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Very well, Mr. Chairman. I thought I could draw attention to the particular Standing Order. However, I wish to refer to three points made by the speakers who have preceded me, and one is in connection with what the hon. member for Christ Church West said in respect of the Draft Education Bill, and I wish to state that the hon. member is right in his references. I have had meetings recently with the Barbados Union of Teachers, the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union and two associations represented by the heads of new secondary schools, and we have discussed the Draft Education Bill. We are now evaluating the comments made on that Bill during those series of meetings and I expect that during the course of this year I will be in a position to place the Draft Education Bill before Parliament; that is, to introduce this Bill to this Honourable Assembly.

If I may refer to the point made by the member for St. Lucy. As far as the management of our educational institutions are concerned, I can say that I think the member has referred to a problem which is of concern to me, and that is, to ensure that our educational institutions are managed as efficiently as possible and to this end we have taken some steps towards meeting these problems. Indeed, courses for headteachers, particularly those at the Primary school level have been instituted and my Ministry is now considering the establishment of on-going programmes such as the hon. member referred to and I can assure this Honourable Chamber that this matter is receiving attention.

As far as the comment raised by the hon. member for St. Joseph is concerned, if I understand the problem correctly which he was raising, I believe he was speaking about students enrolled at Erdiston College being also enrolled at the Barbados Community College. It is not compulsory for students enrolled at Erdiston Teachers Training College to be enrolled for programmes at the Barbados

Community College as well. There is a special programme aimed at providing teachers for the newer secondary schools and this invloved the preparation of a course for teacher training which is provided by Erdiston Teacher Training College and studied at least in one advanced level subject. I believe some of the students on the roll of Erdiston Teachers Training College are enrolled in this programme. I believe the figure may be about 50 - some in the first and some in the second year; it is these students who pursue this programme and the intention is to provide teachers for the secondary schools. We cannot just only build schools. We have to embark on a meaningful programme to provide teachers for these schools. So I would like to tell the hon. member that it is not compulsory for all students to be enrolled in these programmes. It is for those enrolled in the secondary teachers training programme.

The question that the sum of $3, 005, 042 under Head 27(1) - Ministry of Education -General Administration — stand part of the Schedule — was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.30 p.m.

HEAD 27(2) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - PRIMARY, ADULT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to move that the sum of $4, 727, 725 under Head 27(2) -Ministry of Education — Primary, Adult and Special Education — stand part. I should like to draw the attention of this Honourable Chamber to an amendment to page 58, Item 6, which reads as follows

"Item 6A (New) Utilities

Insert figure "60, 000" under Column "Other Expenditure" and make consequential amendments. Amend Note 6 to read Note 6A."

With regard to Item 11 — School for Mentally Retarded — delete the existing note and insert the following:

"Grant to School for mentally retarded."

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, the waters are too deep for me, as far as this Head is concerned; therefore, I am going to ask the Minister of Education, who is always very willing to give answers to the Committee, to answer one question. How is it that most Ministers send their children to school at either Mrs. Smale or Mrs. Carrington, rather than sending them to Government Schools where the Government is spending $4 million a year on Primary Education? I will have to take the lead from the Minister. I am not asking whether the system of education is good or bad. I do not know much about Education. I was not fortunate to go to certain schools, and I am only adopting the role of the man in the street, if the

Ministers send their children to Mrs. Smale, Mrs. Carrington and other sophisticated schools to get them ready for the Eleven Plus examination, I should like to know why.

Mr. Chairman, I know that Ministers must set the pattern in education, communication and agriculture, and I should like to get certain information from the Minister of Education. I am asking this question on behalf of the little man in the street. Why do Ministers send their children to Mrs. Smale, and Mrs. Carrington instead of sending them to school at St. John the Baptist and other Government Schools? Now that the Government is spending such a large sum on Education, why have the Ministers decided to send their children to other schools? Is it correct to send them to Mrs. Smale, Mrs. Carrington, or to Government Primary Schools? I am asking a simple question, and I expect to get a simple answer. I cannot ask any of my colleagues on this side about this question because they are not Ministers. (Asides.) Even if the Leader of the Opposition was sent to one of those schools, it is for you to start a new system. Let us assume that the former Leader of the Opposition, Sir Grantley Adams, had set the example. You are now spending a large sum of money on Education, so why should the Ministers send their children to these sophisticated schools?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I have been...

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have asked the Minister of Education and not the Minister of Communications and Works to reply to my question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I shall not be long. Some Ministers have passed the age of being fathers.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman It is bad to make certain statements about members on this side of the House, but it is worse when they refer to yourself and others and say that they are passed the age of being fathers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, we live in a democratic society, and it is not fair to refer to members of the Cabinet sending their children to schools of that nature. Some of us have children who have passed the age of going to those schools. If I want to send my children to "Bromley", I can send them there. The hon. member is suggesting that sending children to a private school and paying for them automatically makes that school superior to other schools.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, ...

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
On what have you risen?

Mr. CRAIG:
You must relax, Mr. Chairman, and treat all members in this House as equals. When the Prime Minister gets up you do not say anything to him. I am on a point of order, and you have to listen to me. The Minister is saying that I feel that the schools to which the Ministers are sending their children are superior schools. 3.40 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
As I was saying, in a democratic society one has the right to send one's child to any school or keep him at home ignorant because there is no compulsory education in Barbados. One can send him to Bromley or one can send him to any school one wants, and therefore there is a free choice. I think the hon. member for St. James will understand that the choice of a school for one's child depends on a multiplicity of factors, and it does not necessarily mean that one assume that the child is going to a superior school. I had my son at Mr. Smale and I took him away and sent him to a girls' school at St. Matthias' where my sister is the Headmistress and he passed the Common Entrance Examination for Lodge School. (A VOICE And your brother is the Headmaster at Lodge.) A giant family; Lord have mercy. I do not think that if a Minister sends his child to a private school would have it consciously enter his mind that he is segregating his child or sending his child to a school which offers any better education, because I know for a fact that the Government Primary Schools pay teachers better and have better teachers than most of these private schools, because no teacher in any private school who had "O" levels at all and can get into the Government primary school scheme is going to teach at a private school. You get at the private schools those teachers who cannot get into the Government primary schools because they have not got "O" levels, because some of them do not get paid during the vacation; some of them, as the hon. member for St. Michael West would say, get knocked off like a hoe handle, and I agree with him that when he accuses the Ministers of sending their children to private schools he is saying that the Ministers are such stupid people that invariably they send their children to inferior schools.

Most of us in here have been brought up under the elementary school system. Let us face facts. The Headmasters of the primary schools today are not the primary school Headmasters of days gone by. There are no George Warrens, Burt Moores, Dan Maycocks, Charlie Broomes or Parkinsons. They do not come like that anymore; so we have to admit that the Headmasters of 1974 cannot be compared with the Headmasters of the good old days.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, am I to understand that the present headteachers are not as good as their predecessors of several years ago?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I say now without fear of contradiction that the headmasters today have not got the vocation, have not

got the dedication, have not got the commitment of the Charlie Broomes, the Parkinsons, the Cumberbatches, the Dan Maycocks, my own old man from St. Simons.....

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, is the Minister of Roads talking about the Headmaster of Lodge School?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
He is the first man of colour up there, so why should I mention him.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, is the Minister of Roads saying that all the other headmasters of the Lodge School were non-colour like glass?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
He was the first known man of colour. I think the hon. member for St. James will agree with me. As soon as it is 4 o'clock today the headmasters have gone home in their Toyotas and the hon. member for Christ Church West can support me. The Elementary school masters today are highly trained, better trained and have a better education, but they have not got the commitment, the dedication or the complete and absolute love of education that characterise the Charlie Broomes, Parkinsons, Cumberbatches and a million and one other headmasters.

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order, am I to understand from the Minister that Mr. Aurelius Smith, the Headmaster of Lodge School, is not a dedicated teacher and has no commitment? Could that be fair to say that about him?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
He is not in primary school education; he is higher than that.

Mr. CRAIG:
And your sister is at St. Matthias.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
If you are talking about headteachers, the one at St. Matthias is a giant. She gets more Common Entrance passes than a lot of schools in the place.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, is the Hon. Minister of Road Building now excepting some headteachers from those he is talking about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
That is an ignorant statement.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I have never heard more ignorant statements coming from other than the Minister of Roads, and he can only talk when the Prime Minister goes out of here, otherwise he keeps quiet. That is why they want to throw him out of the party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Any man who makes a noise for food is a purely ignorant man.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, there comes a time and today I raised the point. I am not a hypocrite like some members of this House. When lunch time comes I will argue that I want to take lunch, not have my bowels growling and you are talking ignorance. He was bandying words with the Prime Minister and his guts were growling.

Mr. WALCOTT and Mr. MOTTLEY rose.

Mr. WALCOTT:
I rose before the hon. member on the last occasion, so I expect that I would be permitted to speak before him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member for Bridgetown caught my eye first and he will speak.

Mr. WALCOTT:
The hon. member knows that I rose first and if he had any manners he would have the decency to give way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose and both hon. members sat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
The hon. member cannot speak because I have not finished speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member sat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I sat because the hon. member for St. Joseph interrupted.

Mr. BOLDEN:
That is not true. He sat down after making a noise for food.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, when you talk about manners, I think the last person to talk about behaviour and manners is the hon. member for St. Michael West.

Mr. Chairman, listening to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, I think in his argument he started off with one proposition and by the time he had finished, he had completed adopted a different posture altogether. 3.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, let me say this. I am not like him or the others who are going to say that this is a democratic country and therefore you are free to send your child to any school. I say that I send my children to a private school but I will not say that the primary education in this country is good, I accept the fact that the education offered in the primary schools of this country is bad education and therefore I do not want bad education for my children. The Ministers know it and that is why they do not send their children to the primary schools, but they will not admit it. Let the Minister of Education tell the House if the educational system which obtains in the primary schools is so good why he does not send his children there. I am sorry the Prime Minister is not in his seat, because at the last elections he was telling the people how good the education is but he took his son out of the Community College and sent him to England to do his 'O' Levels. That is the sort of hypocrisy I cannot understand and will not tolerate.

When you look at the educational policies of this Government, the first Minister of Education's policy was free school meals and free secondary education. From the time those two objectives were achieved there ceased to be any educational policy in this country while he remained as Minister of Education. This Minister came from being a teacher and he seems to have lost his zeal. For the amount of money we are spending on Education we are not getting the returns, his policy is limited to building school places. You need school places, but beyond the school places you must have something else, and if you look at the Development Plan which is a document of this House it states under Primary Education: "A sound primary education is basic to the development of the total system because it provides the oasis on which higher levels of education are built. Accordingly, Government accords a high priority to the provision of adequate accommodation and other basic facilities in primary schools".

What is the policy of the Government in relation to primary schools? What is the policy of the Government in relation to nursery schools? Let us look back at the Development Plan again. It says, "Government considers that children in the age group 3 — 5 years should be exposed through formal schooling to social situations, the basic concepts of colour, numbers, shape and size and to elementary forms of communication by way of language and art form. There are about 12, 000 children in this age group and about 4, 000 of these unofficially attend school — along with their older brothers or sisters, go to private schools or attend day nurseries run by the Ministry of Health."

I would like to find out from the Minister if he is really going to tell this country that the two nursery schools in this country can provide the education which is required at the nursery level. What is quite clear is that the Government in respect of nursery education has neglected to provide proper nursery education; two schools cannot provide for 12, 000 children.

I go further, Mr. Chairman. We feel on this side of the House that there should be full time nursery education available for all children in this country. What exists in this country at nursery level permeates

throughout the whole of the educational system. Education in this country is a middle class biassed education. Perhaps I can afford to send my child to the nursery school but what about the child from Chapman Lane, from St. Andrew or from many working class homes? Do they really benefit from nursery education in this country? Is it not the function and the responsibility of the Government to provide the schools and the nursery education if they recognise the concept that at that stage nursery education is a fundamental part of the education which leads up to primary, secondary and further education? You find that even this Minister has failed — the Government as a whole has failed miserably according to the figures given in the Development Plan — because there are 12, 000 children in that age group, but how many people are you educating?

You are fooling the people you should educate the children from the working class homes, because people like the Ministers, members of Parliament and myself can afford to send our children to nursery schoqjs but the man in the street cannot afford to pay the fees which must be paid to send their children to these schools.

Let us look now at primary education. In this day and age, as the Development Plan says, you recognise certain basic needs, that a sound primary education is the basic development of the total system of education because it provides the basis on which higher levels of education are built. If you know this, why have you not concentrated on providing a better standard of education in this country? When the Minister of Communications and Works can tell you about not having the dedicated teachers, do not put all the blame on the fact that you do not have the people like Charlie Broome and the Minister's father, there are a lot of other causes for the failure to have proper education in this country. In this day and age you have all the children in one big room with one class interrupting the other. This should not be in 1974 when you can spend $3 million on a Coast Guard Service. Where are your priorities? The money you are wasting on External Affairs could be better spent in this country to provide things like education for the masses of this country, but you do not care because..... (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Your children go to the private schools too). Yes, I recognise the education is bad, but I am not a hypocrite, and you are fooling the people and telling them it is good. You maintain that the education is good enough for the working class people but not for your children and that is where you are fooling the people. That is hypocrisy of the highest order.

Mr. Chairman, the Government has neglected the primary schools in this country. The Minister cannot deny that there is over-crowding in the schools, if you look at the pupil-teacher ratio, I believe it is something like 1:40 which is ridiculous in this day and age. Look at the type of teachers you get. This is part and parcel of the built-in bias in the educational system in this country. The people who go to the primary schools to teach are those who cannot get into university, the banks, airlines, commercial houses, who cannot get three or four "A" Levels to qualify, the dregs which come out of those schools and who go back there to qualify for the time being. They are birds of passage in the primary schools. 4.00 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am going to ask hon. members.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:
There are birds of passage....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I will ask hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. MOTTLEY:
As I was saying, teachers in the elementary schools are really birds of passage. They are marking time until they can get two or three more subjects and enter some other profession. They have no interest in seeing that the children get the proper education.

The Minister knows that, and that is why he does not send his children to elementary schools. I went to these schools. One of the problems that confront people in the educational system is the failure of the Ministry to have any sort of psychiatrist or sociologist dealing with the problems that can come up in the primary schools. Far too often we get children suffering from some sort of medical defect, either sight or hearing, and the teacher does not spot this and the child is left behind in education. What is the Minister doing about this?

Nothing is being done at the moment and nothing is planned. What is needed is remedial measures. How many children do you have in primary schools with domestic problems because of the relationship between their mothers and fathers or something like that? What is the Government doing to assist these people?

The people who suffer from the lack of primary education is not middle class people. They do not suffer from the effect of over crowding or unqualified teachers or the unskilled teachers that you find in a primary school. It is the children of the working class people who suffer. That is why we are concerned to see that the standard of primary education is raised in this country.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, it is amazing that in a country like Barbados where millions of dollars are spent annually on education to get this type of debate in this Assembly. It is a bad reflection on the money spent on education.

The question is not whether you send children to private schools or not. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition never went to an elementary school. His grandfather was a headteacher at an elementary school and his father went to an elementary school. No one every thought of ridiculing his father because he went to St. Giles. What is the point of this silly question as to where a person went to school?

It is nonsense to believe that we can live in Barbados and cannot rely on the children who go to elementary school. The position is that 25 years ago only a few children went to school even at the elementary level. Those who went reached fourth standard and that was the end. There were elementary schools with a 100 children and of those who entered at the age of five only 25 ever went to seventh standard.

You hear all this rot coming from the mouths of members of the House of Assembly. I went to elementary school and I can stand up with any of you. We have some failures who went to good schools, and we have some people who blossomed out and who never had the opportunity of going to schools other than the elementary. Do not blame the teachers for what is lacking sometimes in the children.

I do not question what the Ministers do. My attitude is my attitude, and I believe that elementary schools are the doors through which you educate thousands of children in Barbados. It is only a fringe who go to Mrs Carter or Mrs. Smale. It is a joke to believe that the majority of the children who go to secondary schools are the children that come from these private schools. What happens is that there may be a higher percentage coming from these schools because they have fewer children. After all, 50 per cent of 10 is 5.

There are more children going from elementary schools to secondary schools. You only have to look at their names. There are children with Advanced Level certificates who went to St. Silas and other schools in the country because their parents worked at plantations and factories in the particular districts.

Who do you think are the parents of the majority of the children in Barbados? Middle class people? They have run such a fast race, faster than they expected, that you get these things coming from them. If I had my way they would have to let their children walk to school and not block the streets with motor cars and then they will see how to rationalise life and bring their children down to square 1. Give them sidewalks to walk on rather than having the panicking that you have.

There was a time when the elementary school was all there was for the children of Barbados and that was the only way you could get a job. You either became a teacher or you worked on a plantation. 4.10 p.m.

Some years ago in the Other Place Mr. Thome made a famous speech in the Legislative Council when talking about teachers and elementary education and he said that very soon we were not going to get people to work in the cane fields. The more you educate people the less inclined they would be to do a menial job for menial mone and they are going to be more critical. Even when you begin to talk about the Barbados scolarship, as people have more opportunities today the less you get them to be involved in certain fields. So a boy or girl going to school, the mere fact that they are going to the Federal School or such other schools is because the parents are prepared to pay for them.

It is no point saying you have 4, 000 children of school age, but you normally do not have any accommodation for them in the private sector -in the private schools - because, if the Government does not take them, Mrs. Smale, Mrs. Carrington or none such as them can take them. What they are going to do is, they are taking off the slack of the upper schools. When I was a boy, there were som?, of these schools now regarded as special schools but were schools for the duncy boys whose parents had money. You also sent them to Straughn's and when anybody ask the child "where you went to school, " the answer is "I went to a private school." So this is another aspect of snobbery.

The schools like Mrs. Smale's and Mrs. Carrington's schools, they have what are called professional teachers but I understand that the teachers in some of these schools are not as qualified as the teachers in the public elementary ' schools, so it is a question of numbers, not quality.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brutal. I am going to deal with the facilities that are offered at these schools. Some people send their children to these schools and when they go to a school like Mrs. Carrington's, at Mrs. Carrington some of them are in a garage. The garage is in one half of the place, and there are people who are glad to say "I have some grandchildren going to these schools."

This society, Mr. Chairman, is a sort of protective society that people are living in that everybody think that their children would be protected if you put an iron curtain around them. Now our educational system is providing opportunities for the children leaving school to have different jobs from what they were going into before. Forty years ago on leaving school, they were either cutting canes or teaching but today there are greater demands in every walk of life. Before a policeman had to be very strong and ignorant, but today we have some little men who have sense and show their ability in the Police Force. 4.20 p.m.

Criminals are more intelligent, so it will also be necessary to have intelligent policemen to catch them. Our employment situation is different today; the people working in the Civil Service are different; the education system is different, and you have figures to prove these things. There has been a great improvement in technology, and you have more vehicles to drive around. You have boys and girls leaving secondary schools in large numbers. Children are not remaining in secondary schools forever.

Mr. Chairman, do you believe that if the hon. member for the City were living in a rural area like Belleplaine, St. Andrew, he would tell anybody about sending his children to Mrs. Smale? Do you think he would drive them to Bridgetown and then drive them back to St. Andrew every day? He would send them to a school in St. Andrew where they could get a meal and so on. The Minister of Communications and Works went to school in St. Andrew. He ran about down there. Do you see his colour? He played cricket and football; he played in a Barbados team; he went into the army and so on.

Mr. Chairman, when I was asking for five Barbados Scholarships, some of the members who are now sitting on the Government Front Bench have reaped the results. You are talking to a man who knows something about education in this country. We have seen the need to expand education at every level. I am not subscribing to the view that something is wrong with our education system. Any system can be improved. I should like the Minister to tell us something about adult education when he gets up to reply. I should like to see more education provided for the adults in this country. I believe we are not concentrating as much as we should on adult education. A lot of leisure time is wasted that could be harnessed for the benefit of the community and the enlightenment of people. I should like to see more of our schools and institutions being used on evenings for the purpose of adult education.

I feel that the basic problem regarding our formal education is that too many boys and girls are leaving school without making any attempt to improve their knowledge. I believe that the politicians are responsible for not ecouraging them to do more. In my younger days people took a greater interest in civic and political life. I think there was a time when most of us entered this Parliament and the whole spectrum of things was changed. Some people have decided to leave things to politicians and young people, and they are no longer doing things for themselves. How many young people are taking interest in things nowadays? I am sure that in all of our Political Parties we will have to search very deeply to find people who will bloom out with the fervent desire to do something for the community.

Mr. Chairman, I am very strong against the perpetuation of leave passages. Notwithstanding what the hon. member has said on this matter, I do not see why $12, 000 should be spent on leave passages. I believe that this amount could be better spent on educating the people. I am sure that the people concerned in Barbados will get a certain amount of exposure when they meet people from abroad. I believe that this is something which we have long outgrown. I see no reason why we should continue with leave passages because others have had leave passages before.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to confine my remarks to Item 8 - Adult Education. The case which I wish to make here has, to a large extent, been made out already by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I think, however, that certain points should be reinforced. I feel that more emphasis should be placed on adult education in this country. We should regard education as a life-long process. Some people seem to think that education comes to an end after you have left the secondary school or the university, but to my way of thinking that is a wrong concept. We should try to encourage people to be constantly educated and re-educated. 4.30 p.m.

We are living in a world which is changing almost every day. New ideas are coming up and we have got to equip our people to such an extent that they can cope with the numerous problems which confront them and indeed which confront the society in which they live. We feel that if this is going to be handled correctly, if people are going to be equipped to match the kind of problems which arise from time to time, then the whole educational process and system must be so geared and so open to enable adults to participate fully in the educational process. This is one aspect which I think has been neglected, and I would like to see greater emphasis being placed on this. I think it is rather unfortunate also that when one talks about education there is always the feeling of something to do with education which is as it were a secondary point, and if we were to examine this of course the note does not say - one would tend to feel that the amount here of $345, 000 is to a large extent to do with evening classes and people preparing for "O" levels in the usual academic subjects, and this is not the kind of education I am talking about for adults. As a matter of fact, I do not mean we should not be offering this type of opportunity for all people, but I want to emphasise that it should be much wider so that the kind of knowledge which adults should have could be made available to them.

This of course, Mr. Chairman, is going to mean that again you will have to examine the kind of facilities that we are going to provide for our adults both from the point of view of the utilisation of the school buildings, a point which has already been made by the hon. member for St. Michael West, in the evening during vacation time, because I think that our schools are not sufficiently utilised. There is no point when you have buildings which are equipped in the manner in which the school buildings are equipped and then you find that after 3.30 p.m. when school is finished no other activity goes on in the schools. We feel that these buildings should be fully utilised and opportunities given to adults to participate in adult education.

Furthermore the Government would have also to concentrate on getting the kind of people who can give the kind of leadership which is so important in this vital area, because the teaching and the training of adults is not the same kind of training which you provide for children in secondary schools and primary schools, so that if we are going to be serious about making opportunities available for adults to improve themselves, then we have to look at the kind of training which is going to be extended to people who will be leaders, as it were, of groups and at the same time you will have to think in terms of making the kind of space and facilities available for adults to participate in this very important process because what I want to reiterate is the fact that we should consider and realise that education is a lifelong process and our educational policy should be so shaped and geared.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, this Head has obviously engaged members rather seriously in debate on what has for a

long time been a hot issue in this country, and I refer to the principle of selection by ability for different types of schools in our community. I thought in the opening discussion I had made it quite clear that so far as this party to which I belong is concerned we were looking forward to the day when we were moving from a system of education which put a high premium on selection by ability at a particular age and of course maturing at some time with the disadvantage of those persons who might develop much later; but I think a lot of the argument between hon. members with respect has been on this subject, because we know for a fact that one of the reasons why people send their children to other than elementary schools is because they feel that the ratio of teacher to pupil is such that at the private school they will be a better chance of the children being specially coached. The reason for this again is that the better coached child - this is how the argument goes - has a better opportunity to succeed in the 11+ examination, and therefore to be selected for grammar school education. I think one has to be realistic on this subject. It is obvious that people are going to continue to send their children to these private schools so long as the selectivity of the common entrance examination is maintained.

Now there is a reason why we cannot immediately abolish the common entrance examination, and the reason is that there are not enough schools of a secondary nature to permit the abolition at this time. The Labour Party to which I belong has made it quite clear that its policy in education must move to the position where children have an equal opportunity to go to similar schools, and that the distinction between the grammar school and the comprehensive school will be removed, when of course there are sufficient financial resources in this country. I do not want hon. members, particularly the hon. member for St. Michael West to believe that when we speak strongly on this side that we are not cognisant at the same time of the reality of the situation, but I began by saying that we think the emphasis should be placed on the primary sector because of the problems which are occurring in this sort of element of selectivity, and I am hopeful that within my lifetime we can in Barbados move to a position where there is no distinction at the secondary level in the schools. Unfortunately the Barbadian community has still kept up this snobbish approach to the comprehensive schools from the inception and this is not a condition which is to be seen only in the new middle class; it is a condition to be seen also in the older middle class and indeed in the working class people themselves, because if there is one thing the Barbadian has always put an accent on, it is the need to spend on his child's education so that the child will be a little better off.

I do not think that I myself am going to enter into any small argument as to who sends whose child where, but I know for a fact' that a segment of the middle class and even the lower middle class parents are cognisant of the element of selectivity, and I cannot see that we will get any further in debating this point other than in trying to see how quickly we can improve the financial resources of our country to move away from that type of approach. I am not the substantive Minister, but I can say at all levels of the Labour Party we have been considering this question in the context of a country with limited resources. We have been considering it in the context of the historical development of education in this country, and are satisfied that as an ultimate policy for Barbados we must move towards the equalisation of secondary education. I doubt whether the Minister would disagree with this concept. 4.40 p.m.

The Minister and I happen to be two of the products of the elementary schools who were fortunate to succeed and obviously we recognise that the elementary school, I certainly do, has a contribution to make and will continue to have a contribution to make to the country. I do not know on what facts the hon. member for St. Michael South Central based his views but, Mr. Chairman, I can say I know of equally dedicated Head Teachers today as there have been in the past. The problem in the past was that

there were some who were so dedicated in the vicious system which operated in this country of social snobbery, financial stringency, strained circumstances. and poverty that those few stood out as beacons, but today there are many of them who are still giving of their time voluntarily in the true position of being good Headmasters and good Headmistresses, and I would not like to join in such global criticism of the profession to which I owe a lot after God and my family for having achieved everything I have achieved and I do not want anybody to believe that this Party to which I belong happens to be running down the teaching body as a whole. I thought that was a special prerogative which was reserved for the leader of the other Party.

I would like to say that perhaps in the meantime there are some things that the Minister can do to move towards this ultimate goal to which our educational system must be guided, and one of the things is the provision of standards in some of these private elementary schools. I believe the Education Act must be so wide that the Minister should have some control over all systems of education at the primary and secondary levels regardless of whether they are voluntary or whether they are Government run institutions. I have not had other than a cursory look at the draft Act, but I hope that the criteria of standards are set out there and that the Ministry will enforce those standards.! I agree with this part of the criticism made by the hon. member for St. Michael West, which is that some of the facilities at some of the private secondary schools are not of a very high standard. Some of them have become cramped shops just as you get sweat shops in our manufacturing institutions, but I think the Ministry could look at this problem and deal with it as soon as possible.

There was a point made by the hon. member for St. Lucy in which we wholeheartedly join. We think that in these days of $35 and $40 perweek jobs one will have to seek to provide opportunities for the adult population to use their leisure time in the whole development of the human being. This is one of the sad things of our community, that our people have the tastes of the 20th century developed man without sometimes having the attitudes which led the developed man to his present state of development. We want to run so quickly that we forget that we must build on some foundation, and sometimes I would like to see us using our abilities and the time provided to help re-educate our adults since - education is a continuing process. That again costs money and therefore I think that although we can criticise it logically in here we must recognise that Barbados despite its independence is no big place and its resources are limited. It is a question of where we put the accent, but I hope we will try to do as much as we can in this sphere.

This brings me on to my pet subject. Of course it is well known that I have an interest in special education, and I have heard a strong plea made in here for nursery education. I think that nursery education must get much more attention than it has in the past and I would hate to think that a debate on this very vital aspect of our development is conducted on the level as to who provided the two and who did not provide any. Sometimes the House of Assembly becomes a peculiar place for merely gaming political points and I think we miss the whole purpose of our presence in this Chamber. I think we must say that now the Government recognises the need for nursery education that the Government must leave no stone unturned to hurry on with its programme in this field. I have heard the Minister speak about the idea of using the day nurseries for the nursery education programme. That is a sound idea. Just as I would like to see him persuade the Government to use the schools for dual purpose education which would involve community action. You will recall my speaking in this Committee before and drawing attention to a building which I saw in Atlanta, Georgia known as the John Kennedy building, where they combined community activity together with a school institution, and our educational planners must be

receptive to this type of idea so that we harness as well as we can the limited resources which we have.

I would say that in addition to nursery education, certainly in the West Indies today and not only in Barbados, one must turn as a Government to take on the obligation for educating special children. One of the marks which distinguished the developed society from the under-developed society has been that the developed society looks after its less fortunate in a better way than the under-developed society. The under-developed societies think that if you are born into a family and you have a limitation that you are something to be cast out of the community and they have never accepted their obligations towards such people. If you look through the whole Caribbean you will find that it was only recently that the Trinidad Government carried its full responsibility for the provision of education for handicapped persons as a whole. Again of course I am aware of the fact that we have limited resources. I am also aware of the fact that this particular Minister has responded properly within the limit of what he had in the last Estimates to the needs of the mentally retarded school. Because my colleagues might disagree with me for giving Jack his jacket it does not prevent me from saying it and that is why when I have to confront the Prime Minister I can stand up to him like a man. I am not depending on anybody and I think it is correct to say that whatever criticisms we may have of the educational policy, certainly this Minister in the context of special education has responded to the needs of the specially handicapped people. I will ask him to try and impress on his colleagues, and indeed help me to convince the country as a whole, that they are becoming a strong priority in the years to come. I began by saying that the educational goals of this country are not highly controversial. 4.50 p.m.

I have listened carefully to all the points made and I would not like the public of Barbados to believe that as far as the ultimate goal of Barbados is concerned there is any great disagreement between the two parties. We differ at present on priorities, but I think it is still true that both political parties must be dedicated to eradicating social snobbery and inequality of opportunity in this country, and that they must move towards equalisation and where people have different abilities, and there are differences, they must redress those differences.

I have heard this talk about white men and black men. This is eye wash at election time. If you analyse our policies, all of us have a common ultimate goal. Someone has said that it is a pity that you have to have political parties, one in opposition and otherwise. Frankly, I am sure that today all of those who have spoken have not departed from the opening statement which I made about administration.

Mr. Chairman, I ask the Government to take note in no offensive way of the criticisms that I have made. Honourable members are monitoring remarks that they have heard in the community, and if there are any personal overtones it is not meant in any offensive manner.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I must confess that since coming to this Chamber no debate has left me more depressed than this debate on Education. After I heard the contributions that have been made on Education by members of this Hon. Chamber with notable exceptions, and in this particular respect I exempt the hon. member for Christ Church West who has spoken and the two Trade Union representatives, I must confess that it is shocking that in 1974, at this stage of our social development we can get the type of speeches made on Education that we have heard today.

We have got to be very serious about what we are doing in this country, and particularly in the House

of Assembly, unless it wishes to become an institution which people hold in no respect at all. We have got to weigh our words carefully and ensure that when we speak we speak from a basis of fact and sound analysis; because the House of Assembly is one of the main institutions in this country, and once the people lose confidence or lose respect for the level of debate and comment and the contribution made on very important issues in this Chamber, the very basis on which our society is structured may come tumbling down.

I am not going to talk about getting into deep waters. That will come later, I have travelled and I have read a lot about educational systems. We are living in a time when there is a questioning of educational systems throughout the world. One of the most scathing attacks that I have ever heard levelled against an educational system was levelled against that of Australia. I had the privilege of attending a meeting of Commonwealth Teachers Association in 1970, and one of the most scathing attacks was levelled against the Australian system, and there are criticisms levelled against most of the Educational systems in the world.

In such a situation I would not expect that there would not be criticisms levelled against the educational system in Barbados. Heaven knows that there are grounds on which the system can be criticised; but when we are criticising a system let us look at those aspects of the system which need criticism, and deal with those aspects in a reasonable way, pointing out in what way the system is defective and what remedies are required in order to put it right.

But, Mr. Chairman, what have we heard today? We heard about where Ministers send their children to school. How can that be a fundamental question about our educational system? If someone wanted to pose a question I would have thought that a question would be posed on principle such as whether the parents of this country should be directed into which schools to send their children.

I believe, Sir, that the hon. member for Christ Church West referred to the question of zoning. I am not dealing with that now because that is a question relating to secondary education. It is a question of whether parents should be directed to send their children only to certain schools or be given a choice as to which school to send their children under the public system, or if they desire to send their children to private Schools.

That is a fundamental question, but when it is turned around into some cheap political claptrap which I thought went out with the last election - maybe it is thought that another election is coming up and this is the time to raise this question again — it is regrettable.

If you go into deep waters you should be able to swim and swim back to shore or somewhere else. The hon. member talked about deep waters. I want to talk about the question of lack of policy to which the hon. member for the City referred, 5.00 p.m.

The hon. member for the City speaks about policy; and, of all persons in this Chamber and perhaps of those who belong to his noble or ignoble profession, depending on who is speaking, I believe that one characteristic of the legal profession should be an ability on the part of its practitioners to argue a case and argue a case logically, and there are members of the profession capable of that and who display those capabilities, but we are told by the hon. member that the only policy we have is providing more school places and more buildings. Mr. Chairman, this is what the present Minister is supposed to be

doing, but when we analyse the main burden of the contribution from the member for the City of Bridgetown, what is he talking about? Overcrowding in primary schools. How do you avoid and prevent overcrowding except by looking after the necessary facilities to prevent overcrowding? He is talking about not enough attention being paid to Nursery Schools. How, Mr. Chairman, do you provide for the education of children of pre-school age unless you provide the educational and physical facilities in which those can take place? I believe his powers of reason has abandoned him on this particular occasion and in order to make a criticism he has said these things. I must say it is the first occasion on which I have heard him speak substantially on education; I have heard him on other occasions and I must admit that he makes good points sometimes but on this occasion I cannot say that he is making a sound contribution on this particular point.

Mr. Chairman, there is only one way you can deal with the problem of accommodation in our school system and that is by providing the necessary facilities to enable the teachers to carry out the main task of education which is that of instilling the basic principles embodied in education and the ability to deal with the environment and all other essentials of a sound education.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to mention here and now how I feel to hear the teachers in this Island being called dregs. It really leaves me to wonder why this savage assault should be made on a group of persons who are working as best they know to provide the training and upbringing of the young people of this country. I think the hon. member should be big-hearted enough to get up and withdraw the word "dregs" used against the people of this profession. Mr. Chairman, I do not consider the teachers in this country as "dregs". I would like to say.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member may not consider the teachers in primary schools as dregs but he certainly does not consider that they should teach his own children.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I wish to make this point quite clear. I believe it has been made by the member for Christ Church West. I do not share the view that the headteachers in this country are not as dedicated as headteachers who have gone before. I do not share that view, and I would like to make it clear that I disassociate myself from any such comment as far as the teachers in this country are concerned. As in any profession, there are good practitioners and there are practitioners who are not so good; some more dedicated and some less dedicated; but I do not agree with any wholesale condemnation of the teachers in this country. However, lest that opinion be broadcast I would like to make it quite clear that I am satisfied that there are many dedicated and competent teachers and headteachers in our system who are working beyond the call of duty to see that the young people of this country get a sound education.

As far as nursery education is concerned, I would like to say that nursery education does not take place only in nursery schools. There are some 4, 900 children under the age of five receiving their education in primary schools, and we have just taken a decision; we have just provided equipment for distribution in the ten primary schools — the infant department of the primary schools — to ensure that adequate equipment is available for the children to get on with that level of education.

Mr. Chairman, as far as the teachers are concerned, I wish to state quite succinctly that it is the task of this Government to provide training for the teachers in order to enable them to carry out their task as efficiently as possible and hence each year an induction course is given to teachers to enable them to carry out their tasks and to give them the necessary background and training in the skills necessary for carrying on their task.

Then there is a primary inservice training programme whereby young teachers are given the basics in the skills of teaching. Then there is the regular teacher training two-year programme at Erdiston Training College, and during the summer, vacation courses in a whole range of subjects are provided. So I do not know where hon. members get the idea from that teachers are not equipped for the task they are to perform. 5.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, they speak from a lack of knowledge of what is going on. As far as adult education is concerned, I can assure the hon. members for St. Michael West and St. Lucy that the Adult Education Programme is now under review, and I expect later this year to announce a change in this Programme.

Finally, as far as Special Education is concerned, this country has made a request to UNESCO to assist it in the evaluation of the particular problem of Special Education as well as Nursery Education, and it is hoped to see the results of this application shortly.

The question that the sum of $727, 725 under Head 27(2) — Ministry of Education — Primary, Adult and Special Education — as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(3) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION -SECONDARY EDUCATION - WAS CALLED

Head 27(3) — Ministry of Education — Secondary Education — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $7, 779, 054 under Head 27(3) — Ministry of Education — Secondary Education — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, never have I seen the Minister of Education, since the period of time he has been in this House, speak with such feeling, but I believe he has heard some things he does not like. He does not like to be told that the education system in Barbados is rotten. You have to face facts. He is adopting the same attitude as the former Minister of Education, but that sort of thing cannot work nowadays. There is no use coming here with flowery language in the hope of getting things through. You will now have to deal with some tough people on this side.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that when the Minister talks about education and what the Government is

doing, he is merely providing a lot of places for children but he is not providing a proper policy of education. We are not getting the rewards for the large sum of money spent on education in this country. I am not going to withdraw any statement I have made about education. I challenge the Minister to have a survey done in relation to the qualifications of the people who are teaching at some of these schools. If he can produce a Report to show that I am wrong, then I will accept the Report and withdraw my statement. I can see things, and I can hear things. When you change the name of a Comprehensive School and call it a Secondary School, you are only fooling the people and making them believe that you are providing secondary education for them.

Now, the Minister told us that he was offering places in Nursery Education, but he cannot show us anywhere in these Estimates, or in the Capital Estimates, where he has money for Nursery Education. The hon. member for St. Michael West has been told one or two things already. He is talking with two faces: when he is outside he talks as a trade unionist, and when he is in here he talks as a politician. Today he made a speech in here as a politician and not as a trade unionist representing the people.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point or order. The hon. member will take his seat. He has not yet spoken.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, are you saying that I cannot rise on a point of order unless I have spoken on a matter? That would be a very serious precedent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Refer to the Standing Orders, and you will see the position. You can rise to a point of order when you have spoken.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Are you saying that I cannot rise on a point of order, if I have not spoken?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Yes.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I beg to differ, Mr. Chairman. (Interruption in the Gallery.) There are strangers in the Gallery, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Are you going to differ from the Chair?

Mr. BOLDEN:
I am on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. If you tell me that I cannot rise on a point of order, then I am worried about that. Are you looking at the Standing Orders to find out whether or not I can speak, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Standing Order No. 32 States

"INTERRUPTIONS

1. No member may interrupt another Member except —

(a) by rising to a point of order, when the Member speaking shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point of order which he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or Chairman for decision:" What is your point of order?

Mr. BOLDEN :
I withdraw my point of order, Sir, 5.20 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, I was saying that there is a practice here on behalf of the other side, and the Minister tried to deal with it, of handing out praises to certain members on this side in an effort to divide us. That is a debating tactic that has to be ignored. Praising the hon. member for Christ Church and criticising the others is his business and that of the hon. member for Christ Church West, but I am going to tell it as I see it, and if he does not like it, it is a matter for him. I do not want any praise from him. I did not come in here for that and I do not expect him to praise anything I say, because anything I say is going to be a criticism of his Ministry, not of him personally, because I do not believe in personalities in politics. I will criticise his Ministry and the operation of education in this country.

Again, when we look at secondary education in this country, we see the same built in middle class bias, a bias that is built in in favour of middle class people running through secondary education in this country, and it stems from the failure of the Government to provide proper primary education. It starts from that and runs right through. Now, Sir, we find that the Government talks about free secondary education and they have 5, 400 pupils in the grammar schools as they call them. In the comprehensive schools whose names have been changed to secondary schools, there are 12, 000 children and in the independent approved schools, there are 6, 900. Now what must be the objective of education for children? I believe that the objective of education must be to prepare the young people of this country to take their place in society, and to help develop the society socially, economically and politically. When these objectives are looked at against the education now being provided, can we truly say that the Government is living up to the objectives of any educational policy? I 1 submit to you that when one analyses the whole situation one cannot come to the conclusion that the Government is providing the necessary education. The comprehensive schools and the main reason behind their introduction have boiled down now to receiving 11+ failures. Those who have failed the 11+ examination or who have not got into the few limited places at the Government Schools are sent to these comprehensive schools. Let us make no mistake about it. A child leaving one of these schools with all the prestige like Harrison College, Lodge, Queens College or Foundation compared with a child from Ellerslie or one of the other comprehensive schools will go for a job, and our society still has that built in prejudice that would favour a child coming from Harrison College, Lodge and such schools. So basically here we have something that is wrong, and it is wrong not only because of the attitudes of people outside the educational system, but because of the educational system itself. The educational system maintains this

disparity, this prejudice, this class distinction, because the education provided at these comprehensive schools is not as good as the education being provided at the grammar schools.

I believe that one of the objectives in the educational system — and we talk a lot of agricultural technology — should be greater emphasis being placed on the sciences and agricultural technology being taught in the schools. I know it is being taught in some of the comprehensive schools, but I think greater emphasis should be placed on it because you cannot expect as the hon. member for St. Michael West has said, people are going to enter different trends in the society and therefore you have to bring a different outlook on agriculture to many people where that agriculture is not what was discussed in here earlier today of importing dung baskets and hoes and things like this. There is a different concept of education in modern day thinking in Barbados.

Now, Sir, I think that a closer look should be taken at some of the existing private schools because I believe that the majority of these schools exist merely for the purpose of trading upon the poor people of this country, making a profit off them without providing the necessary education. A lot of the schools have inadequate accommodation, inefficient teachers, and the instruction given is also inadequate to meet the needs of modern day of Barbados. I think a closer look must be made at the objectives of education in our society if the objective is to prepare children for the social, economic and political development of this country. I find that at the moment we are providing a lot of people with white collar jobs and the other people who are caught up in the system are not filling the void that needs to be filled. There are what one can call blue collar jobs because you give people an inadequate secondary education and when they leave school they feel they are entitled to certain jobs, and in failing to get these jobs, they tend to drop out of the system, and some opportunity should be provided that these people can be taken back into the system, and this is where the objectives must be looked at.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, there is only one point I want to raise under this and it is that on investigation I found that agricultural science which is supposed to be one of the subjects which will prepare persons to enter into the agricultural field or industry is only taught, I am told, in the comprehensive schools in the rural areas, and that in the other secondary schools it is not known or heard of or advocated. There is no specialised or particular training for the teachers who teach this subject and it seems to be the basis of discrimination. I cannot understand how the Prime Minister or the Minister of Agriculture can find themselves in the canefields as some kind of gimmick copying from Castro in Cuba and talking about people going back to the land and about how many Barbadians can reap canes, and yet people are not being prepared to take their position in society in what can be a respectable occupation, that is, agriculture. I have advocated in this Chamber before that we should move towards a system of education where we can educate our people into recognising that agriculture is no longer the sort of occupation which should be decried. 5.30 p.m.

All over the world we have found that people who involve themselves in agriculture can begin work in the morning and finish at the end of the day looking as respectable as the engineer, the mechanic or probably the man who works in an office in one of the cities. It is not a question of mechanisation, it is a question of training young minors to look in a particular way but we have looked too much to the arts in this country. If you look at the University of the West Indies you will find that the majority of places are taken up by arts students and if you look at the Community College you will find everybody talking about a B.A. or a B.Sc. but there must be somebody to produce the food if we expect to utilise the B.A.'s

or B.Sc.'s. Further to his famous speech about not wishing to see another cane blade in this country the Prime Minister has realised in one way that he must curtail the volume of our imports of food, but it seems as if the Minister of Education has not yet taken this point. I have been crying in the wilderness since 1970 for a more realistic view in our educational system. We must educate our people and tell them that as long as they are doing an honest and a worthwhile job they are occupying situations in the society which are as fitting and beneficial as the man who goes into Bridgetown,

It is surprising that the few tractor drivers today can earn more than the people going into the Government Service. We have teachers with one or two "O" Level certificates in those subjects which I consider one can acquire without entering the backdoor of the so-called secondary school in this country. If you look at the newspaper when the "O" Level results come out you will see that 90% of those pupils who go to the so-called secondary schools come out with certificates in English Literature land Scripture. Some of them call it Religious Knowledge. I heard the Prime Minister say once that you only have to sit down under a tree and read a book and you can pass in English Literature, but you do not even have to do this now, you can go to the cinema and see pictures of the texts of plays like Macbeth and Julius Caesar. I believe it was on the instigation of the education authorities in this country that the cinemas see. i to pick these text book subjects to show at the relevant times, close to the examination period. I know they have visual aids in the schools nowadays, but the cinemas charge a small fee for the school children to see the set texts coming up for the examination, so that is why you get so many passes in English Literature.

You have Combermere School, which I attended when I. was a boy and when it was, unfortunately, in Roebuck Street, but now it is at Codrington and you have a field there where you allowed Sun Farms Limited to come here and carry put experiments to the detriment of Barbadians, because they ran the; fields into grass, and as you know the popular saying is "one season's grass is seven years' cure." Could it not be possible to institute some sort of programme where the boys at Combermere School can be involved in some agricultural activities? You will find that the Agricultural Department is completely lacking in scientific knowledge and technical officers. Two officers were there but one has gone abroad and everything has come to a halt. You cannot find entymologists and veterinary technicians and we in Barbados get on as if we can do without all these things. There are some symbols which I must join with Mr. Demas and say I do not understand these sayings. You have the MDCs, the more developed countries, and the LDC's, the less developed countries, but I say that Barbados is getting on like an FDC, a fully developed country. Last month expensive cows brought in from Canada died in this country because there was not a veterinary officer available in the country. The Minister of Agriculture cannot deny that, but this is an indication that our whole educational system is certainly not geared to what the country needs,

Take Harrison College. How many children from there have turned out to pursue the sort of science which is so lacking in this country today? The Hon. Minister of Education will tell you that he has a programme, but what is the programme? A programme for building schools, a programme for training teachers to teach in secondary schools, but what are we filling these schools with? We are turning out half-baked students, we are creating a stress in the society and I have said before that Government has to take a serious look at education. I am saying now in no uncertain terms that Government has to look at these so-called secondary schools which are turning out thousands of children who are ill-equipped to fill any place in the society. Go into Broad Street any Saturday morning and you find the limers who can get no jobs at all, and you also have to look at these secretarial schools which do not do such a good job

either. When they go to the primary schools they do not pass because we have not got the necessary places to accommodate them for secondary education and then when they do not pass they are forced into these comprehensive schools or are given bursaries to these quasi-secondary schools.

I have had the experience in my office where a girl applied for a job while at school and was 22 years of age. She did not acquire one certificate to justify the time, the money and the exercise which one went through to give her a secondary education. The Minister cannot deny that. When they come out of sthool and cannot do anything but look for a white collar job in town they do this because of this system by the Government which is encouraged and perpetrated by them. I have another example. A mother came to my office and asked for a job for her son but I told her I would have to speak with the son. When he came he said he wanted to be an accountant. I sent him to a friend of mine and asked he could help him but within five minutes he called me back and said the boy had no certificates. He was then 23 years of age, and he was given a job in a Swan Street store to deal with figures, not to cut cloth, and he was told to go to an evening class to get certificates in English, Mathematics and one other subject because he could not be admitted to the examination for Accountancy until he had the qualifications. He said that was degrading because he went to a secondary school and he did not want a job unless he could start as an Accountant. That is the system we are perpetrating in this country, and I have heard Minister after Minister in this House say we are looking for a different system. How loiiger must we keep looking? 5.40 p.m.

When we keep looking, are we finding results? I say no, because we are concentrating too much on certain principles without looking at the real defects in our society. This is a country which I believe can go far if we had a realistic administration. We should train our children to understand that there is nothing degrading in becoming a mechanic or an agricultural expert.

It is said that there are some people who in the Agricultural Department just fold their hands and stand off. They cannot do the job which they have to do and each of them considers himself an expert. That is because we have conditioned their minds that it is inferior to soil their hands with something that is productive.

That, Sir, is why we have people coming here and setting up industries and exploiting workers in spite of the trade union bosses. It is because people would prefer this kind of work rather than going into a cane ground. This is worse than the Communist system where you are taught to obey without question and if you refuse you are sent to Siberia and the salt mines.

I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture to tell me what is his policy on this, bearing in mind that we are approaching a crisis period in the Caribbean where food will become scarce and where we will need all the food that we can find and where the Arabs have put themselves in a position where we have to bow down to them and beg. We had a case here where a man called Dr. Eavis has left here and gone to the Far East because there is more money there and more security, and we do not have an officer to take his place.

We must train our young people. Teachers do more to influence a child than parents do. From the time of school going age the child leaves home at 7.30 a.m. and does not get back home until 4.30 p.m., and if he plays games he may get home at 6 p.m. He has about one hour with his parents. The influence must come from the schools and therefore we must have a positive educational system which can look to the

needs of Barbados even if we do not look to the needs of the Caribbean.

Everyday people are trekking down Broad Street, looking for jobs. A Swan Street store advertised for two girls and the whole street was blocked off because everybody is looking for a so called white collar job. I am wondering what the Minister of Education is planning to do in order to reverse this trend which has crept into our society and which is based on a policy which does not recognise the needs of our society.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, in replying under this particular Head, I am pleased to note that the contributions made were less intemperate than those on the previous Head. I think that on this occasion some sound criticisms were made, although I am not saying that they were justified or justifiable.

I would assure members that what we are trying to do in this country is to transform the system of education which was an elitist system at secondary level for a small number of people to a system of education which would provide education for the masses of people in this country.

There are children with varying abilities, and hence one has got to see that the type of schools one constructs have the facilities which can cater to the varying abilities of these children; and that is precisely what we are trying to do.

I cannot promise the hon. Member for St. Joseph — and I do not think that he himself is asking this — I cannot promise him, that each student who comes out of a secondary school or as he called it a quasi-secondary school next term will turn out to be an accountant or turn out to be good at Religious Knowledge which he believes is so easy to pass as a subject. That is not reflected in the examination results. This is one of the most difficult subjects according to the examination results.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way. I have spoken about these people who go to quasi-secondary schools. I have no qualms about calling names. The only subjects that they acquire are English and Religious Knowledge. If you go to Sunday School or listen to itinerant preachers or listen to Armstrong you are bound to know something about Religious Knowledge.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, all that I am saying is that because children, not only in Barbados, but everywhere, children have varying abilities, it is pointless to believe that each student who comes out of the educational system will be able to be an accountant or a specialist in some aspect of agriculture.

I would like to let hon. members know that as far as education in the secondary schools is concerned there is a committee which is currently sitting to review the entire Common Entrance Examination system and its operation and effects.

This Government is not claiming that it has all the answers to the educational problems of this country, and the problems of education in our secondary schools have admittedly been talked about for some time. We have therefore decided to set up a committee to study the whole problem and to come with recommendations as to what is needed in so far as the educational system is concerned, and I will await

the recommendations of that committee. We will study those recommendations and we will take such action as is deemed necessary as a result of these recommendations. 5.50 p.m.

I do not know of any other way in which to do it, short of the Minister determining that from tomorrow such and such a thing would take place. The Committee is discussing the matter among themselves and with those interested bodies in the country who have submitted memoranda and submitted recommendations; they have had discussion and they have studied problem and will report, and when they have reported I will look at the recommendations and take what steps are necessary on that report. This is as far as admission to the schools is concerned.

As far as the programme in the schools for the children who are admitted into the schools are concerned, here again there can be no criticism of the schools. In the early 1960's the problem was that we were not turning out enough craftsmen and technical people, but sometimes it is forgotten that we cannot transform an educational system overnight. It is not ten years we are dealing with. The problems were not created ten years ago. Some years ago we were told many people spoke about it, and this Chamber passed a Resolution that some steps should be taken to provide more skilled men in this country. We have been able to set up that institution in the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic and we are in the process of providing more technical education in the schools in aspects of basic electronics and so on.

We have discovered that agricultural science is necessary and we are providing a programme for agricultural science in our schools. The hon. member had asked what training we are giving to those who teach agricultural science. We have got to say that the facilities are there for teaching it and that the teachers are there and this is what we have started on. The Samuel Jackman Polytechnic is.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. The Hon. Minister said that I asked what training he is giving to those who teach agricultural science in the schools.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The Minister is explaining the point.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, a number of teachers are receiving training in agricultural subjects and some have been sent abroad to study agriculture. Some persons go to the Faculty of Agriculture in Trinidad, and some Wave gone to the Farm School in Trinidad, and currently we are considering having discussions with Canadian Government officials about the providing of a programme for teachers of agricultural science.

The other point I want to make is with regard to the curriculum in schools; we can make all sorts of criticism and each person can have a point of view on the particular matter, but here again, Mr. Chairman, this is not something which we have to wait until we are into this House of Assembly to realize. A Council has been established to review the curriculum in the schools, and teacher methods and so on, to study the whole programme in the schools, primary and secondary, to suggest what should be taught, how much time should be allocated, what text books should be used and so on. That is not all. Mr. Chairman, we also want to give consideration to the attitudes of the students. All this is concerned

in the work of this Council. The Council has been meeting and has set up Committees to look into these matters. Here again, when the report has been made we will give careful study to its recommendation and I am confident that those recommendations would have a very important effect on the adaptation of the curriculum in our schools. I do not think I can say anything more on this particular matter, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, of course, for me to speak after die Minister of Education is probably taking a very bold step. We have heard him in his admitted defence of the educational system in Barbados and we have heard him trying to defend a system which is accepted by the people of this country and which is recognized by the Minister himself as a rotten system. I am not, as the Minister would think, attempting to go into deep waters. I am only going as far as I can walk back. I am sure the Minister is quite capable of answering any question I pose to him on education.

I have before me a Parliamentary Question where the hon. member for the City asked a question relative to children attending secondary schools, comprehensive schools, Grammar schools, Private Secondary Schools and Approved Independent Schools, As I understand it, the Government in its Manifesto in 1961 made a bold statement, "Free Secondary education for all." This is in the Manifesto of 1961. Some thirteen years ago. I am quite sure that any F.R.C.P. would not have taken all of that time to be qualified, and I am also sure the Minister would not be able to explain this today — why the Government has taken all this time. 6.00 p.m.

These questions are posed, and I should like to hear the answers to them. It is true that the Government Secondary Grammar Schools tutor pupils up to "Q" level standard, excluding Queen's College, Harrison College and Lodge which go on to the Advanced level. The Government Comprehensive Schools tutor pupils up to "O" level. You have the Grammar Schools, the Comprehensive Schools and the Approved Independent Schools. I understand that these Approved Independent Schools are the schools which the Minister feels are qualified and equipped to tutor pupils. If that is so, then I am telling the Minister this afternoon that every single child in this country should be given free Secondary Education. It is the children who go to these Approved Independent Schools whose parents are not in a position to pay for their education. The children of artisans, hotel workers and street cleaners go to those schools. I cannot understand how they can send their children to those schools when they are working for $50 or $60 a week.

Mr. Chairman, since the Government is satisfied that these Approved Independent Schools are qualified and equipped to teach children, then I am saying that the Government should take steps to give the children free Secondary Education. They are the children of people who are feeling the pinch. They are not the children of Ministers or the children of the Leader of the Opposition. You have Christ Church High School, Community High School, Federal High School, the Metropolitan High School and so on. All of these schools are equipped to tutor children up to "O" level, and the Government should give the children an opportunity to obtain free education.

For 13 years the Government has been talking about giving children free Secondary Education, The children who do not go to school in a shed will go to Queen's College, Harrison College and Lodge School. On the other hand, you will find 300 or 400 children going to a Government School and only two or three will get scholarships to go to Harrison College and so on. In the meantime, the Leacocks,

the Wilkinsons and others who can afford to pay for their children send them to the School in Pine Road which gets the cream of education in this country. On the other hand, you will get a few parents who have their children going to school at St. Silas or some other schools telling you that the children were given a half-scholarship. I am calling on the Minister of Education this afternoon to be bold and say that the children will be given free Secondary Education. He cannot deny that the poorer class of children attend these schools. If the taxpayers' money is paying for the upkeep of these Approved Independent Schools, then there is no reason why the children should not be given free Secondary Education.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that my remarks will not fall on deaf ears. I cannot deal with the subjects taught in the schools. I am too old to find out about that, and I have to listen to what the man in the street says. I am asking the Minister to help the poor man. I am not talking about the Smiths, the Lowes, the Fordes, the Adamses and so on. You must think of the man who is cleaning the street and so on, and make provision to give all and sundry a free Secondary Education.

I am out of the woods now, and my two children can take care of themselves. The Minister of Education should stop fooling and bluffing the people as the Prime Minister has done for all of these years. One of these mornings you may wake and find blood on your doorsteps. The Minister of Education is aware of the fact that I am not an easy bone to swallow. He was born in St. James, and I went there and did all sorts of things. I want the Minister to understand that it is through these people that he was able to get a "blue ribbon" in education for this country. Let the granting of free Secondary Education be the last thing the Minister does for the country.

Mr. Chairman, the Approved Independent Schools are nothing but a joke. When you ask parents to state the name of the school they would like their children to attend they will say Harrison College. 6.10p.m.

The hon. member for St. Joseph is a different lawyer from the others. He had to go to England and drive trucks to become a lawyer while the others were born lawyers; so I am appealing to the Minister. It is from the grass-roots that he has sprung and it is the taxpayers who paid for his education; do not mind the old man saying that he is a conservative; he did not know any better. What I am asking the Minister to do is to understand the problems of the poor man of the country. I know the Minister is very tight in his pocket; you cannot get him to buy a coke, but because that is the way he budgets, he cannot expect these people can budget the same way on $40 and $50 a week. He gets $2, 000 with a little thing on the side, so he can afford to get there and talk, but I challenge the Minister that whenever the papers come and he has to state which school he would like to send his child to, it would be Harrison College. He would not put down Christ Church High; so he is perpetuating the same snob value. There is the Foundation School and then there are Comprehensive Schools teaching up to "O" level, but he is not sending his child there. There is something wrong and I would like the Minister to assist me because I do not understand. The Minister has often said to me that I do not understand and that the waters are deep, but I know what is not deep and it is that I understand the needs of the poor man in the country, and it is the poor man who has to pay for his children's education while the big man is getting it free. I wish your Government to fulfil is promise in the 1961 manifesto and I sincerely hope that this will be done.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, as a representative of the people in this Chamber and a parent of children, I consider it

my duty to say a few words here today. Now, Sir, all the children I have, have passed the primary schools, and I want to say that if any child has the ability to assimilate book learning, he is given an opportunity to go to the grammar school regardless of whose child he is. This is an age in which the agricultural labourer's child has the same opportunity as the doctor's child. I would also like to say that at the comprehensive schools there.....

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of order, I think what the hon. member wants to say is that all have the opportunity to take the examination.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. WEEKES:

Any child who has the ability to assimilate book learning has the opportunity to take the examination and will in many cases succeed. On the other hand I am saying that at these comprehensive schools it is my opinion and I have no doubt that my statement is authentic that you get better qualified teachers than at the private schools, and therefore if a child does not obtain the required number of marks to enter the grammar school, I fail to see why a parent instead of sending the child to a private school should not send it to the comprehensive school. I will tell you what has happened. I had a daughter who needed two marks to enter a grammar school. (A VOICE How did you know that?) Any parent who has an interest in their children and wants to know how the child has got along can go and get the marks, and I have no doubt they will be given. The position is that I was offered a bursary. I did not accept it. I sent my child to the comprehensive school because in my district I had noticed several children who had gone to the comprehensive school and obtained five or six certificates, and are at the Community College trying to obtain certificates at Advanced Level. Now this is what happens. If you consider prestige, you will want your child to go to the grammar school, but at the comprehensive school a large number of pupils are coming out as qualified people to enter the Civil Service. If a child has the ability, it is not the school, it is the child. Regardless of the school you send your child to and it has not got the ability to learn, it will not barn. Gone are the days when a child could go to Queens College, obtain two certificates and a job becomes vacant and gets it and the child who goes now to Princess Margaret or Springer Memorial gets five certificates and applies for a job in the Government is accepted in the Government and the child with two will not be given a job regardless of the school she attended; and therefore I have come to the conclusion that it is not the school.

I do not want to blow my own trumpet, but I have a son who has done remarkably well and his training was at the primary school and he had to sit the entrance examination to enter Harrison College which is something on par actually with the present system of entry. If the child has not got the ability to learn, it will not learn regardless of the school you sent it to, and therefore when you look around in this Island and see the number of children that the comprehensive schools are sending out annually with certificates, I must command the Minister for all that he has done and is doing for this country and I wish him success. 6.20 p.m.

I can say without any contradiction that the present Minister is doing an excellent job and I associate myself with those who have commended him and appreciate the work he is doing. I wish him success. The comprehensive school is here to stay, you cannot make blood out of stone. When you send the

children there some will learn. All the children do not belong to the academic stream and consequently they would have to think about other types of education, and this is the time for the members of this Honourable and ancient House of Assembly to give the Hon. Minister our wholehearted cooperation knowing that he is rendering yeoman service to the community.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not normally speak on these debates. Only today I had to tell the Minister of Health that I hardly remember speaking on Health or Education, but I have to rise because I am disappointed in the speech of the hon. member who has just sat down, a man who despite his ability and his capacity to grasp facts and extrapolate facts and circumstances has allowed himself to be fooled into making remarks which I do not think are based on the proper analysis of the educational situation in Barbados. I cannot conceive, and I really speak as an outsider to this, but I have never pretended to understand the way education works. Never at any stage have I pretended to a knowledge even of the technical organisation of schools, but what I know and what I can see and read is this. In Barbados as increasingly you make entrance to the higher forms of education more and more competitive, those who can afford to pay for financing the cramming of children at a young age achieve better and better results in the competitive examinations than their comparative numbers in society would lead you to believe. Every time I hear somebody say that it is possible today for the children of agricultural labourers to go to Harrison College I have to remind them that in the past it might have been snobbery which kept them out but in the days of the Conservatives more and more entry to the schools by persons who were the children of those in humble social positions was given. Vestries gave many scholarships, the father of the hon. member for Bridgetown was closely associated with all of this, and it became possible for a wider range of person to enter the schools. This trend has continued, and undoubtedly for a clever child, a child who can survive sometifties the bad teaching in the primary schools, it is easier to enter a secondary school because there is no fee to pay, and that is an achievement, but what we are calling for is not accommodation for the clever child, what the hon. member for St. James, who like me has no pretence to being an expert in education, was calling for, was not asistance for the children who reach the top.

There are certain persons, no matter what the educational opportunities and no matter at what stage their education ceased, will reach the top of the field. It is not to help them, it is to help the children who have not got the depth of natural ability to reach the top under any system, and it is those persons to whom the financial burden of education is falling most heavily. I remember during the election, in my constituency a Manager — a great and important man of a great and important white family in this island — was so presumptuous as to tell the labourers they must vote for the Democratic Labour Party because they could get free secondary education, look his sons were at Lodge School. Of the 120 voters who voted in the plantation yard the only ones with children at Lodge School were the plantation manager and his wife. If the hon. member for St. Philip South gave consideration to the point he would realise that those who are getting the unfair end of the thing are only those who cannot afford, whatever the hon. member for St. Michael West says about garage schools, cannot afford the garage schools with their inferior teachers.

Mr. WALCOTT:

On a point of explanation, I said there is a school where the children are taught in a garage, that is a different thing from a garage school. It was the hon. member who spoke about a garage school.

Mr. ADAMS:

The semantic speech with which the hon. member handled that interruption reveals what is meant by paying that the clever child will get on anyhow. I am sorry to paraphrase it in that way. If he is told he must not offend Mrs. Carrington or whoever it is I am sorry for him. As the hon. member for St. Philip was speaking I was making a note of a quotation made by a Judge who said that English justice is available to everybody. His exact words were "the law courts are open to all, rich and poor alike, just like the doors of the Ritz Hotel." A similar thing is happening in education at the present time. The feeders filling secondary schools always obtain a better percentage of passes than the Government primary schools. It is not in my opinion that the children of agricultural labourers are more foolish than those who can afford to pay fees, it is that those who can afford to pay fees will get better results. They are investing in an apportunity to get secondary education. I suppose one thing is to save money and the other is to get a better education which is available at the grammar schools. The hon. member for St. Philip South is saying you should send the children to the comprehensive schools and not to these private schools, but I thought you went to the comprehensive schools after you did not get through Part I of the entrance examination. It is not a decision of any parent, but it may just be my ignorance on this particular matter. 6.30 p.m.

At least I was glad that the hon. member paid such high tribute to the Comprehensive School started by the Barbados Labour Party in the parish of St. Philip. I would like to say that it is not a matter of the standard of education that the child is getting. We have seen examples in this House of people for whom Barbados is poorer because they did not have opportunities like other persons. We have the example of a former leader of the House and there is no greater advertisement for all the schools that he went to — I refer to Mr. Cameron Tudor — a man with less ability than the member for St. Michael West and the member for St. Philip South.

This is because the member for St. Philip South does not realise that he is the victim of the highly inadequate educational system which existed in his youth, and may be children of Barbados are still being victims of this inadequate system; and the Minister of Education must know that whatever defence is put up by members on his side, and whatever arguments are deployed, one of the things he must do is to equalise all opportunities from primary to university level.

The equalisation of opportunities is one of his major problems. Primary schools and grammar schools in some cases cannot compete with private schools, and this, to my mind, must be a particular worry to the Ministry of Education at the present time.

From time to time the Minister or someone in the Ministry of Education talks about how many places the primary schools have got. Sir, I have never had to make a contribution like this before, and I hope that by next year the Minister will have hearkened to what has been said by the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, ...

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
According to the Standing Orders, unless the Committee is prepared to give the Hon. Minister of Education leave to speak, he cannot speak now.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I beg to move that the Hon. Minister be given leave to reply.

Mr. CRAIG:
That is not right.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
All members must sit. The House is in Committee, and the point is that if there is a wish of the Committee that the Minister should speak, the Committee can say so.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I am asking that the appropriate Minister be given leave to reply.

Mr. CRAIG:
He has to give that notice in writing.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, if you will hear me for one minute, I remember that in the last session the late Mr. "Homie" Corbin who was senior member for St. Andrew once said that we should have a little latitude and a little longitude, and I retorted a little altitude as well. We are in Committee. I believe that Education is such a burning subject that most of us would like to hear the Minister reply as to what he has in store for us. Even without a vote I would hope that you would give a little elasticity on this point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
All hon. members will sit. If it is the wish of the Committee that the Minister should speak they can say either aye or no. There will be no debate and no argument.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, the Minister may get leave of the Committee to address the Committee if he gives notice in writing. This is making a mockery of the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am asking the hon. member to sit.

Mr. CRAIG:
I am not sitting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Then you will leave the Chamber.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Rule 29 which deals with the right of reply says that a Minister

may conclude the debate on any motion which is critical of the Government or reflects.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
At this stage there is nothing critical of the Government.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Good gracious!

The question that the sum of $7, 779, 054 under Head 27(3) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, at this stage in accordance with the arrangements made with the Leader of the Opposition we have agreed to sit until 6.30 p.m.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
I beg to second that. 6.40 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one observation of the motion. It appears that in this Chamber there are two sets of rules; one today which allowed the Prime Minister and the Minister of Tourism to speak two or three times even after they made their main speeches, and then there is another rule that I cannot get up on a point of order. There is one rule by which you allowed them to speak two or three times and another one preventing me from speaking on a point of order. That kind of ruling cannot go on. That is all I want to say.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, ...

Mir. CHAIRMAN:
What are you speaking on?

Mr. BOLDEN:
I am speaking on the motion, Sir. Mr. Chairman, it would appear as if you have first class, second class and third class members as well as Ministers, and I do not like this kind of discrimination. If the Prime Minister can get up and speak as he likes and whenever he likes.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member must sit. He is completely out of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is entirely out of order. We have made the motion to report progress.

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER 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 until tomorrow Wednesday 20th March, 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 6.45 p.m.

On resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER:
When this sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 27(4) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - ERDISTON COLLEGE

Head 27(4) - Ministry of Education — Erdiston College — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chakman, I beg to move that the sum of $139, 404 under Head 27(4) — Ministry of Education — Erdiston College — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 27(5) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION -HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Head 27(5) - Ministry of Education -Housecraft Centre — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, there are a few amendments which should be made to this Head. Under Item 5 — Office Expenses, delete figure "2, 950" appearing under Column "Other Expenditure" and insert figure "2, 126" and make the necessary amendments.

I beg to move that the sum of $44, 199 under Head 27(5) — Ministry of Education — Housecraft Centre — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT, Hon. P. M. GREAVES and Hon. A. MORRISON entered the Chamber and took their seats.

HEAD 27(6) MINISTRY OF EDUCATION -SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC

Head 27(6) — Ministry of Education — Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $374, 338--under Head 27(6) — Ministry of Education - Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, my debate under this Head will have to be on the question of the Community College, and what I want to raise here is the fact that some of the courses offered by the Community College and by the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic are given at each place, if I may put it that way. If you have sufficient qualifications for the Community College and you want to take particularly Science subjects you have to go to the Polytechnic with the result that many students find that they are unable to carry through the number of courses which they would like to take at an advanced stage. The time tables, I believe, are not arranged in any manner thereby they can enjoy doing the number of subjects at the same time. Again the distance between the Community College and the Polytechnic is such that due-would not expect students to be in Two Mile Hill doing a course from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. the to get to, the Polytechnic to take another course starting at 11 a.m. I have been told that several students have been unable to follow many subjects because of this situation. Then again the subjects clash with subjects which the students want to take. Now this occurs primarily because of Government's decision to divide the system of education, in this country under die pretext that they want to remove snob barriers from Harrison College, Lodge School and Queens College where they have Sixth Forms. If you say you are going to remove the snob value, I would have thought you would sit down with your experts and work

out a system so that students would not be deprived of the opportunity of taking what courses they want when they want them, It means that if you are following courses at one institution, you have to wait until you finish those before you can start others at the other institution.

Many of us who unfortunately may have had to study in the United Kingdom will understand why they always refer to us as sub-normal when we reach England, and I am sure the Minister would have found that they classify you as being some stages below a student of a similar age who has gone to similar schools. This would be throwing back our students at least one year or more in their educational progress if they find that they must do so many subjects at one place, and if they are capable of doing the other, they cannot do it until they are finished because of the method of arranging these various subjects and the class time. I would like to hear from the Minister on this particular point how he expects to rationalise these courses and arrange them in such a way that students would not suffer a disadvantage because of Government arrangements.

The next thing is the Evening Classes. Seriously I must say I believe the Democratic Labour Party has been influenced by winning all the seats in the St. Michael and Christ Church constituencies, but they must realise they owe it to all the other people in the country who are taxpayers to provide equal opportunities for them. The number of evening classes which are conducted outside the St. Michael area is proportionately less and of lesser quality and there is a lesser number of subjects. I have asked in here before what Government is doing about providing classes In agricultural technology and science so that people can make use of these facilities. On the last occasion I was told that the Chief Agricultural Officer goes around and has talks and lectures. What talks and what lectures and where? We talk about an agricultural community, we hear so much about the various agrarian societies, and it is no use asking the Agricultural Department because you know what happened with the Chief Agricultural Officer when the dispute arose. I would like to know if the Minister has any answer for this this year because we have the answer nowadays that they are doing it, but they are doing it like, how Jesus Christ is coming one day; He will arrive no one knows when.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, if I may deal with the first matter raised first, it is obvious to me that the hon. member for St. Joseph does not really understand what he is talking about. He refers to students at the Community College having to go down to the Polytechnic to do certain courses in Science, and just not being able to do other courses, and I believe he mentioned the reverse may also be true. I am not certain about the latter part and he can correct me. The position is that the science laboratories in the science programme at the Barbados Community, College are located at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Those are the facilities which were formerly used by the University of the West Indies. We have proposals for the development of the division of building for the division of science at the permanent site of the Barbados Community College at Eyrie, and a loan of $6.5 million approximately has been approved by the Inter-American Development Bank for the development of these facilities including the division of building for the division of science. The fact that students have to do their laboratory work at the science laboratories at the Harbour does not prevent them from participating in other programmes of the Barbados Community College, but this programme has nothing to do with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic apart from the fact that the physical facilities are located on the compound where the Polytechnic is located.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. Minister will give way, is he saying that students cannot take certain courses offered by the Community College because they have to be at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic? Is he telling us that is not true? If he wants me to call names, dates, times and persons involved, I can. Do not tell me it is not true. I can tell the public it is true and let us go outside and talk it out. 10.40 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Absolutely no point of order and no point of elucidation.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, it is obvious. While science courses are going on at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic courses are going on at the Barbados Community College at Sherbourne and at the Eyrie. There may be a course going on in Biology or there may be a course going on in Physics and Chemistry at the Harbour Site. At the same time there may be a course going on in Civil Engineering or in Surveying or in French for that matter at Sherbourne. It is obvious that a student who is attending a Physics course at the Science facilities at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic could not at the same time be participating in the programme in Surveying at the other campus of the Barbados Community College. This is obvious, but it would also be true that if the Science facilities were located at Sherbourne beside the building or the room in which French was going on the students also could not participate in the programme. Any student enrolled in Science at the Barbados Community College is not deprived of following the main programme for which he is enrolled which is a science education within the framework of the Barbados Community College, and many students have enrolled in and graduated from that programme.

The question that the sum of $374, 338 under Head 27(6) — Ministry of Education, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(7) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HOTEL SCHOOL

Head 27(7) - Ministry of Education, Hotel School — was called.

Hon. L. E, SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to be made not to any of the figures but after Item 5 there should be inserted Item 6A and for the code number against Item 6A there should be inserted the number 062, 130 against Books and Publications. I beg to move that the sum of $248, 959 under Head 27(7) - Ministry of Education, Hotel School, — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, this is a matter which is going to affect the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour. The sum of $248, 000 which the country is subsidising the Hotel Industry with I do not find we are getting any built-in conditions in the Industry. I do not believe that the Government has any right to

provide these sumr of money for the Hotel Industry without any guarantee about placements and who people bring into the Industry. A hotelier can employ whoever he likes whether he is trained or untrained, and my view is that there must be some discipline among employers. Everybody wants to jump and discipline the workersy they cannot strike or ask for more money, but what we find here is that by no measure of training this Hotel School is really a subvention we are providing to a specific industry, this is hot to a worker as such.

The hotels in my view should put up their own schools and draw from it because that would be specific training. When they dismiss a hotel worker the training is lost because that worker cannot work anywhere else. I feel that if we are going to continue to spend money in the Hotel Industry they must be told. What are the conditions of recruitment in the hotels? If you are going to spend this money you can only discipline the people to go to the schools by making the Industry understand it would be illegal to employ people other than they, so you are forcing people to go there and on the other hand you will be telling them they cannot work in the Industry unless they go. I say that because the Minister of Education has set out some conditions to the Barbados Workers' Union to give the Union $10, 000 but they must be given places, they must be represented on the Board, and they want so much for that $10, 000 that when we come down to the details I wonder what we have to give them in return. If they want all these conditions to give a subvention, I really wonder what would happen if they were giving more. This $10, 000 cannot even pay for the land, so if we were getting $240, 000 then we would be in a different ball game. If Government is going to spend a quarter of a million dollars on the school, nothing to do with the capital or recurrent costs of the building, I feel that this is something which the Government is doing and which is good, but I am satisfied that they must impose some conditions in the Industry.

There is no point in having a Hotel School if people do not care whether or not you have one. The Industry will take people from wherever they like, but you will be able to impose minimum standards. I say that because I was a member of this Hotel School on one occasion and I could not continue because time is a very important factor with me and my colleague, the hon. member for St. Lucy, sat at the Polytechnic as a representative of our organisation, but I hope the Minister sees that in a snail community if you are going to give substantial subventions to these institutions it is important that you know where you are going. Again I have some news about the Hotel School. I am satisfied that for practical purposes it may be run by the Ministery which is best able to deal with it, but it is not in the form of conventional education. 10.50a.m.

Sometime I wonder what part the Ministry of Labour plays because this is something that relates to employment. This is not the education of juniors. These are adults that we are talking about, people who have entered into the hotel business already or who are about to enter. So you are dealing with the training of adults and the Ministry of Labour should have some important role to play.

In some countries the Ministry of Labour takes the initiative and gets technical advice on teaching methods etc. from the Ministry of Education, but the policy comes from the Ministry of Labour.

I feel that now that the Government has set up a Hotel School it should not be regarded as a gift to send you to the school while you are not sure what is happening.

I hope that some day the Minister of Education will have a modern and up to date look at industrial

training so that it can embrace modern concepts about educational training in an island where we still operate on this old method of the bursary system which has long passed the stage ot its usefulness because it has absolutely no reference to what is going on in 1974, and die sooner it is completely repealed and abolished and something nearer to the age we are living in put in its pkce, the better it will be for industry and for the people who have to be trained.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the hon. member for St. Michael West as Minister of Home Affairs that my Ministry takes the utmost precautions in making sure, not only in the Hotel Industry, that people who are trained, here in Barbados fill jobs that can be filled by Barbadians and that all the hotels comply with the regulations.

There are Barbadians who have furthered their education in England and Canada and who might be interested in top level jobs in Barbados. My Ministry makes sure that advertisements are set out in all our embassies and it is only if applications are not filled that hotels are allowed to bring in people to work in the industry or if there are none at the particular level advertised for.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, sometime ago this matter of the Hotel Industry was discussed and we were told that there were some 76 people working in the industry under work permits, and one of the conditions was that the hotel had to ensure that a Barbadian had to be trained for the job in respect of which this permit was granted. I still think that we have too many expatriates in jobs that could be filled by Barbadians. Obviously the reason is that Barbadians are not getting training of the standard that is required.

I think it is time that Barbadians should be trained beyond the point of being merely waiters. The time has come when we must train Barbadians for top management posts in the Hotel Industry.

The point that I will now make is one which the Government should investigate. You will find an advertisement appearing in a newspaper saying that a job is vacant for a manager of a West Coast Hotel at a salary of $700 a month. This is a luxury hotel. It is advertised abroad as such and you will find that no right thinking person is going to accept the responsibility of managing a luxury hotel for $700 a month. As a result they will go to the Ministry and say that no Barbadian national has applied for the job.

What the Government lias got to look into very carefully is the hidden salaries that these people from overseas draw. In some cases some hotels give these people shares in rolling companies in Bermuda and the Bahamas and supplement their incomes by paying money into that company, and that money is paid in as a sort of dividend to hotel managers and top hotel executives in this country. That is a situation which the Government must investigate. It is unfair to Barbadians because a Barbadian who gets such a job will get in at a reduced salary, but the non national comes in and gets the same salary but additional perks are given to him.

I do not feel, Sir, that the Hotel Industry is making any significant contribution to the Hotel School. I tend to agree with die member for St. Michael West that this amounts to a subvention to the Hotel Industry. I feel that in spite of the 4 per cent tax they pay, the Hotel Industry should make some financial contribution to the running of the Hotel School because in the long run they are the ones who will derive

a benefit from the facilities provided by the Government.

I also feel that the time has come when, where middle management jobs are concerned, more Barbadians should be sent abroad for training either through the hotels or through scholarships from the Government.

One of the fascinating things we have had in Barbados relates to three hotels in St. James -Colony Club, Tamarind Cove and Discovery Bay. We had the Colony Club first and then Discovery Bay and then Tamarind Cove. One had a Barbadian manager, but what I find particularly depressing is the fact that the Colony Club, after so many years operating in Barbados, did not have a Barbadian suitably qualified to fill the post of manager or chef. I do not know what plans are made by the Government for policing these work permits. 11.00 a.m.

By all this it means that your policy of laying down conditions for training is not observed and that the hotels should be brought to their, senses; it is possible for us to bring the hotels to their senses. So I would like to see that the Government make every effort to ensure that the conditions such as training are observed, and do not tell me that you are not going to train top management people by sending them abroad, and that people are going to be merely trained by inservice training. The Government should ensure that the time has come that hotels send people abroad to train them regardless of where it be, even if at their overseas hotels for training.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, in my position as Minister of Home Affairs I am in a position to support some of the things which the hon. member has said. It is true that we know of some of the problems but at the same time the difficulty is to solve the problems.

Now there is no doubt that a hotel school will be helpful in providing many Barbadians with training in hotel management and we will be happy to have several students graduating and holding posts even at middle management level. At the same time one hears complaints that the students are not able to cope with the amount of work they are asked to do. Of course, there are some matters including this which can be resolved and this is not something that we can permit to continue forever and I have reason to believe that it would be resolved in the near future.

It is true that Barbadians should be trained but there are so many problems which come into the way to sort of prevent the realization of the proper training of Barbadians. The managers of hotels choose the wrong students knowing that at the end they can complain that the student is no benefit to the hotel Very often there are obstacles in the way of good students; so at the end of a particular period, whether it be two years or three years the boss of the hotel is w a position to sap that they have not been able to get a Barbadian with the necessary ability, to take over, but you will find it is the wrong student being chosen, (Aside: Deliberately?) yes, deliberately. I say deliberately; I do not deny that, but this is the type of thing which not only the Government is taking steps to prevent Hut which the Barbadian should also be involved in.

Then there is the difficulty in policing all the conditions and regulations which go with the granting of permits and if a Ministry is to handle this, then we will have to take over the Police Force to be in a position to ensure that these regulations are met, and I do not think that in terms of the economy of

Barbados we will be in a position to do this. To cope with this we would need a Ministry of Home Affairs as big as the Police Force. If the Ministry of Home Affairs is to be effective in ensuring that these regulations are met, we will need a Force as big as the Police Force, and it is difficult to ensure that one Ministry would have such a large number of workers going into the hotel industry, so a lot more has to be done; not only coming in here and discussing the problems in the hotel industry but we will have to get some of the people involved to help to resolve these problems. We feel that Barbadians have to identify themselves with the problems of the country and help to resolve them.

As regards the training of people in the hotel industry, certain hotels have sent Barbadians abroad to be trained and are showing interest in ensuring that Barbadians are trained at the higher levels, because it does not profit a hotel to bring in a non-national into this country to work because the inducement which they have to give to bring a non-national into Barbados to do a management course puts a high financial strain on the particular hotel, and therefore if they are interested in economising, then it is profitable to them to have Barbadians trained to take over these posts; but one of the problems involved is that they look down on the Barbadians, and this is the type of atmosphere which one has to resist and ensure that it does not exist any longer.

There are problems which face us, and they are based on a lot of sociological peculiarities in the Barbadian society and one is to go a lot further than just coming in here and making criticisms that may be valid even. We have to look at the situation and do something about national social reconstruction in this society.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to reply briefly to some of the points made on this particular Head. I would like to say that as far as the hotel school is concerned, it is the objective of this Government to provide improved facilities for the hotel school and to this end facilities have been allocated at Marine House which was formerly the Marine Hotel, as a site for the hotel school which would be moved from its present location at the Richmond compound, and work has already started on the renovation and adaptation of the new facilities provided and we hope that in the not too distant future the school would be moved to the new site with accepted improvement in the accommodation available to it and consequentially in the type of programme it is able to provide.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that the member for St. Michael West has been speaking from his experience as a member of the Hotel Advisory Board, and that particular Board is supposed to be a link between the school and the industry and those persons and bodies interested in the employment of labour and the conditions under which such labour is employed. 11.10a.m.

This Government recognise that the Hotel industry is vital to the economy, and that training for this Industry is very necessary for national development. We also recognise that training must not only be limited to the provision of courses at the craft level, that is, for cooks, waiters, bell boys and so on. Although that type of training is necessary and vital, it is also necessary to provide training at the middle management level and at top management level, because Barbadians must be able to take up positions in what one economist describes as the commanding heights of the economy.

I cannot speak as though there is no such training going on now, which seems to be the sty today into which the hon. member for the City has fallen. He has suddenly awakened to the fact that such training

appears to him to be necessary, and assumes that training is not now provided. I should like to inform him that courses at the middle management level have been instituted in the Barbados Hotel School, and that students have already graduated. There are currently approximately 22 students taking the middle management Course, and their progress had been reported by the Principal of the School as excellent.

There are three levels: Craft, Middle Management and Top Management. I have had some problems trying to convince persons that there was still a term called middle management both inside and outside of my Ministry, and there was an attempt to down-grade the level of training on some pretext that we have to approach this matter gradually and take 10, 15 or 20 years before you can produce a Manager. I am aware that there are techniques in the training of persons which can cut short the period which was spent under a certain type of apprenticeship system.

I would not like the hon. member for the City, or anyone else, to believe that we now have to send persons for training at top management level. This training is normally given in Universities and Institutions of higher learning. Under our National Development Scholarships Programme, at least 5 scholarships have been made available to Barbadians in the hope that they would go and qualify themselves and then return. Under a programme of training with the Canadian International Development Agency, a number of students have also had training in Canadian Institutions. Some of them have now returned, and are holding top positions in management. Some of them have also left the country, because they feel that they should obtain further experience. At least, that is how it is put. I merely wish to point out that we have the programmes instituted at the Craft Level, Middle Management Level and Top Management Level, and such training is recognised. From time to time we have had problems in finding places for students in hotels, but we hope that the members of the Hotel Advisory Board and the Management of the Hotel will recognise the importance of these Institutions and make facilities readily available for the students of the Hotel School.

The member for St. Lucy referred to a modern type of training programme for industry including the hotel industry. As a good, leading member of the Democratic Labour Party, he is aware of the policy of the Party and the Government to provide a Modern Industrial Training Programme for this country. To this end, through the good offices of the United Kingdom Government, an Advisor in Technical Education has been provided, and he is now in this country preparing a National Industrial and Training Programme. Discussions have taken place with the relevant Ministries and Institutions, and I expect that, in the not too distant future, I will be able to lay in Parliament a National Industrial Training Programme.

The question that the sum of $248, 959 under Head 27(7) - Ministry of Education - Hotel School— stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(8) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND SUBVENTIONS

Head 27(8) - Ministry of Education -Scholarships, Grants and Subventions — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4, 797, 771 under Head 27(8) — Ministry of Education

-Scholarships, Grants and Subventions — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate the amount of money which is being spent annually on education and I also appreciate the yeoman service which the present Minister is rendering to the community, I still feel it is my duty to speak on Item 1 — Apprenticeship Bursaries - $17, 070, il.20a.rn.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, if the hon. member would check the correct figure, I do not want him to inflate the sum which is being voted in the Estimates because it would make people believe that the Government is doing a wonderful job.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order, but it is a speech.

Mr. WEEKES:
I have noticed here $10, 080 under "Other Expenditure'! and under "Statutory Expenditure" $6, 990. If, you add those two figures it gives a total of $17, 070. If the time has come, Mr. Chairman, for the Minister to have a look at this amount, as one from the people who mixes with the people daily I can see a number of youngsters whom I feel should be given an opportunity to study some kind of trade, But, Sir, as you know, the qualification is the School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent. Now at the Comprehensive Schools you have a number of children who might not qualify for the School Leaving Certificate and they are called on to sit an entrance examination to qualify for these bursaries. Owing to the shortage of the number of artisans in this Island, carpenter, masons, motor mechanics, electricians, plumbers and several others, I feel the time has come when Government should look into this matter and do something to help those who do not qualify to enter to be given bursaries. My reason for making this statement is that when you consider the number of workmen whom we regard in these days as A — 1 workmen and those workmen are responsible for the buildings which are being erected in this country. I can assure you that many of them do not possess such qualifications, and yet they are first class workmen. I think the time has come when the Minister should look into this matter and if we are called upon to vote money in her so as to keep this Island going with artisans, we, I have no doubt, will be willing at all times to vote a reasonable sum of money.

Now in my opinion instead of this amount being $17, 000 I would have been glad if we could afford $100, 000 because we really need these youngsters to be trained as artisans. We talk about the Polytechnic but I would like to let the Minister know that when these youngsters are trained at that institution, they do not want to use the tools. Not that I am criticising them. We really need them in this Island but we must face facts, and it is these youngsters with the bursaries whom we have to depend on in the future as artisans in this Island.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to the Hon. Minister that at these comprehensive schools the headteachers should be given the opportunity and privilege of recommending children whom they feel would become good artisans because it is the teacher who can find out the potential of certain children at

that age, and I would ask him to look into this matter and do his utmost to increase the number of artisans in this Island so that in the long run we will not be short.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, quite a bit has been said on the question of training of which I consider the item on which the last hon. member spoke, apprenticeship bursaries, is part. I think that the point which he made about Government commitment to the whole question of training is something which we should be aware of because if one were to examine the expenditure of Government on the whole area of training and examine for example what is being done in the industrial arts section of the various schools examine what is being done and the amount of expenditure at the Hotel Schools and at the Polytechnic, and indeed if you look under the Ministry of Labour you will see that there is also a vote, small as it may be, for training within industry.

However, I want to direct my attention at the present to the first item under this Head which is the apprenticeship bursaries. When I came in here I heard the hon. member for St. Michael West making reference to the antiquated apprenticeship system which we have operating in this country at the present. I am aware there are plans for updating the scheme and trying to get it modernised. One of the dungs which I would like to see some emphasis placed on is die kind of commitment which we are going to get from the employers in the scheme. One of the major keepbacks in our apprenticeship system is die fact that employers to my mind do not seem to be as committed to the scheme as they should be, and I think that we should be making it mandatory on the employers not only to accept people who will be trained in one way or another as apprentices within their plants and business places, but also we should get some positive contribution from them to the extent of some financial contribution towards the scheme. This point, I think, was made by the hon. member for Bridgetown when he was speaking about the hotel schools, and many of the people in the hotel industry who are deriving benefits from the training which workers are undergoing at the hotel school should be making some contribution towards the draining. 11.30a.m.

I feel, and I feel very strongly about this, that employers should be told in no uncertain terms that they should make a financial contribution towards the training of apprentices. If you have a scheme set up the Government will naturally make a contribution and at the same time the employers should make a matching contribution, not a token one but a substantial contribution, because they are the people who are going to benefit. The Government realises that it is important that we have the kind of training facilities and apprenticeship schemes to give the people the knowledge and skills, but at the same time it has to be recognised that the employers are also going to benefit from this scheme and this should be insisted upon, otherwise the whole training would be going down the drain.

We find that sometimes the whole attitude of the people in the building industry is not such as to encourage people who want to become apprenticed and learn the various trades like masonry or carpentry, they are concerned with getting people who are already trained and do not seem to concentrate on having people on the work side to enable them to get the know-how of the particular training, so I hope the Government will take this point seriously and insist on the employers making the kind of contributions we consider they should make. There is no doubt there is going to be some resistance from the employers because they do not like to pay out money and they cannot see the immediate benefits, but one has got to consider the overall benefits for the country. We would want that commitment from the employers, and I would hope like the hon. member for St. Philip South that the

Government would continue to show a much more serious approach towards the whole question of apprenticeship and that the law which has been in existence for a number of years and which was made at a time which was completely different from the situation operating now, would be updated and should be revised as early as possible to meet modern day conditions. I think it is the Apprenticeship Act, 1928.

The other matter I would like to raise relates to Item 12 on the question of the contribution under this Head to the Barbados Workers' Union and to the Labour College which the Union is constructing at Mangrove, St. Philip and which will be completed in about a month's time. I am sure the Minister is aware of the Union's stand on this with regard to. the contribution the Government is making to this College. We consider the $10, 000 as a mere token contribution and would like to see an even greater commitment from the Government because we feel that we are involved in a very important area of adult education. I think there is no doubt that the education of workers in this country is of tremendous importance to the total well-being of the country. A lot of people seem to get the feeling that you do not have to train workers, but you train Managers and Technicians, and it is the contention of the Barbados Workers' Union that the training of workers in industrial relations and Trade Union matters is as important as the training of people in other professions and areas. If you do not have people who can understand the society in which they live, understand the total background against which we have to operate, then you can see that there could be problems on the industrial relations scene. This does not mean that because you have training there will be no further industrial unrest, but the point I am trying to make is that people who are trained are better equipped to understand what is going on in the society and would be able to give the kind of leadership to various groups of workers whom they represent, and we would have hopefully a more settled community. This is I think a very important point, and we hope that the Government would take this to heart and would ensure that we get a bigger contribution for the workers we are going to be training at the Labour College.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that members on die other side have finally come around to agreeing with what I have been saying from the time I came into this House. I have commented in previous years on the small sum of tttoiiey which Government had voted yearly under the Apprenticeship Bursaries Scheme. I believe I drew reference to the number of persons who were supposed to be under the scheme and the limited amount of money which was given - about $3.00 a week - and I said that bus fares had risen to such an extent that that sum was inadequate and would not inspire any young person to become involved in the scheme. Now that members on the Government side have come around to agreeing with me, I would hope that the Minister of Education would now look most seriously at the scheme and provide a completely different system with a little more money.

I would have to differ in my comments with the hon. member for St. Lucy who has just spoken on one or two points. First of all, I want to draw to the Minister's attention, and to the Government's attention, that there are some children who are leaving school at the age of 14 and do not qualify to enter into employment. Many employers would not employ them, because you know we are not in the habit of encouraging child labour, but one must face facts and reality. If a child leaves school at 14 or is put out of the Comprehensive Schools at that age you cannot hope to keep that child sitting at home when the parents are out trying to earn their daily bread because it will be tempted to commit some sort of crime, therefore we must devise a system to take into account these unfortunate children. We must admit that all of us cannot be lawyers, doctors, politicians, Ministers or what have you, there are some as the Hon. Minister has said that if you send them to Jesus College Oxford they will not come out qualified in what

their parents would like to see them qualified. We have to accept this fact, and I think we must now look for a new system.

I will throw out a positive suggestion. I would like to see the Minister of Education hit upon a scheme whereby he can invite artisans, carpenters, masons, joiners and plumbers to put their names on a list showing that they are willing to accept these persons between the ages of 14 and 18 to be trained as apprentices. 11.40 a.m.

Now this may sound old. It is not old and I will tell you why. I have had an instance where a chap came to me and he wanted to do welding. I phoned the Barbados Foundry and was told that under the present scheme they only accepted those who came from the Polytechnic. You must expect that this will mean that those coming from the Polytechnic will be more qualified technically and have a scientific background added to practical knowledge which will put them in a class above that of the ordinary worker.

But, Sir, there are some people who like to know that they can weld or do carpentry without going into the technical part of it. I would like to see the Minister prepare some sort of scheme whereby the firms concerned will be willing to take so many a year and co-ordinate it so that those coming out of the schools and having no immediate job can be fitted into these various organisations.

Most of the time there will be some obstacles in these institutions until they begin to understand what is going on. That is where the union can come in so that there should be an agreement that when an apprentice reaches a certain level of efficiency he should get a certain basic pay because he is then contributing something to the organisation.

The employer must have an interest and the ability to impart something to these apprentices during the first three or four months. 1 think that is something which the employer can contribute to the society or we will create a mass of unemployed people, and the employers will suffer as much as anyone else if the time comes when these unemployed people create an uprising.

I hope that the Minister will look carefully into the scheme. I have heard recently that at the Princess Margaret School there is a group of boys doing wood work; but when they leave school they will not have the educational qualifications to enter the Polytechnic. I think that you could give them some opportunity like asking some of the wood work firms to take them in so that they might become artisans of whom we can be proud.

You do not see any joiner or carpenter apprentices around the place today. Carpenters and joiners will tell you that they have no interest in boys, but an honest day's work for an honest day's pay is a good thing whether you are a doctor, a carpenter or anything else.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if the hon. member for St. Joseph expect that he will find today a carpenter walking around with a little boy behind him. The hon. member comes with this old fashioned, bogus talk. Those days are over.

What I am going to say is that the training of apprentices is not deligated on the basis that you are not

going to get carpenters and masons and he should know the reason why. At one time employment opportunities for boys leaving school were limited. They had to go and work on the plantation or work as a porter or become a school teacher. Now conditions are more favourable. Now you get your joiners and plumbers who are the same boys who are now ready to go further in school. In the old days they were not joiners and plumbers because of some divine dispensation which says that they could be nothing else, but the educational opportunities were very restricted.

In those days some people were educated because they were privileged whether they had the ability and capacity or not. Today it is different, and the whole question of training has to be recast, training as distinct from education.

The member has said that the employers must make a contribution to industrial training. This is where I want to thank the Government for the contribution that they have made. The Barbados Workers' Union has made a contribution of $200, 000 and the Government has given us $10, 000. if we make a contribution, why cannot the employers? We do not really employ people in the same way that they do, but the contribution that we make is one from which the employers and the Government will get the benefit.

I hope that some day hon. members will see that this is a serious contribution which we feel should be made in Barbados instead of this loose talk about productivity. I feel that the request of my colleague that the employers should make some contribution to industrial training is right, and I feel that they should be told so. 11.50 a.m.

The employers have the idea that whey they pay taxes they make a contribution, but all of us pay taxes so therefore we make a contribution whether we employ somebody or not. So all of us make a contribution.

Now, I would ask the hon. Minister to consider that the grant that has been given to the Barbados Workers' Union has nothing to do with me. I hope I would not have to ask for any, but as an institution this institution should be treated as some other institutions and should be free from taxation and be treated as non-profit organisations are treated. It should be relieved of the burden of paying taxes when it is not making any profit but it is making a contribution towards the social development of this country. What the Barbados Workers' Union does is done in the interest of the people and in the interest of Barbados generally, and we do it because it is something that should be done. It is institutions like the Barbados Workers' Union that help in the development of this country, and you can only have people enlightened when you have these institutions of enlightenment. You cannot enlighten people to keep them in darkness, and I hope that the hon. Minister would see that this institution is one of those institutions that have made a contribution and that it is a non-profit institution.

When I look at this grant, I do not know on what basis the Government has made this contribution, if it is because of our circumstances or what, but the $10, 000 is less than ten percent of the total operational cost and is a very meagre contribution indeed I know the. temperament of the people of Barbados; as you do something nice the people say they can make use of it.

Now, let me say this about the hotel school and training. The Government institutions, do not have the facilities for training their own servants, and God knows the civil servant needs training on a massive

scale right here; not in England but right here in Barbados where a mass number of people can be trained in a manner to perform a service to the community, and we hope we will be able to offer these facilities and we hope to have good cooked food. I hope some day that the hotel school run by me would be able to demonstrate to the community what community development really means and how you manage in other areas, because we are satisfied that as in our community development, industrial training is going to be very important in the future.

I feel that a hotel school is very important and necessary. It is important that you begin to teach people how to cook, how to prepare food and how a hotel should be managed.

I hope that the Minister would consider that an institution like this is national in character but the kind of subvention which it is given is nominal, and that they would make a contribution more in keeping with the importance of this institution and the work it is doing in this community. The Barbados Workers' Union represents over 30, 000 people and we feel we have a real substantial contribution to make, and not withstanding any restrictions we will continue to make that contribution, and we thank them for their contribution. I would like it to be realized that people who work in Barbados work for the country as a whole and not for the Barbados Workers' Union. When a person is a member of the Union he is a member of this community and when he is training it is not for the Barbados Workers' Union, he is going to be trained in industrial relations and other things in life — he will be trained in cultural things in life because if he has an aptitude for music and other things in life we will be able to flourish and find his right niche in life. These are things we consider good for the community as a whole and I hope that when the Minister has considered the whole scheme of his policy on adult education, that he would consider the contribution which the Barbados Workers' Union has made in this community and that it would be relieved from taxation as is the case with other organisations that are nonprofit organisations in Barbados.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to hear from the Minister whether he has any up-to-date information available on the future of the Centre for Multi-Racial studies. 12.00 p.m.

Quite recently we have heard that this Institution was closing its doors for a period of time. Apparently Sussex University which formerly started the Centre along with the University of the West Indies seems to have withdrawn part of its sponsorship of this Institution. I have heard, and I do not know whether the statement is authentic, that the dispute centered around the person who had been assigned by the Sussex University to look after the Centre. I should hope that this statement is not true, because it would be a great pity for a centre like this, which has a contribution to make should be closed down because of personal animosities which crop up from time to time in University life.

I believe that the Centre is constructed on lands which the Government has donated to the University of the West Indies, and the Government owns the freehold on which the Centre is constructed. In view of the fact that the Government is a big contributor to the West Indies University and also makes a direct grant to the Centre for the maintenance and upkeep of the Richard B. Moore Library, the Government should make representations concerning the closing down of the Centre. Perhaps the Minister has information on this matter and he would wish to disclose it to the House. I am very much concerned to see that a Centre which has so much potential and could do so much to mould the Multi-Racial culture of the West Indies should be thwarted by what appears to be the personal antagonism among the staff or,

certainly, a disagreement between the two University Campuses.

I refer to another institution which was started by grants from this Parliament and it is Codrington College. We have, from time to time, heard plans for the development of Codrington College. I am aware of the fact that Codrington College is vested in persons and the Government has no control over it. We must acknowledge that Codrington College is a West Indian Institution which has played a tremendous role in the education of Barbadians and other West Indians and which has sent forth from its walls many Barbadians who hold aloft the torch of excellence of our educational institution. For this reason I believe that the Government must show some real interest in the future development of education at this Institution. I think it could do so by helping to formulate plans for the development of Codrington College and not simply wait to hear what plans the trustees have for this Institution. Mr. Chairman, there was some talk of paramedical personnel being trained at Codrington College. There was also some talk about training people in the communications media there. I would hope that an effort would be made to help this most useful Institution.

With regard to Item 12 - Barbados Workers' Union — and Government's Contribution to the Labour College, may I say that there is not a single member of the Barbados Labour Party who does not welcome this development on the part of the Barbados Workers' Union. Indeed the history of the Barbados Progressive League and the Barbados Labour Party is inextricably bound to the development of the Barbados Workers' Union. I am sorry myself that the break did come for various reasons which I leave to the historians of the country. Unfortunately, the hierarchy in the Barbados Workers' Union and the hierarchy on the other side did not see eye to eye, but they can be no doubt that they were two interdependent forces in the historical development of the working class of this country.

The hon. member for St. Michael West has said a lot on this matter. In fact, we hear his voice very often, but I think it is fitting that this idea is his and it is being fulfilled in his lifetime. I am sure he will get his historical due for a job well done. Let me go on to say that political partisanship in the West Indies has led some people to denigrate the contribution made by others who have gone before them Those of us who read journals such as Manjax cannot understand why certain things are taking place.

So far as trade union education and trade union rights are concerned, the late Sir Grantley Adams has made a considerable contribution towards the working-class people in this country. It is right that somebody should put the record straight. I think he has been an outstanding trade union leader and, indeed, he has been succeeded by a man who, despite the fact that at this time we are on opposite sides of the fence, in Party and not in idea, has shown that he has learnt his lessons well.

I expect that, regardless of what name is given to this Institution, in due course the history of the trade union movement will be taught and that part of that history will include in a syllabus the life and times of the late Sir Grantley Adams. I say no more on that. I will pass on to other ideas which have been canvassed by the hon. member for St. Michael West. I think he should thank the Government for the contributions being made through the Barbados Workers' Union. I should like to join in this plea to ask the Barbados Employers Organisation to make a grant to the Barbados Workers' Union as well to assist with the Labour College.

I have canvassed in this House what I think should be the trade union concept of industrial training. Perhaps the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and the Establishment Ministry which deal

with training should examine the concept of placing a levy on each employer in the country and collect the money in a similar manner as they collect the Severance Funds. They could use if as a special fund for improving the education of workers in Barbados. There is no employer who can make a profit in Barbados unless he depends on the skill of the worker to contribute to that profit. 12.10 p.m.

I do not mind the argument that because they are paying only to the general taxes like any citizen including those who are not employed that they are making a contribution to industrial training. I believe we must stop being haphazard about this matter and waiting until the Labour College or the Government has provided the facilities by means of the hotel training school or by means of a training scheme for Government workers and then the employeis benefiting. We must stop this haphazard approach and make people pay for what can only benefit them in due course, because I, Mr. Chairman have been fortunate to visit for instance a place like Ruskin College, Oxford, and listened to some of the lectures given at that institution and I know for a fact that the English working class movement has benefited considerably from exposure to this type of education. You have produced workers who are better orientated who go on the floor and help train their own work-mates and in the process improve the standard of productivity at their places of work. It is a good idea that the Union should embark on this, but it should not be allowed to stand alone; not that the Union begs. Indeed even if the Union is lacking in sufficient funds, the hon. member for St. Michael West is so proud that he would never beg any man, even if he has to devise other legitimate ways of raising this money, and this is not begging either. I believe it is rightfully due to the working class. I see movements being made to bring all parties together and to have a national image, and I appeal to the employers' sector to try to make this one of the goals, one of the methods of achieving industrial peace and national development.

This applies, Mr. Chairman, not only to the new industries that are being established here or only to the industrial sector. I am talking about self-employed persons because even self-employed persons depend on other people in most instances for some self-support in labour by means of which they must earn their living. One of the problems which concern me in the employment of workers is the need to study the problem of job anomaly and obviously such a college would be geared to look at the question of industrial psychology and researching this whole problem and trying to improve the conditions under which the workers work. I hope that the Ministry of Education would itself be able from among its staff in its various institutions to lend some people on a part-time basis. I can think of tutors at the Community College who may be able to give a few hours without a charge to the Union to help teach on their particular syllabuses. I hope that when the concept of psychology is accepted and there are more psychologists available to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education that they too would be made available to the Labour College from time to time. We can only welcome from this side the grant under Item 12 of Head 27(8), and we hope that it will be a more substantial grant. The Government must develop the idea of trying to persuade other employers in the community to make a contribution in this field of endeavour.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to reply briefly to some of the points made during the debate, and I would like at the start to say that I am very grateful for the very sound comments that have been made on this particular Head by speakers on both sides of this House. I know that the hon. member for St. Philip South is a very close student of educational matters and I think he intervenes all too briefly in debates in this Chamber. Whenever he speaks he speaks as he says as a man of the people who definitely knows the problems of the people. I would like to deal with this particular question of admissions to the

Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic because there seems to be some misunderstanding about the qualifications needed for admission to that particular institution, and I would like to state that so long as you have an institution and it is capable of holding only X number of students, one will always have to select students from a larger number of persons who are seeking admission to the institution. This is basic and it is fundamental. There are more students seeking admission into the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic than this institution can accommodate, and when you get that situation it is the job of the Principal of the institution to select the persons for the places available. But I would like to assure hon. members that the qualifications for admission in my opinion are as broad as they can be. I would like to read from the prospectus of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and it gives the requirements as follows "Applicants should be fourteen years of age or over at 31st August of the year of entry and should (a) have reached standard seven of an all-age school, or form 3 of a secondary school and this would relate to those children who leave at the age of 14. They shall hold a school leaving Certificate of the Ministry of Education with passes in English and Mathematics, or any other certificates of equivalent or higher standard, or (c) furnish evidence of satisfactory attendance and progress at an evening centre for industrial arts or as an apprentice." These are not collective; they are alternative. You can be in class 7 or you could have reached class 3 in any of the secondary schools, grammar schools, so-called or the comprehensive schools so-called, or you can be an apprentice or attending an evening centre. And it goes on. Applicants may be required to take a written examination set by the Principal of the Polytechnic and if they do not hold the appropriate qualifications for entry, the Principal of the institution can set an examination to see if the person can follow the courses. I think these are as broad and liberal entrance requirements as can be set out for this particular institution.

If I may deal with the point made by the last speaker, the member for Christ Church West, as far as the Centre for Multi-Racial Studies is concerned, it is my understanding that the University of the West Indies is now completely responsible for the buildings. I cannot add anything more to that because I have not been given any offical statement on the present: position. The funds that are provided here are in respect of the upkeep and maintenance of the Richard B. Moore Library which is housed in these buildings and these books are still there; so we have to make provision for their maintenance and upkeep.

I would like as far as the training for apprentices is concerned to thank the hon. member for St. Joseph for the suggestion made about artisans participating in the apprenticeship training programme. This is a sound suggestion. I would like him to believe that it has not been thought of before. 12.20 p.m.

The Apprenticeship Act, 1928 is completely out of date and completely out of line with modern requirements for industrial relations. We are not going to tamper with that to speak in terms of revising or amending it, we are going to scrap it completely and it is our intention to bring in one piece of legislation to deal with a national programme of industrial training and apprenticeship. Within that particular programme we will take care of apprenticeship training which in the past in this country and in other countries has made a significant contribution towards the training of skilled workers. Within that frame work we will build in a programme for apprenticeship, and I expect that that programme will be based as follows:

That the names of apprenticeable trades and occupations will be indentified;

the number of apprentices required in each trade or occupation will be identified;

a particular level of skills, knowledge and aptitudes which should be imparted during the apprenticeship training, and generally making provision for the standards to be assessed and certified.

We are taking a complete look at all this. I would expect that there would be a national training council which would bring together the various Ministries, organisations and interested persons and bodies to tender advice and generally to look after the whole business of a national training programme.

Mr. Chairman, if I may perhaps deal with the other points made during the debate, as far as Government's contribution to the Labour College of the Barbados Workers' Union is concerned, I believe the members for St. Michael West and for St. Lucy will realise that contributions from the Government are generaly based on the competing demands that are placed upon Government resources at any given time, and the $10, 000 which is provided heie as the contribution to the recurrent expenses of the Labour College is in addition to the $90, 000 provided towards the capital cost of the project, as well as to the other concessions, duty free concessions which the Barbados Workers Union may have made use of or may make use of in respect of materials and equipment for that purpose, it is not just a question of $10, 000 being provided for the institution. We realise that in this day and age you could always ask for more, and at the same time I am certain that if the finances of the Government improve to the extent where more funds become available, that this particular request will be considered at the appropriate time.

I would also like to say that he was mentioning the Minister in relation to the exemption of the Barbados Workers' Union from the payment of certain taxes or whatever it is, but I take it that those words were meant to apply to the appropriate Minister who would be the Minister of Finance and not the Minister of Education. I do not think there were any other points to which I have to reply on this particular Head, Mr. Chairman.

The question that the sum of $4, 749, 771 under Head 27(8) — Ministry of Education, Scholarships, Grants and Subventions — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(9) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Head 27(9) — Ministry of Education, School Meals Department — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3, 522, 232 under Head 27(9) - Ministry of Education, School Meals Department — stand part of the Schedule. In so doing I merely wish to state that as is generally known it is the policy of the Government to expand the School Meals Programme to all schools at the Primary level in the first instance, and that this is the programme in which we are engaged. We have recently opened a new centre at Country Road and it is our intention to open other centres as resources become available.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, recently it has come to my attention that at some of the Secondary Schools in this Island there are some children who are finding it difficult during the day to obtain proper meals, and indeed I know of one particular school at which the Old Girls' Association has been making arrangements to assist in some of the very bad cases. I recognise that at present it is impossible to extend the school means programme to encompass all of the schools immediately, but I think that the Minister would be well advised at least to find out from the particular secondary schools of the cases that are really calling immediately for urgent attention. Some children at these schools come from more fortunate homes and their parents can afford to give them proper ideals, but many of the children who graduated from the 11 plus examination and go up to the secondary schools find it rather difficult to get proper meals during the day.

I think this is a case which needs very urgent attention, and perhaps it should be possible, particularly in the St. Michael area, that the extension which has taken place at Country Road to service these cases as schools like Combermere, St. Michael's Girls', Queen's College and Harrison College, to mention just a few. We believe that for the Comprehensive Schools the same argument holds and that the Government should look at this aspect of the matter as soon as possible.

The question that the sum of $3, 522, 232 under Head 27(9) — Ministry of Education, School Meals Department — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.30 p.m.

HEAD 27(10) - AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS DEPARTMENT

Head 27(10) Audio-Visual Aids Department was Called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, as far as this particular Head is concerned I would like to make an amendment to Item 14, Furniture. The note should be inserted as follows —

Item 14— Furniture Insert Note to read as follows:— "To purchase cameras, photographic easel, tripods, chairs, developing tanks, flash fans, electronic flash, frames for silk screen, voltohmeter, brushes, projectors, tape recorders, projector screens, cabinet and lamps.

With that amendment I beg to move that the sum of $110, 571 under Head 27(10) -Audio—Visual Aids Department stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $110, 571 under Head 27(10) Audio-Visual Aids Department stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(11) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS Head 27(11)- Industrial Schools - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, as far as this particular Head is concerned, I would also like to propose an amendment to Item 15, Furniture and Equipment. The sum of $390 should be deleted and the sum of $1, 15 0 be inserted, and the note to that item should be amended by the addition of the words "and safe" after the word "cabinets". There would be some consequential amendments. The total under Non-Recurrent would be $10, 650, and the total expenditure under the Other Expenditure Column would be $273, 207.

I beg to move that Head 27(11) — Industrial Schools as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, it is very seldom that there is any debate on this Head of the Estimates, and the fact that this is so is probably due to the attitude taken by most people to the Industrial Schools. The names "Dodds" and "Summeryale" have come to be associated with criminality, and indeed this society is such a hard society that it sometimes judges rather harshly people who have passed through these institutions. What I would like to say relates not to an increase or decrease in the vote, but a plea for a change in attitude towards those young people who have been unfortunate enough to be sentenced for a period of custodial term in the Government Industrial Schools.

I believe, Sir, that we need a new concept and a new approach to this aspect of criminality. I think that we should examine in relation to the Industrial Schools and in relation to the sentencing policy of the Courts the idea of treating these institutions as day schools, and not only training persons who go there from day to day, but exposing them to work in the community so that the process of management will be elevated to some extent by community service and they in turn will be able to become better community citizens.

We need to have a new look at the whole sphere of social education. I do not know what research the Minister is going into in his department on this aspect of the matter, but I suggest that they should, if possible, try to obtain expert assistance as well as using the experts here in the Probation Services and the other related services for the development of the concept of social education, and perhaps both Summervale and Dodds should be given a new start.

This idea is not one which I have developed, but it stirs my social conscience and it is something about which the community should be concerned. It may take sometime to work out, but we should not forget the people who have been sent to the Industrial Schools and just pass a little vote for them and think that that is enough.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to share some of the views expressed by the hon. member on this question of the graduates from the Industrial Schools. Unfortunately we live in this type of society where people denigrate people by institutions or by family background and things of that nature, and that is perpetuated by people in authority and by people who should know better.

One of the funny things in Barbados is that everyone would like to tell you things that he knows about a person. People like to say quietly about someone "he went to Dodds." Somebody else says "true?" In Barbados if a person has had a mental illness, someone will tell you "don't interfere with him too much. He went down." Those are the sort of peculiar things that you find in the Barbadian society, and unfortunately it has gone a long way. I have known some people who have been to the Government Industrial Schools and who have been making a contribution to the island, and then you get people telling you to be careful about them.

Even in some of the Government Departments they use it to prevent people holding jobs to continue holding their jobs. It came to me forcibly about 12 or 18 months ago when this kind of information came to me from a Government Department as information against a person. I ignored it because if a person is making a contribution, he is making a contribution.

I am sure that the Minister of Education is modern enough in his thinking to know that this is one of the areas in his department that should be looked into because the person might have graduated from the Industrial School because of the fault of his parents.

I do not know if anyone of us in here can say that we never threw sticks in a plum tree or an ackee tree or stole someone's golden apples. If every time one of us has done that, we had been taken into a Magistrate's Court we would have been in the Industrial School for a long time. 12.40 p.m.

I hope that some of the children would acquire some skills. Some are good citizens, but the unfortunate thing is that because some of them do not have any skills they do not get employed readily. Again, some children are not protected and they get into bad company and become involved in all sorts of things as time goes on as they become adults. Take the Nelson Street area, for instance. I have an office at the corner of Nelson Street and I have to enter into this area of criminality, and so I hear what is said and I know what over there is like, and everybody hear about the life at night in that area. They pass my way daily and 1 hear some of the things that are said; but it is part of some people to like to be living that way, and, I feel that those are some of things that should be remedied by people involved in community development. Some of these people should get into these areas and try to uplift these people because, unfortunately, a boy who has left the industrial school and has to live in these areas, there is no comfort for his mind in these areas. It does not uplift him or remove him from Jus past life when he is living in such areas. He has to go and live among criminals again and has not got the opportunity to live among people who would uplift him. So something should be done by those involved in community development to help these young people.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down has spoken some things which are so true in our society today that I will have to join with him in expressing my feeling where young people are concerned.

Some years ago I remember putting up a suggestion that the old Combermere School which is in Roebuck Street should be used as a remand home, when there were certain discussions going on about moving the Police Sports Club to that area and they were thinking of moving the Transport Board to Country Road or Deacons Road. I thought the Government would have found alternative provision in abandoning that scheme because the number of persons who are brought before the Juvenile Court and

find themselves in Dodds are sent there because their parents have to leave home on mornings and cannot return until the evening, and many of the children do not get an opportunity to go to school, and they commit some offence and are brought before the Juvenile court, and when the parent comes before the court and is asked why the child was left, the parent would say 'I just can't do any better, his father is in England, or, his mother has gone to England and I cannot stay home and watch him all the time.'

This is the situation in which the people find themselves and we have to help them in order that they do not become a charge on the society. If the children fall into such a situation the community should remove that situation.

Some years ago mental illness was regarded a scourge. After you went to the mental hospital nobody wanted you; but steps should always be taken to .rehabilitate these people and put them back into society. Mr. Chairman, I would like to throw the suggestion out to the Minister that he should investigate the establishment of a scheme which would help to improve our young people who have had to be sent to the Government Industrial School. I know of the case of a boy who was sent to Dodds for a week and when he came out and appeared again before the Magistrate and the magistrate asked him if he likes out there, he did not answer the magistrate, but when the magistrate asked him if he would like to go back up at Dodds he quickly answered No, I don't want to go back up there.' So you see even sending him there for that short time was sufficient to bring him to his senses. It is not a pleasant thing when people have to be incarcerated, and I would like the Minister to provide some scheme whereby such offenders would still be integrated into society.

If a person is a first offender in Britain he is put into the institution for a week and then moved to another place and every effort is taken to k him integrated in society. We cannot vouchsafe that a person will not commit any crime, but if he is given opportunity to reform, if he is not a bad egg, there is every chance that he will not continue in crime, so we must seek to help these people.

If a person spent five years in Dodds he cannot go back to school, and when he goes to get a job and you ask him what he has been doing during the past four or five years, if he is stupid he will say . "I was at Dodds, ' and that gives the would-be employer the feeling "I am not putting you in my place to work at all, ' but if given an opportunity to work it would chow if he has improved.

Once again it brings to mind a case in which a man went to Dodds from the time he was eight years old and when he was thirty eight years old the longest time he has spent out of prison was sixteen days, because he had become so accustomed to that society that when you put him outside he had to commit some other offence, but if he had been given an opportunity through there being some scheme to help him while he was out, no doubt a complete change would be caused in this type of person.

So the Minister should investigate the possibility of giving these people opportunity to mix, in society at an early stage after the sentence. 12.50 p.m.

If nobody knows his parents, he will be sent to Dodds. I really want to know why a boy like that should be sent there.

Mr. Chairman, 1 have said in 'this House some time ago that we need an intermediate institution which does not carry the stigma of Dodds. There should be an institution which could be supervised by the

Social Welfare Department or the Probation Office. I feel that boys who are arrested on the wharf or in Broad Street, should be put in that type of institution. I know that several of them have been arrested and sent to prison on remand or sent to Dodds. The moment they are sent to those places, they are entering schools of crime and they come out as criminals. Merely put them in one of those places for a week and you will see what happens. The moment you send them to Glendairy Prison they will come back out as master criminals. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, I am not saying anything about Dodds. I have visited that institution, and I know what goes on there. The point remains that, as long as you are over 16 years of age and you are arrested during the late hours of the night, you will be sent to one of the institutions. When these boys go into an institution and mix with criminals, what do you expect?

The question that the sum of $105, 964 under Head 27(11) — Industrial Schools — as amended, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour 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, and 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 until 2.30 p.m.

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

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

On resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
This sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it automatically reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 27(12) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head 27(12) - Ministry of Education -Public Library — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $188, 577 under Head 27(12) - Ministry of Education - Public Library — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 27(13) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES

Head 27(13) - Ministry of Education -Department of Archives — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, as far as this Head is concerned, I should like to indicate an amendment to read as follows

"Item 6 — Office Expenses Insert note to read as follows: Provision for utilities, and other expenses excluding stationery, cleaning materials and office supplies."

I should, briefly, like to state that, during the course of the preparation of the Draft Estimates which has culminated in the presentation of these Estimates, I visited the Archives Department and the Government Industrial School, and I was very much impressed by the professionalism displayed by both of those Institutions as well as their general appearance.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that the sum of $27, 200 under Head 27(13) - Ministry of Education — Department of Archives — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, it is very seldom in this House that we give the civil servants their full due. I should like on this occasion, certainly, to congratulate the Head of this Department, Mr. Chandler, and all of his assistants at the Archives Department who are doing a first-class job in preserving the documents that are very valuable to the Government and the people of this country. I think that some people do not recognise the importance of the Archives in the development of this country. Mr. Chandler came to us at the time when we were not keeping our public records properly. I agree with the Minister that, in a short time, he has established this Department to such an extent that it is one which can be lauded without any reservations whatever.

There is another aspect of this Department's work that I should like to see adopted by civil servants. There is a tremendous amount of courtesy shown to all members of the public who come in contact with the staff of that Department, regardless of who the person happens to be. It is a very good Department which has worked well, and the Minister should be proud to have it under his portfolio.

I see this year that the Department has had a slight decrease in the vote, and I hope that next year its need of a capital nature will be rapidly acceded to, if the financial situation of the country improves. In the meantime, I should like to appeal to many people in Barbados, who still have records of vital importance to the country, to co-operate with the Department. I am also asking some of the more fortunate people who die in this country to leave in their will some sort of contribution to this Department.

The question that the sum of $27, 200 under Head 27(13) - Ministry of Education -Department of Archives, as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 245 p.m.

HEAD 27(14)- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - YOUTH AFFAIRS

Head 27(14) -Ministry of Education -Youth Affairs — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to Item 2 under this Head where a note should be inserted to read "to meet expenses excluding stationery, cleaning materials and office supplies".

I beg to move that the sum of $53, 267 under Head 27(14) — Ministry of Education — Youth Affairs — as amended stand par: of the Schedule.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the time has come when the Government must make a definite statement on its policies and the policies in relation to the young people in Barbados. I see here we have a vote under Item 6 to provide for expenses of work camps, camp sites, holiday camps, public speaking debates contests, materials for use at projects; includes provision for approved programmes. There is a vote for the Boy Scouts' Association, Girl Guides' Association and other Youth organisations. There is a token vote for youth camp and youth hostel. I would like to know from the Minister what are the broad guidelines of the Government in relation to young people in Barbados. I have said in here already that I am particularly concerned when I see on Thursday afternoons as you pass the Bridgetown Plaza or Empire Cinema about 3.30 p.m. or 4 o'clock people coming out of the Cinema. I am not aware that too many businesses in Barbados close half day on Thursdays and I am not aware that the schools close half day on Thursdays; so why is it that these young people are not gainfully employed in our society? Why is it that these young people find time to idle and to go and watch Wang Yu and other pictures at a time when they should be working and seeking to help the productivity of this country? I went to the country

about 8.30 a.m. this morning and? I was shocked as I drove to the country to see about ten young men by a street corner beating some liquor and playing cards. This cannot be in keeping with the objectives of this society. Something is basically wrong when young men between the ages of 18 and 25 or even younger can find time to play cards and drink liquor at that time in the morning. Something needs to be done to get them involved in our society. It is a question of attitudes in our society too. Nobody wants to cut canes but, they can stand on the street corner and drink liquor at 8.30 a.m. I would like to find out from the Minister what are the broad guidlines of the Government in relation to youth affairs.

I welcome the vote for youth camps. It is something which when I first came to this Chamber in 1969 I asked about. In fact when I was a member of the Lions Organisation along with my colleague on my left, the Lions at that time was considering the establishment of a youth camp in Barbados. It is something that is long overdue because we felt that a lot of young people who waste time at the moment could go to these camps and get skills. They may not have the qualifications which the Minister read out for entry into the Polytechnic, but they could be given certain basic skills at these youth camps which would prepare them for jobs in our society, because as I see it, one of the objectives of any youth programme must basically be to educate people to play a role in developing our society fully, socially, politically and economically.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, it is very disappointing for a young man to speak in that vein because one would believe that he is of a former generation. It may well be that he probably lived many long years before and is not living in our society. From his living in the City where the Cinemas are established, one would have thought he would be putting a case for the young people who may well be willing to go and see a picture, because even though we are a developing country, the fact is that he has been exposed to big countries where you have shows all day and all night, but he spoke as though you can only go to a show at night. It is better for them to go to the cinema than to be exposed outside. If you want to be a limer, that is your business; you can join the club and go into the cinema.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr.Chairman, I can appreciate all the Leader of the House has to say because we know how it is with him. He is not really with it. He is a respectable gentleman, and therefore his contribution to this particular Head, I think, can be passed over. It would go down that the Leader of the House spoke. I do not even think that the Leader of the House has ever read about Wang Yu.

My colleague called on the Minister to m ke a statement on the youth of this country, but what statement can the Minister make on policy? They have no policy. You can only make a statement on policy when you have a policy. I see a vote under Item 6 for youth developments, youth clubs and so on. I support the idea of youth clubs, and I believe that the Barbados Boys' Club under Colonel Michelin many years ago was the beginning of bringing young people together to be worthy citizens as they grew into adulthood. What I do not understand is the present type of youth groups you have on which the Government is prepared to spend a small sum of money. 2.45 p.m.

I have visited a number of these Youth Groups, and I would say that every other week you can hear some of the young people in a village forming other Youth Groups but when you examine them two weeks later you find that the membership has decreased, so something is wrong. You hear about them having a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary, but only about eight people turned up

for the first meeting. The following week abot 12 will turn up but that is the end of it. Outside of the Bristol Ranges Club I doubt very mvicn that you can safely say there is a real Youth Group in the country which is doing something worthwhile. I am not dealing with the Y.M.C.A. or the Y.W.C.A., but the chief offender of these groups is Senator Hunte whose only job and whose only policy is to go and address them at every other meeting, indoctrinating them towards the Democratic Labour Party. In most of these Youth Groups the President and the Vice-President have membership cards and the Secretary a passport. That is the only thing he is working towards, so the Government uses these Youth Groups as a means of assisting the Youth to align themselves with the Party. (Asides). My view all along about that Minister is that if the Prime Minister fires him and he has to go back to the law courts he would not be able to earn a nickle in salt water.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member should be made to withdraw that statement. In so far as the Hon. Minister is concerned and his ability to practise the law, who is the judge or jury on that? Certainly not the hon. member for St. James.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Unfortunately, I have no lawyers in here.

Mr. CRAIG:

Surely, Mr. Chairman, I would hate to be judge and jury with the lion, member prosecuting or defending, I would not understand what is going on.

Mr. WALCOTT:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member cannot address another hon. member as a lackey, you have to ask him to withdraw the word "lackey".

Mr. CRAIG:

Perhaps the hon. member for St. Michael West would prefer me to use the word "nuisance". I would not address any member over there as a lackey, I would speak about the Democratic Labour Party's lackey, not a Minister on the front bench but a DLP nuisance like Gear Box, this is how I think about some people in the DLP.

I agree with the Government spending money to improve the youth of the country but I cannot see one single thing they are doing. I have visited a number of them, I have seen them on exchange visits and at the end of it all they last about six or seven months. You hear a lot about these Youth Groups and 4-H dubs, but the cricketers are a different "Nand because the Youth Group boys are from Harrison College and the Lodge School, but when it is cricket it is the carpenters and masons who shine forth. There is no positive policy, and I believe that you, Mr. Chairman, will observe the same thing in your area with the Ellerton Social and Cultural Group. Every time you pick up a newspaper you can see that Senator Hunte will be addressing some group but you would know he is gearing them to become members of the DLP. Let us say you take people like the Chairman of the Electric Comapny or the Telephone Company, or get Mr. Leroy Millar, a man who has made a mark in the commercial sector and who has no university training. He would be able to talk at the grass roots level, but every time you open the newspaper you see it is Senator Hunte or the Minister of Education. I doubt very much if the hon. member for St. Lucy has been asked outside his own constituency to address any part of the Trade Union. I am very serious

about this, I da not know if they have ever invited Dr. Haynes, but you can go down there and hear speaking contests in which a fellow gives a story about his girlfriend. That is only a glorified concert.

If you have a number of young people on your hands with nothing to do, if Government is going to spend money in this area there must be more positive action. I see here at Item 6 they are talking about expenses of work camps, camp sites, etc., but are you putting up tents? I see the brother of the member for the City is working at Yoruba House with his African work. You go down there and beat your drums and do a little funny dance. I do not know what else goes on behind the scenes but I would say that he is making a contribution in his way to the efforts of young people of this country. Almost single handedly he is doing this, but Government is voting money to have these Youth Groups going, but they rise and fall. That is the whole position. What statement can the Minister make? There is no statement the Minister can make because he has nothing to state apart from being a bad Minister of Youth Affairs for a period of the last four years. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand my colleague asking for a statement. This is a matter of policy. Where is the policy? There is absolutely none. The Leader of the House said that in big countries you have people going to pictures all day and all night. That is true, but there is work for them to do. It is when they leave work that they go to the Cinema; but these birds here are not working. They size up your pockets from behind.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It is a sign of the prosperity existing in our country, so much so that the younger brigade, the young people of this country can afford to go to the cinemas day and night.

Mr. CRAIG:

Is it a sign of prosperity that they can afford to go to the cinemas day and night when they do not work at all? Here is the Leader of the House, a responsible Minister saying that the country is so prosperous that young people can go to the cinema day and night and they do not have to work. The Treasury is empty and I can only conclude that you are taking money out of the Treasury and putting it in the pockets of the boys to allow them to go to the cinema.

If this is what we are going to inherit I would know that the trade union bosses cannot sleep in peace when the night comes. Out of the mouth of the most senior Minister in here this statement has come. It is a regrettable statement.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I said that in a developing country such as ours people can go to the cinema during the day whereas under the old Labour Government it was not possible to go to the cinema by day, and often not even by night.

Mr. CRAIG:

I would like to suggest in all seriousness that the Leader of the House have that part of his speech withdrawn from Hansard. I am sure that he could not be so irresponsible as to make a statement of that nature. It will stand against him just as the cane blades stood up against a friend of ours.

Mr. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some points on this question of Youth Affairs. The two members of the Opposition who have spoken on this have indicated in some way or the other a lack of Government policy. It would seem to me that if one looks at the Items here it would indicate that the Government does have a policy and is making provisions for correcting some of the problems that have been indicated.

I do not believe that the Minister for Youth Affairs has denied that there are a number of groups which spring up and disappear overnight. The fact that an item is included under this Head with a note which shows that there is provision for a training programme for youth group leaders indicates that the Government recognises this problem.

On the question that there are groups formed which have little or no direction, I am involved with youth groups in my constituency and I know that this is a real problem. Sometimes you sit down to plan programmes and one is amazed at the lack of ideas which come up. I would like these ideas to come from the groups themselves rather than having someone coming in amd imposing his ideas on the group.

However, I would hope that the vote here is utilised in the most effective manner possible because there is no doubt that we should have some son of concern for the kind of things that they are doing, trying to get them to widen their ideas and trying to get them involved in, and understanding what is going on in the community.

It is possible that the Ministry may not be fully equipped to deal with all of the youth groups which are formed all over the country. I do nor believe that there are more than two or three officers; so with a large number of groups you will find that an officer can only get around once a year or every six months. You will find that there will be no one expert in the planning of youth programmes, and the founders are not people to make the kind of contribution that they should make.

I remember that some years ago we formed a group in St. Lucy where there was the kind of thinking that the only people who were capable of being meaningfully involved in youth groups were people coming from secondary schools. I think that unfortunately that is one of the criticisms that can be made in our society. 3.05 p.m.

We hope, that the leadership training which is being given to the youth groups will continue for a long time, for as long as it is needed; and no doubt it would be needed all the time. I am sure that it would be the type of training which would help to improve the youth in this country and would include youth from all schools in the community. This is important because we owe it to our young people to make sure that they would be involved in the community and in what is going on in community life. One would not expect the Ministry to say exactly what the aims and objects of the youth groups should be for a number of reasons, but one would hope that one of the objects would be that youth groups would become involved in community life and community development.

Mr. Chairman, we find that some of these youth groups tend to operate apart from the community and not as part of the community and we hope that leadership training would be such that these youth groups would be brought to realize that they should operate as part of the community.

Another point I would like to raise, Mr. Chairman, relates to what has been said by the hon. member

for St. James, and in this connection I think that it should also be recognised that there are some youth groups which may be able to get their public relations machinery functioning quite well so that people can know what is going on and what is being done by them, but there are some other groups which do not care to have any kind of publicity. I hope that regardless of how they may feel that all groups would take steps to let it be known what benefits they are achieving as result of the training which they get. The fact that we cannot hear on the air or otherwise what is being done and what is going on is not, and should not be taken as an indication that nothing is going on; the fact that we do not hear of any publicity of their programmes does not mean that they are not working and that they are not doing some very good work.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to another aspect of youth affairs. I happen to represent a youth organisation and we were to attend a meeting In the office of one of the Ministries and we ran into a problem in that when we reached there no meeting could be held. I spoke to the Minister about this because I believe this might give him some idea of the treatment meted out to us, because some people do feel that the organisation is not being given the push and encouragement which it should be given. Our problem was that when we went to attend the meeting in the Ministry there was HO place for us to meet because some other people had taken up the place and we waited for over an hour to get that meeting started and so much time was lost. But I hope the Minister would make sure that such incidents do not occur again, because there was the indication that there were those who do not know anything about youth and who dealt us that treatment.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that what has been done by the Government here is an indication of the Government's interest in youth and I hope that this will mean that greater direction would be given to the youth in this country in future.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow this Head to pass in this Chamber and not say anything. We are dealing with the youth of this nation and it is appalling hear hon. members of this House speak as they do and not setting any real guidance for the young people in this country. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, better guidance should come from the hon. members of this House, and I sat here and watched the great part being played by some members and I wondered how much longer these hon. members will act as they are acting and not take things seriously. This is the time to bring a proper message to the young people of this country and let them awaken to the facts of life and their nation, but here we seem to be just making fun about everybody.

If a Minister is not coping as well as he should, one would hope the Opposition would give him proper hints by which he could correct his mistakes, and I figure that when it conies to dealing with adults and other things, the adults can take care of themselves but the young people are looking for guidance and need help now. What are we to do? Sit down here and do nothing? We are failing them, and if the things said in this House were recorded and were read by the young people, I am sure they would not be pleased about them. We are not setting them the example that we should. That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, this will appear to me to reach a standard where the Government has admitted that their policy in relation to young people is such that they have nothing in store for them and the

Government is now throwing out the last hope in asking the Opposition to tell them what to do. Our job is to point out where the Government has gone wrong. They were the people who said in 1971 that they ware advancing.

I would never forget that during the last election I was on a political platform and I said we needed a Government with people of imagination who could create a society that would involve all our people and would give them proper training, but we do not want to see the young people at 12 o'clock midnight and at 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning slamming dominoes, playing juke boxes and sleeping about. A young man once said to me 'we are willing to work but they promised to feed us for nothing'. 3.15 p.m.

This morning I got up and spoke about the policies of this Government. Something should be done to create bursaries in order to keep the young people off the road and out of the theatres at two o'clock in the day. Ask the Ministers if they know how many of those young people who go to the theatre are now in Court for using Karate blows. (Asides.) The Minister of Communications and Works is always in the theatre with them, and that is why his Department has gone so far down the drain.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
On what are you talking? Mr. BOLDEN On Youth Affairs.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Are you going to continue, or should I put the question?

Mr. BOLDEN:
You cannot put the question while I am speaking, Mr. Chairman. Since last year I have been asking the Government about the use of certain unoccupied properties in this country. The policemen were removed from Brittons Hill Station, and nothing has been done about the property. The policemen were removed from Bissex Police Station. Last year I tabled a question and asked the Government to use that area in order to keep the young people off the street. The Government has taken no note of what the Opposition has been saying during the last two or three years in this House. Go to Bissex and see what is happening there. The place is in a dilapidated condition.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member must not think that the Opposition is here simply to create difficulties for the Government. I remember a former Leader of the House saying in here that when the Government was in the Opposition they criticised everything under the sun in here. They even criticised the building of the Deep Water Harbour. He said that he knew the Deep Water Harbour was a good project, but they were out to criticise everything and make the Government look as if they were the worst people in the place. No member of this Opposition has ever adopted that attitude. When we criticise we do so constructively. We have been branded by people outside as instructing the Government. There is trouble in the camp over there. When the captain leaves the ship, God knows what can happen. You saw what happened yesterday.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I believe that I heard the hon. member for St. Joseph refer to hope which this Government would expect to get from the benches of the Opposition. He spoke about the lack of policy and everything else. I think hope was one of the things under the lid of the proverbial Pandora's box, and to look to the Opposition for advice and guidance and, as the hon. member for St. Joseph has said,

constructive criticism, will indeed be opening ihe lid of Pandora's box and letting out not only a host of troubles, but also any hope of despair. That is not what we are here for, as far as this country is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, many documents and dissertations have been written on the value of comedy, laughter, buffoonery and burlesque, and the psychological and social advantages of this aspect of life have been seriously gone into by 1 persons who are seriously pursuing research. I believe that in any group of people you must find some person who provides comic relief, burlesque and buffoonery. This is part of human life. I admit that this is a role which the hon. member for St. James can best play. He has displayed that today. We listen to him and laugh.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I would have thought that the buffoonery came from the other side of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, if Youth Groups are formed and the numbers are reduced soon after the formation of these groups that is quite natural. It happens in all organisations some spring up and some die. The hon. members over there should know what I am talking about. Their numbers have been diminishing over the past years. They will continue to dimmish, and they should be well aware that their social phenomena afflict certain groups and organisations.

As far as the Ministry of Education is concerned, I should like to refute categorically that the function of a Permanent Secretary in my Ministry is to address youth groups and indoctrinate them in the waste of the Democratic Labour Party. The Permanent Secretary does not have to do that. The young people of this country have their eyes open. They have analysed the promises and the performances of the two Parties, and long ago they have turned their backs on the Opposition, the Barbados Labour Party, and espoused the promises and policies of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Chairman, the Permanent Secretary has special responsibility in my Ministry for Youth Affairs, Community Development-, School Meals Department, and for the Capital Works Programme of the Ministry. That is his area of responsibility, and I would consider it to be a dereliction of duty if he or I got an invitation from a Youth Group which wanted me to address them, or any member of the Government for that matter, and somebody did not go to satisfy the requirements of that particular Group. We do not go about soliciting groups to invite us to come and speak to them. We respond to the expressed wishes of these Groups. You get the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown asking me questions such as what is the policy of the Government as far as Youth Affairs is concerned. 3.25 p.m.

He did not prejudge the issue and jump to the conclusion that there was no such policy. He asked a straight question. The member for St. James says we have no policy; so I do not have anything to say. If I have nothing to say, this is no false modesty. I am quite capable of standing up for fifteen or so minutes and like the member for St. James saying nothing in those fifteen minutes. This is precisely what he did.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, I am well aware that the hon. member can be likened to the former Minister of Education who talked nonsense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
I thank you. I wish there were some means whereby you could protect me from these fraudulent points of disorder which are being made by the hon. member for Bridgetown.

As far as a national policy of the Government for youth is concerned, I would like to make the following statement as far as this is concerned. The national policy for youth in Barbados is based on the objectives of enabling young persons to (1) develop their potentialities as fully as possible towards desirable ends; (2) lead healthy and wholesome lives; (3) pursue avenues for education and training appropriate to their aptitudes, abilities and interests; (4) have access to employment opportunities; (5) participate meaningfully in the process of national development; (6) exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic society; (7) make use of facilities for recreation and culture; and if they want to play dominoes and say "I sleep" that may be their form of recreation; (8) associate with their parents and comrades and clubs and societies; (9) meet and confer with other young persons in the region and beyond in the interest of regional and international understanding; and (10) develop leadership skills. The following programmes have been implemented during recent years in pursuit of these policy objectives: (1) training in the educational system through the provision of both day and evening programmes and through the provision of more scholarships, thus making available to youth greater opportunities for personal and professional developments; (2) building a national Stadium, providing more playing fields and community centres and making grants to national teams for participation in international competitions, thus catering to the fundamental drive for recreation and sport; (3) lowering the voting age to 18 thus enabling the youth between 18 and 21 years to participate in a fuller extent than hitherto in national debate and decision-making; (4) establishing industrial estates and creating new jobs, thus providing the youth with increased opportunity to participate in the economic life of the country; and to institute a National Advisory Commission on youth affairs with representatives from Government, Youth Organisations and voluntary bodies interested in youth work to advise the Minister on youth policies and programmes. The other programmes and projects which are under consideration include the institution of a programme for youth leaders and a decision has already been taken on this. This programme will be instituted within the framework of the Barbados Community College to provide more effective leadership for the youth of this country training for youth leaders. We have given consideration to die establishment of a youth hostel, youth camp and youth training centre, and I would like to say as far as the youth camp is concerned that 1 expect very shortly to have a discussion with my colleague the Minister of Agriculture whereby a considerable acreage of land would be made available for the establishment of this youth camp. There is no magic about setting up a youth camp. We do not have to take a satellite to go to Mars in order to find a model for a youth camp. We have got to study the thing carefully to put the package together, and I hope pretty soon to come up with proposals for the establishment of this youth camp which would take some of our young people, bring them together in a camp situation and give them not only a general and social education but specific education in the fields of crafts whether it is shoe-making, carpentry, poultry rearing, pig rearing, the

agricultural trades and so on. That is the kind of concept we have.

Mr. BOLDENi On a point of order, did the Hon. Minister say pig rearing? Are they going to import pigs into Barbados to start this project.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
We have the Government Industrial School and part of their training.....(Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, can you protect me from the hon. member? He is telling me what to say. Must I claim my ancient privileges?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that his time is running out.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
I hope the

interruptions have been duly accounted for.

There are 20 pigs and 17 piglets in the

Government Industrial Schools from the last information supplied to me.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we have to provide more employment opportunities for young school leavers and encourage them to establish more youth groups and societies. I am sorry to disabuse the mind of the hon. member for St. James who somehow believes that we do not have a policy and that this policy cannot be enunciated and I rely on the commission for youth affairs of which the hon. member for St. Lucy is a member to advise under the chairmanship of Senator Wes Hall who did sterling work in youth and community work in a sister country. That, Mr. Chairman, is the position; that is our policy and we are pursuing it.

The question that the sum of $53, 267 under Head 27(14) - Ministry of Education - Youth Affairs — stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(15) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 27(15) - Ministry of Education -Community Development — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $142, 95 2 under Head 27(15) - Ministry of Education - Community Development — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, I do not want to spend a long time on this matter, but I feel when it comes to community development, I pay a lot of attention to what happens in the community, and I would like to say to the Minister that I am not going to repeat any of the arguments or criticisms that were made about youth. 3.25 p.m.

What I would like to see is the community avenues being better taken care of. I am going to be parochial at the beginning and say that there are some areas in my own constituency that I cannot understand how the Housing Authority can allow areas like the Farm, the back of the Mental Hospital and Belfield reach the state in which they are today. How is it that we have become so rich that we can allow areas of land to go and not give it the kind of attention it needs? We are lacking in something, and I want to say that I know something about community development. That is where I started my career, I did not start as a paid officer of any institution, I started in a voluntary organisation, and it was out of this over 30 years ago that it has enabled me to reach the position where I am today. That is why as a community leader, I can stand up because I was brought up in the crucibles of community development. We have such organisations like the Weymouth Club, the Riverside Club, the Y.M.P.C., Y.M.C.A., and it was in this sort of melting pot thac the community life began to forge in the forties; and when singling out a person it was in this crucible that you produced what we are now talking about.

Some of this should be instilled into our young people by our leadership, and that is why I am still in a community organisation, that is why my job gives me great pleasure because I meet people every day, and it is a challenge to me. I am not in public life for anything more than the challenge it gives me to be able to remove some of the old shackles and put up new sights. I would like the Minister to know that I am a little disturbed about community development because I have grown to despise slogans and names. The British Council came here about 30 years ago and killed community development. People who used to sing and dance at Christmas time, but some people always want to ride on the backs of others who possess natural gifts, therefore they killed the singing. The people here sing naturally whether they know the notes or not, but now you have a lot of fancy names and terms. If you are going to develop the community I would like to see the people get out into the community. You have to be able to deal with prostitutes, you cannot despise prostitutes if you want to develop the community because you have to redeem the prostitutes, the thieves and the criminals, you cannot only look at the fellow in the collar and tie on a Sunday who says he is going to heaven. If you are unprepared for this work you cannot really do community work and this is where I find it is lacking.

I think that sometimes the Government spends a lot of money but it is not well directed. I do not believe in spoon feeding people, in my own constituency some of the young people put up a little shack, they did not go around begging people for money. I am not one of these politicians who want to ride on any little band wagon and get praise out of the community for myself, and what you find is that too many people want ride on little groups for themselves. I do not want to go in my constituency and ride on any community, I do not want my name put in the newspaper saying that I have done anything for any group, because I was a member of a group and nobody did anything for me, but it did not matter to ma. Anyone who is 14 or 15 can go on any cricket pitch and if he is interested in playing the game he

can get out there and help put up the sticks, but do not expect anybody is going to send a roller and then roll the pitch for you. Nowadays when people are playing a game they want a whole box of balls or tennis racquets, but you have too many people who do not want to do anything for themselves and you have to make people learn to do things for themselves.

We have to be sponsors for young people because they are not yet working so they cannot purchase certain things, so you will sponsor things for them, and that is where the Government comes in as a good sponsor. To sponsor things for young people, to be able to provide things for young people who cannot provide them for themselves, things like grounds and groundsmen so that you have someone to take care of the grounds, so that the good community leader is able to draw people into these groups. I feel that the Community Development Section of the Ministry must be able to infuse people around them. They must have leadership qualities that when they go into a district they can get people coming forward. I was very disturbed when I read a report coming to me two days ago about the Co—operatives. Half of them are defunct. You said that the Youth Groups are the Minister's idea but the Co—operatives might have been the Labour Party's idea. Nearly every political party has an idea, and I am not one of those people who believe that this is a creation of youth because there were always young people and old people, so youth is nothing strange, but more is done today for young people than at any time in the whole history of Barbados and what happens is although more is done for the young people it seems to be misguided. I challenge the Minister to look back 50 years and see the vote for youth development. What they are spending now is more than the total amount of money the whole of Barbados got. 3.45 p.m.

There were 190, 000 people in Barbados in 1921 according to the census taken then, Look at the revenue in the Estimates for 1921 and you will see what the per capita income was. Then you will know what is the difference between 1921 and now.

I feel that the Government can be taken for

a ride on these things. They can be taken for a ride on Community Development. There seems to be a lack of direction and guidance. I am not making any excuses for young people. They are no different today than they ever were. Bernard Shaw said that youth was wasted on young people. That is the only time that you can be foolish because you have time to regret your foolishness.

When it comes to providing these facilities, I have no objection to it. Do what you want to do; but if someone comes and gives me a 747 to go to work in and I cannot afford it, I will not take it. We were not ready for the gift of the stadium in Barbados. The Jaycees put up $400, 000 and that was a catch because that was the time when the then junior member for the City pushed this idea on the Government that if you did not put up a national stadium you would be doing the worst disservice to the people of this country.

You cannot put up a stadium with a half million dollars. You have put up a stadium, but footballers are going back to play on the individual grounds. You are still playing cricket at Kensington Oval. You have not played a cricket match at the stadium except for a fancy match to raise money for charity.

Now they are bringing cycle racing sporsored by everyone in the world except the people who live here. It is being sponsored by Pan Am, Air France, and Air Canada, but there is nothing indigenous.

Governments can be pressed. The Barbados Government was pressed once to buy an old factory, to buy old iron. If it is a matter of being wise after the event it is better not to be wise at all,

I am not critical of the stadium, but even in Community Development you must have your priorities. Some people believe that the only way that young people can be involved in community development is along the lines of flippancy, but they have got to be participants in the community later on.

If you are going to have healthy sport, let us have some. I used to be an ardent physical culturist and that is why I have survived because I know how to take care of the body. I feel that with the money that the Government is spending on Community Development it should have more impact on the community.

I am not parish bound, but when you look at an area like the Farm which is a big housing area, I would like to see the children in that area given some direction. There is an old building there, and I do not know for what purpose it is used. I see it closed up. I would like to see leaders coming out of this community and I am sure that it is possible for us to have more and better community development.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, I have a number of notes made on this community development business, but after hearing the speech of the last hon. member, I do not want to recite what he has said, and I am not capable of putting it in his style. It is true that as a member of the Government Party he has to support the party; but he is not a back bencher. He is an aggressive person. He is always on the attack; but the only thing that he did not say, because it would have hurt the Minister, was about the money available. You put money there to spend but it is spent badly. There is a lack of policy, but I would not expect the member to put it in that way.

The Minister may make some sly remarks, but the Minister is by nature a sly individual and he cannot help making sly remarks. If the Minister wants to object, let him get up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I would ask the member to withdraw the word "sly".

Mr. CRAIG:
What is sly?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I ask the member to withdraw the word. 3.55 p.m.

Is the hon. member telling me what I must say? I am asking the hon. member to withdraw the word "sly".

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, who made the complaint to you?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I am asking you to withdraw the remark.

Mr. CRAIG:
I will sit down and then I will decide if I will withdraw or not.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
You will not decide. You will withdraw the remarks made against the Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I must rise at this stage. I must say that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN; The Hon. Minister must sit until this remark has been withdrawn,

Mr. CRAIG:
I withdraw. I will say, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is capable of making remarks in a sly way. He is capable of making such remarks. I will get around the Minister before, the evening is out.

Mr. Chairman, there is just something that I would like to speak about, and it is about the Barbados Landship. I am happy to see the Government has in the Estimates a grant of $500 for the Landship. I would like to know if this has been thoroughly surveyed. 1 think there are eleven registered in Barbados. Now, this is one part of community life that I know needs more money. This is a more deserving cause than other organisations that the government has granted money to.

You will find in the landship what one can consider as the poorest person. Now there are certain people in Barbados who have tried to revive the landship in this countiy and there are some Ministers, who seem to be using the landship for the purpose of putting the members of the landship up before the tourist in this country when they come to this country, for the tourist to make sport at them. The Minister of Tourism particularly does this. Every time there is something around, he goes to the landship and bring them up and put them before the white people for the white people to laugh at them. Now what does he know about the landship in Barbados? He is using the landship for the purpose of providing entertainment for the tourist when they come into Barbados.

I am going to have a chat with the commander of the fleet and tell him not to allow the landship to be used for the tourist to laugh at them.

I have been seeing the landship from the time I was a boy and I have seen them doing the Maypole dance, and at Christmas time I have heard them singing with basses singing very sweet indeed. All that has gone by, and now you have an Englishman bringing them before the tourist for the tourist to make laughing-sport at them. At the end of the display the same people have to pay their way back to St. Joseph and St. Andrew or wherever they are from. I am going to have a serious chat with the Lord High Admiral of the landship — he has not been appointed yet, he is acting at present — I am going to have a chat with him and tell him to make sure that he does not allow members of the landship to be brought before tourists and be made laughing-sport of.

4.05p.m.

Again, I have to support what has been said by the hon. member for St. Michael West. You will be

told hat land in a certain area is not good, Some Mnisters will go and buy 22 acres of it, and you will then hear that the land has been approved for a building site. Some time ago I advocated that somebody from the Ministry of Sport should approach owners of plantations and arrange to rent or lease the land on which villagers have been allowed to play cricket and so on for a number of years. If you go to St. John you will hear people talking about Pool Tenantry. It may have 500 acres of land, and you will find that the owner of the land allows the villagers to play games on a portion of the land.

Mr. Chairman, I do not see anything wrong in the Government setting up some sort of policy whereby the land can be obtained at a peppercorn rent and properly prepared for the people to play games on. The Government has the equipment, and it could have the land prepared for lawn tennis, netball, football, athletics, cricket and so on. If I had to spend $1 million on something of this nature, I would not talk about a Leadership Course and a lot of nonsense. You are copying the styles of other countries too much. You go to America, Canada and Germany, and you come back here and put up a stadium. The late Louis Lynch was able to push the stadium down the Prime Minister's throat. The stadium is now a white elephant. The only occasions on which you can get a big crowd up there are when the Draytons, the Original Opels, the present Opels, and Mr. Eric Sealy decide to put on shows.

Now we have girls at the Universities in the United States doing a good job, but you cannot produce one here. You have people jumping 6ft. Sins, and doing the scissors in the air. I made 300 runs one day in the garage of a certain Permanent Secretary. The Government is spending a great deal of money in the community field without getting the necessary rewards. The Minister seems to think that we are critical of him, but we are critical of his policy. There is no set policy. He is spending $32 million on education. The Minister of Communications and Works got on the Floor of this House and castigated the Minister's policy. He said that the Minister's teachers are not as dedicated as the old teachers. Although money is available, it is being spent in the wrong avenues because we are copying the styles of other people.

Mr. Chairman, if you were to go to the Garrison on any race day, you will see young ladies and young men urinating and so on in the open. The only public convenience up there is closed, The Rugby dub has just constructed one up there. I am talking about die poor people who cannot go in the Grand Stand or the Polo Hut at the Garrison. The Minister of Communications and Works and the Minister of Sport should get together and install urinals up there. We know that some people will put stones in them and destroy them. You spend money on students attending certain Universities and they have destioyed millions of dollars in computers, so do not be angry with the boys who do not have education. I can tell the Minister that if he has a policy it is a bad one. When you are spending money you should get rewards from it. The Minister should take a hint from the member fbr St. Michael West.

The question that the sum of $132, 952 under Head 27(15) - Ministry of Education -Community Development — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.15 p.m.

HEAD 27(16) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION -CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Head 27(16) - Ministry of Education — Cultural Affairs— was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $127, 240 under Head 27(16) -Ministry of Education —. Cultural Affairs — stand part of the Schedule.

In so doing I wish to state that this is a new division within the Ministry of Education and the purpose of this particular division will be to stimulate the cultural development in this country, — the art, the music, the painting, the drama and the other manifestations of cultural life in this country, the literature. We wish to go to the grassroots of our society and develop these as cultural manifestations of our nation. This provision therefore is for this particular purpose and I commend it to this Chamber.

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

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I would be in a position to make any speech again on this particular Head, but I would like to ask the Minister a simple question. Some time ago when they weare seeking the vote from the young people in particular, we were hearing of a national auditorium. I would like to know from the Minister if this has been shelved, if there are plans to build one, what are the problems, if they consider it a priority, or if they will no longer be considering something of this magnitude. You talk about young people having somewhere to show off their art and skills in the field of drama or their painting, and 1 would like to know what plans you have, whether you will have a national theatre or something like that and where you are planning to put it.

I want to say that if you go to Combermere to watch Bimshire one would be satisfied that Bimshire is a play which I believe any Barbadian should be proud of. I have been to nearly all of them, but when you go to Combermere School, you find the centipedes running up your pants legs, or your pants being torn on the galvanise seats from Rent-A-Chair, and you also have some boys outside conducting the play. We cannot say they are not trying, but they need a little help. I believe if you can give them a little help, like giving them some place to go and work it out, we will be rather proud of these young people coming on. There is a chap by the name of Milton McCollin and there is Eggie Clarke who are as good as any Sydney Potier. I have seen Eggie play two leading roles and I consider him to be real material who just needs taking off the rough edges, and I believe these can be taken off if they can get some place to do their business. Since the Minister has at his disposal $32 million for education which the papers will print tomorrow morning, I should like to know what is the position with the national auditorium where they can go and show off their talents. I know the waters will lopk deep, but I am not going too far out, only just as far as my ankles where I can step back. I ask this little question and I expect the Minister to give an answer.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I intend to be very brief under this Head. Obviously from this side we welcome this Head and we hope it does mean some thing of value to the country. Specifically I should like to suggest ways in which the work of this department could probably be improved. It seems to me that we are very slow in looking at some of the methods used in other countries for collecting for the nation artifacts, rare manuscripts and other things of cultural value. One of the Well-known methods is to use the process of tax concessions to people who donate rare and valuable manuscripts to the nation, and they are allowed of course to set this off against their liability for death duty. The same, goes for rare buildings. I am sometimes appalled at the fact that buildings of great historical value in this country are not even

recognised far less preserved for our national heritage, and although this is a very modest vote, I think what the Minister's advisers should be looking at are ways and means by which he can preserve these various aspects of our national heritage for the nation without burdening the treasury as such.

Some of the most valuable manuscripts have been left by the late Sir Grantley Adams and of course it is now public knowledge that a Committee has been established to display his manuscripts to the public of this country. I said earlier and I will repeat that it is a pity that partisan politics are of such a nature in this country that the appeal of such manuscripts to the public will be limited because there are few people who are afraid even to be seen as looking at anything connected with the man who has given outstanding service to this country, and I was deeply hurt to understand that the Governor-General was invited originally to open the exhibition of these manuscripts and at the last moment he declined this invitation. I believe this is wrong, and I want to say in this Committee that something of this nature is past partisan politics and his advisors must advise him correctly.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, I am drawing Your Honour's attention to Standing Order No. 28(9) which says uThe conduct of Her Majesty the Queen, Members of the Royal Family, His Excellency the Governor-General, Members of either House of Parliament, Judges, or the performance of judicial functions by any person may not be referred to except upon a substantive motion."

The hon. member for Christ Church West is tantamount to criticising the Governor-General in this House for what he considers his behaviour in his official capacity if he is saying that for some political reason he has refused to open the exhibition. If he wants to criticise the Governor-General he must bring a substantive motion.

Mr. FORDE:

I did not put it that way, but if he wants to put it that way, he can. I would not criticise the Governor-General as such. I am saying that anything of national importance should have that meaning attached to it. I do not get in here and criticise judges because I feel very strongly on that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

If the hon. member would recall, we have voted $1 which is a token vote for the precise purpose of commemorating the memory and setting up a memorial to the late Sir Grantley Adams; so like that he should have tio grouse or ill feeling to the Government.

Mr. FORDE:

I am not going to belabour the point. Let me put it a different way. I believe that whenever the time comes for people who have made a national contribution to this country to have an exhibition in their honour and to their worth, they should be graced by the highest representative of this land including not only the Governor-General, but the Prime Minister as well. I put it that way if the hon. member prefers that. 4.25 p.m.

I should hate to think that in the future we will continue this aspect of our national life that because he happens to be one person of a particular partisan persuasion and not on the basis of his social or other achievements. We are going to make this issue about it. One of the ways of preserving our national heritage is by having a system of national honours. I have talked about this from the first time I came

into the House, the hon. member for the City has raised the question, and we have understood that the Government has abolished the concept of taking Imperial awards, but there is always one exception which is that too many people are interested in the Knighthood. I believe that the Government has had long enough time that it should either decide it is abolishing all honours or it is going to have its own system of awards which have some meaning to recompense people who have made contributions. I believe they are caught in two minds on this, but they must make up their minds. The Government goes about things in a petty way. They will say in one breath that they do not want people who are Queen's Counsel at a time when the person is not of their persuasion and they want to be personal, and in the other breath they make a recommandation for a knighthood. Not that the person who was granted one this year did not deserve it, I am not criticising him, I am criticising the double face being shown by the Government in approaching this matter. They cannot decide if they want to have a real national image for Barbados or to hang on to the coat tails of the United Kingdom in order to honour people at a certain level.

I think the time has come when Government must give us a policy statement on where we are going on national honours. I asked that a Committee be set up to go into this but I was told that the Government had some Civil Service Committee. I am not going to castigate the Civil Service, but I say it is amazing that upwards of three years a Civil Service Committee cannot report and Cabinet cannot make a decision on such a simple and straightforward matter.

Subventions to various Arts Councils. There is no reason why the people who run Yoruba House should not be as much entitled to a subvention as the Barbados Dance Theatre. It may be that they have not got as good canvassers as the Barbados Dance Theatre in the Civil Service and otherwise, but any dispassionate assessment of the contribution by Yoruba House, particularly in the last three years, to this country would lead anyone to the conclusion that they have been contributing to the nation culture. It is perhaps again what I was talking about partisan politics. Simply because Mr. Elton Mottley may have run in the last election for this Party I am sure this is the main reason why this has not been done. If somebody is making a contribution I do not care which of the political parties he belongs to, he deserves to get that contribution mentioned, I may be in the House for five, ten, fifteen, or maybe for five more years, but whenever I leave this House or this country's affairs I want it to be quite clearly known that wherever I see partisan approach to things that call for a national approach it sickens me, and I hope it will be eradicated from the system. I am appealing to the Minister to ask his advisers to properly assess groups like Yoruba House, and if he can support them and they are making a real contribution, recognise that contribution and encourage them.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

if I may reply to one point made by the member for St. James with reference to the national auditorium and cultural centre, a Committee was established to make recommendations on this centre. That Committee has made several recommendations setting out certain requirements for this particular centre and certain criteria for the selection of a site. The report has been studied by the Chief Town Planner and further discussion is being scheduled with the particular committee, which in submitting its report stated that while it did not indicate a specific site it would be willing to provide its continuing advice on the identification of a site. That particular project has not been shelved, work is still going on on this particular matter. Lest there be any misunderstanding, this is the provision for the Division to come into being and the Public Service Commission is presently engaged in the business of recruiting staff for the Division, The assessment of contributions of cultural groups, the development of a national

auditorium and cultural centre, all the other matters which come under the general heading of cultural affairs will be a particular responsibility of this Division.

The question that the sum of $127, 240 under Head 27(16) — Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27(17) - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT

Head 27(17) - Ministry of Education, Sport — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $342, 126 under Head 27(17) - Ministry of Education, Sport -stand part of the Schedule.

I would like, in moving this Head, to merely indicate briefly that there is an increase in the subvention for the National Stadium Corporation, and this increase is partly to assist those sporting organisations using the stadium as far as the charges for electricity are concerned. I recall that the hon. member for St. Joseph has made some particular reference and comment in this regard, and I would also like to point out that subventions for the Table Tennis Association, the Netball Association and the Lawn Tennis Association — $1, 200 each — will be given for the first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to mention that I have not seen anything about a swimming pool. There is only one recognised pool in the island which is at the Tides, an I feel that the Government should do something about this. I know I am from a parish without the sea, but I would like something done about it. I feel that with this amount of money being spent there should be some consideration given to swimming activities and training. 4.35 p.m.

There are many children at schools who would like to go in for swimming sports. Primary Schools are among these and I feel that the Minister and the Ministry should consider supporting this activity by having a Government swimming pool.

I do not want to contribute too much on this because there are other activities that the Government has been looking at, but I feel that a swimming pool is one of the things that is badly needed. When you have swimming competitions here they can only be held at North Point. I feel that as we have gone ahead with cricket and other forms of sport we should do something along this line for the children of this island.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I can assure the hon. member for St. George that we are going to put a swimming pool at the Labour College which will be near to St, George. I agree with the idea that Barbadians feel that because we live close to the sea all of us should be able to swim; but when it comes to Olympic

Swimming, and if you want to learn strokes you have to learn them in a swimming pool.

I am critical of one of these votes, and I am going to tell the Minister that I do not see any justification for it. I am, not convinced that there is any need for it. I would have to be eternally drunk to vote one cent of public funds for the West Indian Cricket Board of Control. For all these years the Minister has been too generous. When it comes to sport you have to see it in the context of what it is. No Government of Barbados should be giving any subvention to the WCBC. For what purpose? I am a member of the Barbados Cricket Association and I believe that I am one of the oldest members here. We can all remember the test match that ended last week. We have never seen so many people gathered at any one time to see a cricket match. You are paying $8.00 to enter. The Barbados Cricket Association controls cricket in Barbados and there is absolutely no excuse for them if they do not know how to run their own affairs.

Kensington is a ground that you should be capitalising on, but the people who are running cricket do not have enough sense to know that you do not lock up this kind of capital in days like these when you can utilise the capital in other ways and you spend a vast deal of money for the privilege of a few people of Pickwick Club. At the same time you do not know how to make the best use of this ground that could be a national asset. Why should we take up public funds and give to the WIBC when cricket is played on Saturdays at various places? Empire has enclosed grounds and they can charge a fee. Wanders went up to Dayrells Road and they can charge a fee. If people want to see cricket or any other game they will pay for it. They will pay if you .organise games properly, but you have people without tickets climbing over the wall and people with tickets going back home. Why should the Government underwrite this inefficiency? The WIBC made $30, 000 on the tour in 1950. They came back in 1957 and made nearly another $50, 000. In 1963 when the West Indian Cricket Team was in Australia they could have asked for a share of the gate receipts. People should learn how to negotiate, but there is some inferiority complex about it, and there are some people who would sell out their own country to become members of the MCC.

What is the point of the WIBC asking the Barbados Government for a subvention? If they want to borrow money and the Government wants to act as a guarantor, go ahead; but I do not see any justification for taking up public funds and giving the WIBC. Many years ago I believe that the late Sir Grantley Adams was not keen on lendiyn them money. 4.45 p.m.

The position is that they have Kensington Oval where you can operate game. Do you realize that Kensington Oval is still the best place to operate games? Some of the best sports went on at Kensington Oval, all the international football and some of the best games go on at Kensington Oval.

They play cricket at Trent Bridge and such other grounds in England and they use those places for other purposes but they have a problem because there are not many games that can be played in the open air during the winter. At Kensington Oval the place is big enough that you could play football on one side and another game on another side. You cannot play football on any place in Barbados that is not a cricket ground. (ASIDE) At the National Stadium? At the national stadium nobody is playing up there now.

I feel very serious and I strongly oppose the idea of giving any subvention to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control. Let me say this. Everybody who had any knowledge about cricket knew that by the

position of the recent test match after play had gone on three days at Kensington Oval, what the position would be. Anybody would know from the position of the game on the third day what was going to happen so far as the crowding was concerned; but the clowns operating the gates closed the gates so early that those people who got in early were all right, but the gate keepers had closed the gates so early, therefore they was a block all along Fontabelle so people could not get in, and thousands of people were turned back from witnessing the match, and the next thing that happened was that some of the people took off the gates. That was the situation. So you have to study these matters. And now the Government is going to underwrite this sort of thing.

I do not think the West Indies Cricket Board of Control need one cent. The West Indies Cricket Board of Control make money, and they give some cricketers a raw deal. They gave Charlie Griffith and some others a raw deal and if these cricketers did not have this Government to rely on, they would be left unheard of. There is no getting away from the fact that some of these cricketers had a hard deal at the hands of the administrators of this Cricket Board of Control. There was a time when Sir Enrol Dos Santos was with the Cricket Board of Control and things were different in those days. Now, they are to be getting this money.

So far as the Workers Union is concerned, I will say this, that we are not begging, but charity begins at home. I am not begging but I am opposed to giving the West Indies Cricket Board of Contiol one cent. Instead of giving them any money I would give it to some poor organisation.

Tennis is like cricket; It is an international game. We have a lot of good people in tennis but this will never get down to the masses because it did not start around them. 4.55 p.m.

It is a game that young people can play. I am very glad to see the children playing tennis. The people who are good tennis players come from the middle class. I have not seen one coming from Wavell Avenue. You cannot talk about playing tennis when you have to look around to see if you can get a few biscuits to eat. I like all games and I understand all games. I enjoy tennis. When I go to England I usually go to see the Davis Cup Matches. I was a table tennis player in my Club. I do not have any objections to these things,

Mr. Chairman, I am objecting to giving the West Indies Cricket Board of Control any money. I do not see why the Barbados Government should give a subvention to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control. Has Kensington been burnt down ? The Minister has no control whatsoever over Kensington Oval. After he has given this money to them, he cannot tell anybody to go there. Kensington still belongs to the Pickwick Cricket Club. Let the Pickwick Club keep a dance; let the West Indies Cricket Control Board stage tag days and 40-over cricket matches in order to raise money. Make them utilise every opportunity for getting funds. They should endeavour to get their own money instead of asking us to give them the taxpayers' money. Let them try and get the money from the public. They should only come to us after they have explored all the other avenues of getting money.

Mr. Chairman, they have recently constructed a new pavilion and they are selling seats at $450 each. In 2074 that steel building will still be there with the three W's stand. I do not see any justification for giving this sum of money to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to try to catch your eye before the hon. member for St. Michael West; otherwise he will go outside and say that he is teaching me something and I am edging. (Asides.) I am never too old to learn. Again, Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with a lot of what the hon. member has said and I support him. I was born near Empire Cricket Club. I am told that monuments are given to people when they leave the face of the earth. However, I should like to see this Government taking the lead by arranging something in the name of the greatest cricketer of all times before he dies. Do not treat him like you have treated Sir Frank Worrell, He is the greatest cricketer that has ever lived, so let Barbadians show that we appreciate him. I refer to Garfield Sobers.

Mr. Chairman, a few days ago in Venezuela a horse came second in a race, and the people in Venezuela made a horse of bronze for the horse to look at. The horse can neither understand nor appreciate what is going on. The horse merely came second in the Kentucky Derby. Here is our National hero. The people in Venezuela are worshipping a horse, so let us show our appreciation of the great service Gary Sobers has rendered in the field of sport. I have my views as to whether he will make any more doubles. I do not know if he is going to Australia. I understand that the Prime Ministers are deciding what should be done for him. I hope that the hon. member for St. Michael West will not be on the Committee. We will not touch that bad toe at the moment. He says that a man has a democratic right to go where he feels like going whether he is an ambassador or not. I also hope that Prime Minister Burnham is not involved in this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want them to put up any pavilion at Kensington so that the big boys in the Pickwick Cricket dub can say to put it near Goddard's bond and so on. Let us put up something outstanding. I agree with what the hon. member says about this $2, 400. There is provision for $100, 000 for the National Stadium, but nowhere in the Explanatory Note have I seen how this money is to be spent. The National Stadium is a dead duck. The only thing good about it is that if you go to St. George and look at it you would be able to see how bright it is. You can only get a big crowd there when you are having cycle sports. 5.05 p.m.

I have always had the feeling that the Government of Barbados should be in a position to strike some bargain with the Pickwick Club to allow the Government to control it, because as the hon. member said, the Pickwick players will tell you that you cannot play football there because you are liable to break up the pitch. It is still the best place for drawing crowds. We have an international cycling track here, but we cannot get enough sport in Barbados all the time to pay for these things.

Now with regard to swimming, many of us may believe that the hon. member for St. George North was making a joke when he talked about a swimming pool for St. George, but I am serious. I am told there is a large area of land which the Government acquired to build schools for some 1, 500 children. I will say that having such a large school on such a large area of land, there is nothing wrong with having an olympic pool built there, because as the hon. member for St. Michael West said, we cannot really swim against anybody from outside Barbados who is trained. There is no sea in Guyana as such but if you bring a person who is trained in the swimming pool there, he would make Batson and Dalton Guiler look like nothing. They are salt water swimmers, but they have to learn to make the turn because when he has already turned they would now be trying to get the salt water from their eyes; so you must have an olympic size swimming pool. If it is possible to put down a swimming pool in St. George, the boys and girls would be taught to swim in the pool. I do not know how serious the member for St. George North was, but I believe it is a good idea to which Government should give some thought, because if

they can build a school of that magnitude, we must give some thought to these things.

Now tennis is a little dear to my heart for several reasons. From the time I went to represent St. James, there was a group with an old hopping ball and two tennis racquets playing on a piece of land, and the now High Commissioner to London, the former member for St. Lucy promised me faithfully when he was trying to get me to join the D.L.P. that he would see after them. They did not have anybody to run in St. James so they wanted a show horse and there were all these promises. I am not a bolter and when I am finished with this side, I am finished period. I am not going to join with anybody. For three years the member has been courting me and he invited me to a luncheon with one Verna Critchlow from Trinidad who is an ambassador or something like that. One day he called me on the telephone and asked me to meet him and I got scared. Then he invited me to lunch with Miss Gaskin, another ambassador, and all I was asking all the time is whether he would assist the youth at St. John Baptist with a tennis court. The former Minister of Communications and Works gave me all the promises in the world. The Leader of the House went to St. James with me and the Permanent Secretaries and everybody went down there, and all we wanted was to have a piece of land. I will hear the Minister on Saturday evening and I hope he does not make any fancy speech that he had anything to do with the acquisition of the land which could have been given to Government years ago. There is a certain Permanent Secretary who used to assist with old nets and racquets and tennis balls and tell me how to go about getting some, and there is also Merton Robinson from the Sports Department, because these people were interested in lawn tennis.

I agree with the hon. member for St. Michael West that lawn tennis will not get us any place. We will never be able to produce the Arthur Ashes or Australian aces, but wherever you see boys in the road playing tennis, you should make provision for them to play on hard courts, and I am quite sure that sports in Barbados would go far beyond where it is now. Imagine a boy from Lears coming to the courts at the Harbour to get a knock. What kind of glorified idiot he would be to leave Lears or St. John Baptist to come to the hard courts down here and play tennis, when you can put down these schools and make provision for having hard courts for lawn tennis and where the girls can play netball. We have good netball players who can hold their own against players from outside, but we only have one real netball court at the Esplanade. You see the Minister there all the time, but for years I have been asking the Government to extend sports to the other schools. If you can do these things then the young boys will stop playing dominoes on evenings and stop playing guitars and stop thinking about dope if they can go and play a game of tennis at night, because they will be so tired they would not have time to think about taking dope. This is the policy we are talking about. If you erect a school for 2, 000 children you should provide these facilities. The hon. member for St. George North is asking for a swimming pool which is worthwhile. You have the Princess Margaret School which we have built but at least you can carry facilities of this nature there. Swimming pools do not cost a lot of money, because if you build a house today a person would ask you if you have a swimming pool. As soon as you consult with the architect he draws plans for the swimming pool. I know some people with three swimming pools at their homes, one for the baby, one for the the teenagers, and one for the boys when they have drunk their liquor, and I am appealing to the Government to provide swimming pools wherever possible. I am not asking for a swimming pool in every constituency or at every school, but where you have 1, 500 or 2, 000 children at a school, you should have one. 5.15 p.m.

Look at the grounds at St. Leonard's Boys' School. I have not been there for a long time but they do not have the facilities turn out the Carl Mullinses, so you have to make better provision for the children. I spoke about the netball and I think that some provision should be made for this as well. I am no legal

man and I was asking my colleague next to me a question about the power the police have at some of these places and he gave me a legal answer, but I want to know if they have power or not. I saw something at Kensington during the last Test Match when Lawrence Rowe was batting which could have led to a riot or somebody could have pushed a knife in somebody's back or something like that, and I think something should be done to prevent this.

The position is this. You see people jumping over the wall at the Stadium, some of them behaving very badly, but only two or three policemen are present. At Kensington there were about 25 policemen. I do not know if the Constabulary is not up to strength and they ! cannot spare any more men, but I saw about six people climbing up a high tension wire. They were each weighing about 150 pounds, which means that was about 900 pounds up there. If the wire had snapped that would have been more trouble, so I would like to see a proper system of queueing. What I am asking the Minister to do is to look into the laws and see what power the police have when they go to these public places of entertainment. Try to find out whether they have the power to arrest people or put them out for bad behaviour, or if they have to wait for the landlord to vouch the people. The reason why I am drawing this to the attention of the Committee and to the Minister's attention is because I saw something down there which was very close to riot, and I would like the Minister to discuss this with the authorities of the National Stadium.

I would also like to see something put up in honour of Gary Sobers. Do not wait until he is too old to appreciate it or until he has left the scene, the time to do it is now.

Mr. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very short on this Head, but there is a section here which is of interest to me because of some questions i asked in here before. I am dealing with Item 16 — Playing Fields and Buildings.

Some time last year the Ministry undertook to do some repairs to the Rockfield Playing Field in St. Lucy and to restore that playing field which was in a very dilapidated condition. As far as I am aware the repairs have not been concluded as yet and it is difficult to find out what the delay is in this particular matter. As I indicated in the debate last year, the playing field is situated in a very important area in the constituency of St. Lucy and every effort should be made to have it restored properly and also to have it functioning properly. We have heard a lot in here today of community development, the role which the youth can play in national development and the kind of efforts we should embark upon to assist the youth in this country. As I indicated, I hope that the Minister would be able to give us the assurance that that playing field is going to be completed as soon as possible.

I am also enquiring from the Minister about the possibility of getting the playing field at Half Moon Fort which adjoins the Half Moon Fort junior school in a serviceable condition, and also the one adjoining the Selah School. These are areas to which I feel some attention should be given.

This brings me on to another point. I thin]: it was raised by the member for St. James, the role which land owners who have land lying down doing nothing can play, and the kind of contribution they can moke towards the development of community sport and towards the provision of playing fields for people throughout the country. I was very pleased when I learnt that one of the distinguished families of St. Lucy — I know they do not want any publicity over this matter because they feel that the contribution which they were making was being made to the young people of St. Lucy and it was not the

kind of contribution they were making for publicity — but I was very pleased at the contribution which the Ward family in St. Lucy made towards the youth of that parish when they provided about four acres of land which is going to be used for providing playing fields or at least as an alternative site for a playing field for the St. Lucy's Secondary School. I think that we need to have a better commitment on the part of people who can afford to make this kind of contribution, because I think that it is going to be extremely difficult for people to be constantly looking to the Government to make this kind of contribution by buying land. Some people like to know when the Government is interested in a particular area or when a Parliamentarian asks questions about playing fields and then you get these people descending on you and trying to pressure you to put pressure on the Government so that they can get a berry out of it, but I consider those persons to be parasites rather than persons trying to make a meaningful contribution to the development of people and to the community spirit throughout the length and breadth of this country, and I would hope that more people throughout Barbados who have this land at their disposal would make the kind of contribution I am talking in terms of. 5.25p.m.

This brings me to a further point I want to make. I feel that if the Government gives the initiative these group?; would assist in getting grounds prepared rather than waiting until the Government can find playing areas. I am thinking of the three areas in St. Lucy which I have mentioned. I am sure that people would be willing to get these areas straightened out. They are trying to do their best but they only need encouragement. I hope that the Government or the Minister will bear in mind what I have said in reference to these areas that I have mentioned.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I was critical in the past because I did not see any ideas coming in relation to sport. Now the new Sports Officer is a young man who has had a connection with sports all of his life and has been associated with one of the most successful football teams in Barbados, and I believe that he should be given an opportunity to let us see what he can do.

I would like to express the hope now that I am on this item that the facilities which were available to the last Sports Officer in the House at Blenheim will also be available to che new Sports Officer.

Under Item 7, Games, the note says, "includes provision for the purchase and maintenance of sports and games department". I do not believe that this is an adequate sum for the purpose of games. I do not see how we can give $2, 400 to the WIBC and neglect the children of this country. The money that is being given to the WIBC could be spent to provide adequate equipment for games throughout the country.

I think that the question of sport must be looked at from the social point of view also because sport is one of the greatest avenues to social mobility in Barbados.

I cannot understand why Bay Primary School should acquire a trampolene costing $2, 000 and other schools are left high and dry. I know that it happens to be the constituency of the Minister of Sport, but this should not be done at the expense of providing equipment for football, basketball and other games which should be beneficial to the people as a whole, the people living in districts other than St. Michael.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to some of the points that have been made. As far as Blenheim is

concerned, the house which was occupied by the former Chief Sports Officer, the terms and conditions were those for persons appointed permanently to the Civil Service. This does not normally come under my portfolio but I would try to find out the answer for the hon. member.

As far as the question about hard courts is concerned, this is a simple thing. We have been building secondary schools for a long time, and there are some schools which were built and which I think were called modern secondary schools and I know that the member for Christ Church West is always ready to tell us that these schools were instituted by his party.

The real answer is that we have a different approach towards the provision of school facilities. At the time when these schools were put up there was no provision for hard courts, but it is now our policy to include hard court facilities for every new school that we put up. I would like to assure hon. members that there is provision for hard courts at the St. George Secondary School and I would like to say that it is the policy of the Government to provide hard courts where young people can play tennis and netball and volley ball at centres throughout the island.

We have already started this policy and indeed, in so far as schools are concerned, the Parkinson School was provided with a hard court surface. I am not satisfied myself that the very best job was done at that particular school, but that is it. As I have said, we will have more hard court centres as an implementation of the policy of this Government.

I will deal with Thorpes in Holders Hill, on Saturday afternoon. One thing is certain and that is that I will speak the truth about the whole matter; so the member for St. James need have no fear. 5.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise a point of order. The Hon. Minister said he is going to speak the truth. Does he mean that I did not speak the truth this afternoon?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said I am accusing him. I am not accusing him and I did not accuse him of speaking any untruth. Not at all.

As far as this emolument for Garfield Sobers is concerned, the recognition of the services which nationals in this country have given to this country or the region or to the world in general is a matter which is dealt with at the highest level, and I can assure the hon. member that this would fall under the purview of the Prime Minister. This is a recognition of gallant service to the nation, the region or the world; this is the level at which such matters are dealt with and I am sure the matter raised by the hon. member, would be given due consideration.

Quite a deal of comment has been made about the vote for the Cricket Board of Control and it seems to be felt that 1 initiated this but I have to disclaim any such responsibility, and, those members who have seen longer service in this Honourable House than 1, I wonder how they have now found this evening to object to a vote which has been provided by this Honourable Chamber since 1969. Before the subject of sport came to the Ministry of Education, it was under the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Trade and $12, 200 was provided for the West Indies Cricket Board of Control. All that has happened is that there has been an increase, and this is not in respect of the test match or of any international

commitment. It is in respect of the youth series within the region — the Benson and Hedges series — whereby the young cricketers constitute the nursery friendly and national competition; it is in respect of that competition and to support that particular competition and it is a programme which is a regional one. There are other places which contribute; the Trinidad and Tobago Government, the Government of Guyana contribute as well as the Leeward and Combined Islands, they also make a contribution, At the present moment the independent territories are making a contribution at the level of $2, 400, and this is after the West Indies Cricket Board of Control indicated that the cost of the programme indicated that there should be an increase.

So this is what this particular vote is for, and the youth cricket competition is such that you may get just ten people in addition to the players; it does not attract large crowds of people. This vote has been provided by this Honourable Chamber from 1969 at least.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that there is anything else to say. As far as the swimming pool is concerned, naturally we will provide facilities as best we can and this will be considered within the context of the resources that are made available to my Ministry.

The question that the sum of $342, 126 under Head 27(17) - Ministry of Education —. Sport -stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - ECCLESIASTICAL Head 28 — Ecclesiastical — was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $13, 780 under Head 28 — Ecclesiastical — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29 (1)— MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE-GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 29 (1) - Ministry of Health and Welfare — General Administration — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6, 949, 508 under Head 29 (1) Ministry of Health and Welfare -General Administration — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, before putting this Head, I would like to point out that there has been a 25% increase

under this Head during the financial year. The question likely to be asked, is, why this increase? I would like to remind this Honourable Chamber that this increase has come about as a result of certain supplementaries which have been approved by this Honourable Chamber during 1973 for such purposes as Social Welfare grants and pensions during 1973 amounting to over $4 million approved by this Chamber. Also money which was used for certain reorganisation at the Cabinet department which was also approved, and also money for the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board which was used in connection with certain problems of the Board. So this has come about by way of supplementary Resolutions approved during 1973.

The remainder of this increase could be laid at the door of the cost of living and the cost of services which have come about due to many other problems having to bear on the economy of this country. Those are the reasons why we have this increases

Now another question which one may ask is, are we going to get value for the money being spent? I know there are some people who do not attach the same importance to Health and Welfare Ministry as to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce or other departments of Government. 5.45 p.m.

Health is a very important factor, and the importance o \his factor can be assessed if it does not exist. If you do not provide good health facilities in this country there would be a big impact on business. Much of the educational facilities provided in Barbados would not be of any great advantage because we would be having children whose health would not permit them to take advantage of any of the facilities. In terms of labour, if we do not have proper health facilities for the workers; then the productivity of the workers will fall and many of the things that are sought to be done in the industries will not be accomplished. I can draw instances to show why it is necessary to have a good Health Service. So long as the people of this country maintain good health anything is possible.

Let me look at the general administration of my Ministry. My immediate concern is to get people who are capable of accurate fiscal and social evaluations of projects relating to health. One of the things I should like to be assured of in my Ministry is that when a project is initiated it is one that is really required in the country. Sometimes when I look back at some of the problems in the Ministry and see the way in which some of them have solved, I get the impression that the social and fiscal evaluations had not been properly done.

I do not think hon. members expect me to provide examples for them. Was the money properly spent? Did the people of Barbados receive value for the money spent? These are questions which can be asked. Sometimes I get annoyed when I see that the money spent on certain services does not produce the benefit that I would like to produce. Of course, a proper Health Service will depend on the behaviour of the staff. A large sum of money is provided under the Ministry of Health and Welfare to pay the staff, and if the staff are not satisfied, then it is easy to understand that the work in the Ministry will not be properly done and the objectives of the Government will not be achieved. The staff will become frustrated. They have proper inducements to motify them to move ahead and get advanced training in every aspect that will make them confortable and willing to support the Government in any programme. If the Doctors, Nurses and members of the para-medical profession are dissatisfied, the patients will be made to realise it first. The patients will start complaining about the treatment they are receiving at the hospital; the Head of the Department will hear about the matter and you will hear a lot of criticism.

During the year 1973 we have had our problems. Ww have had problems in the Hospital, and they have been discussed in this Honourable Chamber. We have agreed to certain measures, and I am happy to say that these measures with reference to the Casualty Department and the staff have been put into force. We have reorganised the Casualty Department. People do not have to wait as long in the Casualty Department as they did before. I would also hasten to point out that this efficiency in the Casualty Department has presented another problem. The people who go there are now seeking to get medicine. The speed with which people come there is presenting a real problem.

Mr. Chairman, we have had problems relative to the Ambulance Service. Last year this House voted a sum of money for the improvement of the Ambulance Service. Five ambulances are now here: three have been handed over to the Ministry of Health and Welfare and two more are waiting to be handed over. We look forward in the coming financial year to be able to provide two more ambulances. They have already been approved as a result of measures taken by the Ministry of Health.

We have also had our problems in the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board and we are trying to solve them. We hope they will be able to do a better job with the amount provided in the financial year 1974-75.

As regards the Welfare Section, we have been looking very closely at the administration of this Section, and during the past year we have been able to discover certain problems. 5.55 p.m.

We have been able to discover some errors in administration and we have been able to correct them. I look forward to greater progress in this area and I believe that my Permanent Secretary who is responsible for this particular department will be in a position during the debate on the Ministry of Health and Welfare to make a contribution on this.

I beg to move that the sum of $6, 949, 508 under Head 9(1) Ministry of Health and Welfare — General Administration — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, naturally we on this side of the House are very concerned with the state of sanitation in Barbados. Over the past year sanitation and the state and condition of the roads deteriorated rapidly, not only in Bridgetown, but in the parish of St. Michael. We found as we went around garbage left uncollected for days and days and extra days. I have had on many occasions within my own constituency to call upon the acting Manager of the Sanitacion Board to send specially to remove garbage from certain parts of my constituency. Even in the constituency of the Minister of Health where I travel fairly often there are piles of garbage all along the streets. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. I think the Minister should be aware of the hazards that the non-collection of refuse poses to this country. I hope, Sir, that he can tell us what provision is being made to improve the conditions... (1) under which the workers work and (2) the general collection of refuse in Barbados. I think that no one who takes a look at the work done by the members of the Sanitation Board should in any way envy them for any pay which they get. If it is necessary to pay them over time or double time to keep the streets clean, I think that the health of the nation should be the first consideration rather than the extra cost of

paying them overtime. They have a difficult job to do and I think they should be paid properly for this work.

Now, Sir, in dealing with the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board under Item 25, I want to deal with the National Crematorium, a sort of white elephant, if I may say so, which was started by the Government the first phase of which should have been completed in 1972. It seems that this was an error and they have changed that to 1974—75. I do not know where the error occurred, but I think this was deliberate because from what I can recall the first phase of the National Crematorium should have been completed already. The note at the time said that the shortage of space necessitated the establishment of a National Cemetery and Crematorium the first phase of which should have been completed by the end of the financial year 1971-72; now it says by the end of 1974-75. I believe a sum of almost $1/2 million has been spent on it so far and it has not yet been completed, and I think the taxpayers of this country should be told what is going on with the National Crematorium and how the money is being spent or misspent as the case may be as well as when it is likely to be completed, if at all. In fact I passed there this morning and I did not see any work going on and I would like to know the reason for the work stoppage. I do not believe the Union had anything to do with this. I think this is a Government decision and I would like to find out why the work was stopped.

On the question of the Old People's Home, I note that it is singular, what is the population of it and what plans has Government for building other Old People's Homes in Barbados. There is need for these homes and I believe some of the pressure that is now placed on the St. Michael District Hospital and the Geriatric Wards could be taken off by the building of other Old People's Homes.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, health is a very important thing in any community in any part of the world. Let me first give the Minister a little push up so that when I pull him down he would not say anything. The Minister, unlike some of his colleagues, has the knack of introducing some of his Resolutions in a manner that if you are not careful, he would leave you standing. I remember some time ago when we had the trouble at the hospital the Minister came in and after he made a statement, he left the Opposition standing. This evening the manner in which he set out to introduce this Resolution is one which I, and I believe I speak for some of my colleagues if not all, can safely say that he introduced it in a manner that you can feel the sense of responsibility he has to his Ministry, unlike some of the other

Ministers who seem to think that they have a big secret in their pockets and when you come and ask a question and they give the answer, this is some big surprise. The Minister told us exactly what the position is in introducing his Resolution, and I believe that where there are areas in which he has to be critical, he is going to be critical. I am going to make a criticism of the ! Cabinet as a whole and the Government, and this unfortunately has to be reflected in the Ministry of Health. Right tare in the Estimates Government is asking for $36 million for Health and Welfare, a very substantial total, but in it I observe they are only giving the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board $789, 000 more than they gave them last year for the purpose of paying overtime, and we may have to pay a little more overtime during the year because when you have these half-baked idiots on some of these Boards who would like to serve two masters at the same time, you get this problem. A person wants to be a priest tonight and a politician the next night; they want to be in something, but I believe it should be the best man for the best job inspite of his political affiliation if you are going to serve a country.

They want to be in something, but I always believe it should be the best man for the job despite his political affiliations if he is going to serve the country, because when the Government is going to push people who know absolutely nothing about what is going on it is defeating its own purpose. I would like to draw reference to the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. I am no longer on the Board and I have no secrets for the Board, but you have people who go on the Board just to hear their names called and that is the end of it. They have no contribution to make, nothing to say and they sit through meetings snoring. This is a very important Board in this country and it is in this area where you can get epidemics breaking out overnight, but yet you keep putting a bundle of drone bees on this Board because one member is supposed to be a Party Secretary and another a Constituency Group Chairman who know absolutely nothing about health. They have not got a clue of what is going on and eventually it ends up with the weight falling on the shoulders on the Minister, but I do not know if you should blame the Minister or if you should blame the policy of the Government.

You are asking for a total sum of $789, 000 to pay overtime, back wages and a knock back to the Union when there was this headon collision. I am told by reliable sources that the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board cannot operate on the $3 million which Government is giving to them this year. I am nothing to do with whether the Minister is phasing out the Board, he should close it down altogether, but I would have thought that a man like Mr. Sharpe after he retired would be able to go on a Board of that nature and put at the disposal of the Board his knowledge and assist the Board with its functions. I am only calling a name, the name could have been Mr. Goodridge as well. Some of the trucks are about 15 years old and that is a spent force, over the hill. You have wages to pay, you have the general administration of the Board and the conditions under which the staff work would not allow the Board to function properly. I think you should find a different site from Church Village, but are you going to spend $3 million and do the job half-way or spend $7 million and do a proper job?If any Board requests Government to give it $10 million after they work out the cost to operate the Board properly and you only give them three million dollars, that would serve no useful purpose. When you give the Board this it cannot function properly and the taxpayers suffer.

It is disturbing to see the amount of garbage along the streets day after day and this will affect the lives of all the citizens of this country. I am not blaming the Minister for this because I think I understand his problem. His hands are tied and he would like a free hand, free enough like how he will contest the next election against the Prime Minister, but he has no elbow room and therefore you have to determine whether or not to blame the Minister or the policy of the Government. What can $789, 000 do after you pay backpay, overtime, buy new trucks and still have people working on top of each other? You have to look for somewhere where you can have proper facilities, because people look at sanitation as if that is the end of it because you see a man with a broom in his hand. I am sure that many people whose dogs die in their yards will not pick up those dogs themselves but will call somebody to do it for them and pay them for doing it, but you still look down on the sanitation workers.

I want the Minister to tell us whether the money voted for the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board is enough. If it is not enough it is the duty of his colleagues to protest because they are spending money in other areas which are not as important as Sanitation and Health. Go through St. James — not up in the hills, that is out of the question — but you cannot blame the supervisors or the people who are working, you have to find out if there is enough money or not. I am told they were scrambling last year to pay

people with the tractors and excavators, the Fix-it-Right Garage and all those people. The Government is put in an embarrassing position, so I want to know from the Minister what is the actual position of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. Is it enough money to run the Board properly or not? This is what we must hear from the Minister so that when the taxpayers start to cry out about dirty streets and canals, old turned down baths, urinals and all these things we will know that you have enough money to do the job. Stop treating the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board as a second division Board. I am not dealing with the people on the Board at this stage because the Government will always appoint people — as the member for St. Michael West would say that if we were in power we would put Mr. Egbert Brancker on a Board, but how can we leave out Egbert? The same way the Government could not leave out the member for St. Michael West we would not be able to leave out Egbert. 6.15 p.m.

Let us know the position. I know that there is a halt there. I cannot find out if it is the Minister of Health or the Minister of Communications and Works who cannot produce the goods. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I will ask hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. CRAIG:
If they are prepared to make a mocker/ of the taxpayers that is their business because the moment that he gets up you hear about this 18 - 6. That is the only contribution that the Minister of Agriculture makes apart from telling us about 22 acres of land or I beg to second that. I am saying that if Ministers are joining with village idiots they will always carry the blame.

Can the Minister of Health tell this Committee if he is getting enough money to run the Board properly and if lie will have a new approach because of the lack of health standards in the country?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I want to say that the responsibility for the crematorium is in the hands of the Minister of Health. I am willing to sit down and wait for my turn. That is not in my portfolio, but the member can ask Parliamentary Questions on that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order or elucidation, but a direct interruption.

Mr. CRAIG:
There is no need for me to hear whose responsibility it is. On one occasion you hear that it is a particular Minister's responsibility, and on another occasion you hear that there is collective responsibility. However, I expect the Minister to assist this Committee by letting us know what is the actual position because every single man and woman can see the problems with the services of the Health Department. I hope that we can get it rectified before the year is out.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of talk about this question of the vote for the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board and the Child Care Board and the Child Health Committee during the year. I want to very blunt.

The member for St. James talked about a collision between the Government and the trade union. I want to tell the hon. member that I do not believe that He knows anything about me and my approach to my job. Members of the Government do not know me. They only know me when they see me in the House or at party meetings. There can be no collision. I have been in public life for nearly 30 years and I have never had a conflict of interest. I have never served two masters.

Mr. CRAIG:

I do not want the hon. member to feel that I am afraid, but I am not accusing him of any conflict of interest. The position is that the hon. member for St. Michael West is General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and is also a member of the Democratic Labour Party. I have no doubt that he will stay clear of the collision, but he is only human. If he feels that it is a conflict of interest that is a matter for him. I believe that he serves the Union well and if he gets into a collision that he cannot avoid, all well and good.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I was secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union when I was a member of the Barbados Labour Party and I did not have any conflict of interest then. Whan I presented a case on behalf of the workers when I was a member of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, and I submitted certain things on behalf of the workers and I was not in agreement with what the Government was, doing, I did not continue to serve on Whitley Council.

Hon. members do not know me. I was a member of the Finance Committee and the UWI and I submitted proposals to the UWI on behalf of workers. I did not agree with the UWI and I came off the Committee because I did not want to, serve on the Committee when I did not agree with what the University was doing on behalf of the workers.

There is no one in Barbados who I have to fear. I do not have any conflict of interests. When I nresent a case on behalf of the workers, it does not matter to me which Minister is pleased or vexed, I do not have to look at the Prime Minister to see if he is pleased about any presentation I make on behalf of the workers. You are not talking to some one who has to find out from a Minister what he can say first. Go and talk with your minions. My union represents more of the Government workers than the NUPW. I said that we were not going to sit down and talk with any comtiuttee. We told the Government that if they were not prepared to give us what we asked for we would withdraw our labour. 6.25 p.m.

Let me make that clear.

Now, as simple as the workers are they do a job that many of us are not prepared to do — sweeping the streets and cleaning canals. People are not going to work for the kind of money that your grandfather or my grandfather was working for. I told the Minister already that the day the Government does not agree to pay the workers what they should get, the Minister would have to clean the streets. The day any of you are not prepared to pay wages and provide conditions of employment which are reasonable you will not have anybody to pay. You can keep the money. A man works for money; not love. So as far as this matter about cleaning the streets is concerned, when it comes to the Sanitation Board — there is no point of setting up an institution and giving the institution statutory powers to make agreements and when those agreements are reached nobody is prepared to observe them. They must be observed.

The Union does not set up Boards so if the Government sets up, let us say, the Child Care Board, and the Board is responsible for employing people and we meet them and say these are the conditions of employment and the Board agrees, that is the end of the matter so far as we are concerned; but what do you find? The Government agrees that people who work in the banks should not work on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays. There is no dispute about that. When nobody can get money banked on Saturdays, nobody worries about that. If the Government — the authorities — decide that you are not going to work on these days and you work only from Monday to Friday, then you create a problem for yourself. If the Garbage must be cleaned up between Monday and Friday because you are not engaging you labour force on Saturday or Sundays, then you will find more garbage on the streets. Then you hear everybody complaining 'look at the garbage, look the flies', but it was the garbage that those people in various areas put out and when those people who work with the garbage do not remove it, then the garbage will pile up because nobody else is going to move it. There are cases in which the garbage cleaners are controlled and sometimes they get interference; although I am Secretary of the Union I do not interfere with them.

I see this vote here. It appears to me that you will have trouble in the future if the Sanitation Board make it difficult for the workers to do their work. The sanitation workers are not men who are going to have to write any paper on the ethics of behaviour. They can speak language bluntly and their actions would be very open for anyone to see; but some people thought they could get these workers to act and do as they want them to do, but that is not the case with these people. So you have to analyse the issue.

I believe members of the Opposition would glory in seeing a clash between the Ministers and myself. They would like to see a clash, and I am not the type of man that runs from a clash because if I was I would run. (ASIDE: You run from St. Peter.) I ran for two constituencies but in fairness to you, you cannot.....

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

Mr. WALCOTT:
You do not know what you

are talking about running because.....

6.35 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member has five minutes more to speak.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, the hon. member made an aside. You must be prepared to take what you put out. Do not throw stones when you live in a glass house. The hon. member said that he could go to St. James and heckle and so on. I am not prepared for any collision. If there is going to be a collision with the sanitary workers and the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board it will have to come. We have nothing to go back on. An agreement was reached and made. When the lights were supposed to be turned off, the hon. member had on all of his lights for ducks to see.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order! The hon. member will take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was down by rny duck pen, and that is why I had to turn on my lights, to keep him out of the pen. I was losing ducks, and I did not know who was taking them away.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Chairman, there is no difference between the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board and any other Government Department. I will go further and say that the Barbados Workers' Union and the Government have not discussed all of the aspects and conditions of employment regarding the 40-hour week. So far as the sanitation workers are concerned, the decision to institute a 'no work on Saturday' is not in any Agreement between the Union and the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. They never reached an agreement that there would be no work on Saturday. They reached an agreement that there would be work every day in the week, but there would be certain extra payments on Sundays and Bank Holidays. I want the public to be aware of that. Why should not sanitation workers receive the same conditions of employment as other workers?

Mr. Chairman, some people want to get on the back of the small and simple worker and ride him because they believe that he cannot speak for himself. I want to make it clear that the sanitation workers are entitled to the same conditions of employment as any other worker.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, if this Head is going to be continued today, I should like to make a contribution to it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. In accordance with the agreement in so far as the staff situation is concerned, and in accordance with a principle, 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, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow, we will be losing several hours of debate. After five days of debate the guillotine will be used. Standing Orders 64 and 6 read together will give us 9J/2 hours of debate daily. If we meet tomorrow at 3 p.m., in order to get in our 91/2 hours we will have to go on until 12.30 tomorrow night, and no hon. member envisages that. I should be glad to have some word from the Leader of the House on that point. We are not even making full use of the 91/2 hours daily. We meet at 10.30 a.m. and we have agreed to stop at 6.30 p.m. Eventually, we are going to lose a whole day's debate, if we continue in this manner.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I thought that was a matter for the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to discuss. You should have discussed the matter with him before now.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to know whether we arc going to work on Friday for 12 hours in order to absorb some of the time we are going to lose by the late sitting tomorrow.

6.45 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to move to amend my motion and move that the sitting be suspended until 2 o'clock instead of 3 o'clock if this is agreeable to the hon. member.

Mr. FORDE:

I think that if we could perhaps be given some indication as to the hours we would be working tomorrow and Friday, at least we would know where we are.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are all here thinking about the members coning, but I think one thing we should get very straight is what is the position with the staff. I need not come, but we expect the staff to come; so I would like the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to reach some kind of agreement. I am thinking of the Reporters, the Clerks, the Marshals and other members of the staff, and I would like to hear something a little more specific as to our time for meeting. I know tomorrow is Cabinet day and I do not see why the Cabinet cannot meet at 10 o'clock and finish their nay-nay business by midday and come down here and start to work so that we can get through without any argument, because I would not be surprised if on Friday you start passing the Heads left and right by using your numbers and showing your might. I expect the members on the other side to understand the importance of the Estimates. This is not a joke. We are discussing a very important Resolution and I would like to hear the Leader of the House give some undertaking to the Leader of the Opposition as to what to expect.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are now trying to arrange our sitting as such, and as far as tomorrow is concerned, provided we receive the co-operation of the Opposition, 2 o'clock would be an appropriate time and we would be able to work. It is not a nay-nay meeting as the hon. member thinks, but a regular Cabinet meeting which is taking place tomorrow. As far as tomorrow is concerned we will be willing to

remain in here till around 10 o'clock in order to comply with the arrangements as indicated by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

In so far as Friday is concerned, we will meet again at 10.30 a.m. and go on until 10.30 p.m. or whatever time in order to make sure that all the Heads are properly dealt with and the Capital Estimates are properly considered. We are willing to meet at any hour and as far as Friday is concerned we will remain in here all night.

The question that the sitting be now suspended until Thursday, 21st March, 1974, at 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 6.50 p.m.

On Resumption: -

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 29(1) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
When progress was reported the hon. member tor Christ Church West who is not now in his place was addressing the Chair.

The question that the sum of $6, 949, 508 under Head 29(1) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, General Administration — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29(2) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, HEALTH SERVICES

Head 29(2) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Health Services — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1, 490, 292 under Head 29(2) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Health Services — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, we are spending quite a great deal of money on the Health Services of this country and I think the time has come when the Government must look to see whether or not it is getting the maximum benefit for the money which is being spent not only on Health Services but on every other service provided by the Government.

I was alarmed, shocked and surprised to think that in 1974 a state of affairs such as was reported to me today existed in this country. For four days those persons who depend on food from the Government, some 120 persons, have gone without anything to eat because the Government says it has no money to provide the food for these people. It is a disgraceful situation that in 1974 persons who have given the best days of their lives to develop this country should find themselves in the evening of their days at the mercy of this Government.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way, I would like to know under which Item he is speaking. I am a bit lost.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

The Minister would be lost because he does not want me to talk about it. I will talk about it whether I do so in here or whether I call a Press Conference and talk about it. (Hon. F. G. SMITH We are feeding 27, 000 school children). You are feeding 27, 000 school children but 120 people could go hungry for four days and all you can say is that you are feeding 27, 000 school children. Do you think they should spend the evening of their days at the mercy of a Government such as yours which does not care for them?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I asked a question. Could you please get the information for me?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Health Services and all that comes under Health Services.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, feeding people does not come under Health Services.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

As I was saying, Sir, this is not something which was not foreseen by the Government, it did not arise overnight because since November last year when the Government knew that every item was going up no effort was made by them to ensure that a supplementary Resolution came to the House to make sure that there would be sufficient money to provide food for these poor people. I believe most of them come from the constituency which I have the privilege to represent and this is the attitude of the Government. That is why I said that I was alarmed, shocked and surprised to think that this could happen.

His Honour C A. E. HOPPIN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think the hon. member has allowed the chance to pass. I have scrutinised Head 29(2) and I do not see any Item dealing with food and I think he should have spoken under Head 29(1) which has already been passed. There is an Item under that Head called Food Centre

and that would have been the appropriate Item.

That is what I am bringing to your attention. He just said he got the information only today, and if he wanted to speak on that he should have spoken under Head 29(1) which deals with a Food Centre, but we are dealing with Head 29(2) and there is no Item under this Head which deals with what he is speaking about. The Hon. Minister has asked you to ask the hon. member under which Head he is speaking but it seems as if you have allowed him to get away with it.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, when he is in the Chair as Deputy Speaker he can rule but when he is sitting there he is an ordinary back-bencher. (Hon. F. G. SMITH Under which Head are you speaking?) I am speaking under Health Services, the need to provide proper health services for this country. When you allow these people to go four days without food you are going to create hardships, but I am disgusted to see the Ministers treat this matter so frivolously that they can sit down there and laugh. They are getting food in here every day and I say it is disgusting and disgraceful.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, I would like the member for the City to be more specific and give us accurate information. This is an important matter and he should be a little more specific.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week those people did not get any food at the Reed Street Centre. This is the centre you used to call the centre for the Local Government garg in former days, but for four days now they have not received any food.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would like to draw to the attention of this Hon. Chamber that we are now discussing Head 29(2) which deals with Health Services and that under this Head there is no Item dealing with a food centre or feeding people. I am not opposed to the hon. member raising any issue, but let him observe the Standing Orders and speak under the appropriate Head.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I have been in here for seven years and although I might be a half-idiot I am not a whole idiot. As I understand it, the Government is seeking to get money from the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of providing Health Services under Head 29(2). This is a money Resolution before the Committee and the member can talk on anything at all. He can talk about the Prison, Infirmaries and food under Health Services. This is a money Resolution and he is entitled to talk about food because that is part and parcel of the health services for this country. He would like the hon. member to say he is speaking on a particular Item so that he can say he will get the information to answer him, but this debate can be far and wide. This is a positive fact, and the Chairman knows that too. 2.10 p.m.

He can talk about food and say nothing under Head 29(2). There is no item.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Every member has the option to speak on any Head for 15 minutes. I would also like to bring the Standing Orders to the attention of hon. members. Under Standing Order 66(7), on the motion that the

sum of dollars under Head so and so stand part, debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be voted, and not details of expenditure, but may refer to the details of revenue or funds for which that service is responsible.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to your attention that the money requested under this Head was not requested for the purpose which the hon. member is raising.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I can understand and appreciate the point taken by the Leader of the House when he got up and asked for further information because I believe that he wants to investigate this matter; but you find other Ministers trying to prevent debate on it. It should be drawn to their attention that people are suffering and that you should not try to hide it. I am glad to see some of them holding down their heads in shame. (ASIDES)

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to talk now. I am going to bring out something that I did not want to bring out. Under the Item dealing with dietary supplements, what is the use of this Committee passing money to spend under the items set out in Item 18 when people who are suffering cannot be fed? Let them deny this. Let them deny that a directive has gone out from the Minister of Trade to the Barbados Marketing Corporation that they must not provide food for the Ministry of Health simply because that Minister let the Opposition in here beat the Ministry of Trade. The School Meals Service will shortly be in the same situation.

You will have to spend more money because you will need more doctors because people will suffer from rickets and beri-beri. They will drop down dead in the streets. They know full well that the people are not getting any food. Unless you sent a cheque to the BMC you will not get any food because you did not back the Minister of Trade.

Things will get worse and you will have to get more doctors or feed these people with pills and water. The Minister has said that water rates are going up. When you eat sweet potatoes you will have to drink more water. Lick them, Sleepy, lick them.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member cannot refer to me as "Sleepy" in here. He is wrong. He will have to withdraw that and refer to me properly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

There is no member in here called "Sleepy". I know all hon. members in here by name, and you are not even allowed to call names.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am dealing with dietary supplements. Sweet potatoes have iron, and a certain amount of calcium and riboflavin. So they are now caught in their own stew. They have refused to back the Minister of Trade and they find themselves in this predicament. It is for them to find their way out.

Do you see how much money they are spending on health? If these people are starving for four days you will have to increase the ambulance service. This is affecting the man in the street. They promised the man in the street Utopia. The Minister said last week that even water was going to cost more. You will have to buy it because you have to drink it. If they advance with people like Sleepy they will find themselves in the grave.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, sometimes I am inclined to agree that Black Power is irrelevant to the interest or welfare of the working class in this country. I have seen two examples. If the working class had seen the performance of the hon. member for the City and the hon. member for St. Joseph, they would ask themselves what is the relevance of a 20th Century legislature to the behaviour of those two members, and whether it is indicative of what they say they are trying to do for the people.

His father before him used to feed able bodied men, anyone from whom he could get a vote in Bridgetown without reference to need or suffering. Any able bodied man, working or not working, who went to the Park with his utensil his father used to use as political fodder. That is why he is preaching now because the Government is endeavouring to face the area of need and not using people as political mileage as his father did.

Perhaps he is now regretting that he cannot use this type of facility in the City as his father used to do. 2.20 p.m.

Sometimes I wonder and I am amazed to see that people who have no interest in the working class people could talk this way. After all, these people who talk about the working class people as if they are interested in the working class people, never have to go without food. For too long the member for St. Joseph has been using the backs of the working classes as stepping stones to power.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member used to walk on the backs of the working classes too and when things did not work out, he went to Jamaica.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The hon. member cannot deny what I am saying. He is not interested in the working class people in this country. The working classes have been fooled by people like him who are using them as stepping stones to power, but.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have given sufficient latitude.

Mr. BOLDEN:

But, Mr. Chairman, let me say this, that.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I have given sufficient latitude and I want the hon. members on both sides to understand, you will stick to the Resolution, (Asides). When I am speaking I must be heard in silence. I have given sufficient latitude to both sides. All these asides and remarks, I am not going to accept.

Hon. F. G. SMITH; It is high time the working classes in this country understand who their real friends are. The hon. member has accused this Government of not caring whether the people die, and I would point out this that when these people talk about caring for the masses, they have no more interest in their welfare than I have in flying to the moon. They leave the poor working class people who find it difficult to make a living and they just endeavour to prove to the people that they are interested in them, and then come in here talking nonsense. The working class people must understand who is speaking sincerely. No Government can sit down and do not care if the poor people are fed. This Government has been showing its interest in the people all along. He pretends that he is so interested in the people and he is so hurt that he could go without a meal for a day - abusing a Government that has done more for the people of this country than has ever been done in this country before.

Mr. Chairman, the member for the City never had to go hungry and yet.....

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Under Head 29(2) does the issue deal with hunger or what?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
That is why I said I have given too much latitude. I have already given latitude but all hon. members must understand that they will not have any latitude after this particular Head.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I will not sit in this House and be told by the member for the City that I am satisfied that the poor people in this country have not been fed for days. If anyone has done anything for the people of this country, it is this Government.....

Mr. MOTTLEY:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never said what he is accusing me of saying. When I started to say what I had to say, he was even laughing.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
You too are using their backs as stepping stones. I wish some of the members of his party had run away because the people of this country would be better off, but the people of that party stayed in Barbados, remained and worked in Barbados and did nothing for the poor people.

I would not say any more. I rose to answer the accusation that this Government has done nothing for the people. I say that this Government has done more for the people of this country than anybody else; and, along with this, he is accusing us of laughing. It is he who is laughing because he does not have to care if the people are hungry. I am not proud or happy if they have to go without food. I would not remain in any Government and be satisfied to be told that I am proud about anything like that happening. 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would believe that the conduct of business in this Honourable Chamber should go in accordance with the Standing Orders which we have adopted. There are many occasions, not only this one, where by habit or by favour, the procedure to be followed has been shelved. Seeing the attitude which has been taken this morning, I hope you will give me same latitude which has already been given

to other speakers. It is certainly not my intention to break the Standing Orders or to compound any irregular behaviour in our society.

Mr. Speaker, there is an animal, a type of human being who pretends to represent the masses and who feels that such a licence gives him the right to commit any felony or misdemeanour against particular persons in the society. With regards to the discussion which has been started by the hon. member for the City, I see such an animal living up to its traditional behaviour. I should like to tell the hon. member for the City that what he has brought in here this morning is nothing new to me. I am well aware of all the problems, real or imaginary, emanating and surrounding the Food Centre.

For the information of the hon. member for the City, I should like to tell him that when this Food Centre was taken over by the Government in 1969, the Government voted $60, 000 to feed 289 people. I should also like to draw to his attention that in October, 1973, the Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army submitted a request for a substantial increase in this vote. He was asked to make out a case for this increase. One of the factors on which he based his request was that he was now feeding 412 people. I should also like to remind the hon. member, who is not now in his seat, that in 1969 the Government made an Agreement with the Salvation Army, which was not an open Agreement, to feed people. It was an Agreement to feed people under certain conditions. One of the conditions was that any person fed there had to be referred by the Ministry of Health and -Welfare.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out that the Divisional Commander brought his books to the Ministry for examination, and it was pointed out to him that he did not have 412 people as he was saying. Far from having 412, he only had 112 persons. We asked him how he could account for the request for the substantial increase, and he mentioned that the price of commodities had gone up. We had to point out that we had provided money to feed 289 persons in 1969, but only 223 persons were being fed in 1973. We asked him to submit evidence to prove that a substantial increase in the vote would be justified, and he pointed out that he was paying increased wages to his staff due to the intervention of the union. I was prepared to accept that and to ask the Minister of Finance for an increase to defray salaries or wages for these people. What do we find? My Permanent Secretary was told by the Divisional Commander that as from the 19th he would not be feeding any more people, if we did not give him the money. Now, I ask the hon. member for the City if this is the way for anyone to conduct affairs. Would he entertain this type of behaviour? I had to remind the Permanent Secretary that a certain amount of money had been voted for the financial year, and the Divisional Commander was committed to carry on this service to the end of the financial year. He promised the Permanent Secretary that he would feed the people as usual, and that there would be no break.

Mr. Chairman, I should like the lion, member for the City to know that this promise has not been honoured. What can you do with people who make promises and do not honour them and feel that because they are allowed to go around as entertainment vendors of religion that they have the right to break promises. I agree with the hon. member for St. Joseph that the behaviour of some of the people who go around preaching has to be looked into very closely. Maybe the Government may have to consider introducing comparable legislation that obtains in England regulating property and other transactions of many of these people. I have nothing against religion. I am as concerned as the hon. member is concerned that people in this country should not go hungry, but at the same time he should not be misled when certain accusations are made.

Let us face facts. You do not want to perpetuate a system that if you became the Government of this country tomorrow the same type of obstruction, innuendo and undermining would continue against your Government. I take an interest in what goes on in my Ministry. I can tell anybody that. That is my behaviour in this Ministry and in the preceding Ministry. I go and visit places and see things for myself. I know of conditions, and I do not depend on the hon. member for the City to come here and tell me what is happening or what is about to happen. We are still waiting for a case to be made out for this substantial increase in the subvention for the Salvation Army.

Mr. Chairman, I have already asked the Minister of Education to quote me figures for supplying food from the School Meals Centres, because I am concerned about the people not getting this food. I do not have anything more to say on that matter at the moment. I should like to point out, again, under another item that it is quite easy for a member to come in here and make allegations about a Minister. I cannot take action on allegations unless I have evidence. I cannot take action on hearsay information. Maybe he must have received a copy of the letter. I have not seen one or received one. I am certain that the Minister of Education has not seen one. I will go a step further and say that the Cabinet of which I am a member has certainly never considered issuing such a directive. 2.40 p.m.

The Cabinet would not concur with any Minister in doing anything to undermine the work of another Ministry because there is collective responsibility. I am not saying that the hon. member is telling lies. I cannot read his mind, but he stated that and I daresay it may be a warning. Some people would say those who have ears to hear, let them hear. I will look into the matter but at the same time if he has that information, I would like to know a little more. Let him bring documentary evidence to support the allegations that are being made.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I listened to what one would consider a passionate speech by the Minister of Communications and Works, a speech which really had absolutely nothing in content or subject matter. All it appeared to me to be was a little slugging out between himself and the hon. member for Bridgetown.

Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, under Item 4 -Medical Aid Scheme - where there is a vote of $28, 750, $3, 750 more than last year, I understand that this is for the purpose of taking people to places like Jamaica when we have not got the medical facilities at out disposal. I do not know if the Minister would be in a position to tell us in which area we are lacking at the hospital to have this vote each year. I am told that if we try to recruit people from outside who could provide this medical aid in Barbados it would save us this amount of money. I am not quite sure what are the services lacking at the hospital, and I personally would like to hear what the Minister has to say on this item. I know it would appear that there is a tug of war going on at the hospital, and I am told that it is affecting the general administration of the health services in the country. I know it is the poorer class which we on this side have to concern ourselves with. We concern ourselves about the society as a whole, but we are very concerned about the poorer classes who are not in a position to get medical attention. I do not agree with the hon. Minister of Communications and Works when he says that they are the champions of the working class people of this country because I think the Minister should know that that was the bedrock, the foundation of our Party of which he was a proud member, and if he examines what is happening today, he will see that it is the poorer classes who are now occupying the benches in Parliament. This is a classic example, so you cannot say that you were never interested and refer to the dead about feeding in the park. It is a burning

shame to see that in 1974 where you are asking for revenue to the extent of $140 million that you can allow the hon. member for Bridgetown to draw to the attention of the Government that 120 people were not fed for four days. I do not see the need for all the heat generated by the Minister of Communications and Works, of course he must have something to say. I could not sit idly by and allow him to reduce members on this side by saying that we are not as interested in the working-class people of this country as they are. Look at the Trade Union. The Trade Union was formed out of the Barbados Labour Party, and that is a classic example of championing the cause of the working-class people of this country. I do not know how you could have allowed this, and that is why I said that his speech had no content, because he boasted about running for the presidency of the Union, and it is this body that was responsible for the social, political, and economic change of the country.

Mr. Chairman, it is true that there is more money in circulation since World War II and there has been progress in every country; so if today the present Government can have free secondary education and free school meals in some areas, this is nothing spectacular. The Government is there for the purpose of doing something, but it cannot match the record of this party. Nearly everyone who sits on the other side at some time had something to do with this party, so we must have had socialists feeling which we still have unlike the present Government who are posing as socialists with capitalism around them. They are Conservatives by name, colour and nature. I remember that Douglas Lynch, a rich conservative, contested a seat in the 1961 and 1966 elections, and in 1956 Senator Owen T. Allder had to resign and I think it was the same Minister of Communications and Works who was Chairman of the Party. (A VOICE: What about Ward?) Mr. Chairman, somewhere in the building there is some idiot, and you should keep your eyes open and your ears alert. How in the name of peace can the Minister of Communications and Works get up in here and accuse this party of not being the champion of the working-class people of this country? It is absolute nonsense. I regret the Minister made a speech of that nature because I believe deep in my heart of hearts that he is the type of Minister who would set about to help people, and this is true of the Minister of Health. If the member for Bridgetown draws to the Minister's attention that 120 poor people who depend day after day on food from the Government were not fed for four days, it is his bounden duty to do so. To whose attention should he draw it? But he is castigated in here today and his father is being dug up by referring to what he did in the soup kitchen, and yet the Prime Minister of this country has boasted that his father kept the party in power by giving food in Queen's Park. These things backfire, and I am sorry that the Minister spoke in that vein. 2.50 p.m.

For three days four of us on this side can keep the Government in here with speeches with content and argument, so I believe the Minister wanted to have a little sparring today and that is what I consider to be a white-washed, dog-eared speech. I hope when we come to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the Minister will let us know what is the position there.

The question that the sum of $1, 490, 292 under Head 29(2) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Health Services — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29(3) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Head 29(3) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Maternity Hospitals — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $93, 359 under Head 29(3) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Maternity Hospitals — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29(4) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, LAZARETTO

Head 29(4) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Lazaretto — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $44, 411 under Head 29(4) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, Lazaretto — stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 29(5) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, ST. MICHAEL'S DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Head 29(5) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, St. Michael's District Hospital - was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the Chamber that there are some amendments to be made under this Head. Item 7 — Office Expenses, delete the figure "26, 225" under the column "Other Expenditure", insert the figure "24, 880" and make consequential amendments. I beg to move that the sum of $868, 151 under Head 29(5) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, St. Michael's District Hospital as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29(6) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Head 29(6) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, District Hospitals — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $723, 653 under Head 29(6) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, District Hospitals — stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 29(7) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, DISTRICT MEDICAL SERVICES

Head 29(7) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, District Medical Services — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $206, 549 under Head 29(7) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, District Medical Services - stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 29(8) - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, NATIONAL NUTRITION CENTRE

Head 29(8) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, National Nutrition Centre — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, before I move this Head I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Chamber the need for an amendment. The Code Numbers under Other Charges are incorrectly stated as 073 and should be 083, I beg to move that the sum of $74, 100 under Head 29(8) - Ministry of Health and Welfare, National Nutrition Centre - stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, due to certain changes in the rules the debate in this House has changed considerably in the past two years. At the time I opposed the time limit on speeches and a lot of other things which I see put into the rules, even the five days for discussing Estimates, which is calculated against the free expression of democracy in this country. When the Minister of Communications stands up and attacks me personally, and my father who is now dead, I do not mind because I came here with a matter which is of interest to the public of this country. Either the Minister of Health admits or he denies the situation as I have outlined it. He has not denied the existence of the situation which I said obtained in this

country since Monday when 120 people went without food. He has not denied it, he has compounded it by telling us that his Ministry knew about it since.....

Dr. the Horn R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, again I have to rise on a point of order. We are now discussing the National Nutrition Centre and there is nothing under this Head relating to the Food Centre.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I quite agree with the Hon. Minister and I have already asked that when it comes to the appropriate Head he can discuss it, because as far as I know there is an appropriate Head under which it can be discussed.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

You, know, Sir, I like the double standards they have. The Minister of Communications said I cannot deal with it but he got up here and opened a personal attack on me and I do not see the name Elliott Mottley anywhere in the Estimates. The Minister of Health replied to me, having first said it was irrelevant and now he is saying it is relevant. If his Permanent Secretary knew from the 19th these people could not be fed I say they have compounded it now because what steps have they taken since then to correct this situation? 3.00 p.m.

Dr. the Hon.R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I am again objecting to the discussion about food. It has already gone on and we have passed the Head under which it comes. I would also like to rebut the contention made today. The matter was discussed. Do you want the Minister or the Permanent Secretary to go down with a tamarind rod and say "feed the people"?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, up to now I have been dealing with nutrition for poor people who cannot get food. It cannot be out of order if I am dealing with nutrition for poor people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like to tell the hon. member that if he would like to discuss this matter he can discuss it under Head 29 (9), Item 10.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I will be discussing something else under that Head; but I am now discussing Nutrition. I would like to see the people of this country get better diets. The Minister says that the Government is doing something about it, and that you do not have to go down with a tamarind rod. But Tuesday and Wednesday have passed and today is Thursday and up to now the Government has done nothing about it; and the Minister can get up and talk about riding on the backs of poor people.

He betrayed the people of St. Andrew and left this country and 'Came back, on the backs of the same poor people, and on the back of the Prime Minister in particular. Dr. Eric Williams once said that one from ten leaves nothing. When you look over there and you do not see the Prime Minister you see nothing.

That is the soft of double talk and hypocrisy that you get. Some members may not know what it feels like to be hungry. Do not blame me. They are bad and despicable and do not deserve to be representatives of the people.

Hon F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, the member cannot say that hon. members are bad and despicable.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Was your name called?

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Let him whom the cap fits pull the string.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There is no cap or no string.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
I would hope that before the day is out the Minister of Health will tell us what plans the Government has to ensure that these people get some food tomorrow. If there was a hurricane you would have some food stored some place. Get some emergency food and give to the people. Do not sit down and talk about subversive activity and abuse Civil Servants.

Far too often in this country it seems that ministerial responsibility means nothing, because ministers, instead of accepting the blame, or accepting the responsibility for Civil Servants, blame the Civil Servants. It can only mean that the ministers are impotent and that the Civil Servants should be here and not them.

That should be the last party in this world to talk about perpetuating misdemeanours and felonies. That party has perpetuated more misdemeanours and felonies on the poor people of this country than any one else.

I have been elected in here. The mass of people who did not get food come from my constituency. The other side has their little hand outs for certain people; but I have a sincere and genuine interest in the welfare of these people and I hope that before the day is out, even if the Minister of Health does not want to do it, that the Leader of the House, a man who has been in public life for many years, and who knows the needs and the suffering of people, will tell us what is being done to see that these 120 people are fed this week.

Do not let us try to draw a red herring across the trail. Obviously what the Minister is saying is that there is a quarrel or dispute between the Ministry and the Salvation Army. Because of that, poor people must suffer. Is that right?

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with the provision for the purchase of milk for feeding patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would like to find out from the Minister of Health whether or not he has tasted the milk produced by the Pine Hill Dairy in bottles. They call it evaporated milk. I would like to

know if it is the Pine Hill Dairy milk that they are buying for the people at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, because if it is this milk, they will have to increase the bathroom facilities at the hospital.

I would like the Government to take a serious look at how they are spending their money. There is a man called Mr. Barrie Smith. I am talking about milk. (Hon. F.G. SMITH: Is he your friend? Do you like white people?)

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
I do not know Barrie Smith and I have never had any dealings with him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon F. G. SMITH:
This is a point of order. Can the member tell me about Barrie Smith being my friend? Can he be talking about liking white people or black people?

Mr. BOLDEN:
I am dealing with milk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Go on dealing with milk. I want to hear everything about milk. Not who likes black people or who likes white people. 3.10 p.m.

All I am saying is, I would like the Minister of Health to pay special attention to the so-called milk which the Government is going to spend part of this $30, 000 on.

Dr the Hon.R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, there is no so-called milk. It is milk for babies in tins and it has nothing to do with the milk at the Pine Hill Dairy.

Mr. BOLDEN:
I am glad if the Government is aware that the milk at the Pine Hill Dairy is not fit for babies.

The question that the sum of $74, 100 under Head 29(8) — Ministry of Health and Welfare -National Nutrition Centre — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29(9)- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE - WELFARE DIVISION

Head 29(9) - Ministry of Health and Welfare— Welfare Division— was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9, 218, 672 under Head 29(9) Ministry of 1 Health and Welfare, Welfare Division - stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Chairman, before moving the passing of this Head, I am seeking leave to make a correction to the explanatory note, No. 11 which reads: "Assistance to parents and guardians of public and approved private schools to meet cost of text books", and so on. The note, No. 11 should read; "assistance to parents and guardians of students attending public schools and approved to meet cost of text books", etc. I would like the words "students attending" inserted immediately after the words "guardians of".

Sir, I beg to move that this Head 29(9) stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Chairman, I am quite sure that you are aware that this is my pet subject, and, I am speaking on Items 8 and 9, Welfare Grants and Old Age Pensions. In speaking on these Items, Sir, I must commend the Government for the interest it has taken in the poor and destitute people of this country, and special mention and thanks should be made to the Minister of Finance and especially the present Minister of Health.

These old people have all contributed to the progress and to the economy of this country. The contribution which they have made and the sacrifices which they have made have caused men like you, Mr. Chairman, and me to become members of this ancient and Honourable House of Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I have been checking on the Islands in the Caribbean and I have found out that we in Barbados are paying the highest amount to old age pensioners, that is, $8 a week. I have checked back as far as the 1960-61 Estimates and at that time the amount which was voted was $884, 872. Today, Sir, ...

Mr. CRAIG:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member said in 1960-61. I have the Estimates for the year 1960-61 here in my hand.....

Mr. WEEKES:
So have I. I will continue

Mr. Chairman. The amount which was spent was $884, 872. Today we are voting $8, 921, 952 which is over ten times the amount which was voted in the year 1960-61. Last year we voted $4, 737, 600 and today we are voting $4, 184, 352 more. You can therefore see the big increase which this Government has advocated for the benefit of the poor people.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I became a member of this House in the year 1961 under the old system of double member constituencies and was elected as junior member for the parish of St. Philip. I am not ashamed to say that it was through the determination and strong will power and tenacity of the then hon. Minister Mr. W. A, Crawford who assisted me to become a member of this House.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. What Item is Mr. Crawford on?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Will the hon. member take his seat and not interrupt? The hon. member is drawing an analogy.

Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Crawford for having assisted me in becoming a vestryman, a councillor and subsequently a member of this ancient and Honourable House. I have no apologies to make to anyone for making that, statement. This is the third term I am working in this Honourable House and I would be failing if I did not mention that. You, Mr. Chairman, and I know, that in those days there was no First XI and Second XI and perhaps Third and Fourth XI. In those days we were all the Soberses and the Kanhais and other cricketers who are almost indispensable to the West Indies team, but today you find some people are considered as second rates and others are first rates, but those who consider themselves as the first rate have got the power through those who belong to the Second XI team. 3.20 p.m.

Without the assistance of the Second Eleven Team, those who belong to the First Eleven Team could never be there. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, I did not come through the window. I came through the door, and I owe my allegiance to the people of St. Philip. Now, I am going to deal with old age pensions. When I first entered this House in the year 1961 - I have before me the Debates of the House of Assembly for that occasion. I am very happy and pleased to see the interest which the present Minister and his eminent Parliamentary Secretary have been taking in the people. I know that a few days ago they have decided to introduce a pilot scheme to pay pensioners by cheque. This is my thirteenth year in here, and it is the happiest moment of my life.

Mr. Chairman, I have before me a Resolution which was unamimously carried by this House on the 30th January, 1961, and it reads thus:-

"WHEREAS old age pensioners in this Island suffer great inconvenience and hardship in travelling to the various venues provided for the payment of their pensions,

AND WHEREAS congregation at these venues is often unsuitable, having regard to their age and the long distances which they have often had to travel to receive same.

BE IT RESOLVED that steps be taken to appoint a Committee to deal with the whole matter in the following terms of reference -

(a) to examine the present system of payment, and

(b) to consider whether some method can be devised with the possibility of payments by cheque at their homes."

This Resolution was tabled by your humble: servant approximately twelve plus years ago. (Mr. CRAIG "It took the Government 12 years to do this.")

Mr. Chairman, after this iResolution was unanimously passed by the House, a Committee was appointed to deal with all aspects of the matter. I remember two outstanding members on the Committee: the Late Ernest Deighton Mottley who, regardless of his political ideology, rendered inestimable service to the community. Mrs. Scott, now Lady Scott, and your humble servant were also members of that Committee. We took on the colossal task of visiting all Post Offices, and our recommendations were submitted to the Government over twelve years ago that these old age pensioners should be paid by cheques.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot express my feelings in saying how grateful I am to the present Minister and Parliamentary Secretary and also the staff of the Ministry for dealing with all aspects of this matter and coming to the conclusion that a pilot scheme should be introduced to assist these poor people. I shall try to prove to you, Mr. Chairman, that the system is workable. The Provident Fund is being paid to approximately 6, 000 workers who are eligible for benefits. They are paid by cheques, and we have had no complaints. With regard to the National Insurance, the people receive their money by cheques. I am happy to know that, after almost thirteen years, the Government has seen fit to assist these poor people.

Mr. Chairman, it can be pathetic to see the number of old people who travel to the various venues to receive their pensions, and I am glad that we are going forward. If and when the time comes for me to leave the House of Assembly - I hope, perhaps, the next 15 years- I will be able to say that I made my contribution, and that it was through my initiative and instrumentality that these people were paid by cheque. I should like to say that this is the time when the Government, and especially the Ministry of Health, should consider the question of paying the people bi-weekly or monthly. 3.30 p.m.

I will give you my reasons for that. If you pay these people in advance, and one of them dies, it would only be a matter of $16 if you pay them bi-weekly and $24 if you paid monthly, and what is that amount? That amount can go towards the funeral expenses of the very poor people who have done so much for this country.

Again, I would like to say how happy I am to hear about this pilot scheme after twelve years and I wish the Ministry and the Welfare Department success, and I can state unequivocally that this pilot scheme will be 100% success.

Mr. GRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if you are au fait with the hit tunes that are played on the radio on these modern days. I am quite sure you are not. I don't think you are au fait with reggae and spouge, but I believe you are familiar with the good old ballads. There was a ballad I used to hear my father hum and it was "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread". The member for St. Philip South will go through the Chamber in a hurry and ask the the Minister of Communications whether he heard him and how he liked him. The member cannot help it. What I would like to say is that he paid all the tribute to the late Winter Crawford, so I can only conclude j that he is dead. I wonder if the hon. member remembers when in 1966 he and the late Garfield Sargeant were campaigning against the same j Winter Crawford to hold the two seats. I do not understand this inconsistency. He is the greatest man today, but in 1966 he was campaigning against Winter Crawford in St. Philip and said no more winter, we want summer. That was the slogan.

The hon. member's speech can :be likened to a real soap-box priest, not like a modern-day evangelist, one whom I believe is sincere. I like to call a spade a spade and I will say this to the hon. member. I believe it would be difficult for any political party to beat the hon. member in St. Philip South, but that is not because of his ability to be a good parliamentarian; he is a real grassroots politican. One morning for argument's sake a man came to my home with a letter from the hon. member for St. Philip South about some motor car licence and about somebody having gone away. I tried to push the man off me and told him I had no paper to write a note to carry back to the hon. member, and the man pulled out the piece of paper from his pocket and said that the hon. member had sent along the paper so that I could write the note. Dealing with a subject which is dear to you and not being able to bring out the facts as they should be told are two different things altogether. I am going to destroy all his arguments, and it is regrettable that it has to be done to the hon. member whom they have put up to the slaughter like a lamb.

Now the hon. member spoke about paying old age pensioners by cheque as if this is something so big. It took thirteen years to do this; so he is such a low down batsman that the Cabinet did not recognise that it was worthwhile at that time to pay these poor and suffering people by cheque, but what the hon. member failed to point out is that out of $141 million in 1974 old age pensioners are paid $8 per week and I am going to instance what I believe would obviously be the basic items, because if you can get anything cheaper than these there would be absolutely no food value, and the hon. member would realise that paying them by cheque is not important; it is giving them a piece of change. I have not got to blow my own trumpet, but history will record that from 1969 I have been calling on the Government to pay old age pensioners $15 per week, and since I came in here this session I brought in a Resolution which His Honour the Speaker said he would not allow because it would incur a charge on the Treasury. I said I could not agreee with him. I remember the Minister of Communications and Works saying there would not be a red cent for old age pensioners and that they could only do that much and no more. He said the country could not afford to give them one red cent more, but the Ministers can draw $2, 000 a month, and the pensioners buy at the same supermarkets as the Governor-General. They buy the same brown sugar, the same milk from the Pine Hill Dairy, the same coffee out of $8 a week and these are the people who gave of their life, blood, sweat and tears to the country. I can argue that in 1956 the Barbados Labour Party was providing $502, 000 out of a revenue of $14 million, and I remember the famous debate in here when they claimed that it cost more to feed the dogs at District"A" than they were spending on old age pensioners. Now I hear about paying them by cheque, but this is only trimmings. Do you know what is important? Beef is $2.50 a pound, an egg costs 20 cents, and a pack of biscuits costs 41 cents. It is regrettable that you paid this tribute to Winter Crawford. How does Winter Crawford come into this? You should talk about getting into people's larder and putting some food there for them. That is what we should be concerned with, not the nonsense that somebody wrote out for you. We are concerned with the care of the old people of this country, but all the Government has done in 1974 is to give them $8 a week. Now I will ask one simple question. Do you know if they want a bottle of whiskey they cannot buy it?

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, in my speech I stated that I had checked throughout the Caribbean and that Barbados is paying the highest amount to old age pensioners, $8 a week. We have not got the resources of Trinidad or Jamaica, and yet we are paying more to our old age pensioners than these countries.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member has made his point.

Mr. WEEKES:
I read the Express and the Guardian daily.

Mr. CRAIG:
But the thing is to understand what you read. 3.40 p.m.

He fails to understand what he reads. That is important.

Mr. WEEKES:
On-a point of elucidation, I can vouch that I can understand what I read 10, 000 times more than you can.

Mr. CRAIG:
I do not like beating old people, I like to beat strong young men.

Mr. WEEKES:
On a point of elucidation again, I can assure you that I also have more ability than you.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, I repeat I am not getting into any slugging match, he would have had to get into a slugging match with the late Homie Corbin with a flask in his hip pocket. I know he has more ability than me to handle the Chiming Bells Society.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
There is nothing under this Head about the Chiming Bells Society.

Mr. CRAIG:
To continue, Mr. Chairman. A package of Red Rose tea costs 70 cents, a package of rice — you are not getting loose rice any more — costs $2.96. I am going to eat up the Minister of Trade in here today without salt. A pound of onions costs 40 cents, a gallon of kerosene oil — these are enlightened days now and you are not burning any more wood — but when you can get the oil a gallon costs $1.10, a package of biscuits costs 41 cents so you will never see bread, a bottle of edible oil costs $1.34, a roll of toilet paper 81 cents, a pound of tails $1.60 and two boxes of matches for 15 cents. All this works out to $10.46 and the Prime Minister of Barbados can boast that he is the man in the street when he is flying around in a twin engine jet with no concern for the poor people of this country.

This is a classic example of a half-baked socialist Government, with no policy at all. As the hon. member for the City said today they have no regard for 120 people who had to go without food. This is not the Minister's fault, the priorities of the Government are wrong. Is it not a burning shame that; in 1974 an old age pensioner gets $8.00 per week and I begged the Government to increase it to not less than $15.00 a week? If they had done this they would have been able to provide them with the basic things. This list does; not include clothing, so they have to beg for that. You cannot deny this because these are clear cut figures.

It is a shame and a disgrace that the Minister of Finance can boast about how the Party and the country are advancing, but he receives $3, 000 a month, which I do not deny him, but what I am concerned with is the old age pensioner who receives only $8.00 per week. There is no old age pensioners' supermarket and the small shopkeeper is slowly being pushed out, so the poor old age ' pensioner cannot even think about asking for credit. How can the member for St. Philip South praise the Government and the Minister for paying the old age pensioner $8.00 a week by cheque? This is like having a motor car and just putting an aerial on the side to make it look good. They are only modifying the system, they must modify the money because $8.00 a week is not a fair amount of money to give anybody in the society today. I am going to hear from member? on the other side and I believe I am capable enough of replying to them when they get up. What I would like any member to get up and do is to defend the Government on this issue of $8.00 a week in 1974. What about clothing, soap and toothpaste? What about some limacol in cases of emergency or a comb to comb their hair? Let us face reality. I am calling on the Government today to admit that their first duty to this country now is to save the old people. I do not want to hear anything about phasing out and National Insurance, I am dealing with now. While the grass is growing the horse is starving.

I am appealing to the Government to increase substantially the amount of money paid to these old age pensioners, even if you make them go back to* the Post Offices for the money. Forget sending the cheques by mail, give them a piece of change now. I hope that all the so-called socialists on the other side would not let this fall on deaf ears. Gone are the days when they could line up in front of James A. Tudor's shop begging, the Evangelists can tell you how to beg nowadays. There is always a harvest on or a new Church to be built, some Evangelist is to visit and they are asking for money to do these things. When they get the money a dollar bill goes into the bank and the rest goes somewhere else. Even the youngsters are begging differently nowadays, they are asking you to let a Charles Duncan O'Neale fall on them. 3.50 p.m.

This is not saying "lend me a shilling to go to a dance." This is asking for $4.50 to go to a Dutch Party. No longer are we prepared to see our people standing in front of James A. Tudor's shop begging for a penny to buy biscuits. Since we can afford these luxury embassies, give the old people an increase so that they can live in a proper way.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long, and I am not going to argue whether in 1974 $8.00 is enough. I am sorry that the hon. member misrepresented me. I said that the economy of the island cannot be cut into more pieces than it is being cut.

The hon. member talked about $15.00 a week for old age pensioners. He does not calculate how much the bill would come to. (Aside)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member for St. James had the option or the opportunity of addressing this Chamber without interruption. I am asking all hon. members to do likewise.

Mr. CRAIG:

I am addressing the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member will sit.

Mr. CRAIG:
I will sit. I am not going out in a hurry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
When you were speaking no one interrupted you.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, I am not pulling any figures out of the air. The member should be able to tell this Committee how much it would cost and relate it to the ability of the economy, especially in relation to our other commitments.

That is why the Democratic Labour Party will always remain in power, because we are prepared to let the public know in what areas we have come to their assistance. I wish that we could give the old age pensioners $100.00; but we have to be realistic. This matter is constantly receiving the attention of the Government. We have upped the means test.

The hon. member for St. James cannot get in here and talk about old people when this Government has put on the Statute Book legislation to make employers contribute, who in the past did not give one penny. The public can see under Head 11 the amount which this Government is already giving where pensions are concerned.

Under the Police and Fire Brigade Act pensions amount to $120, 000. Teachers Pensions and Gratuities are $250, 000.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. When I addressed this Committee I specfically pointed out that I was dealing with old age pensioners, and not with Government employees who have retired. The figure that I see is $6 million. I am not concerned with if the Government spends $10 million on persons who can afford to buy the things that these old people cannot buy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order, Mr. CRAIG I am being misquoted.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I will continue. The vote for public pensions is $4, 200, 000. Widows and Children Pensions, $55, 000. Railways Employees, $1, 500. Local Government Compensation, $8, 000. Under the Public Employees Pensions Act, $400, 000. Under the Casual Employees Pensions Act, $350, 000. Then you get Ex-Gratia Gratuities, $25, 000. The Antrobus Pension Act, $900.00. Church Officers Pensions, $17, 000. Local Government Pensioners, $170, 000. Even for Parliament there is a vote of $120, 000 for pensions for former legislators. The whole vote comes to $5, 686, 400.

It is this Government which introduced pensions for people on the lower rung of the Government Service ladder, who did not get any compensation and who would probably have fallen under the Old

Age Pension Scheme.

The fact that this was never done before is evidence of the concern of this Government for the small man, the small worker who in days gone by would be left with nothing to look forward to. The Government is not just spending $6 million on Old Age Pensions, but a sizeable amount on people who worked for this community.

I am not against an increase in old age pensions, but there must be some rationality. This country has suffered over the years from the fact that there has never been any provision made by employers of labour for the people who worked in the lower brackets, but only for directors and executive staff.

Mr. Chairman, the National Insurance Scheme was introduced by this Government, and it is going to take in a good amount of those people who would otherwise be old age pensioners. Some of the present old age pensioners may have been casual employees under the last Government, and who did not have pensions prior to 1961.

We know that the old people deserve some assistance, and the Minister of Finance is looking at it. We do not pull figures out of the air. We know that the cost of living has gone up. It is unfortunate that the hon. member caused confusion in his own ranks when the question of salaries for parliamentarians arose. He was an advocate of increased salaries for legislators,

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, I can justify my stand for an additional amount of money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, there is a Reporter in the gallery — I hope that I would not have to bring it to your attention. I have observed from 1966 that he seems to be interested only in listening to certain people. I am warning him that I will bring this out in public. When certain members are speaking he is always gesturing. I am bringing it to your attention. 4 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
This Government is spending on the one hand under Head 11 under Statutory Expenditure $5, 686, 400 and under other Expenditure $2, 362, 100, and under Old Age Pension $6, 822, 400. This Government has raided the means test to bring more people under the umbrella of some form of assistance, and I am grateful to the Minister of Housing, because I have had the houses of pensioners repaired in this country and there is a scheme under the Ministry of Housing, whether it is operating or not, if the money is there, whereby old age pensioners can get assistance to have their houses repaired. Go into the Pine Plantation Road and you will see an old age pensioner who has had almost a new house done by this Government to assist her. Go into other areas in this country, Mr. Chairman, and you will find that the Government has a scheme for assisting old age pensioners in having their houses repaired. This Government, at my instigation, on the Government buses have allowed old age pensioners to travel free. Some go up at the Crane and Bathsheba. Now in the big United States people cannot travel in the trains and underground free. They do not travel in England or the United States free but this Government

is so concerned for the welfare of old people that on those buses that it controls, old age pensioners can get into the bus, drive to the Crane or Bathsheba go to River Bay, relax, having showed their card, and travel free. The Government is discussing with the private concessionaires this facility on the private buses, so much so that this facility is causing the Transport Board a financial loss of $200, 000 a year. The old people for the first time under this Government are seeing places of interest in this country that they could not see before.

The Prime Minister again, under the Land Tax Act has in one fell swoop exempted old age pensioners, and the Relief Board also exempts old age pensioners. As you know, Mr. Chairman, there are old age pensioners drawing money today under this scheme who have their houses rented out. Do not let us say that all are impecunious. Some have a little piece or land, and the scheme has been so liberally administered in the past that although you have 30, 000 or thereabouts, there are hundreds of people on that list today who are property owners. (Aside) Why did the Prime Minister exempt them if they did not have land? He exempted them because we know and you know that there are old age pensioners in this country who have property but who have not got any steady source of income; that is why we raised the means test from $7 to $15 in his same House of Assembly and those people are getting benefits. Financially $8 is a small amount and this Government has never pretended it is a princely sum. The Government has never pretended that $8 for an old age pensioner is enough, no more than $30 in the hotels for workers is enough, no more than people in this community are earning still $25 and domestics are earning $18 and $20 is enough too. People with children in this country today are still earning $10, $14 and $18. In the industrial estates it is enough that people are being unable to maintain their family. The old age pensioners are just another class of the community who, because of inflation and because of the extraordinary rise in the cost of living, undoubtedly are feeling the pinch, but let us face facts. A lot of these old age pensioners today if you talk to them, are people who should have been taken care of by the very enterprises and businesses in this community to whom they have given their blood, their sweat and their tears. They are not Government employees. They are people who worked as lightermen, people who worked as porters in Bridgetown, people who worked on plantations, people who slaved and slaved in the hot midday sun in order that this country might progress and a Government has got to look after them even although in the public sector they did not give the rnorning of their days. (Aside) I agree with the hon. member; I am not arguing that it is too much. I wish to God that it could be increased, not to $15, not to $20 but to a stage where they can live their old age in peace and quiet and in a certain amount of material comfort.

As far as I am concerned, and the Minister of Health, we shall leave no stone unturned in order to see to it that this is ameliorated in the near future: but when you look out at night and you see the reflection of the fires in the sky and you see the crop going up in smoke and when you realize you are getting the lowest and smallest sugar crop in the history of this Country, you will realize that it is not the Government which is acting unmitigatingly against the . improvement of the conditions of these people; it is those vandals and those vagabonds who bum the economy of this country night after night, who cause suffering by not producing in order that the money might be there to help benefit the people of this country. It is a wicked waste of human production, it is a crime against the State, it is a crime against the poor old people who deserve better of the State and who will get better of the State if the economy of the country allows it.

I know it is tough. God knows it is tough for he said "Blessed are the poor for they shall inherit the Kingdom of God" and he knows that they have no other consolation but the eventual reaching of his

Kingdom. He knows that and that is why he said it, but you have got to give them hope and give them opportunity.

I share your view and I feel strongly too, but I am only trying, Mr. Chairman, to let the member for St. James know, I am endeavouring to relate this Government's concern not only for the old age pensioners but for those thousands and thousands of other workers who worked for the Government and the State and to whom we shall be perpetually grateful because it is because of their endeavours and their sacrifices and their blood, sweat and tears that we can stay in this Parliament today and try to ameliorate their conditions.

I could go through the Estimates and show you one hundred and one things we could stop and give them; we could stop borrowing money for the Deep Water Harbour and give them. 4.10 p.m.

You can speak about the money for the Deep Water Harbour and about the money for the Airport and say we should give it to them. Those people are depending upon us for some hope and for some amelioration in their condition. We will try to use our influence in the total economy of this country and see where we can make economies in order to relieve the burden. The Great Teacher said: "Blessed are the poor for they shall inherit the kingdom of God." He knew only too well that their lot was hard and would continue to be hard. Do not pretend that we are sanctimonious. You will find poverty in the United States, France and Britain. Barbados is a little Island struggling to make a place in the sun. Our economy is based on tourism and one or two other things. Tourism is an industry which can be destroyed overnight. We cannot go in for any grandiose sort of. thing. We have given the people old age persons; we let them travel on the bus free; we repair their houses, and when their welfare is brought to our attention it is of primary concern.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, as I sat listening to the member for St. Michael South Central, at first he sounded like one of those advocates who was defending a case and was seeking to justify the fee he charged his client. He drifted and became an evangalist and told us that the poor would inherit the kingdom of God. They are now suffering under the Democratic Labour Party Government, and when they die they will inherit the kingdom of God. In other words, they can suffer now and when they die they will inherit the kingdom of God. That is the attitude the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has taken.

Sir, we have been told in here by the Prime Minister and the member for St. Michael West that within the last year inflation has gone up by at least 25% and, therefore, the cost of living has gone up much higher than that. We have been told about civil servants being granted a 5% increase per annum. What .we are confronted with is the fact that we cannot understand how an old person can live on $8 a week! If anyone can do that today in our society, then he would be the greatest economist in the world.

On one occasion I was invited by the Minister to tour my constituency. In Lightfoot Lane I met an old age pensioner who had just returned from a shop. She had been given $8; she bought $1.25 in oil; something else for 70c, but she could not get milk, rice, butter or sugar. Mr. Chairman, how can you expect these people to survive on $8 a week in Barbados today? The cost of a sweet drink has gone up. I have not yet come across a shop which gives a special concession to old age pensioners. I have not yet seen a tag in any grocery indicating $1.00 for ordinary person and 60c for old age pensioners. Everybody has to purchase things at the same price.

I remember some years ago the present High Commissioner to London brought before this House a basket of groceries which he considered to be die basic essential commodities that one should have. He did that to dramatise the situation, Sir. He recognised that the cost of items in that basket was more that what the Government was then giving to old age pensioner. I also remember coming to the House when I was a boy and listening to the Democratic Labour Party attacking this Party when it was in power. They are now doing what the Barbados Labour Party was doing in those days, despite the limited finance at the time.

Mr. Chairman, today the Minister of Communications and Works said that the economy cannot be cut up in more pieces. Obviously, what is confronting Barbados today is a question of priority. How best can we evaluate this situation? How best can we use the limited resources in the light of the inflationary trends and the energy crisis, or the so-called energy crisis, that confront us? With all of these factors in mind, how best can we use our limited resources for the benefit of the people in this country? Certainly some of the things that this Government is doing cannot be characterised as being in the interest of the people of this country.

When you talk about the additional money to be spent and you look at the Coast Guard Service recently established in this country, and then look at the poor people who are told that there is not enough money to give them anything more, you must come to the conclusion that they must starve and the Coast Guard must float. They must die and the Coast Guard must sail around. 4.20 p.m.

How much smuggling is done in this country when the year comes? How much dope peddling is there as the Prime Minister said when he introduced the idea of a coast guard? There is no smugging in this country as in some of the associated states because of the proximity of the other islands. This is the main reason to protect the waters around Barbados. I do not know if they want to protect them from Mr. Gairy because they feel he might want to invade Barbados. Seriously no right thinking person could decide to spend money on the establishment of a Coast Guard Service at this stage of our economic development as a priority as against spending money on certain social services not only on old age pensioners but on other things like education. Whether it is the Minister's fault or that of his advisers, the fact remains that Government is spending money in this country but they are not spending it properly.

When the Minister talks about crimes, one of the biggest criminal acts committed against the people of this country appears in these Estimates. Three years ago they came to this Chamber and bought a house called "Iverta" in London for $169, 000. Last year they spent something like $48, 000 to repair it and this year they have come back for $150, 000, so that in less than four years they are spending more money to renovate the house.than it cost to buy originally. I would like to know which Minister or member of that party would take his own money and buy a house and have to spend more money to renovate it in four years's time than it cost originally. This is one of the worse criminal acts perpetrated by this Government upon the people of this country and then you say you do not have money. I will not talk about the Airport because that comes under special loans, but the Government has seriously got to look at the spending of money.

Mr. Chairman, if the Government did not allow the land speculation in the 1960s in this country and had placed a capital gains tax on it, then they would have had money to provide social services, but they allowed their Jewish and Arab friends, backbenchers and other people to go into land speculation, and

the Minister talks about rising to power on the backs of the poor people. That is rising to power on the backs of the poor people when you had all these capitalists and foreign speculators here speculating on land, but this party for years has begged the Government to have a capital gains tax and nothing has come of it. That is where you can get money from.

Now, Sir, the Minister told us that the Prime Minister has exempted old age pensions from land tax. I think he should check the Act and see whether they are exempt or whether they are not granted relief, because the Minister of Communications is a lawyer and would appreciate the difference between exemption and granting of relief. As far as I am aware, they will be granted relief as an administrative direction, but that is nothing new because under the Local Government system old age pensioners were granted relief from land tax. He only remembered when the Bill came in and people started crying out and he went on television and said he would grant relief to these people as an after thought. The Prime Minister more so than anybody else has always been guilty of thinking about the old people of this country as mere after thoughts. We saw a classic example of that in the 1971 Budget when he came in with a prepared speech and a little addendum attached saying that he had suddenly remembered that it was election year and put on this piece of paper that he would review old age pensions. When you talk about priorities, sometimes I wonder how they feel when they go to their constituencies. I represent a constituency that is purely working-class and the Minister of Communications knows this because I had to beg him to give them some roads in Lightfoot Lane, so he knows the conditions. The Minister of Health knows also because he knows the constituency having canvassed in it. I would like the Minister to know that between the time he canvassed the City in 1966 and now, the standard of living of people in the City has not improved by any great dimension. You see the same people suffering. One of these days the poor people of this country will wake up, and all like the Minister of Communications will run back to Jamaica.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, to my mind it would appear that the debates on pensions for poor people have a very long history in this Chamber, a history surely in emotionalism, and emotionalism very often is of very little benefit to old age pension. We all know that we become old, but we do not become suddenly old overnight unless we are like some unfortunate people who become struck with senility. There are 19, 700 people over the age of 65 in Barbados, and out of this we are making provisions to pay pensions to 16, 400 during the coming financial year.

I do not like to get into this talk of appealing to the emotions of people. Let us be serious. These people did not suddenly become 68 years overnight, the age at which you grant them old age pensions. They lived 68 years before that, they have relatives, aunts, uncles, cousins, and more important they have children, daughters and sons, and at the age of 68 nearly all of their children would have matured whether in this nation or abroad. Very few of them would find themselves in the unfortunate position where they are living in the Barbados society all alone. They have made their contribution to the Barbadian society, but more particularly they have made contributions to their children and to their relatives. 4.30 p.m.

We admit on this side that although they are old they are still exposed to the conditions and precarious circumstances obtaining in the Barbadian society which affect younger people. We do not deny that. They may have to pay rent, get water and light, seek medical attention and buy clothing and food like people who are working have to do. Somewhere along the line we seem to have become misled by an

argument put up many years ago, which perhaps suited the peculiar conditions at that time, where we tried to look at the Government's contribution in terms of what it could or could not buy. These people have to be looked after, but the important question I want to pose is this. Should it be the responsibility of Government to make the total provision for the care of these people when they reach the age of 68 or any other age at which you give them pension? This is my concern. Should nobody else be called upon to contribute towards the maintenance of the welfare of these people at the age of 68? What about their children, relatives, neighbours and erstwhile employers? There seems to be in this society a very interesting habit, that Government has to foot the bill for anything and everything when the people of the society no longer want to shoulder their own responsibility.

I am not for one moment saying that Government should not make a contribution towards the upkeep of the people at that age, that is precisely what Government is doing. Neither are we trying to say that is all they need. What we are pointing out is that we make a contribution and this contribution is dependent upon the performance of our economy. The relationship between ends and means has alternative uses. People will always argue and disagree about the uses to which you put your means. There is seldom, if ever, total agreement among the economists and therefore I would expect that in a discussion such as this people will say you should not spend money here but you should spend it there, and there are others who will say that you should spend it somewhere else. This is a matter of opinion because the money in this case can be put to alternative uses and we all have to decide what people like to do.

Another very important point I want to stress is this. I know that there are many old people who have children who are in a position to make a worthwhile contribution towards the welfare and upkeep of their old parents, but the children have become affluent and have developed wonderful tastes. They do not want anybody to know they have parents in such a position and have completely ignored them even to the point of ill-treating them, and then you hear that Government must take over the total upkeep of these people. I want to ask if it is really fair to Government, whether it is administered by this Party or by another Party to ask Government to take over the total responsibility of the upkeep and maintenance of these people. I say it is unfair and I have no apology whatsoever to make for that. I would go a bit further and say that we should do like in Canada and pass a law where children who are found to have the necessary needs with which to maintain their parents and who fail to do so should be fined and then you would not hear a lot of these hot and sweaty arguments about what the old people can do. There are so many things Government is doing. If we are to find all this money the economy of this country must function in a way to produce the money. If the economy is to be functioning to produce this money then there is a certain type of infrastructure which has to be prepared so that the economy can function to produce enough money to pay these people $15 or $20 a week.

The money available has to be divided among many things and there has to be a limit to the amount of money you will be able to pay these pensioners, so it does not wish to come in here and get carried away with emotionalism which has gone on for years. It creates the impression that we are humanitarian, but after all, the display has passed, it does not benefit the people outside whom we admit need better treatment. We have to adjust ourselves now to the conscience of this society, and because the conscience of this society has gone to sleep we find that more and more burdens are being placed on the Government. In fact we must now provide you with money so that you can stay at home and do no work. Where are we getting if the social conscience of this society remains asleep? The question of the upkeep of old age pensioners in this country goes far beyond the grant, whether it be $8.00, $15.00 or $20.00 to the individual, we have to look squarely on the society and we have to be concerned with the

behaviour of relatives, especially children of these old people. There is no denial about the fact that many of them have been turned off by their employers, after they have worked for them faithfully, without pensions. That has gone on in this society and that is the type of concept which still continues despite the efforts being made by the Barbados Workers' Union. People feel that if you have worked for them they can throw you off when you can work no longer.

There is another important point. We have to ask what provision some of these people are capable of making for themselves. Some of them can but they do not, they make absolutely no effort. We do not know why, we have to find out the reasons. It may be a question of how they see their priorities but some of them can make adequate provision for themselves, so I think it is unfair for any Government to be asked now that these people have reached the age of 68 and other people discard them to provide their total upkeep and maintenance. If Government does not do it you will hear that the Government is the worst Government, so we have to take stock of what is going on. I am saying that on this side we are making no pretensions whatsoever to claim that $8.00 a week is adequate, that it covers all their needs. 4.40 p.m.

All that we are saying is that the economy of the country does not permit us at this stage to give these substantial increases which, for the sake of argument, some people say should be given. I am looking forward to coming back later this year and to get the support of hon. members for an increase in old age pensions.

What we want to ensure is that the employers who have benefited from the labour of these people make adequate provision for them. I know that under the National Insurance Act employers are now called upon to do so, and that in the process of time there will be no need for Government to be paying this amount; but at present present there is no way that these people can benefit from the National Insurance Act.

As I have said, employers who have benefited from the labour of these people who at the age of 68 are no use to themselves, should be called upon to contribute to the upkeep of these people. Also, the children of many of these old people who are in a position to help with the upkeep of their parents should be called upon to contribute.

The Government is making a contribution to these people as it sees fit at present, and we will come back and ask for an increase. At the same time I hope that the social conscience of this society will realise the obligation to the old people of this community,

The question that the sum of $9, 218, 672 under Head 29(9) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 30 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 30 — Queen Elizabeth Hospital was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 — Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the sum of $6, 642, 073

stand part of the Schedule. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I would have to seek approval of the Hon. Chamber to make some amendments. Under Item 22 there should be an amendment to the note by inserting the words "and self regulating pumps" after the word "desk" appearing at the end of the note. Also on Page 91 the note to Items — Cleaning and Laundry incorrectly states that the increase is due to higher cost etc. whereas the provision was decreased.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 — Queen Elizabeth Hospital as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, I am going to be brief. One of the issues that I want to raise concerns the personal relationships of the personnel at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at the level of the Consultant Staff and the effect that this is having on the administration of the hospital as a whole.

Time is taken up for the Hospital Administrator to solve difficulties which should not exist, and there is a waste of ministerial time in having to arbitrate between well qualified men who do not seem to have the knack of getting on together.

I believe that this nonsense should stop at the hospital. It is well known that in the field of surgery there are serious disputes going on between consultants attached to the hospital and the consultants attached to the University of the West Indies who help at the hospital.

It must be recognised that with the best will in the world the physicians who are employed by the Government and who are in charge of this department on the behalf of the Government are not enough to carry on the business of the hospital without assistance from the UWI. Likewise, it must be recognised that the same thing applies in the case of the surgeons; but inter-personal relationships have become so bad there that we are finding that doctors and top surgeons are taking over each person's work and the patients are suffering as a result, while the Minister and the Hospital Director are sandwiched between them and must go in from time to time to settle these disputes.

I think that it is time that I spoke on this issue. I think that it is about time that the ministry sorts out the relationship which should exist between the UWI and the staff attached to a teaching hospital as ours now is; and that the members who are employed permanently on the hospital staff should not refuse to accept that the UWI would not employ staff that are so incompetent that all the "to-ing and from-ing" going on and complaints about staff from the Mona Campus without proper investigation cannot be justified on any ground whatever.

The Minister must recognise that he is dealing with men — no matter that they are in his own profession — and that no person, no matter how loyal he may be to the Democratic Labour Party, will not tolerate this foolishness. If I wanted to deal with the controversy that is going on and how the health of people is suffering, I could outline it; but I do not want to alarm the country. I do not like the alarmist technique at all. I do not want to disclose various things which I can tell the Minister in confidence without undermining people's belief in the staff on whom we have to rely to run this hospital.

However, Sir, I would like the top Civil Servant in that hospital to understand that no doctor, whether he is a consultant surgeon or a consultant physician, and who is well qualified in his own field, is not the administrator of this hospital; and they must clearly understand, although some of them are my friends, that it is time for big men to stop being children and let everyone get on with his particular job.

There have been instances where the UWI hospital has likewise been petty in its relations with the consultant staff. I do not want to give the impression that all of the blame must be put on one side. I did not even want to raise this issue in the House of Assembly except that it has come to my notice that things have got so bad that it is now affecting the health and welfare of the patients.

I will ask the Minister in his future negotiations with the UWI to make it clear that complaints cannot leave Barbados and go to the UWI without passing through him. He is the right person by whom this matter should be dealt with, and the sooner this matter is settled the better you will get the hospital functioning.

A lot of the trouble being stirred up down the line is being caused because doctors have to chose the side to which they must look for promotion. I may have to be in the hands of some of them some time, but I am always prepared to meet my Maker. From the time that I came into public life I realised that death is nothing to be afraid of.

Let them stop being petty and help the hospital to deal with the teeming problems that come before it from day to day. 4.50 pan.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long on this Head but I must note that the Prime Minister in speaking on one of the Heads earlier said that he had five little republics under his Ministry, I believe this is the one republic which the Minister of Health has under his Ministry because certain people at the hospital would like to make a republic to bypass the Minister.

I believe, Sir, that the conflict of interest and the conflict between the authorities - I think the Minister is probably aware of this — I believe before he was Minister he was probably subjected to this himself.

My reference at this stage, Mr. Chairman, is to the question of the physical accommodation at the hospital because, as far as I am aware, particularly in the surgical wards and the obstetrics and gynaecology wards, there is a definite overcrowding and I would like to know what steps the Minister is likely to take to remedy this situation.

Sir, this is the point I want to raise. I understand that most of the wards carried 24 beds and that they now carry about 30 and in some cases the beds are so close to each other that it is virtually impossible for the doctors to get between the beds to examine the patients properly, I would like to know if the Minister knows about this overcrowding and what plans he had to remedy the situation.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, since I have been Minister of Health I have had on more than one occasion to state in this Honourable House that much of the problems at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital arise out of bad

interpersonal relationships. I am sorry to admit that; it is not the type of thing which one would like to admit but this is the case as I have seen it. But at the same time I am in a position to state that these relationships have been improving. They have not improved to the extent that I or Other members of this Chamber would like but the feet is, they have been improved. I know about these things and I am a bit not surprised, but I am a bit interested to know how the hon. member for Christ Church West has come to know all about these problems. I do not know if he has come to know about them in his capacity as an advocate or as an Attorney-at-Law. I do not know if any of the composites have sought his legal opinion and advice, but, ...

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I have never raised any issue that I know by way of being an advocate but I can tell the hon. Minister that this information is well talked about between all of the doctors and particularly the junior staff who, if they met you at any party will tell you the problems they are under and why they want to leave the hospital; arid if he wants to know, I would not give him the source, but I have heard from the Junior Staff the problems which they are having there.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I hope the hon. member has no intention of arranging a party for me because I may go before him. However, I am aware of these problems and we are trying our best to resolve many of their problems. I do not want anybody to believe that these problems have any easy or readymade solution. You are dealing with people, and people behave differently under the same conditions. But however I would like to point out that some of the people at the hospital around whom these problems are at present, have been at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Barbados General Hospital for many years and we have to admit it whether or not we like it, that in Barbados doctors rightly or wrongly have assumed a certain position or status in the eyes of the society. People do not like to come out and complain or expose what doctors are doing because many people — although it is not true — but many people do state that a doctor would give you the wrong medicine and you will die, and they do not Want to say anything. But these are the problems which exist and I want to assure the hon. member that my profession as a doctor has nothing to do with solving the problems. I solve the problems as I see the circumstances or conditions demand. I do not solve problems there because I am a doctor. I am not interested in maintaining the privileges of the privileged classes of the society. I would like to see this eradicated and removed as quickly as possible. There may be people who do disagree with me or who seek to maintain them.

As regards the problems of the maternity wards of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, they are overcrowded, but we have to look at this rather carefully to see the reasons why they are overcrowded. We have a maternity hospital in the Southern area of the country and we have one in the northern area of the country, out in St. Andrew. We are a bit disappointed with the way the people use both the one in Christ Church and the one in St. Andrew; in fact, the position with the St. Andrew maternity hospital is very bad. Many people refuse to go there, and I would like to point out to those who feel that everybody should be seen or serviced inside the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that 96% of deliveries are normal and, they do not need to serviced in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. In fact, they do not need an obstetrician; they can be serviced by a midwife, but we find that maybe, the physical plan of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital attracts many people to come there or it may be due to the fact that there are transportation difficulties within the country for people wanting to go to St. Andrew's District Hospital or the Christ Church District Hospital and it is easier for them to come down to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But in

spite of all of this the truth is that the position up there at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is that it is a bit overcrowded.

Under the Capital Estimates for the Ministry of Health provision is being made this year to start another maternity hospital in the Lodge Hill area and with the finishing of that hospital, a lot of the pressure will be taken off the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But I think the problem goes much further than just providing another maternity hospital because we have to look at the whole question of the needs of the women in Barbados for certain types of hospital services, gynaecological and obstetric, and, one has to look and be definite in one's mind that these needs can be met by a multiplicity of maternity hospitals or hospitals for children, or they can be better met by having one hospital in a suitable area providing both gynaecological and obstetric care for all of these people, because the question of cost and recurrent cost has to be borne in mind whenever one thinks in terms of opening another hospital, and we find already that the cost of the maternity section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the cost of the one in Christ Church, the cost of the one in St. Andrew when added together runs into a huge sum and we have to look seriously at the question of looking at the social evaluation and also the financial implication of having the free institutions.

We all like to be parochical minded at times, we all like to think in terms of our constituents and our parishes and we make demands upon the Government that we must have this in our area in order to ensure our return to the House, but we have to think beyond that point because very often many of our demands as Parliamentarians upon Government put a severe strain on the economy of this country, and one of the things that I am very interested in in my Ministry is optimisation.

All I would like to know in my Ministry is that we are making the optimum use of our resources, whether it be personal, money or otherwise, and I am always interested in the financial implication of new projects and also the social evaluation of any project emanating from any department of my Ministry. 5.00 p.m.

I am always interested in the financial implications and social evaluation of any project emanating from my Department. I have very good reasons to look seriously at the question of providing a hospital of a reasonable size, properly staffed and supplied to meet the needs of the economy of Barbados rather than spread them all over the country and encounter many of the problems we are now encountering at the St. Andrew District Hospital and at the one in Christ Church.

The question that the sum of $6, 642, 073 under Head 30 — Queen Elizabeth Hospital — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 31 - MENTAL HOSPITAL Head 31 — Mental Hospital — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1, 510, 305 under Head 31 — Mental Hospital — stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMQND:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 21(1) - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 21 (1) — Ministry of Home Affairs — General Administration — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $406, 568 under Head 21(1) — Ministry of Home Affairs -General Administration — stand part of the Schedule,

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

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, we do not intend to delay the House very long on this Head, but I want to refer to a certain aspect of the general policy of the Department which has received the attention of this House from time to time in the last Session as well as this Session. This refers to a portion of the Immigration Act which deals with the entry of persons into Barbados and the control of persons while they are in Barbados.

Since the dismissal of the hon. member for St. Michael North Central from the conduct of affairs in the Immigration Department, things are much better. It may very well be that foreigners, or non-Barbadians, have greater confidence in the humanity and present administration of the Department than they did in the former, but this great humanity and generosity in the administration of the Department is not a subtitute for efficiency, or a substitute for policy, or a substitute for the new Immigration Act which persons on both sides of the House have agreed is necessary in the circumstances of Barbados. It is not only the Immigration Act, but an Act relating to the expulsion of undesirables, an Act passed in Barbados in 1927 and which has recently been invoked to expel a young lady. Whatever may have been her activities and character, what has been done to Carmen Bayley reflects very little credit on the Governor-General and the Minister responsible for Home Affairs, at die time and on the public conscience in Barbados. The matter was dealt with in a haphazard manner, and it has now turned out that the Governor-General was not properly advised. I know that the Permanent Secretary and the Minister of Communications will be able to advise their colleagues on what should be done and what is possible under this particular Act. I will not deal with that now, because it is well known and I have other things to deal with. (Asides).

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Am I a devil?

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, I heard an aside, and I said that a man may be a devil 90% of the time, but not necessarily all the time. I was Counsel in the Carmen Bayley case and I was retained for cash. I will not press the matter. I have no wish to give the lawyers responsible for advising the Department of Home Affairs any advice other than when we meet in court and on other occasions. Dealing with the act of humanity is no substitute for policy. At present Immigration Officers are in England on a course which

will give them some assistance in dealing with immigration control problems. One of the answers they will bring back is that from time to time new conditions and regular instructions are embodied in a White Paper in Britain and debated ill the House. In the last Session of the British Parliament, instructions brought down by the Conservative Government were defeated in the House and fresh instructions had to be issued. 5.10 p.m.

They form a part of the law of England, that is also a matter of decision, and must be followed by the tribunals and the courts which are entrusted with the responsibility for enforcing the Act, Similarly in England there are many opportunities for persons who have somewhat of a vested right by reason of long residence or otherwise. Indeed the question of whether the residence is long enough may be the very question before the Court but yet they are subject in Barbados to administrative action on the face of it unappellable, but in Britain they are given the opportunity of applying to local Boards. This is also true to Canada and the United States. I could draw to the House's attention the example of the United States Department of Justice. If you wish to find out something about American immigration law, you can write to the Department of Justice and they will give you an up-to-date copy of the Immigration Act for about $1.00 and in the back of it is a complete annotation of judicial decisions on every section with the Department of Justice's commentary on the Way the Supreme Court is looking at this or the next section and the way local Courts and Immigration tribunals are looking at Immigration Law.

I have told persons that I am in a better position to advise them on the probabilities of entering the United States and remaining in the United States and the niceties of American Immigration law than I am with Barbadian law because there is so great an area of vagueness in Barbados when you deal with immigration. You get one set of advice today and another set tomorrow, the Ministers become their own directors even in the cases where perhaps they might be thought to have a personal interest. I myself have seen a Minister with my own eyes advising the Governor-General about a case in which he was summoned as a witness to appear in court either for the prosecution or the defence, I cannot remember which, in a matter. These are all things which are at the least irregular. They should be corrected if possible. (Asides.) I have not called a Minister's name, Sir, but if the Minister wishes to embarrass himself by getting up and admitting it, I would sit down now and let him make all the admissions he wants. I do not want to be diverted.

Mr. Chairman, there should be a new Act. There should be rules, and there should be a policy. What goes into the policy is going to be a matter of controversy between the political parties. Our view is that notwithstanding the vote of the House - I do not seek to reflect on it, whether in this .session or the last - on the question of foreign husbands of "Barbadian women, whether or hot that goes in is a matter of something between that side and our side, but there should be a policy on it, a policy which would reflect the thinking of the Government, a policy on the position of immigrant workers. I do not believe that you should leave the question of importing canecutters entirely to the Sugar Producers Association; there should be some policy where other countries are moving with all the resources at their command against the exploitation of immigrant workers from countries less well placed than you are, yet Barbados is apparently taking no particular steps. We see no indication of Governmental interest in such an important field. It is not only that. We have canvassed in here the question of persons with the necessary skills who are needed in Barbados. I am sorry the Minister of Health is not in his place. I must not doubt the sincerity of any hon. member of this House, but I had grave difficulties with the Minister's sincerity quite recently when I told him that one of the reasons why it was difficult to expand the supply of dentists in Barbados was because nobody is willing to pay the large sum of money necessary to purchase

dental equipment and set up a surgery in Barbados unless he is given some assurance of being given the right to stay for a period longer than three years. All these should be matters of policy. If you wish to attract dentists to Barbados, you must make it possible for a person to take a decision that he is going to come to Barbados to live for the rest of his life, if you need a profession such as that because at the moment your training facilities are not turning out the necessary number of persons required in Barbados, and there are many professions where it seems that the conditions offered to Barbadians qualified in these professions are better outside Barbados than in Barbados - architects and accountants - these things spring to mind, and it is difficult to get Barbadians to come back here, but yet there may be persons who are attracted to the idea of life in a tropical paradise as they see it and who may come here. To my mind it is better at all times if you have a need for a man to make it possible for the man to have a stake in the country rather than to come to the country with the idea that he is here for a short time and he must take as much out of the country as he can while he is there, because that is the way our present immigration policy is oriented. You are encouraging people not to feel natives of Barbados and to come here and catch what they can during die period they are allowed to live here, and all the complaints about how much money these immigrants come here and work for and send back to England, the land they are buying and the salaries they are paid, these complaints are based essentially on the fact that they do not feel secure in Barbados, therefore they prefer to invest outside Barbados than in Barbados. If you had a policy to take care of these things, you would have no worry at all. Other countries have a planned immigration policy; Barbados appears not to feel it necessary and yet there is pressure on our facilities, because Barbados has a sufficient number of attractions to bring persons here from abroad. No department can operate on the basis of directives that change from time to time or upon a basis of the Minister's caprice or the caprice of a Permanent Secretary. There must be an immigration policy published and set out for all to see. Particularly, Sir, we have dealt with this already, so I do not warn to detain the House too long on it, when you see one of the principle areas in Barbados upon which there is pressure, the hotel business. When hotels are under so much pressure to Barbadianise the staff and yet the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education and the Barbados Workers' Union and all persons necessary do not get together to have a coherent policy of training, of employment, of apprenticeship, whatever, when you get that, you are going to get a continuing situation where there is a lack of Barbadians qualified for top jobs, dissatifaction then follows because Barbadians do not hold the top jobs, those who do hold the top jobs are discouraged from becoming Barbadians and they do not put their entire stake in Barbados because they do not know when they have to pull up roots and go abroad, dissatisfaction again occurs because of that and you are back in the vicious circle. Hotels do not trust the Department of Immigration; they do not trust the Government, not in a narrow sense, and therefore you get all this pressure and all the disturbance and arguments about the staffing of the hotel industry in Barbados by foreigners. Many other countries have met this point face to face and so organised themselves that it does not matter. Those of us who know Bermuda will be aware that in Bermuda there is actually a restriction upon hotel expansion because there are not enough Bermudans to go around. The policy is Bermudanisating the hotel business and you have difficulty building a new hotel in Bermuda Jomorrow because in fact there is a shortage of Berrriudans to work in them. I would like to see a situation in Barbados like that. That is what I would like to aim at.

Sir, there is a minor point here. This is only a detail which I hope the Minister can help me with. Under Item 11, Medical Expenses, could he tell me what these expenses are? Also Item 7. If the Minister can give some suggestion to the House as to why telegrams, overseas telephone calls and so on should cost as much as $71, 000, I would be grateful. I know you collect them all together under one Head, but it seems a large amount for Electoral Office, Town and Country Planning, General

Administration. It seems a large amount for departments so essentially concerned with Barbados activity.

The only other thing I would like very briefly to touch on is film censorship. 5.20 p.m.

I am glad that a start has been made, as those of us who have been to recent films at the Drive-in will be able to say, on a policy that recognises that film censorship does not need to be directed only agains sexual activity but that it should also be directed against exhibitions of violence, robbery, brutality and man's inhumanity to man. Most examples of sexual activity you can see on the screens are examples of man's humanity to woman rather than inhumanity and I much prefer to recognise that in the world today it is no longer necessarily erosive on the modern fabric of society to see a man and woman making love on a cinema screen. It is now shown on our screens and I do not know why the men have to hide but you see more naked women than men. It should also now be recognised that violence and the technique of Karate, the brutalities and the licks like fire may in fact be more dangerous because activities that they encourage are fundamentally anti-social activities. I do not believe that even if you watch a sex film it encourages sexual intercourse or anti-social activities, but I believe if films of violence are shown they will have a tendencey to encourage more violence. If you look at the crime statistics you will see that nearly half of all crimes against property which are accompanied by violence are committed by persons under 21. In other words, typical of the audiences you see queueing up at the cinemas for these films. I would have to be advised by a psychiatrist as to whether a film can have any influence on you, but I do not believe that films of violence can have any effect other than to encourage violence and are keeping an awareness of violence in the minds of the young. I would not like to swear for you, Sir, nor for me as regards the sex film at the Drive-in, it is not the persons of our age group this effects, but I will be glad to see the Film Censorship Board concentrate more on that aspect of films than on the sexual aspect.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. James made comments on the Immigration Bill and I would like to assure him it is being looked after and we will soon be coming down with amendments to the Immigration Act. I hope all he has mentioned here will be included in the new Immigration Act.

With regard to Item 7, the cost of telephones is consolidated under the Ministry and no separate provision has been made for payment of telephones in the departmental vote. Item 11 is to meet the cost of medicines to supply members of the Police Force, Fire Service and Prison Department, and to pay fees to medical practitioners for work connected with those services.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister a very touchy subject, but Ministers, I believe, and some other officials of Government are given diplomatic passports. I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition has one, but I think it is rather unkind for a Minister of Government to be travelling with a back-bencher to any part of the world, the Minister is taken care of while his colleague from his party and a member of the same Parliament is held up at the airport or sea port, wherever it is, and his bag is searched. I agree this is the policy of countries where they search your baggage, but I am not dealing with that aspect of it. If you are going to give a Minister of Government a diplomatic passport give the Chairman of Committees one too, because it is a very odd thing - I hope the Minister will take this in good faith - to see the Minister travelling with you, Mr. Chairman, as his Party colleague and Chairman of this Committee - I do not know if Mr. Speaker or Mr. Deputy Speaker is in a

similar position - but for the Minister to be given special treatment while he has to wait and beg someone to assist his colleague is not good enough. I would suggest that all members of Government be given diplomatic passports.

I do not want this taken out of context, because about four years ago in this House, Mr. Chairman, you may recall that I drew to the attention of the Government that members of Parliament should have some form of identification. A former member of this Party who left this House as an Independent said he was popular enough and he did not want a flag to put on his motor car, and it was felt that I wanted to encourage Government to give me a flag to put on my motor car. I was a successful life insurance underwriter and was popular in that field, plus the people of St. James put me here so I must have been popular there too. A few days after that I understand the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition were held up because the Police did not recognise the Prime Minister who was at that time travelling in M-816. He came into the House and flayed the policeman, called on somebody higher up to inform the Commisssioner of Police and the Commissioner of Police called on the private to write a report which, I think, was circulated in here, and it was only on that occasion they agreed that it was wise to give members of Parliament some means of identification. I would say a simple form of identification, because the Police themselves do not even know members of Parliament, they do not know if the car or the car number is changed. I am told at the Regional Police Training School they are told of the numbers of the cars of members of Parliament, both from this and the Other Place. 5.30 p.m.

You may change your car or you may be using another car. We come here to carry out the people's business. I remember when I did not know enough about it that the then Junior Member for St. Lucy who was Leader of the House had about 11 Heads of the Estimates passed before we got here, including Ministry of External Affairs. It will never happen again as long as I am here.

The point that I am trying to make is that some times a young policeman is not acquainted with your car and we find it difficult to park in the yard. A simple form of identification will be enough. If you occupy the highest office in the land and you come here to do the people's business, you should be given priority.

I have been told that the Minister of Communications and Works is looking into this. I cannot see why a foreign diplomat can be given certain privileges, why he can be given these privileges where parking and driving his car is concerned while we have to be chucked around.

There was a time when if a car with a certain number drove into the buildings yard the Police would know that it belonged to Mr. Pile, or Mr. Peter Patterson or somebody like that. It is not like that in these day. It is difficult for the police to determine whose car it is.

It is only a few years ago after they did something to the Prime Minister that he came in here with his chest swelled out; but you cannot have one thing for the Prime Minister and another thing for me. He is the member for St. John. By office he is Prime Minister, but the people elected him as E. W. Barrow, the member of Parliament for St. John, just as they elected me member of Parliament for St. James. There should be no preferential treatment for a minister.

I know that this will not fall on deaf ears where the Minister of Home Affairs is concerned. I am not saying that he is a good minister, if he belongs to that side he cannot be good; but I am saying that he is

a reasonable person who will listen to you, and who is inclined to reason with you.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I promise the hon member that I will give consideration to what he said. I cannot give him any definite assurance, but I will have it looked into.

The question that the sum of $406, 568 under Head 21 (1) Ministry of Home Affairs (General Administration) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21(2) - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROBATION OFFICE)

Head 21(2) Ministry of Home Affairs (Probation Office) was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 21(2) stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $14, 200 under Head 21 (2) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21(3) - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (ELECTORAL OFFICE)

Head 21(3) - Ministry of Home Affairs (Electoral Office) was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $110, 935 under Head 21(3) stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, under Electoral Office, I think that it is time to raise the question of looking at electoral boundaries and the manner in which we intend to do this before the next General Elections. From time to time in most democratic countries there have been allegations about jerrymandering of boundaries in order to give one particular party an advantage over another political party.

It is evident in any event that with the shift of population you should review the constituencies and delimit to a reasonable unit the basis of those areas which should be represented.

I do not really know if there is a case on the basis of the shifting of population for an increase in the number of members in this House. I know that there is a continual process of registration going on and the department should be aware of this question although it may not have an accurate position of the

shift in population from one constituency to another, and indeed from one sub-division to another.

It seems to me that we cannot wait until 1976 when the political axe happens to be sharpened on both sides to look at this fundamental question of delimiting constituency boundaries, or indeed, to wait until 1975 or 1976 to do proper canvassing of the households to make sure that the information on the electoral list is accurate.

I believe that the Electoral Office keeps a check on those persons who have died, but they find it a bit difficult to keep a check on those persons who have left the island. A number of electors are still not registered despite the fact the facilities are made available to them. I would like to see the law changed to make voting compulsory. 5.40 p.m.

I should like to see the law changed to make registering compulsory.

I would not like this Head to go through with people feeling that this Department is a forgotten Department and that the interest we have in it would only come at the time of election. Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that the changes which have been initiated at the last moment by Ministerial order did not exactly work out as one would have expected, and the department was under tremendous pressure and it was impossible to do a complete job and I would like us to take some active steps to see after this department. I know that we have to look at the question of Constitution amendment in various forms of the Constitution, and in considering the question of Constitution amendments we are not against piece-mealing of the legislation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like us to consider the question of lowering the age at which people can come into parliament at the age of 18. We thought of this before but we were not in favour of a piece-meal approach to the Constitution, and we would like to see as much association as possible between the two parties, and, consultation with other political movements and also with those who run on their own from time to time like the Haddock band wagon. We feel there should be consultation on a national level, and despite the political credit which would have redounded the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and his party, we feel there should be Constitution amendments made in the national interest, and we are letting the Government know now that we are quite prepared to give the Government any assistance by way of voting or consultation, or ideas in relation to amending the Constitution to make it possible for what I have suggested to become a reality. We feel that the Government party and ourselves should get together on this and that our politics could move from little tricks to the polities of national interest and what is best for Barbados, and we are asking the Minister now to look at this issue and make every effort to let this come into effect.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that all people who belong to a political party will agree with me, and I feel that if we are convinced that something like this can become a reality we should strive to make it a reality. I am hopeful that we can make this sort of amendment to the Constitution to permit people to come into Parliament at the age of 18. This is something the hon. member for St. Thomas has talked about and seriously, and he is quite willing if necessary to show the whole concenus of his party, if this is what the Government wants. We feel that the time has come for such a change, and the Government can be assured of the full support of this party.

The question that the sum of $110, 935 under Head 21(3) Ministry of Home Affairs -Electoral Office -

stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 21(4) - TOWN AND COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OFFICE

Head 21(4) - Town and Country Development Planning Office - was called

Hon. G.G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $39, 296 under Head 21(4)-Town and Country Development Planning Office - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C.E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, only a couple of weeks ago I expressed my view about the laws under which Town and Country Planning Development operates and about the failure of the Government to have accepted by Parliament a proper land use policy. Perhaps the person who prepared the Development Plan for 1973-77 became aware of the strictures because the only place I have seen any change in the draft is in paragraph 5(41) and it is obvious that what was there written was taken out and fly leaf stuck in at the last moment. I do not know what was written before but whatever it was, it was not acceptable enough to be placed in the Development Plan. It is obvious that at the last moment they had to change it to put this in. 5.50 p.m.

This does not prevent an indictment on the Government's approach to the issues in the Town and Country Planning Department. To say that a plan is going to be laid before the legislature shortly is not good enough. In June last year the plan would have been more than outdated. It would have reached the laws of this country because the time in which it should have been laid before the legislature would have gone, and the time would have come for a second plan being advanced by the Town and Country Planning Department.

Mr. Chairman, it has taken the Government since 1967 - I think that is the date that the first information was handed into the Town and Country Planning Department — until 1974 to produce a plan in accordance with the laws of this country for the Minister to have it approved by the Cabinet and then brought before this Parliament for its approval. I am not going to accept the idea that Civil Servants must be blamed for this. I believe that the Government has been caught in several minds on its land and house policy and because of that it would not formulate a Development Plan that could have been made public and acceptable to this side of the legislature.

I have said in this House, and I am going to repeat it in the Committee, that the result is that a mere group of people have had access to information that they have not always used in the interest of Barbados but totally for themselves. That is wrong. It has resulted consequently in opening the officers in the Town and Country Planning Department to very stringent criticism: some of it fair, and some of it unfair. They have to do work in a no man's land where a portion of their work has been taken out of their hands, and I am told that the Cabinet Committee now looks at the matter. I say, however, that I do not believe the Cabinet Committee, in law, has any authority to do that, and the Act is being flouted by the

Government. I believe that, if legal information is taken on this matter seriously, the Ministers will be satisfied that it is not right, and we cannot condone a situation that has gone on in this manner for so long in this respect.

Now, I want to move to the question of reviewing appeals. I hope the Minister does not think that I am referring to him on a personal level. Planning appeals, or the review of planning decisions, has virtually come to a standstill. One knows the Act has no proper apparatus to make sure that appeals are dealt with properly. I know that when the Minister of Health was in this Ministry he realised that there was a backlog of work and tried to speed up matters by having his Permanent Secretary meet with the Town Planners formally to do something about the matter. There are appeals pending since 1971 and before that time which have not yet been reviewed and have not yet been heard.

Mr. Chairman, the people who are asked to sit on planning decisions give of their time almost free to this country: Mr. Smith and Mr. W. K. Fergusson. Mr. Fergusson could have been employed as a high-powered lawyer, but he is using his time to sit on planning appeals and perform his duties without fear or favour, despite the fact that his brother is a politician. The people do this work in their spare time.

It is not good to come in here and talk critically of the administration of justice in the country, to run down the lawyers and castigate them. The hon. member will get in here and castigate the lawyers, and then sit in the Cabinet realising that there are a number of appeals that cannot be heard. Some people have a lot of scales over they eyes, but that sort of thing is not for me. It may be politically acceptable by the Majority of Barbadians, but these standards are not acceptable to me and, I believe, should not be acceptable to right thinking people. The Prime Minister has been highly critical of justice in this country, and I am calling on him to see to it that planning appeals are heard. Sometimes I wonder what sort of administration of Justice people who have planning appeals are getting in this country. I am sorry he is not here so that he can get up and answer me in his usual style.

I will now go on to some of the other defects which are to be found in this Act. Section 3 of the Act provides for a Planning Advisory Committee. The Act was passed in 1965, it was amended in 1967, and substantially amended in 1968 when the Local Government was abolished so that the Planning Advisory Committee could be differently constituted without having members of the Local Government on it. It has taken the Government 6 years to appoint a Planning Advisory Committee as it is called by the law of this land, and the Cabinet has not done so up to today. It is not intended to make a political point, because I consider this as a serious dereliction of duty to our part of Parliament and to Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, it is not good to pass legislation in Parliament and then it is not implemented. If you want to scrap it, you should come baek to Parliament and say so and let the country know the position. Many people have lost confidence in the system of Town and Country Planning as it applies in Barbados today. After they have lost confidence, it gives rise to rumours and you hear all sorts of allegations. I think it is the duty of the Government to prevent such allegations being made by acting correctly regardless of whether the allegations are founded or unfounded.

I am going to finish, Mr. Chairman, by asking this Minister to bring the Development Plan for Barbados before the House. The Department should be told that it is a matter of urgency to have the Plan properly prepared, updated and accepted by the House so that everybody will know what is set out in the Plan. I am suggesting to the Government to bring down a proper amendment to do away with Ministerial

discretion and let us have an independent tribunal. 6.00 p.m.

The Minister should issue policy directions and when he has issued these directions allow them to be published so that the whole world can see what are their decisions.

There is one other thing. The Minister has recently had cause to issue a general direction that there will be no more petrol stations in Barbados. No planning will be given for new petrol stations or extensions. I do now know the cause of that. The Minister may not want to tell us the cause of that. It may have something to do with the fact that the Government is looking at its own policy, and time will tell, into the marketing arrangements for oil, but I feet that Parliament should be given the courtesy of a statement being made on the matter and be told the reason for this. I will ask the Minister if he cares to and if he can unless he has to get Cabinet approval to tell us the reason. I would like to say we are not going to vote against this Head, but all is not right in the planning laws of Barbados. I ask the Minister to look at some of the applications that are coming carefully. I hear a lot of people have decided there is to be a race course at the Belle Plantation. If this is a high powered decision that is known before an application is made and before the matter had been properly adjudicated through the Town Planner, it is unfair that other people should be allowed to go and buy the Belle to get this sort of advantage. I do not believe it is right. I have seen a lot of discussion on this in the newspaper. I wish the few people who are prepared to come out in the paper and justify things will give the profit that they make out of the Belle back to the people of Barbados. I want to see how magnanimous they are. I hope the Government will tax that profit and that at least 90% of it will go back into the public Treasury. I ask the Government to show its metal on this. Some of them are my friends and in my profession. It does not make any difference to me. They do not have to send briefs to me because I do not have to beg my way in this country or any other country, but I want them to clearly understand that it is not fair and not in the national interest that the planning laws should be in such a way that a small clique of people are getting these advantages all the time and the general public at large are shut out. It is on that principle that rest my case in this debate.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, before the Minister seeks to reply, I want to say that all is not well with Town and Country Planning Department. I would very much like to see a Commission of Enquiry into the Town and Country Planning Department, and I have my reasons why I am saying so. I know from personal experience, Mr. Chairman, that certain persons are treated in one way and other persons are treated in another way, and nobody can tell me that the Town and Country Planning officers are acting impartially in deciding planning matters in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I had a sad experience a few years ago when I made an application for some clients to develop a piece of land way up in St. Philip on the sea rocks, and had the greatest difficulties in getting that piece of land developed. It was a grass piece open for donkey years. One of the major objections was that they did not want crossroads, and they wanted to reserve some fifty feet on the sea rock with about a 100 foot drop to the sea. Within a very short time of that I found that a new cemetery was being built at Warrens which created a cross road with the cemetery. Everybody knows Bajans; you only have to hear on Rediffusion or C.B.C. a morning at 7.20 that John Brown is dead, or that Bolden or Joy Edwards is dead, and if he is going to Warren you know that the whole of Bridgetown will be there, and then you cannot get pass, because if they do not go they would be ungrateful. If you go to Lodge Hill and all of the people there do not turn out, they would be ungrateful. If you go to the other side of Lodge Hill and the Pine and they do not turn out, they would be ungrateful, and the result would be chaos at the

National Cemetery. You would not be able to get in or out. If you are coming from the north you will meet a major road and a crossroad. If you are coming from Bridgetown there is a through road but the cemetery road would butt on to the main road.

If you go to Wildey where there is the new Cable and Wireless station, there is another corner. This is Town and Country Planning where there are experts. I am no planning expert, but commonsense tells me that something is critically wrong. Coming right down next to Cable and Wireless is a road with "U" turns with a concrete base and the markings are such that you do not know what is right from wrong. Let us take another quiet journey and go to Orleans or Westbury Road, or go up Tweedside Road where a man has managed to buy a 4, 000 square feet plot of land and wants to pull down his board and shingle house and put up a wall structure. He will be told that he has to step in so many feet from the centre of the road, and if he does not comply he cannot build, or if he builds Town Planning will push it down. But take a drive to St. Lawrence, and I am at a loss to find out which Town Planning Officer could have allowed a hotel to build right on the corner of St. Lawrence Gap. If this is not a case of being biassed and prejudice on the part of some people, God help me. This is what I am worried about, and this is only the beginning of the accusations. This is why I want a judicial enquiry into the Town Planning Department. Let us go a bit further. Let us talk about the allegations of the officers in Town Planning. Everyday you hear about officers owning five houses. One man tells me he works for less than me and he has five houses. If nobody is afraid to bring it out, I am saying so now.

Mr. Chairman, let anybody stand up and deny that persons have applied for planning permission for four years and have not up to this day got a reply from the Department, and you cannot get vex because the file will be lost in some officer's desk never to see the light of day again. I heard a few officers quarrelling that the Minister of Home Affairs took away their jobs and that he had no right doing this, but if you do not take boldness in your hands and say, win, lose, or draw I am trying now and write and ask the Minister to adjudicate, you will never get there. I am not saying that the allegations are right or wrong, but they tend to bring down the efficiency of the office and that is why we need an enquiry into the Town Planning Office. 6.10 p.m.

I have in my office a letter in which a woman accuses an officer for demanding $250 in order to pass a plan. I say so. She did not write to me, she wrote to another officer in the Town Planning Department and accused that officer of demanding money to pass the plan, but then you can hear that expatriates can come in and get planning permission within the space of two weeks to do what they want to do. Can this be right? Is the Town Planning Office in order or do we need an investigation? I say that we more than need an investigation. The only way we can clear up this and determine whether or not these allegations are true is to hold an enquiry. I will tell you something now whether you like it or not. There are some Town Planning Officers who up to this moment do not realise that the new Health Act also places certain limits on the functions and duties of town planning and what can be allowed. It is time we carefully look into what is happening in the Town Planning Department; some officers are even afraid to go out alone because of the various allegations.

The last Minister of Home Affairs will tell you he had fights with many of his officers. I do not expect him to admit this because I believe he realises too that something is definitely wrong in that office, and I am now pleading to the present Minister of Home Affairs at least to get Cabinet to agree to an investigation into the Town Planning Office. When you see an ex—town planner like Mr. Gill writing letters in the newspaper and accusing people it does not take an idiot to analyse these letters, anybody

can read between the lines what he is saying and it does not hold good for the country as a whole. There is a cafe in Bridgetown where a lot of the officers congregate and I had the privilege to hear one man telling the other that there were certain Bajans who wanted to fly too high and they had to hold them. When I heard that it struck me hard because I knew exactly what he meant. How can any right thinking Barbadian, seeing the numerous letters, and as my colleague has said, without a firm land use policy, without publication of a land use policy it is difficult for anybody to determine whether or not the Town Planning Department is carrying out a policy or whether it is operating on a question of bias.

As I said before, and as my colleague has called for, you must set up your appeal tribunal, because as I just said, some officers in the Town Planning Department do not understand the relationship between the new Health Act and town planning. They do not know Government's policy so therefore they cannot make a proper decision. One officer said to me he could not make up his mind and I told him that if commerce in any country had to depend on people like him God help that country. He could not make up his mind in circumstances like this, but I would have liked to see him in a situation where he wanted a decision and was told by the person responsible that he could not make up his mind. Time restricts me and I am glad, but I would still like to hear the Minister of Home Affairs tell me - I believe he has officers sitting there — what justification above all came into consideration to allow a hotel to be rebuilt at the corner of St. Lawrence Road, because if you are talking about a road widening scheme that is defeating the scheme. You now have to go into New Orleans and every narrow street and allow those people who cannot afford to spend $4, 000 or $5, 000 to build back their little lots. I remember asking a similar pertinent question in here of the last Minister of Education. I wanted to know how you got into a secondary school without passing the 11 plus examination and his answer was that if you lived in close proximity to the school the Headmaster could take you in, but I do not believe that is a principle, I believe that was an answer for the occasion.

When it comes to town planning, building a big wall structure right on a corner of a road which I doubt measures 20 feet, and then you find people with 5, 000 square feet and you tell them they have to go back in. At Eagle Hall, if you want to build a house in your backyard with 70 feet of lawn in front the same Town Planner tells you you must take down your wall and put it back so many feet. How a hotel can be pulled down and built back up at a corner of the road could get town planning permission? Some people are allowed to build without town planning permission, so in this case there is a rule for the rich and one for the poor; one for expatriates and one for the local people. I know the Hon. Minister of Tourism will call me a bigot, but when it comes to a hotel he will defend every one of them. I will call him a name in public and he can sue me in court. Robinson Crusoe was washed ashore and Man Friday rescued him, but all I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, is that all is not well in the Town and Country Planning Department. It is a very important Department and it is time that it be straightened out; that what is good for Tom is good for Harry.

I heard the Union boss get up in here and talked about big buildings in Broad Street without wash rooms and I told him the Town Planning Department could control that. If you go at some people who want to put up a shop at Baxters Road, Town Planning insists they put in nine and eleven toilets, but when it comes to Broad Street they put back up a big building like Cave Shepherd and if you go there and Mother Nature calls you probably have to run back up here to the dirty one there at the corner. 6.20 p.m.

This is something that worries me considerably. It is time that the Minister of Home Affairs ask

himself if everything is right in his department. You hear these stories from people about how John Thomas who lives next to me can do so and so and I cannot. They tell you to ask the Minister of Agriculture.

Another point about which I am very serious is that when you put in an application to build a house on a house spot it takes four months at least to get permission. If you telephone and ask they will tell you that it is out on investigation and there is a rule that we cannot tell you where it is.

How can you expect in these days of high interest rates — take a Civil Servant, not -the man in the street, but a Civil Servant who works for a guaranteed $800 a month which is paid into the bank on the 24th or 25th of each month. I am not saying that he is better off than anyone else, but his salary is secure; but if he wants to build a house and he negotiates for a loan of $60, 000 and makes application to Town and Country Planning Office, he gets a commitment from the moment he gets the loan; but the Tbwn and Country Planning Office will sit down on his application for five or six months, and the poor man cannot tell whether his application is approved or not. He cannot start to build because the Town and Country Planning Department might tell him that he has to take it down and put it up in another way.

The Town and Country Planning Department holds the controls, and people are afraid to speak of the injustices practised against them by that department. It is time that the officers in that department realise that they are the same human beings as other people. Have you heard the story of the man who went into that department and said "tell me whom I have to pay" and his application came out next day? I would like to hear the Minister say if I am right in what I have been told.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, like all other departments of Government where people are employed and there is public dissatisfaction you will always hear comments like these; but if you try to carry out investigations you never find anyone who is prepared to come out and give definite evidence. That is an unfortunate thing in relation to most Government offices. I hear these rumours, I cannot get anyone to say definitely that he has had to pay.

With regard to the Physical Development Plan queried by the hon. member for Christ Church West, in June, 1970, public notice was given in accordance with Section 9(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act that a Physical Development Plan for Barbados had been submitted to the Appropriate Minister by the Chief Town Planner. Nine persons or bodies submitted objections and an enquiry was conducted by Mr. Justice Williams. The enquiry was completed in July, 1971, and Mr. Justice Williams submitted a report in December the same year.

Since that time I have consulted with various bodies, with the Central Committee and my colleagues, as I am allowed to do under Section 9(8) of the Act before making a decision. I am now in a position to report that I will soon be making a report on the Plan. My technical officers have in recent weeks been engaged in drawing up the necessary instrument and taking the necessary steps to implement my decision.

As regards the Belle Plantation, as Minister responsible for Town and Country Planning, the first time I knew of it was when I saw it in the newspaper. I called in the Chief Town Planner and I asked him

about a race track being built at the Belle.

I would like to state here that Application 1365/12/73 is currently under consideration for the development of land at the Belle and Waterford Plantations. The application has been made by West Indies Finance Limited, the prospective purchasers. The identity of the persons in this company is unknown to me and is of no interest to the Town and Country Planning Office.

The proposal is for sub-division for agricultural, residential, industrial, warehousing and horse racing purposes. The application is at present out on consultation.

The only other application that can be traced for the Belle Plantation was No.131/2/71 for the development of the area known as Belle Woods, approximately 10 acres of land for residential purposes. This was refused on the grounds that the development of this comparatively small and isolated area would not be conducive to sound planning principles.

(2) The proposal would be injurious to the wooded character of the site. The grassed and wooded character of the site should be maintained in the interest of amenity.

This went to appeal, and the decision of the Chief Town Planner was upheld. 6.30 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The question is that Head 21 (4).....

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, before you put the question I would like the Minister to tell me about the building at the corner at St. Lawrence. It involves a basic principle of Town Planning.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I am familiar with the area, and in my view the area has improved considerably because of the new architecture.

The question that the sum of $39, 296 under Head 21(4) — Town and Country Development Planning Office — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 - POLICE Head 22 — Police — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, before moving the passing of this Head, to Item 32 I would like to make the following amendments to furniture and equipment delete the figure "4, 810" under Column "Other Expenditure" and insert the figure "5, 210" and make consequential amendment. Also to amend the note by inserting the words "vacuum cleaner" after the word "cupboards" at the end of the note.

With those amendments, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1, 581, 861 as amended under Head 22 — Police — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, speaking under this Head I would say that the Royal Barbados Police Force for years have been subjected to attack either in detail or in broad outline. Politicians for the last twenty years have had something to say about the Police Force. The Police Force has been of interest to politicians for attack — not only the politicians who are lawyers — but most politicians have had their clash with the police from time to time. When I say twenty years I say it advisedly because I know that they have not been so attacked by anybody as they were twenty years ago "by the then young barrister who now presides over our destiny, the Prime Minister. Over the years I have found words for them but never abuse because I realize that we do not recognize the importance of the Police Force as we should. This is not electioneering, Mr. Chairman, but I have had my share of clients telling me how the police beat them. From the Chief Justice back down have so found, and I think there is good reason for this. In general the faults of the Royal Barbados Police Force do not lie in the direction of brutality or unpleasantness to civilians.

Some years ago I read how the Metropolitan police used to issue people with certain circulars with the words "in this country a policeman is your friend, " and Sir, I think we should realize that this is true of the Royal Barbados Police Force, and I am not speaking in these terms of the Royal Barbados Police Force with the hope that they would support us. Not at all. I am not asking for votes; but to return to what I want to say, I deplore the new outbreak of apparent hostility that there has been. And what I want to say first of all in dealing with this matter is something I hope Barbados would not face; that is relative to the question of law and order and crime. Sir, we know that Trinidad is a dangerous place and Trinidad has more murders than London. In Jamaica, Jamaica has many more and we hear of what is being done in Jamaica to deal with this problem, but in dealing with this matter I would say Sir, that I believe you have to go far and wide to find a more dedicated and more able prosecutor than you have in Barbados in the Magistrate's court of Bridgetown than Assistant Superintendent Arthur Linton who is a man of ability and who can teach a great deal to Barristers. We know that some times a policeman may be an opponent of our party but I am not dealing with that. If a man is to have credit for his job he should get it.

Now I would ask the Minister to note that a 1 report which has been current for a week or two is to the effect that when the present Assistant Commissioner for Crime is promoted that he would still continue to be allowed to have responsibility for crimes in court, and I am asking the Minister not to be taken in by this. 6.40 p.m.

He should show initiative, he should show imagination, he should keep himself up to date, he should look at statistics and be able to understand what is going wrong. No Judge in Barbados has ever congratulated an Assistant Commissioner of Police for bringing criminals before the court. It is the very talented Inspectors and Sergeants and so on in the C.I.D. who get congratulated and not the people at the top. The crime statistics of Barbados do not reveal a particularly satisfactory situation vis-a-vis the convictions and offences.

I have before me the statistics for the year 1969. I will give you an example of the crime rate which is a threat to the good name of Barbados and none of us likes to hear about it. In 1969 there were 432 reports of larcency from a dwelling house; 411 turned out to be true, and only 17 persons were

convicted. There were 914 reports of petty stealing, and only 48 persons were convicted. These are statistics with which we cannot be satisfied in a little place like Barbados where the police are respected and people are willing to help them. This is not a society of persons who intend to become criminals all of their life. This is not a country like North America, Western Europe and so on, and it is time that this very low conviction rate is investigated by the man who is responsible for the Department as well as by the Minister. It is time that we are assured that modern police methods are brought to bear on such problems of crime as we have in Barbados at present.

Again, we do not like to hear about anything that involves stealing, and violence together. It is bad to go to sleep at night, and somebody breaks into your home, rapes you and carries away a few items. The police classify that as a crime against property with violence. Under the head of robbery, housebreaking and other crimes there were 568 cases, but only 27 persons were convicted by the jury. The figures for convictions by magistrates are not normally more than the convictions by the jury in crimes like robbery. I am sure if the Minister analyses the statistics he will agree with me that this is not good enough.

Crime is increasing a little bit each year. There is always a backlog left over from Christmas, but none-the-less these are not figures about which any Barbadian can be proud. I am not blaming the Head of the Department. I have been hearing certain rumours. I am saying that an opportunity comes at the present time to get rid of the person who has been presiding over crime and courts by the process known as 'kicking him upstairs'. I would regret to continue to permit the police officer concerned to mishandle the affairs of crime and courts Department any longer. He is not known for courtesy, although I have found the police very courteous and hospitable. I have seen him display a lot of hostility towards people who were trying to help him. Rumours are going around that he shows prejudice to some persons in favour of others. Take a decisive step and put somebody there who can do things efficiently. These things are said in sorrow and not in hostility. These things are said in pain. In order to have esprit de corps in the Police Force the man in the uniform must set the example.

We have many things to complain of. For instance, I hope to see the establishment of a Forensic Laboratory, which could be of use to other Eastern Caribbean countries. The situation of the Harbour Police deserves looking into. The Harbour Police is a neglected force. The Mounted Police has a Sergeant and Station Sergeant to look after about 24 mounted policemen. There are about 18 Harbour Policemen, and more attention should be paid to them. Maybe in the reorganisation of the Port, the Prime Minister will indicate how many of them have shown to be fit, as he envisaged in last year's Estimates, to be trained as Coast Guards.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
None.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, he says that none of the Harbour Police are fit to be trained as Coast Guards.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, the Coast Guard is a young, new service and no place for retired, old people with varicose veins or flat feet. The only reason we keep them is that people like to take pictures of them, and the Commissioner of Police says that they do more work swinging the Bridge than actual police work.

6.50 p.m.

I want to make the position clear. It is not proposed to absorb the Harbour Police into the Coast Guard service. This is a young vigorous service which is looking after things like seeing that boats are properly loaded, investigating cases of smuggling, and air and sea rescue operations. There is a little generation gap between the group we require and the retiring age of the people who now are in the Police Force.

Mr. ADAMS:

I am sorry to have prompted yet another attack by the Prime Minister on the Police. If I was a Harbour Police I would have to feel I was attacked.

There is another matter which has been before the public recently and it relates to police protection at sporting and other events where large numbers of people are supposed to be present. It is well known that the police who have more sedentary duties usually have to go out and do overtime on these occasions. You see police who are Court Criers having to go out. I would suggest that the remuneration you charge people to have police can be paid to the police by way of overtime. I do not know what the arrangements are, but I think it is hard to be assigning old police who are accustomed to this duty to deal with young boys scaling the walls at the Stadium or at Kensington in difficult conditions and expect them to give of their best on the basis of police regulations.

I see here Item 11 — Maintenance of Vehicles — to meet the cost of upkeep of vehicles. Includes provision for rewards of two prizes quarterly of $15 and $10 to keep these expensive Rovers and Valiants clean. You should either stop this altogether or give them something that would be realistic. It is these little niggling ways in which the Minister looks at the police. They were receiving this money a long time and it still continues to be the same. Either give them nothing or give them a little bit more.

Sir, I know that time has descended upon me, but there are one or two other matters and if anything I have said is misunderstood, by a member, I hope you will allow me to make an elucidation of it in the fullness of time.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, we have seen tonight one of those usual attacks on the part of the member for St. John on the police by referring to the Harbour Police as flat-footed, varicose veins type of people, not so long ago....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, the hon. member for St. Thomas referred directly to one of the Assistant Commissioners. I never referred to anybody in the Harbour Police Force. I said what we do not want in the Coast Guard service. I never said anything about anybody in the Harbour Police Force. If there are 15 or 18 people he cannot even get fifteen votes by making that kind of statement, so I do not see why he is wasting the time of the Committee with that kind of stupidity.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of personal explanation, I just would like to make it clear that the Prime Minister is perfectly right in saying I referred directly to one of the Assistant Commissioners. I would just like you and the Committee to know that I had specifically written to the Speaker to say I intended to refer to Mr.

George Reid, his character and conduct in the performance of his duties based upon the crime statistics published by the Commissioner of Police. I have specifically dealt with it under the Rules.

Mr MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, the point I was making is that I understooci the Leader of the Opposition was seeking information as to whether the members of the Harbour Police would be elevated to the Coast Guard Service, and he said "no"; and then the Prime Minister got up on a point of order and said the Coast Guard is a young vigorous organisation and it would not have any flat-footed people with varicose veins. That could only be interpreted as an attack on the Harbour Police. It is simply another of the attacks like when he got on television and spoke against the young people of this country which I think is grossly unfair to young policemen. He did this because he knows that they have no way of answering. One of these days the police and the Civil Servants will wake up and answer people like the Prime Minister.

Now, Mr. Chairman, under Item 9 — Band, I would like the Minister responsible to investigate the possibility of the police increasing the fees when they entertain people on the tourist liners. I know there is a special fee in respect of certain organisations like the Olympic Association or the Cycle Association when they play at the stadium, but when they go on board these tourist liners they should be able to charge a more realistic fee for their services than they now receive.

On the question of legal representation under Item 26, this is to meet the cost of representation of policemen charged with indictable and summary cases. I do not think this is quite correct because I think the time has come when the Act should be amended to allow the Police Force to establish their own defence funds so that it would enable them whenever any charge is brought against them to use these funds in engaging their own barristers rather than having to rely on the services of the Crown Law Officers as they do at the moment. There are a lot of questions that can be raised, questions like uniform, and how far they have got in reorganisation of the uniform both oi the policemen and for the female section of the Police Force. I would like to hear something from the Minister concerning that.

The question that the sum of $1, 582, 261 under Head 22 — Police — as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 7.00 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUS SON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for one hour, till 8.00 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended

the sitting accordingly.

On resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

HEAD 23 - FIRE SERVICE Head 23 — Fire Service — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $140, 667 under Head 23 — Fire Service — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 24 - PRISONS Head 24 - Prisons — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $140, 550 under Head 24 — Prisons — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 25 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not here and I think we should do Head 26 — Ministry of Communications and Works.

Mr. CRAIG:
Mr. Chairman, we had the assurance of the House that we were going to do Agriculture next. The

civil servants have been here every day. The Minister is here, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I did give that assurance but the Minister has apparently stepped out, so we will move on to External Affairs.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it would appear as if Head 25 would cause the Government some difficulty. I wonder if the Leader of the House would give us an undertaking that he would not call that Head before 12.00 tomorrow.

HEAD 20 - MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 20 — Ministry of External Affairs — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head there are two minor amendments. At Item 3 — Personal Allowances delete the figure "$659, 828" under the column "Other Expenditure" and insert a new figure "$1, 039, 828", and make consequential amendments. At Item 31 — Contributions and Voluntary Pledges to International and Regional Organisations, delete the figure "$1, 337, 795" under the column "Other Expenditure", insert the figure "$1, 342, 225" and make consequential amendments.

With those amendments I beg to move that the sum of $4, 675, 380 under Head 20 - Ministry of External Affairs — as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, we do not intend on this occasion to debate this Head for a very long time, although we intend to talk about a few aspects of the operation of this particular Ministry. I think the Opposition cannot help but notice that since 1966 the vote under this Head has increased about eight times from roughly half million dollars to the position where it is now at a figure of $4.8 million, nearly $5 million. I wish I were in a position to say that the relevance of the Ministry has increased in proportion to the money spent on it, or that its significance has been as high in proportion to the money spent.

I believe from time to time because my colleagues on this side have criticised the heavy expenditure on External Affairs that members of the Government believe that we are saying it is not necessary to have some aspect of representation in the external sphere. Let me make it quite clear that the Barbados Labour Party recognises that any independent country must have some form of foreign representation, but what it does say is that that form of foreign representation must never reach the stage where its significance is not in proportion to the amount of money being spent on it. Let me go further and say that wherever necessary the accent must be on the development of this country and on the welfare of the citizens as against any window dressing, and when from time to time we make criticisms on this it is because we are deeply conscious of this principle.

I am not yet convinced that the Ministry has shifted its sights from being a mere representational Ministry in the sense of showing the political side of the Government to a Ministry which looks at what we consider to be the immediate need of Barbados in the external sphere, and that is the promotion of the economic wealth of Barbados overseas, and secondly, as a Ministry for protecting the interests of our individual citizens overseas. When we look at our trade pattern we still think that not enough assistance is given through the foreign Ministry to the promotion of the trade prospects of Barbados in overseas markets. If you analyse the High Commission in London or the Embassy in Washington or any Embassy or High Commission in any of the other places where we are represented, they seem not to have a strong enough economy overseas and accent on economic matters as we would have wished for.

Only this week people would have been conscious of the fact that steps are being taken on a different basis to promote West Indian rum in both the United States and the United Kingdom markets. We are not satisfied that in relation to Barbados enough accent has been placed on this in our external relationships. We have never heard or been told or know of any step or any representation which the Government has made at that level, and the lobbying it has set up to make sure that the rum market is well protected, but we know what that Dry Cane which is a name for marketing Barbadian rum is being praised by foreign enterprise and we do not believe that there is relief or support given in general by the Ministry of External Affairs in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade. As we see it, if we are moving towards a Caribbean Common Market, as we have now moved, and if we are moving towards pressing our trade in the CARIFTA and CARICOM markets, it is necessary that Government should take a closer look at the sort of representation it has in relation to its Caribbean partners.

8.10p.m.

For the Barbados Labour Party the Caribbean is the first area of priority for representation, and we cannot place a greater accent on the Embassy in Caracas than we place on the Trade Commissions in the CARICOM area.

We can see the significance of Venezuela. She is a big neighbour, a powerful neighbour, and an oil rich neighbour; but we can only state that there is greater need for representation in the CARICOM area for the simple reason that it is still true that our trading prospects with our other neighbours have not been properly looked after, and our interests in Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean are not being represented in the same way as we are seeking to represent our interests in Venezuela.

if I may give an instance of the accent placed by the Government on this field, we could talk about the significance of the fact that it was more significant for the Head of the Government as distinct from the Head of State to be present at the inauguration of the President of Venezuela and the President of Brazil than being present at the Independence Celebrations in Grenada.

The Barbados Labour Party does not condone the refusal of human rights in .the, neighbouring state of Grenada, but we feel that, not only should we have been represented by as distinguished a person as the Speaker of the House — and we are not seeking to deny the strength of his representation or his dignity at the celebrations — but we would have thought that, this was an occasion when not only our Prime Minister, but Prime Ministers of the other Caribbean countries would have taken this opportunity to show the people of Grenada that we are with them and that we are prepared to exert as much pressure

behind the scenes as we possibly can to reconcile the problems in Grenada so that they can move away from those problems.

I think that the Government has got its sights. wrong. Perhaps the traumatic experience of the break up of the Federation and of the Eastern Caribbean Union has set this type of attitude towards CARICOM; but we believe that Barbados is as well placed as Trinidad or Jamaica to play a leading role in leading towards recognition of the brotherhood of the West Indies and its eventual unity. That is why we would like to see some emphasis shifted to this aspect of representation.

I specifically raised the question, in this House of the representation of our nationals in Cuba, and that has subsequently come about. I think that the records of this House will show that this matter was raised by me.

I hope, Sir, that these words will not fall on deaf ears and that we will see a strengthening of our presence in CARICOM before we start expanding our resence in other areas.

I know that we are fortunate in happening to be so close to our colleagues in the south and the north, but I do not believe that we are taking this geographical aspect as seriously as we could; and this leads me to the role that we can play in the other Caribbean Countries.

It is true that we are small, but I hope that this aspect will be recognised by the Ministry of External Affairs, and that no stone will be left unturned not only to have a unified foreign policy, but to bring about that unification as soon as possible.

In 1966 in the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto we made it quite clear that if and when we are returned to power we will look forward to unifying the Foreign Services of the Caribbean territories. That is the only practical and sensible thing to do.

I cannot believe that any of our foreign ambassadors are any less capable of representing the Caribbean territories than of representing Barbados itself. They will have more status and more standing, and that is why we regret very much that the Government does not seem to have placed more emphasis on sharing foreign representation with other countries of the Caribbean.

We would like to know what overtures we have made to Grenada to help her in her foreign representation at the moment. We hear from time to time what our own Government is doing at the. moment. We believe that we should canvass the attention of our Caribbean neighbours in what we are doing.

We also believe that there should be a change in our accent towards Third World countries. I think that an application was made by us to join the non-aligned countries. For some reason this application seems to have fallen through. The last observer was our High Comimissioner in London who attended a conference in Africa some time last year.

It does not seem that we are monitoring the Third World countries correctly. If it is a case of being afraid of the influence of the USA, I believe that we should throw that aside. They will have to recognise that in spite of our small size we will have a fully independent mind in foreign policy, and that not only

do we have some form of cultural identity with the Third World countries, but in upholding prices, we have a very vital interest in getting together and trading with them, and we should try to preserve that interest by being a full fledge member country of the Third World.

When I hear of Guyana breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel and Barbados making sure that it keeps as close to Isreal as possible, when we see Guyana recognising the communist bloc and Barbados keeping relations as closed between them as possible, I wonder how serious the Government can be in maintaining a Third World foreign policy.

We need to review our position vis a vis the other countries of the world. Take Eastern Europe. It is still a fact that we control our trade with the Eastern Bloc through the Miscellaneous and General Open Licence of 1972, and opportunities are being missed day after day for us to trade with and sell to the Eastern Bloc particularly in so far as we are developing very quickly our manufacturing sector. 8.20 p.m.

Opportunities are being lost day by day for us to trade and sell to the eastern bloc, particularly in circumstances where we are developing very quickly our manufacturing sector, and opportunities are being lost because we are still harping back to our attachments to the United States in particular; opportunities are still being lost in seeking out Eastern Europe as a fifth place to get proper goods to feed the Barbadians at a lower cost than we have been getting. If we have now felt bold enough to trade with Cuba I would ask the Ministry to try to hasten on the removal of all limitations, unfold diplomatic relations with the eastern countries. Barbados should have no enemies on the basis of ideology. Barbados should have friends and colleagues and trading partners based on our mutual interests and indeed in our own vital self interest, and it is in this field that I should like to see that accent going.

I regret very much, Mr. Chairman, that this House —despite what is said about the place that I learnt my democracy - I regret very much that this House is not used as a forum more frequently for telling the nation about what has been happening in relation to our negotiations with the European Economic Community. The question of the maintenance of our sugar quota in the European Common Market is something that will affect every household in this community. It is not a matter on which the Government can maintain secrets and it is a matter on which the Minister should from time to time feel it incumbent on them to take Parliament into their bosom.

I am afraid that foreign policy in this country like so many other things is considered to be a naval secret. There has not been one single debate in this House as to the effect of the European Economic Community on ourselves as to our relations with them. We have heard bits from time to time through our connections with politicians and civil servants in other countries; it is through them that we have come to find out what are the states of the negotiations. I do not consider this good enough, and I hope the Government will see fit and the Ministry will see fit from time to time to take some step in this respect.

Finally, the people who represent us overseas. By and large our staff overseas try their very best to promote our country, and let me say, Mr. Chairman: Last year I had the honour of representing this country along with the honourable junior Minister for Communications and Works in the United Kingdom, and the courtesy extended to us by the staff of the High Commission and the High Commissioner himself was tremendous, and I do not believe, as I say — no matter who is pleased or

who is vexed with me — I do not believe in not saying when a person deserves thanks; and I should like to say that our High Commissioner in London made every effort to see that we were welcomed there and he has certainly given a new face to representation in the manner in which he deals with every Barbadian at every walk and level of life, be he the bus conductor on the Clapham bus or be he the Chief Justice or the Prime Minister of this country. It Is remarkable that a politician who has been engaged in partisan politics could find himself so big to show sometimes a bigger face than one gets from the civil servant who ought to have no fear because he has security of tenure; and I should like publicly on behalf of myself and other colleagues who went to London, to thank him. I believe it is the right face that should be set and I hope in future when I go to London or anywhere else I would not only have to depend on his graceful cooking and the interest that he has shown to us, but also that I would feel that those who represent our country, for at least the occasion that they are doing this, travel on diplomatic passports. Were it not for him and his staff at times, I believe that we would have been the worse off.

I am sorry the time limits me on this. By and large, we hope that the people overseas particularly would appreciate that this substantial vote has cost the country a lot. We would like to see some chopping and some of the window dressing and some of the method by which the money is spent particularly by some of the overseas areas, properly looked at, but, we think that other than trying to reduce spending this year, that the Ministry of External Affairs will remain a vital Ministry to this country, and we can only hope that they will have the right approach to foreign representation in the future.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, having heard the hon. member, I would like to associate myself with all the remarks he has made concerning our visit to the United Kingdom. I can assure you, Sir, that not only the High Commissioner but the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Sam Corbin, did his utmost at all times to make us feel happy and he rendered efficient service. He placed transportation at our disposal on all occasions and I must say that the staff assisted us at all times, and I am going to say this now, Sir, that the hospitality extended to us by the Englishmen was beyond my imagination. They went all out to treat us well and we were treated, I would say, as Royalties, and the experience I have gained by going on that tour shall always be remembered by me, and I feel it incumbent on us and it is our duty that when those people visit us we should reciprocate and do all we can for them realizing that they have done their utmost for us. I can vouch and state here today that they could not have done more to make us feel happy.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like in the first instance to get it down on record our sense of appreciation of a very statesmanlike speech made by the hon. and Learned member for Christ Church West, and to feel that our representation abroad and the leadership which was evinced by the junior Minister for Communications and Works, that all fell in the right sphere and was fully appreciated. It is very encouraging to hear that our representation abroad is of a high calibre, not only to represent Barbados alone but the entire Caribbean, We hope that in the not too distant future the member for Christ Church West, Learned as he is, may be one of our ambassadors abroad.

The question that the sum of $4, 675, 380 under Head 20 - Ministry of External Affairs -as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 25 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 25 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3, 048, 378 under Head 25 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — stand part of the Schedule.

Before doing so I would like to propose the following amendments. 8.30 p.m.

I should like to propose the following amendments:

"Page 46 - Item 2 - Other Personal Emoluments

Delete figure "1, 373, 266" appearing under Column "Other Expenditure, " insert "1, 432, 266" and make consequential amendments.

Page 49 - Item 51 — Audit and Promotional Expenses Delete figure "$5, 000" appearing under Column "Other Expenditure, " insert "4, 400" and make consequential amendments.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, when I first received my copy of the Estimates for this year, I was really at a loss to understand whether or not the present Government had a policy in relation to agriculture. It is quite evident that what the Hon. Prime Minister would call a "non-policy" has now come to light today. One would have thought that, in a year in which all the signs were pointing to the scarcity of food, the Agricultural Department would have been full of activity in an effort to maintain the standard of living to which the people of Barbados have grown accustomed and also to feed the many tourists whom we are hoping to attract to our shores.

Throughout the whole of Head 25, one can find decreases instead of increases. The only remarkable increase in this Head is the provision for repairs to vehicles. It is such a problem that I am unable to analyse this year's Estimates today and say what I would like to say. Of course, one cannot lay all of the blame on the present Minister of Agriculture. The blame must be laid somewhere, and the only place where it can safely be laid is on the Cabinet and the Government of Barbados. It is a question of collective responsibility, and the Cabinet must accept any criticism which is made for the non-policy which now appears on the agricultural horizon.

Mr. Chairman, the Agricultural Credit Bank was created in order to assist the small farmer in this country. From the time I came to this Chamber in 1970, my investigations have revealed that more money has been spent in the administration of the Agricultural Peasant Bank than on the loans given to peasants in this country. That shows that the Government has no policy in respect of the small man. We hear so much about an agrarian policy, but what sort of agrarian policy does the Government has when

almost all of the money is spent on the administration expenses of the Bank?

Let us look at Item 18 - Seed Store. Anybody who has been following agricultural trends knows that there will be a shortage of seeds in the world during 1974—75. It is very obvious that somebody does not understand what is going on in this country, so far as agriculture is concerned. They have decreased the provision for the Seed Store by $25, 259, and yet the cost of seeds has gone up. On the revenue side they will still make a profit, despite the decrease in the sum for the purchase of seeds. It is clear that they do not understand what is going on in the Department.

The Minister of Agriculture will tell you that we are now facing a problem in Barbados. We have developed certain techniques in growing onions. You cannot sell onions at an economic price at the moment, because a Minister has told farmers that if they sell onions over a certain price they will have to be controlled. Last year the same Minister came back to this country and made an announcement that he had fought under the agricultural protocol to get a proper price for farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Trinidad has just given the farmers nearly $1/2 million to purchase onion seeds, insecticides and fertilizers in order to encourage them to grow onions. All of these things have been given to the farmers free. Trinidad had agreed to take our onions, but onions are now being produced in Trinidad. You will be surprised to hear that Trinidad has just increased the price of onions from 33 cents to 42 cents per pound. The price of onions is far below that in Barbados, but the Minister of Trade has told the farmers that if they increase the price he will have to control the price of onions. You can control until you have nothing to control. That is what I call a non-policy in agriculture in this country. With regard to the District Agricultural Stations, when I say that this Government is paying lipservice to agriculture, people think that I am speaking politically.

Mr. Chairman, the last Minister of Agriculture got in here and talked about the population of pigs in this country. In March, 1973, we heard about swine fever and everything under the sun, and up to today we have not recovered our usual position. It used to be approximately 30, 000 to 35, 000, according to the Government's review within the last few weeks, and there are no more than 8, 000 pigs in this country nowadays. Let me turn to the Central Livestock Service. 8.40 p.m.

In the corresponding year in 1974 they had three boar services. Sayes Court since October to March has had three boar services. The Home Agricultural Station had one, but what is the position with the agricultural stations? The Home Agricultural station is running away in grass with a few buffaloes and a few pigs. Bullens is in a similar condition. Let us go further. If we look at the main agricultural station, the Central Livestock Station you would also see, Mr. Chairman that Government has reduced the sum of money which they gave to the Central Livestock Station despite the fact that you have a high feed cost today, and one would know that if you intend to build up your pure bred stock, if you intend to make a station where you can give out what products you have, if you want to disseminate good news you have to keep the agricultural station going. Instead of this they have fallen behind. To show how we have got no policy in agriculture, we tend not to look at the cooperative system. I asked a question in here on the cooperation system. This is an area where one would have thought that the Government would have concentrated more firmly in bringing people together particularly in times of hardship so that they can hold agriculture together. But what has happened? The cooperative movement is gradually disappearing.

You look, again, Mr. Chairman, at the Extension Officers. I have been told that there is a list of twenty-one Extension Officers at the Agricultural Department waiting to be appointed, but can you see one of them today? From 1971 I have been telling the Government that there are no Extension Officers operating in this country. It shows a conflict , in the Government's agricultural policy. Mr. Chairman, the B.M.C. advertise that they now have contract officers who will go out and advise the farmers what to plant, when to plant and how to look after it. You get people moving from the Agricultural Department to the B.M.C. You have the other area of Government lands. There are doing the same thing. They have their own agricultural experts. They do not mix with the Agricultural Department and when you come to the Agricultural Department itself, they I believe have four, but you cannot find them no matter what you do.

I brought a question here but His Honour the Speaker decided I could not ask it. I wanted to ask when is Government going to relieve these four Extension Officers of these jobs and save money for the Government, because if they are doing nothing, it is no use keeping them and giving them travelling allowance and agriculture is going down the drain. You have to tell which one is going to run agriculture. Is it the A.D.C., the B.M.C., or the Agricultural Department. I do not believe either section of Government agriculture can tell you exactly what is happening. That shows you what in my opinion is called non-policy.

You hear the Government speak about agrarian policy. How can you hope to put an agrarian policy into operation if you do not gear yourself to suit such a situation? I called for the introduction of the small tractors in this country whereby the cooperative movement, the small farmers if you decide to cut the land into two or three acre bits, would be assisted. You will understand that you cannot put a Fordson 5000 or a Massy Fergusson or a wheeled tractor into these areas to do cultivation; you must go back to a suitable size of equipment which can operate on a small area, but I am told that a particular officer in the Ministry of Agriculture has said that only over his dead body will he agree or advise Government to bring small equipment into this country. Yet, Mr. Chairman, last year alone they tell you that several small farmers in this country applied to the various Agricultural Departments to have their land ploughed and the time passed and has come around again and they have not yet had it done. What sort of agrarian policy are you introducing if at the same time the Minister preaches ore policy, the Extension Officers preach another and you have nobody in the centre?

I call upon the Minister of Health now to say to the people of Barbados what are the health standards in respect of certain things in Barbados. On the 9th February this year a picture appeared in the Advocate of Officers of the B.M.C. giving the farmer of the week award to a chicken farmer, who is processing chickens in a galvanised shed with a dirt bottom, bare-footed and. the chickens on a piece of wood running on the side. This is supposed to be the farmer of the week. When you get the corresponding aspect of it, you tell the pig farmers that they cannot kill pork in the same conditions. What sort of policy do you call this? On the one hand you tell one section this is not good, and on the other hand you tell the other it is all right. You have the B.M.C. telling you that, but you do not have the. Ministry of Agriculture involved. They are a separate bunch by themselves. So what sort of policy have you got, Mr. Chairman?

I suggest that the Government take a very serious look this year at our grasslands. That sum has been reduced considerably. We have imported into Barbados a number of pedigree cows. You must develop your grasslands, there is no maybe about , in order to maintain pedigree cows. I have heard rumours that

certain members in the community are telling the Minister and other persons that they must follow through a supposed scheme to borrow another $200, 000 or $220, 000 from the Canadian Government to buy beef cattle. I would tell the Minister of Agriculture what I propose. I am not supposed to propose a plan; I am not in Government. We are losing first class stock week after week for two reasons; firstly, there are two inseminators at the Pine. One I understand has given notice of his intention to retire. Farmers over the last few weeks have not been able to have their cows inseminated. What does it mean? It means that at the peak of the next tourist season the milk flow will be considerably reduced and therefore you open the way for the importation of milk which could have been produced in this country if you had a proper policy or knew what you were doing.

The second point involved is that I have learned that the Government has been tardy in getting into this country the necessary facilities for keeping semen. The also shows that the Government is unaware of what it is doing. The third point I, want i raise and I want the Minister to take note of this is that I know one farmer who bought some Holstein cows at a cost of $Can.3, 000 plus freight, but in that very farm you find pure bred calfs being slaughtered within a week and a half or two weeks of birth. Barbados stands in a beautiful position to become the mecca of pure bred cattle to serve the entire Caribbean and other markets, and it is time that you look around and devise a policy and not wait until it is too late. Again I call for the introduction of a dual purpose cow into this community. 8.50 p.m.

I call again for the introduction of a dual purpose cow into this community. Do not let the so-called experts tell you that you can start a pure beef strain in Barbados, you cannot do it, and if you could it would not be done under five or six years. I am sorry that I did not give notice of a particular officer whose name I want to call, and I know most of them over there know who I mean. It is time to tell some of them to go home because they are not with it. The same thing happened with the poultry industry and Newcastle disease. He said he would not allow certain vaccine to come into Barbados and a certain farmer told him if he did not let it in he would release 600 chickens in his office. It is time you see how you are going to feed the people; it is time that you look and save from another avenue. There are beautiful pure bred beef cattle available to you, take the opportunity now and do your necessary cross breeding, save some of the young calves which are being slaughtered and build up a good stock of cattle in Barbados. Look at the so-called technical officers and tell them to go back to school for at least one week and then return to the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, the next point I want to deal with is the reduction which occurs at Item 28 — Control of Rodents and Proclaimed Diseases. You are well aware, Mr. Chairman, of the last Minister coming to the House and asking that a certain Resolution be dealt with because they wanted the money to set up a lab at the Central Livestock Station, but that lab is now without the necessary technical officers. There is no point in having facilities there and no person to look after the experiments which are necessary, we are wasting good time.

Let me look at another aspect of agriculture, and we come to a very burning question, sampling of foodstuffs. For years $10.00 has appeared in the Estimates for this. I have asked the officers to utilise the vote, but you find dairy people and the poultry and pig farmers telling you the feed is not performing in a certain way, and the Ministry of Trade telling you they are taking certain conversion figures and fixing prices, and the Ministry of Agriculture has a token vote of $10.00 and refuses to test the feed. Even if they do not intend to bring prosecutions let them test the feed and give the Ministry of Trade the results to work out a proper conversion figure. The whole problem is that everybody seems to be doing his own

thing, and the worst thing you could ever do is to telephone the Agricultural Department to ask a question. Everybody says it is somebody else who deals with it and they go right down the line. This is not what we want. I see a substantial reduction of $10, 000 for the Central Agronomic Research Station and I would like to hear from the Minister what he intends to do. I heard a rumour that they are going to do their experiments at the A.D.C., the A.D.C. said they wanted to know how that could be because they do not have the technical experts, they are separate from the Department of Agriculture which has the experts.

Look at the Central Cane Breeding Station and you will see the sum has been reduced, but look at the whole sugar industry. The Prime Minister who at one time did not want to see a cane blade is now featured driving a cane harvester — but I am told the blade was turned backwards — with the Minister of Agriculture in the field with him. I wonder if either of them realises that that same Department put out a sugar cane which they say is grown specifically for burning, and now the industry is ripped in two. The last meeting held by Barbados Sugar Factories Limited ended in an uproar with certain members saying all is not well but if they open their mouths the Government will take it over. The Prime Minister came into the House and a big vote was passed for the big project at Uplands which was to have started in 1973 but has not yet started. The people there say they are nothing to do with the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited and there is a big fight there.

The new cane harvester, Mr. Chairman. It is important to us if we must maintain a sugar industry and reduce the level of imported labour. Half of the industry has a certain cane so they are opposing the introduction of the cane harvesting machine, but who is going to suffer? The country as a whole, and I advise the Hon. Minister to stop issuing permits for the burning of sugar cane. Mr. Chairman, you know in your own parish at least three houses have been lost already this year because of cane fires when there was no water in the area. There are several law suits in court now because people lost their homes as a result of cane fires. The entymologists say the parasites have been destroyed by the constant burning, the sugar return has been lowered year after year. Do not mind what they tell you at the Research Station, they will tell you privately that every year you burn cane you reduce the produce by five tons per acre.

I would like the Government to look into this new thing called Barbados Sugar Factories Limited. It is working against the small farmer who sends canes to the factory. Andrews in St. Joseph closed down last year because of what they called an air break, then took canes and send to Guinea at a higher price, but they can take the internal money and offset the debts of the factories. I am calling on the Government not to sit back and let the so-called advisers tell them what is happening, it is time you take a firm hand with sugar in this country if you realise it is the only reliable dollar earner you now have. 9.00 p.m.

As the Minister of Tourism has said, you cannot pin your hopes on tourism because it can leave you tomorrow morning.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see a little bit more spent on co-operatives and irrigation. There was a large vote in this Parliament for irrigation; but people have complained that they have not been receiving their subsidies. I would call on the Government to stop putting forward non policies. I see in the Estimates that they talk about a Peanut Processing Plant and a Pork Processing Plant. These are little token votes for $10.

Why do you think that a poor farmer should let go 10, 000 lbs of carrots all over the country? It is time that you put controls on certain goods coming into the country at certain times. I would back the Minister 100 per cent if he came here and said that you could not import tinned beans or diced carrots in this country.

What is happening? Our people are encouraged to buy tinned food. Go through your constituency on Sunday, look at every table and see if you do not find that 90 percent of the people have diced beets. The hon. member who is labour boss will tell you that his scavengers are saying that they have so many cans to pick up that they cannot get the job done.

How much longer must we go on year after year talking about agro-industries and getting token votes and seeing nothing done? I told the Minister of Communications and Works last week that Barbados and indeed the Caribbean are heading in the wrong direction when it comes to home industries. Mr. Demas has agreed with me. He came out and said why hold down prices of things in the Caribbean and subsidise goods at high prices from foreign farmers.

It is time that the Minister of Agriculture in particular work out a policy in keeping with our needs rather than making statements month after month.

You keep hearing you will have agro-industries and that you will cut up plantations into 3 acre lots. That is why you cannot say that it is this Minister or the other Minister. I must lay the blame on the Cabinet. I cannot blame the last Minister of Agriculture, because if you look at the Order Paper, the last Minister was not out of his ministerial seat for one month before we had some of the most searching questions of the Government including the question about the proposed cassava factory and about crops that are going to waste. Is it an expression of the fact that he was suffering, or that he suddenly realised that he had no policy? All that I know is that the department of Agriculture as a whole has no policy, and I would like to see the new Minister come forth with a bold policy. He must fight like the Minister of Tourism for subsidies for the Agricultural Industry.

You are bringing foreign people from abroad to set up industries which, I hear, are called sweat shops. They are given duty free concessions and a subsidy on trading, but the poor agriculturalist works for a pittance.

Many people who go into these sweat shops do not earn more than $15 to $16 a week while the basic wage for women in agriculture is $6.50 a day. What happens to the farmer? He suffers. The farmers have been crying out, but their voices have not yet been heard.

Come November or December this year, and you will have no pork in Barbados. By July or August we will be scraping for food and up to now we have not heard any policy. I hope that the new Minister will at least create an agricultural policy so that we can know where we are going.

I heard him say that he is not going to sacrifice the farmer on the price alter. He must let the Cabinet know that he will not be sacrificing the farmers when he puts up his policies.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments made by the lion, member for St. Joseph, and as a matter of

fact, I would like to tell him that as far as the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned we do have a policy.

Our policy is to keep the land which we have in sugar cane the best land, because we cannot do without sugar cane at this time. Sugar is still one of the main products in Barbados. We are also committed to a policy of diversification. We intend to grow crops on the lands which are not in sugar cane under our diversification policy.

We have had a policy of diversification since 1961, but we have encountered problems of a very complex nature, and it should be noted that most of the research prior to 1961 was towards sugar cane production.

Since 1965 we have devoted more time to the production of other crops. We have been learning, and we have been trying gradually to introduce more food crops into this country. That has been more marked this year with the present world food crisis, and we know that we must put ourselves in a position to feed ourselves well.

Everybody today is talking about agriculture. We have had comments in the newspapers from various persons and institutions, but the Ministry of Agriculture has got to look for something this year which is meaningful and workable.

We have to think about the farmers of this country. It is no use going ahead using slogans and talking about grow more food and vegetables unless we can plan our production in a proper way. The whole matter is that we have to grow food, but at certain times. We have produced gluts with the result that the consumer has had good prices while the farmers who produced these vegetables have lost by mass production.

This, Sir, is a bad state of affairs in that they have not been given the kind of incentives to stimulate production, and we have to look at it from the point of view that the people who work hard in their fields must be taken care of properly because they have to use their own resources; and it is ridiculous that they have to work that much hard when their returns seem to be less than what they have to put in in terms of labour. 9.10 p.m.

I am not fighting any war on prices. My view is that - before I make a statement, this year, soon too, on my policy for food production, I want to be able to get together with all the farmers. I have set up a National Agricultural Council which would look at all the needs of Barbados as far as food is concerned -the amount of acreage which we need based on our import figures and then how to arrive at the amount of the allocation to be put to the respective crops, so that if the farmers come together more or less in a Union or cooperatively, they would have a better say in marketing their own produce to the satisfaction of the producer, because it would appear that most of the efforts that have been put in — and some very good efforts have been put into agriculture in the past year or so - but they all seem to suffer at the alter of the prices situation. We must understand that these people are hardworking, they belong to this country, they have got to earn a living and we must as politicians and legislators come up with a policy which is going to make it attractive for a man to do his farming. It would be a good thing if the cooperative Department in my Ministry had been able to produce some kind of association between farmers in order that they would gain the better benefits of cooperation, but cooperation in Barbados is a very hard thing to achieve in that Barbadians have a lot of self pride and are independent and they

usually resist any efforts to bring them together - each man thinks that he can carry his own canoe. So efforts at cooperation have not been very successful. I have been completely dissatisfied with the performance of the Cooperative Department, I must confess, It strikes at the whole bottom of the agricultural policy because if we are going to pursue the idea of sub-dividing land into small portions for the small farmers to own a piece of land, then we need to be able to service that land in a cooperative way because there are a lot of benefits under the Cooperative Act, and where you can get almost 75% of the cost of equipment to plough your land if you come together, so that Government by putting those things in the Cooperative Act has more or less provided an incentive for farmers but we have not been able to get the farmers working, I have not given up hope. I intend to have a new look; I intend to reorganise the Cooperative Department, to bring it into my Ministry under the Extension Division to see if I could get some more action being carried out on behalf of the cooperatives because it is my conviction that this is the solution for the small farmer in Barbados.

We have got a very small extension staff. I understand that before my time we had about seventeen extension officers in years past. Today we have got just seven to service the whole Island. We have put up comprehensive proposals to the Establishment Division for a complete reorganisation of the Ministry. We have been asking for more staff; they have been there for over a year being examined by the Establishment Division and the Prime Minister's office and we are waiting word from them in order that we may get ahead in these various sections, but without the extension, all our research work is meaningless; except research is communicated to the farmer you are wasting your time doing research, and you must have a proper extension division.

There are other problems with the Extension Division which are personal in that there are officers who because of not having the relevant qualifications have been cut off at a particular point and they have no hope of promotion, put it that way, and when a man does not have any hope of promotion and he is there at a particular point you cannot expect him to go all out to do your work for you, when he does not have any hope of promotion; and what I would like to see is, that we give a further look and see if we can do anything for those officers by way of extending their salary scales or creating some posts whereby they may be able to become senior agricultural officers in some respects, because it is these men who in the past have given very good service in keeping farmers up to date on what is going on, going back to their land and seeing that crops are planted and that they are planted in the correct way, but it is these same ones now who are the ones that are frustrated; further, weakening our already weak division. So these are all real problems which we have to face in agriculture. They are very big problems.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of the seed store, the reduction is not a real reduction in the cost of materials, but the greatest content of that seed store has been put under another Item, that is why it has been reduced like that under Item 2.

I had a look at the various Agricultural Stations when I first took over and I intend to give them a new meaning. I intend at least at Groves in St. George - there is not much land attached to Groves in any case, but I will use Groves as a very rapid rabbit breeding station because I intend to introduce rabbits again in Barbados; now we are short of meat and things like that I intend to use Groves as a rabbit breeding station.

At the Home, St. Philip - I have put in money to build more pens for pigs. I realise that there is going to be a shortage of pigs this year in any case, and I gave instructions since December last year not to sell

any of our pigs because we will have to keep what we have in order to keep breeding. I intend to use the Home, St. Philip as the piggery. There is also to be a pig breeding station in St. Andrew. There is a problem at Jerusalem where there is a water shortage and the well at Jerusalem does not function well in that the soil itself is a soil which, I think, folds in, so we do not get the amount of water from that well as we would like and we cannot use the water from the domestic sources.

Sayes Court is supposed to be a research station for crops, for further extension of the essential agronomic research, and then there is Bullens where we plant crops and carry out tests on weedicides. 9.20 p.m.

I have been looking at all the Stations in order to give advice so that we can have a proper scheme. I should like to have the cultivation scheme demonstrated from the various Stations so that the peasants could get their lands ploughed in a proper time.

With regard to the Livestock Station, the greatest element of that has been removed. We have taken out the wages.

With regard to the slaughter of animals, we are well aware of what is taking place. We had prepared a paper last year, but it was deferred. We intend to re-open the question of the slaughter of young heifers and pure-bred animals. We will submit a paper on that very soon. A new Animal Health Project which will be coming into operation on the 1st June is included in a completed ensive project, About three weeks ago I asked the Animal Nutrition Consultant to have a look at the various fields of display and to submit an analysis to the Ministry of Trade when they are dealing with different types of animal feed.

The question that the sum of $3, 048, 378, as amended - under Head 25 - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 25(6) - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Head 25 (6) - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Meteorological Service — was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $312, 709 under Head 25 (6) — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Meteorological Service — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I want to comment on the Meteorological Service. A few years ago I spoke about what I considered to be a very poor system of weather reporting in Barbados. I had a discussion with someone who told me that they were preparing certain charts showing rainfall and so on. These things are very important to farmers. Our irrigation system has not developed as quickly as farmers would have liked to

see it. We are suffering from water and other things because of the particular period in which we have to plant certain crops. If we had developed our irrigational system to a certain point, then we would not have found ourselves in this position.

Mr. Chairman, .as soon as the plantations reap the canes they will plant carrots, yams, potatoes and cabbages. I think it is time that the small Barbadian farmer realises that planting sugar cane does not profit him. Sugar cane can only profit the large plantations. If the small farmer wants to make a profit he must plant vegetables, but he can only do that if there is rain. Our weather forcasts are based on: "Fair today. Clouds overhanging." For several years we have had a Meteorological Service, and I feel that we should have a farmer's report. I want the Minister to see whether they can produce a farmer's report along with weather conditions so that those who do not have irrigation can plant things after planning what should be planted.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I think that because of the paucity of numbers on the other side, they have decided to pontificate on everything under the sun. It is a sort of narcissus, Sir. This is relevant and germane, Sir, and you cannot rule me out of order. The position is that all over the world, as a result of the movement of air masses, you will get a certain amount of difficulty in forecasting accurately. In places like Barbados you are not dealing with polar and maritime air as you would get in the Gulf of Mexico.

I am not going to do like some of my associates in here on both sides of the House. I know a little about meteorology. I was responsible for getting the W.M.O. to establish one of two institutions in the world in tropical meteorology in Barbados. I think I am one of the few persons who have ever scored 100% in meteorological service. Over 30 years ago I used to draw synoptic charts which showed the movement of air masses over a wide expansion of ocean or land masses. If you are making predictions in places like Canada you can almost predict within 11/2 hours that the rain is going to fall. You even have the reports from various stations in the area to assist you. 9.30 p.m.

We are the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands. There is a stagnation area 500 miles east of here where all the hurricanes that hit the eastern seaboard of the United States are generated and have their being, and we are lucky that it is 500 miles away because they have not generated enough force by the time they reach Barbados. Most of the rainfall that we have here in Barbados is what is called local convectional rainfall and the Government of Barbados purchased a study going back thirty years which is available in the Ministry of Agriculture to all the farmers in Barbados showing the effects of local convectional rainfall over a period of thirty years. I do not care where you bring a forecaster from, you cannot predict in Barbados within any given period of time where or when the rain is going to fall, so if you want the forecasters that we have who are as well trained as any in the world - we are training meteorological officers, Met. assistants, forecasters and meteorologists pure and simple at the top of the pyramid - to predict where you are going to get local convectional rainfall which is the bulk of our rainfall outside the hurricane season in Barbados, it is impossible, and if the hon. member will bring me some expert from Florida, from Miami University or from the Meteorological Institute here in Barbados who can predict when the rain is going to fall in Barbados, I would be happy. I can predict almost with certainty when I get to the bottom of Bush Hill, and the rain is falling in Bay Street, that it will stop at Bush Hill. Sometimes when I get to the top of Bush Hill it is still falling and it falls all the way to Seawell. There is one phenomenon that there is a line of demarkation, but you cannot predict when or where rain is going to fall. It has nothing to do with irrigation because if we could do so we could

predict our sugar crops with absolute certainty. When you are in a place like Canada - I was in a place called Thunder Bay, and I could make out a synoptic chart three days in advance and tell you almost to the1 hour when snow was going to fall because you had cold fronts, and we used a theory called the Norwegian theory of fronts and depressions which does not apply below the Tropic of Cancer, and you could predict within an hour or an hour and a half when you would get snow or rain. He wants our forecasters to do what the Almighty Himself has not vouchsafed for us and the rest of mankind, to predict when it will rain for the farmers so that they can plant their crops. If we could do that we would have no problems in Barbados at all. It is impossible, and if the hon. member is such a keen farmer I invite him to go and see the 30 years of research which was done and which Government paid $1, 500 for from the estate of some deceased person on local convectional rainfall.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation, will the Minister tell me how long it has been there and who is in charge of it, because I will tell him that since last year I have been asking for it and they told me they are now trying to prepare one; so if it is there you can tell me how long it has been there, who has it and where I can find it.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Approximately seven years in the Ministry of Agriculture. Do you think I know the names of all the officers? Go and ask the Minister or the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. BOLDEN:

That is the typical Prime Minister's exercise of getting out of difficulties. Somebody wants somebody to do what the Almighty cannot do. If he knows it is in the Ministry of Agriculture he has his officers sitting there and they usually pass notes to him. What is wrong with somebody passing a note and saying who has it now? The Prime Minister can trick other people but he cannot trick me with that. He can predict snow better than experts in Britian, Holland or in the United States. He is the God Almighty, the predictor of all men's fate.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

He is a stupid little cock sparrow.

Mr. BOLDEN:

And he is a stupid big guts sparrow, one that cannot bend over and pick up the feed from under his feet. As soon as you get so, I can get like you too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

Both hon. members will sit. Now I have already spoken here today relative to the behaviour of hon. members in the Chamber about mud-slinging at each other. This is one of the things I have asked should not take place in the Chamber. There are no cock sparrows in this Chamber as far as I know and there are no big guts sparrows here either. There are all hon. members. Since both hon. members have taken their own attitude, it will stand at that where the Chair is concerned and we will get back to the Head.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, I am really not concerned about the hon. member. They think that abusing and shouting and that kind of thing is representation. I do not agree with that. I am saying that we have had a report on local convectional rainfall covering a period of 30 years. They come in here and criticise the forecasters because the farmers do not know when the rain is going to fall. All I can say is that it falls on the just and the unjust. That is all we know. I am merely trying from a scientific point of view, and if I cannot produce documentary evidence of what I have said about my research on meteorology by tomorrow morning when the House meets, I will give the hon. member $1, 000, but I will make you the referee. I will produce documentary evidence to prove it. I am saying that in the Ministry of Agriculture there is the research work which we purchased from the estate of someone whom I do not believe is with us any more trying to evolve some kind of behaviouristic pattern on local convectional rain, which is the only kind of precipitation outside the hurricane season that we are privileged to have in Barbados. I do not want to go into the intricacies of local convectional rain. We do not get a series of occlusions and depressions, warm fronts and cold fronts as they do above the Tropic of Cancer because our whole air movements are moving in the opposite direction where the Norweigian theory would have some kind of validity. You cannot get in here and abuse the meteorological officers because they cannot tell you that the rain is going to fall on this side of the savannah at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and you can play a cricket match on the other side. It is impossible in Barbados. If we could do that we could regulate the volume of sugar that we produce every year with a maximum degree of certainty, and we would have no economic problems in Barbados. These are phenomena and they are not predictable; so when a weather forecaster says it is going to be fair and sunny with occasional showers, he cannot tell you the rain is going to fall in Marley Vale, St. Philip at 3 o'clock in the afternoon as they can do in the continental mass of North America. What has he got to get abusive for and tell me I should go and ask an officer for? I am telling him that if he goes to the Ministry of Agriculture he will have available to him all the research done by private persons and by the public sector on precipitation, rainfall, humidity and everything in Barbados over the past thirty years, and from that he will see it is impossible for us to forecast with any degree of accuracy so that farmers can plant their crops. Now if he thinks we can do what the Almighty has not done for Barbados or any other place in the Caribbean, then this is not the function of the Government. But because he likes a little farming he likes to pontificate, but there is one thing he cannot challenge me on. He may challenge me on growing guinea birds, pigeons or geese, but when it comes to meteorology I will take an examination with him tomorrow morning.

The question that the sum of $312, 709 under Head 25(6) - Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology - Meteorological Service - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 9.40 p.m.

HEAD 33 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 33 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, it will be necessary to amend this Head before making the motion. After Item 25 insert a new Item, Item 25A - Provident Fund and insert the figure "$480, 000". I have already given notice of this in the sense that it has been circulated, and the note to it will read as follows "Grant to supplement amount available under the scheme."

Subject to that, I beg to move that the sum of $1, 800, 845 under Head 33 - Ministry of Housing, Lands Labour and National Insurance -as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr Chairman, under this head there is a token provision for Trade Disputes, and this token provision is in connection with investigations of disputes under the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Act, 1939. I would like to make it clear that only this morning I had a meeting at the Department of Labour, and in spite of what had been written and said about trade disputes there was a dispute in this country a couple of months ago and there was a strike. Resulting from that strike some of the employers undertook to dismiss some of the workers and three months later this dispute has not been settled with about five workers involved. I believe some of the employers and some of the Police listened to the speech by the Prime Minister and they felt that they had the green light to prosecute people, so we have this spectacle now where in industrial relations you can get people coming to Barbados after three months since the strike is over they can go to the Department of Labour.

I think the time has come for a different approach, and we expect to see the Minister of Labour next week. It is true that the Department of Labour has to look around very carefully to understand labour administration. The Government has sent people abroad to study this but they have been able to provide the community with the kind of stature and calibre to demand the kind of respect which is necessary. Far from that we have the unfortunate situation in Barbados where Government officers can hold important Government positions today and leave the Government office and go into a position with the employers tomorrow. I can draw my own conclusions. For example, a former Labour Commissioner is now the Director of the Employers' Confederation. You have a man who was a Minister of Government high up in the Government, but is the Director of the Sugar Producers' Federation with all his knowledge and knowhow; a former Financial Secretary only last week succeeded this man, so the climate in Barbados is that we are getting an employer oriented society from the point of view of officers of the Government, and as soon as they leave the Government they are in the Employers' Confederation, but when they are in the Government they advise the Government on how to take hold of the workers.

There is in the Ministry of Labour a strong move afoot to deal with trade disputes. The tendency today is that in the Trade Union the workers can be made to feel they do not have any rights, that their rights are secondary, and if you go to the Government the Government will fix them up. I want the Minister of Labour to understand that he will never ever, in any Government or in any section of the community, get the support of the workers of this country in any legislation which is repressive. As far as I am concerned I will resign from any Government which produces a Bill which makes it repressive on the workers, I will not compromise on that, I will waste my 29 years of public life and sit down to see the re-introduction of the thing which caused the 1906 Trade Disputes Act to be enacted in the United Kingdom. This is 1974, 68 years later. It gave birth to the socialist political party of the United Kingdom and it has been the forerunner of many of the socialist parties, so I cannot be a party to that because I am a congenital socialist and I have no compromise to make on any of these things. I came from too far back, too low down, too poor to be associated with repressive measures on the workers. I fought everybody in here and in Barbados on peaceful picketing. The Prime Minister is asking me if I fought him.

In 1958 I said in this Chamber that a Minister came in with the idea that peaceful picketing was obnoxious legislation and I fought him. 9.50 p.m.

Let the Minister understand that I have never been associated with anyone, even with my best friend, on having repressive legislation. That is something that is fundamental in so far as I am concerned. It would be like asking the Archbishop of Canterbury to the sacrament in a gambling den.

There is a tendency in Barbados today to believe that because the Government is a black government, and the trade union is a black trade union that you can have some kind of black legislation passed for some of those employers who want to see repressive legislation come down. In so far as I am concerned, I will be in the forefront of the battle. I do not want any alliance with any one. I only ally myself with what I consider right.

Members on the Other Side do not have to look at me, because I do not require them. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke about the Almighty as being responsible for many things. We blame the Almighty for many things, and even the hon. member you will have to blame the Almighty for because " those are some of the contradictions that you get when you live in this world. Anyhow, I am not going to have his sins on my shoulders.

I feel that this is too important a matter. It is too vital to the peace of this country. There is a tendency in the Caribbean today to pass legislation restricting trade unions. Trinidad has passed such legislation, and they have had more strikes since then than before they passed this legislation. In Guyana where there is a multiplicity of trade unions, thay had more strikes than at any other time before. In Jamaica - you do not have strikes in Jamaica, you have murders when there is an election on.

We do not want to get into that. The history of industrial relations in Barbados, the history of the trade union movement is one that is an example to any country in the world. We are responsible where trade unionism is concerned. There are less industrial rows than you get absenteeism. You do not dismiss a man because he does not come to work.

I have on my file the case of an employer from the U.K. coming here and saying at the Deep Water Harbour that he would tell his people in the U.K. that things are all right here and that they would like to open a factory here; but when they heard about our pay policy they said that it was too much money.

It is the employers who are repressive. We could call a strike at Coral Reef now, or at the Paradise Beach Hotel; but we do not call a strike for five people; but they have to be reinstated. There is nothing in the law to compel an employer to take a man back on his job. You can dismiss a man without giving him a reason, but when we call out other workers in support of aggrieved workers it is something else.

We have had a case since January, 1974 because the employer refused to deal with it. We gave the worker strike pay every week for the last 13 weeks; but when we call our other brothers to come in and give assistance, people run up Bay Street and tell the Prime Minister that we cannot have port workers called out in a trade dispute because the island wants food? and that we are holding the community up to ransom.

The workers in Barbados are living in an age when their unity and solidarity is going to supercede all of this. The workers do not represent any subversive organisation or underground movement. The workers do not represent an organisation that is carrying out any clandestine movement against the community, or planting bombs in anyone's place or indulging in criminal acts.

The Barbados Workers' Union represents workers in a fair struggle, and the union expects that the Minister and the Government would support this cause.

We have passed the stage where you have to identify your groupings. The workers have shown that unmistakeably. The presence of members in this Chamber in such numbers looking like what they look like is enough testimony to show that. I think that what happened in the U.K. last week or week before last is enough of a lesson for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, to hear and to see that when workers are alert this is what can happen. Mr. Heath wanted to use the miners and was rejected.

There is no question in Barbados that the workers have reached the stage that they have a right to be represented and that this is nothing that they are begging for. There is no question of blocking the streets, but some people should be made to learn that at this stage there is no need for a Better Security Act. This is hot a workers' Act. This was passed in a day when our people were a subject people, when you had to work for 36 cents a week and carry out the orders of the employer, and no matter what he did you could not strike.

I have discussed some of these matters with a gentleman from the USA where they have more violence in the trade union movement than anywhere else. 10.00 p.m.

Henry Ford employs people in Detroit to shoot down people. It is a pity that they gave him that name. He does not have a happy labour connotation (ASIDE) He had a very bad record in attacking the people in Detroit in the early thirties. They had gangsters to shoot down the workers.

I feel the time has come in Barbados that we have to speak out, and so far as I am concerned, so far as speaking as a representative of the workers is concerned - I have been General Secretary of the Union for the last twenty five years and I believe that - I do not like to boast about these things but - I have been the General Secretary of a Trade Union in the Caribbean longer than any other General Secretary in the Caribbean. There is none that has been General Secretary longer than I have been, but I do not talk about these things because this may only be an accident of good health. I do not regard this as any particular credit to me. But I have been associated with the labour movement all my life. That is all I am and all I ever pretend to be and I feel that this is where I will die - seeking to make life easier for people in this way.

Moreover, there is a climate in Barbados -the trade union movement in Barbados so far as the Barbados Workers' Union is concerned - there is a climate of association and understanding; not a climate of hostility. Therefore if you are 1 operating in a climate of hostility, then you can say let us pass legislation to deal with hostile groups. The Barbados Workers' Union has taken up its stand on public issues; it is not afraid; I together with my colleagues endorse the Manifesto of the party of which I am a member. In that Manifesto it states its position quite clearly so far as the workers and the union are concerned.

I have heard many things in Barbados about who is running the country; somebody wants to know if we want to take away the position from the Prime Minister. They tell the Prime Minister 'he seems to be getting more power than you.' Well, we have all those sort of things. I listened to some of that for many years. When the late Sir Grantley Adams was there, there were people in that party, they were so jealous of me that I am very glad that I am out of that and the ones who were jealous of me are out too but outside, and I am still inside looking out at them. I have survived.

So when you do not have these cheap, bogus ambitions, - they were so jealous of me, they said 'he is too near to the old man'. He ran an election and they wanted to know what was happening that he did. not appoint a Deputy Prime Minister. I cannot be a Deputy I am a General Secretary. I am whatever I am, and whatever I am I have no ambition to usurp anybody's position, but what I do say

is, in this matter of token legislation in dealing with disputes I would like the Minister to understand quite clearly that any legislation dealing with the trade disputes in this island, it has to be stated quite openly - there is no 'evidence, absolutely none, to justify any suggestion that this country is on the brink of a disaster.

The Barbados Workers' Union has done a lot to help and to assist in industrial development.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. member's time is up.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Very well, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, I think a good place at which to begin is with the statement made by the hon. member for St. Michael West that he would never support any measures that are repressive to the workers. I will add this, Mr. Chairman, neither will I be a Minister in any Government that will propose or send down any measures that will be repressive to the workers. Any Government that I happen to be a member of that intends to send down any measure that will be repressive of the workers, I will leave that Government and I will join the Barbados Workers' Union and I will demonstrate against those measures.

A lot of misunderstanding has clearly gone into certain proposals that came down and were circulated to several orgaiusations-workers' and employers' organisations in this country. Some of the misunderstanding I understand - I believe has been deliberate. I am not accusing the union of that. I have seen a considerable amount of misrepresentation. I believe in fact that quite a lot has been misunderstood but not all has been misunderstood. It has been misrepresented. We have to face facts.

Once you are in political life you have to take the sling and the arrows that come your way, and I believe a lot has been misrepresented. I have read in the newspaper not so long ago - a weekly newspaper - some of the misrepresentations based on the proposals that have been sent down. In the first place it is not true to say that any proposals sent down by my Ministry are based on any Better Security Act. That is not the case. The proposals are to, in fact, repeal the Better Security Act and replace it by something else. 10.10 pan.

The proposals should repeal the Security Act and replace it by something else I do not want to go into details on these proposals, and I will merely state the general principles of the proposals. We are still having meetings on these matters, and I do not intend to go into the details. In these proposals there are only about four lines that make any reference to the Better Security Act.

I strongly believe, and I have had no evidence to the contrary, that in other countries some of their services must be essential. That is what the Better Security Act was calling for in 1920, I believe that certain services are essential services, and the I.L.O. believes this, too, I do not believe there is anybody who does not believe that there must be essential services. Nowhere in these proposals is there anything about curtailing the rights of the workers to picket. The workers, according to the proposals, will continue to enjoy the right to peaceful picketing as they have been doing all along.

There is a proposal to amend the Trade Union Act of which the union is very well aware and which the union supports. These amendments have been given passing mention by the hon. member for St. Michael West this evening. I am referring to the right to organise and the right of association. We believe that these rights are fundamental. We believe that every worker has the right to join a trade union. We believe that every worker has the right to join an association of his choice.

Mr. Chairman, sooner or later we are going to send to the respective organisations, as we normally do, the Bills relating to these amendments to the Trade Union Act. This, Mr. Chairman, is the sum total of any proposed amendment to the Trade Union Act. I would suggest that the proposals which have been sent out be read again very carefully. I do not pretend to believe that our situation in Barbados is in any way parallel with any other person's situation. Be that as it may, it is illuminating to me to find that our proposals are almost 100% exactly what the Manley Government, or the Manley Union, has agreed to. We are not living in Jamaica and our proposals should be tailored to suit the needs of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the vote is a token vote. The Arbitration Inquiry Act is dead and, probably, should not be on the Statutue Books. Nobody has ever used it to the best of our knowledge and information, It is a wasted piece of legislation. Nobody uses it and nobody wants to use it. We are in 1974 and not in 1940. I should like to state here, categorically, that none of the proposals which were sent to the Cabinet and to the respectable organisations contains anything that would be repressive to the workers' rights in Barbados.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the Minister introducing this Resolution. I have also listened to the hon. member for St. Michael West putting a case which, apparently, is only based on the interpretation of the legislation in its last form. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a storm in a teapot. It reminds me of the two boxers who came from Trinidad to Barbados some years ago. When they were in camp they got on as if they wanted to kill somebody, but when they entered the ring at the Yankee Stadium on the night of the fight they only made sport for people.

I believe that I can speak on behalf of my colleagues. I would never support any legislation brought down by anybody that would corrode the rights of the workers, or would withhold the right of the worker to picket. The hon. member for St. Michael West was a member of our Party. It is c! to the work of the Barbados Labour Party that the Barbados Workers' Union was formed. There is merely a misunderstanding between the late Sir Grantley Adams and the General Secretary of the Barbados

Workers' Union. I know that in the dark days the Barbados Labour Party fought to see that the workers were given their rights. We had to deal with the DaCostas and the Big Six. It was Sir Grantley who placed the workers in a position to call the tune. They have now reached a position where people have to ask them to work, beg them to work, and pay them to work. A Minister once said that he would not move a millimetre of an inch, but he was a mere joke.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that the Minister will ever associate himself with the workers' union. His attitude is not such as would give one the impression that he is interested in the workers. He does not have that background. As far as the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union in concerned, I have said in front of his face and behind his back that he is the finest trade union Secretary in the West Indies. 10.20 p.m.

I believe that he is the finest trade Union Secretary in the West Indies, and I believe that the Barbados Workers' Union should be proud for all he has done in all the years and will do in the years to come, and no Government, inspite of whether the Workers' Union is trying to marry either directly or indirectly with it, should be so rude in the 1970s as to challenge the rights of the workers in this country today, and all credit must be given to the member for St. Michael West with most credit going to this party for the vision they had in those dark days of which the hon. member was a member. I can only conclude that the General Secretary of the Union must have misinterpreted the law which they are bringing, because lawyers sometimes do not understand the law, and that is why they have all these court cases. They interpret the law differently; so if the General Secretary has interpreted it in his way that it would give the impression of curbing any powers of the Union, I am in full support with him, and I would say to my colleagues that I am going to be one of the first to do battle with them.

I have never been in a position to join the Union but the hon. member would know that I attempt to send a bank note when they had the struggle. I did not want my colleagues to know, but I sent it with a note saying "From Lam". I was a little scared, not from the point of view of their dismissing me, but to save any embarrassment. I am not supporting Frank, I am supporting the Trade Union, because any legislation which will in any way tend to curb the rights of the people of this country I would suggest to Government to look at again and give it some more thought so as to avoid any problems which may confront the Union and therefore disrupt the entire economy of the country. We say there is no money in the Treasury and that the economy is shattered. The other side can say that they have a lot of money and that is why youngsters can go to theatre morning, noon and night. I say to the Committee that we are not joining with the General Secretary of the Union, but we will join with the workers to fight any bit of legislation that would curb the Workers' Union. I am nothing to do with what legislation we may have fought years ago; I was not around then. This is a different team with a fresh set of brains. This is no new wine in old bottles. We are a new thinking team with brains and I wish to assure the 'Trade Union as a whole and all my colleagues on this side, despite what you have to say about their working for B.S. & T., whether they are directors of Bim or directors of any Bridgetown firm, that I will not sit side by side with them unless they share the views of the masses of this country, for the harmony of both the worker and the employer. That is my wish and I hope the Minister will take heed. I know that the hon. member for St. Michael West might not look into the law himself, but I believe he has an Attorney-at-Law giving him a little peep in. I believe he may be at first slip and close up; so I would advise the Minister to give it some thought and do not let us have any more problems. We cannot afford that at this stage.

The question that the sum of $1, 800, 845 under Head 33 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 33(4) - MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE LANDS AND SURVEYS DIVISION

Head 33(4) - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - Lands and Surveys Division - was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $112, 043 under Head 33(4) - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - Lands and Surveys Division, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 33(5) - NATIONAL INSURANCE Head 33(5) - National Insurance - was called

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $51, 223 under Head 33(5) - National Insurance - stand part of the Schedule

Hon. A. MORRISON:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 34(1) - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 34(1) - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, before moving this Head, I would like to point out that there are two amendments. Under Item 4 -National Insurance, instead of $7, 564 it should be $12, 448, and under Item 10 - Government Advertisements, instead of $34, 300 it should be $39, 445, which makes the total expenditure $2, 943, 045.

I beg to move that the sum of $2, 943, 045 under Head 34(1) - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, tourism apparently is here with us unfortunately under the supervision, to my mind, of the wrong Minister. I am really sorry for this and I would never forgive the Prime Minister. I am not with him on that score. Sir, what bothers me about the whole aspect of tourism in this country is the problem we are finding with guesthouses. I think this is something which needs looking into quite carefully. 10.30 p.m.

They are, Mr. Chairman, like the small village shops, closing down one by one. It is unfortunate to see these small guest houses slowly going out of business. (Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I would like hon. members once again to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. CRAIG:

I am very concerned about the whole setup with the small guest houses in this country. It appears to me that the Government will have to do something to assist these people. The problem as I understand it is that during the summer months, and according to the Development Plan, the occupancy rate including the luxury hotels, "A" Class Hotels, "B" Class Hotels and Guest Houses is increasing. You will find that these package tours and chartered flights you have coming down here, most of the people decide to go to the Hilton or Holiday Inn and pay $20 during the summer rather than at places like San Remo or Andre a-on-sea, and because of this you are finding that these people cannot afford to carry the overhead although they turn off some of the staff, because they do not do that well in the winter. They cannot charge U.S.$124 per day because they do not have the clientele, and then in the summer the luxury hotels charge these very high prices and these people are not going to come to the guest houses because the accommodation is not as good, and I do not blame them. Since the Government is prepared to put money at their disposal, I think, through the I.D.C. and through the Barbados Development Bank, then you cannot allow these people to build these guest houses and then close them down. The Prime Minister is well aware of the one called Bajan Inn in which I think he has most of the interest.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would like to assure the hon. member that I have no interest in any guest house, hotel or any such institution. I never had and never will.

Mr. CRAIG:

He must have sold out his interest, because the Bajan Inn was a whole setup, and I am quite sure the Prime Minister had some interest in it, not a financial interest.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order, they come in here and make all kinds of false accusations. I have never had any interest in any kind of hotel, guest house or any such institution in Barbados or anywhere in the world, and he goes on making these slanderous statements about something I know absolutely nothing about.

Mr. CRAIG:

However, Sir, he is well aware of the fact that a small guest house has been closed because of the

same problem. Indramer and San Remo are on the verge of closing. Andrea-on-sea has just had a loan from the Barbados Development Bank or I.D.C. to put up an additional building. If you can allow these small guest houses to close down where are we going from here? The onus is on the Government to assist these people in trying to withstand the rigours of the economy of the hotel industry. I would like to hear the Minister of Tourism on this because he should have all the facts of the problem.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the Government the fact that I disagree with these Bonanza tours. I do not believe they serve any useful purpose and I believe that the country would be better served if an agency was set up in North America or Bermuda wherever we want to sell Barbados where the agent could sell to the whole of North America, Europe or wherever he is based. I am told this is a better exercise than the Bonanza trip, because I am told that many of these hotel owners on these trips take in their hip pockets their calling cards. These are complaints made, that they go on these Bonanza trips and as soon as they meet a certain agent they show these cards and put their own interests first, and I am particularly concerned about these trips because they do not seem to be getting over Barbados to the people.

I observe that you have about 7, 000 beds, I think, in the industry, and I would like to hear the Minister of Tourism's views on this particular aspect of the problems which are confronting the small hotels or guest houses. You have people coming from the other territories, and Silver Beach is fortunate enough to put up the Shell Shield cricketers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Silver Beach functions on the basis of providing good food and proper public relations.

Mr. CRAIG:

I support the Minister on that because the first place I would send anybody is the Silver Beach. It is a place I like myself and I have my own reasons for liking it, but I think we can be on dangerous ground where many of these small guest houses are concerned; they are going out of business. I know they cannot meet the summer expenses and the occupancy during the winter does not help them to carry the burden. I would really like to hear the Minister of Tourism on this.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, there is something I know of, which I think should be brought out. What the hon. member for St. James said should be corrected. He spoke about the trade. I do not think the hotels are closing down, because I will tell the hon. member we have 20 people coming here on the 20th of next month to participate in a seminar and we checked out nearly six hotels before we could get accommodation for next month. This is after the end of the season because we could hot afford to bring them here during the season. As a trade unionist I would say to the hon. member that people are endeavouring to come. 10.40 p.m.

I have received requests from people in North America and people in Europe who thought that our rates were reasonable. What runs people at times is that some of our rates are so high during the peak season that they cannot afford to come.

What we would like the Minister to do is what I have seen in Mexico. There are some nice hotels in Mexico with prices that are extremely competitive. Mexico is the same four hours from New York as

Barbados is, but they can attract people from the USA to come there.

I think that the problem is with the small hotels like Indramer. That is over. The former operator of Indramer is no longer operating that place; but you can put some people to operate Fort Knox and when you go back you have to look for money. There are some people who are born losers, while there are some people who, no matter how you shuffle the cards, their cards will come to the top. Some businesses do not belong to some people, and the hotel business is one that you have to watch.

Mrs. Maitland has added on something to her place. There are other people who have to rent out their flats. On the other hand there are some people in Barbados doing good business all the time.

Mr. CRAIG:

On a point of explanation. Apartments do better and that is why Mrs. Maitland and Mrs. Clarke are doing this business.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of explanation.

Mr. WALCOTT:

They have some people who keep company with the Prime Minister and do not see about their own affairs. Start looking at the Prime Minister and not at the Flash'N and it will soon flash out.

Mr. CRAIG:

I would like the hon. member to know that the Flash'N is no longer under my operation. I have flashed out of that.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Seriously, Sir, in the hotel business, I think that one of the problems is that of price. I think that the Hon. Minister for Tourism knows that well. He has been in the business himself. I think that what the Government should be given credit for is having brought Europeans here from Luxemburg. The Germans are not the kind of people who like to flash about money for the sake of doing it. They want somewhere where they can enjoy themselves on the beach. They are not the kind of people that night clubs matter to. They want good food and somewhere to enjoy themselves. I think that what hotels should try to do during the summer season is to attract more West Indians to come here. I have been told that you could get more people to come here in the summer if you offered attractive prices. I do not mean cheap hotels from the point of view of service. I have seen that you can go into a hotel in Miami for $15 or $20 a day and you get T.V. in colour in your room. You go where you want to eat. You can go to Miami Beach which is expensive, but in the off season you can get a hotel on the beach at a reasonable price. I wonder what is wrong with the hotels here that they cannot offer attractive prices. I think that they want to make too much money too quickly.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I will give way if any other hon. member wishes to speak. The hon. member for St. James raised two particular points, the question of the small hotels and the question of the Bonanza tours abroad. I have to agree with the member for St. James that the problem of the small hotel is one of the most serious problems that we have, not only in Barbados, but in the Caribbean. They are faced with

serious competition from many different points of view.

As the hon. member for St. Michael West mentioned, the expensive hotels will have high rates in the winter and cheap rates in the summer. The small hotels cannot get the big rates in the winter, and they try to get them in the summer. That is where their problem lies.

There is also a problem for them where large groups travelling together are concerned. The large groups use the larger hotels rather than the smaller hotels which do not have enough space to house them together; and these big operators do not want to use more hotels than are necessary.

The difficulty, however, is to persuade the small hotels to join together in some form or another, whether it is some type of cooperative, to promote themselves and to plan to spend their money together; but there is a very individualistic attitude towards these things and every small hotel is an individual entity offering something different from the other. At the same time, I think that it would be better if they could join together and co-operate in the same way as any other business. 10.50 p.m.

The type of problem, or lack of initiative that one encounters, for example, is demonstrated in the fact that while the guest houses and small hotels have representation on the Board of Directors of the Barbados Hotel Association nevertheless this association up to very recently and after considerable prodding, had not invited the small Hotel Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Hotel Association to come to Barbados, and this was a great pity, I felt, and I mentioned it on numerous occasions but it did not seem to get any enthusiasm, and I hope now that they may be coming in June. This is a group with which I have been working for some time, who have been going from one country to another in the Caribbean and I have been with them on one or two occasions. They are comprised of people who have been operating small hotel properties in one Caribbean Island or another, who are prepared to go voluntary and give their time and give their expertise and knowledge and experience to anyone who wants to come along, and these type of things are being conducted in many Caribbean Islands today.

I hope they are coming here in June, but one of the aims of the small Hotel Advisory Committee which tries to help people to operate a better property and therefore get more business, is to emphasise the very attractiveness of an individual small hotel as compared to one of the larger ones. In the small hotel, a guest is a guest. They have a name. Probably the hotel owners or the manager or both know what they prefer to eat or what they prefer to drink, and see that they get it. In the larger property of course, it is all much more impersonal and a person is more likely to be known by a room number than by a name.

With regard to the Bonanza tours, the hon. member for St. James mentioned that the hotel people who go on the Bonanza tours seem inclined to pull their own brochures out of their pockets and push them in people's faces and try to sell their own properties, but I would like to explain to the hon. member for St. James that this is precisely what they have gone for. Everyone of the people who go as members of die hotel association has paid entirely his or her own expenses. The only people that the Government pays for are the people who are going representing the Barbados Board of Tourism, and I would give you an example. Just recently there was a tour, — you might have seen in the newspaper — to the southern parts of the United States — to Miami, New Orleans, Houston and Dallas, and the Board was represented by two members, Mr. Paul Foster and Mr. Hamilton Bailey, and by two staff members they being Mr. Odle the Director of Tourism and Mr. Marshall. Now they were four out of twenty who went

but all of the others paid their own fare, ground transportation, hotel meals, etc. So you will understand that under those circumstances they paid to go along to this promotion and naturally they carried their own brochures with them.....

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell us if they explore the possibility of going into the southern States — the Bonanza team to see if they could bring some of the trade here. I observed they are usually in North America and I wonder if they explored this possibility.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, from 10th March to 15th March they went to Miami, New Orleans, Houston and Dallas. I know that last year they went to Atlanta; I do not know if they are going this year. A group is leaving tomorrow for Canada and the Board members are Mrs. Hinds, Mr. Burrowes the Chairman, Mr. Foster, Mr. Odle and Mrs. Nehaul — Mr. Odle and Mrs. Nehaul are on the staff. These are the people who are going. They will be accompanied by — I do not know how many — hotel people, possibly some Chamber of Commerce representatives who go promoting, duty free shopping, possibly by water sports promoters who go promoting; but all of these people go entirely at their own expense. Of course, anybody is welcomed to go.

So I hope this explains the point the hon. member has raised. I would also say that from the point of view of having an agent or agency or whatever it was that was mentioned, in North America we do have our Board of Tourism people in New York to try and cover as much of the United States as they can and now there is not only the representative or the manager there who happens to be Mr. Bynoe, but he now has three assistants apart from the secretarial staff; and in Canada we have in Toronto a manager, Mr. Sam Carter, and he has two assistants and this is much more than they ever had before. So these people are constantly there and when the Board's team go up, needless to say they have done all the preparatory work and they do the follow-up work as well after the team has left. I hope that has explained the point which the hon. member asked about.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, in 1972 when I said in this House that tourism as it operates in Barbados, taking the trend set by the hon. member who has just sat down, was operating in a position which would eventually kill the small man in the business, he got up in here and said it was not true; but time plays tricks on funny people because unless you have a good brain you cannot lie so long that people cannot remember. I said in 1972 that the small hotels in Barbados were not profiting from the Bonanza tours and they will soon find that they will have to go out of business, and the Hon. Minister got up in here and said that they had representation on the Bonanza tours. Now he has told us in 1974 that the people who go on the Bonanza tours pay for themselves and therefore they are entitled to hand out their own brochures, and he would wish that the small hotels band themselves together, promote themselves together and spend their money together. Same words.....

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way. On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. It is simply that many of the small hotel people do go on the Bonanza tours and do pay their own way. They pay their own way the same way as anybody else.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the hon. member looks after the big hotels — Sandy Lane, Blue Waters, Holiday Inn and the like. 11.00 p.m.

It is clear that the hon. member looks after the big hotels like the Blue Waters, Sandy Lane, Holiday Inn and so on. Let the Hon. Minister tell the people in Barbados the truth. Let the Hon. Minister tell the people of Barbados that the system of these Group Tours is now so designed that the small hotels cannot get out of the situation in which they have found themselves. Let him tell them that the Group Tours have now entered into an agreement with the big hotels to reduce the rates during the winter months to $120 and $150.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I say that is not true.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am telling you that it is absolutely true. In order to get Wardair, they had to cut rates in the winter and in the summer they have to use the same rates as the small hotels. You want to kill the small man in this country. You organised a meeting and told the taxi drivers not to take notes. You told the small man and the small hotels that they cannot exist as long as you are in tourism. You are now telling the people in no uncertain terms that, if they want to exist, they can go and join their own society and buy their own goods. I have to lay the blame for this at the Government's feet.

Let me tell you what happened during the last strike. The small hotels in Barbados now have to realise who are the people looking after them. If the taxi men in Barbados do not watch themselves they will soon be out of business. You have mentioned that when Wardair Tours come here the tourists want to drive in big buses. A taxi driver can get $500 and go to Motor Services or some other firm and put a car on the road to make his living. He can park his car in Broad Street and make a few dollars. Now, the little pick-up which used to be sold for around $5, 000 is now being sold for almost $12, 000. A coach will cost about $25, 000 to $30, 000, but the small man does not have any security and he cannot get a vehicle like that. It will be seen that only those people who can afford to obtain such a vehicle will be able to get work.

The hon. member for St. Michael West said just now that he has been fighting for the workers all along and he knows what he is saying. The hon. member for St. James said that his party had brought the poor man out of the land of bondage in 1940. We have to keep a careful watch on the masqueraders who pretend to be helping the small man while they have their big friends to bring down the coaches. What is the Government doing with the taxi men? I understand that they are going to charge a levy on people going into Seawell Airport, but the taxi drivers are not going to take this sitting down. The hon. member for St. Michael West represents the workers and they will know what to do.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 11.10 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER:
The sitting is now resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
When progress was reported we had reached Head 34(1) — Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations.

The question that the sum of $2, 953, 074 under Head 34(1) Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34(2) - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 34(2) - Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 34 (2) stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, for the third time that I have been in this House I take the opportunity to speak on this Head of the Estimates for the simple reason that I consider that Public Relations happen to be an important aspect of Government Business. Although I am not assuaging this Ministry any longer, I think it is appropriate that I should say to the Minister that I appreciate the opportunity that he gave me of seeing the GIS Press Release heads. I still get it, but I would draw to his attention that the Public

Relations aspect is now shadowed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and I should have taken the opportunity to inform him in writing. I apologise, and I would appreciate, if it is not too much trouble, for me to still get the very interesting information from these documents.

I do not believe I should say much after the speech made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, but I would only like to draw attention to my plea for the production of a Handbook of Barbados. This has become perennial with me, but I think it is very important. As I have pointed out before, in most of the countries of the Western world a handbook of the country is an authoritative guide because it sets forth for the citizen and other people the history and the basic institutions of the country, both civil and other institutions, and it also gives very vital information about the country as a whole.

As I have said before, in days past we did have a Barbados handbook, but I believe that that ceased in the 1950s. We have had nothing since. Prior to that we have had a publication by the late Mr. John Mayers of the Advocate which was a very useful publication indeed.

Although this may not be the vote catching type of matter, I think that it will do a lot to improve public relations in the country. I will not go into Broadcasting today. This is a mater that I have talked about before, and I believe that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has a lot more to say under this Head. However, I will renew my plea for greater freedom of expression being allowed to the media which is or are controlled by the Government.

I will renew my plea for greater freedom of expression by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in particular. Any person who has looked at the operation of the media in countries like the U.K., the USA, Canada and France, countries in which the democratic principle has functioned over several years must feel a bit sad when we come to the West Indies and find that West Indian Governments are more intent on using such media as television and radio either for disseminating pop music and light hearted entertainment, or propogating ideas only of the Government or ideas favourable to the Government.

I think that Barbados has had these institutions, and democracy tried long enough to permit greater emphasis being placed on greater freedom of expression. I will expect the Minister to say that there is no limitation of this freedom, that it is guaranteed in the Constitution. That may be the strict legal interpretation, but how often do you see anyone who is even slightly critical of the policies of the Government being allowed to discuss these matters freely?

My last appearance on CBC-TV was a notable one when I spoke about the role of women. I have not appeared on CBC-TV again except for the odd news item. That does not matter to me. As a member of Parliament I know how to look after my public relations. If I am going to continue in public life, I will not leave it to anyone else but myself. (ASIDE: The Nation or Flamingo?) I am not financing the Nation, but if I had an interest in it I would make sure that such a good newspaper, born of local enterprise, succeeds.

However, Sir, I believe that the country could do with greater freedom of expression on public issues. That we could discuss public issues honestly without giving offence or attacking anyone personally or giving offence to anyone else who expresses what is the genuine opinion.

I cannot in conscience say that in relation to the media in Barbados there is today that freedom of

expression that we welcome in the USA and in the U.K. I do not believe that if the Watergate Affair had occurred in Barbados that the media here would be strong enough to deal with the matter in the way that it has been dealt with in countries abroad.

This is no criticism of individuals, but of the attitude that society adopts towards the Press, and which the Press has allowed society to adopt towards it; because obviously they are individuals. They have to survive. They depend for their livelihood of being employed. I am not going to belabour this point. The Shadow Minister is here and he will go into this matter.

One final thing. I am satisfied as a legislator and a person interested in freedom of expression that the libel laws of this country need drastic revision. I think that the Minister has expressed some interest in this subject and at his first meeting with the Barbados Press Association, soon after he took up his Ministry, he promised that there might be amendments to the Act. I have subsequently seen a statement made by the Attorney General, Senator George Moe, in which he said that he was not convinced that there was any need for any change in the libel laws.

The fact is, Sir, that our libel laws happen to be based on the Lord Campbell's Act which was passed in 1846 in the U.K. at a time when the concept of radio and television were in the future, and newspapers were considered a luxury rather than a necessity. I do not believe that the ideas of Tom Payne had permeated sufficiently at that time or the ideas of Milton in the "Aeropagiitca" to create greater feeling of expression.

I think that anyone who follows the history of broadcasting or journalism can be satisfied that there should be a relaxation of the stringent rules, given to the Press without an abuse of the rights of the individual

This is all old ground. I have already called on the Government to amend the Denigratory Words Act, It has been done in New Zealand and in the USA and although Britain has liberalised considerably, I can say that today the Government has established a special committee to look at ways and means of permitting greater freedom of expression.

This means also that when you look at the libel laws you must also look at the concept of privacy so that when we relax the rigors of the existing laws guiding the Press, we also look at the laws protecting the rights of people. 10.40 a.m.

I think this Parliament is old enough — we are almost past the half way mark now — it is old enough that the Government should have made up its mind on these matters and we should be seeing action and no longer promises. I feel strongly about this subject and wherever I get an opportunity to talk about it I will harp back on it because I believe that Barbados should set the example in the Caribbean as the country which permits dissent and which can still maintain democratic principles. If a Government is afraid of dissent it is running into the underground movement and the next step from that is subversion, and the concomitant measure on the Government's part would be repressive measures and an abolition of human rights to some extent. I would not like to see this happen in Barbados, and we should take note that in some of the territories like Jamaica the laws are much more liberal than they are here although they are not ideal, and we have precedents that we can work on. I appeal to us to take note and furthermore to take action.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that can always be said about this Ministry — Tourism, Information and Public Relations — is that undoubtedly it is headed by a Minister who, whatever his qualities in other respects, undoubtedly has a peculiar attachment to the concept of public relations. If there is one politician in Barbados who has sought consistently for the last eighteen years to introduce government by public relations or achievement by public relations rather than achievement by ability or anything else, it is to my mind undoubtedly the hon. member for Christ Church North Central; and if you have such an approach to public life you may find that you end up by grasping constantly at the appearance and not ever coming to terms with reality. The hon. member is such a successful public relations expert that for years he convinced Mr. Cox and Mr. Ronald Mapp that he was a person in whom the Barbados Labour Party could place its trust. We hear at the same time from his own admission that he was a founder member of the Democratic Labour Party, and anyone who in those bitter days could give conviction to both sides so convincingly must be a man whose public relations qualities have to be admired.

I am going to tell you something, Mr. Chairman. I believe the hon. member when he came in here and gave the explanation about Wardair and the immigration difficulties and the tourist being out on the tarmac in the hot sun. I believed the hon. member when he gave that explanation earlier this week; and it says a lot, for how untrue that explanation must have been that the Advocate had to deny it in its front page today through the mouths of numerous personnel at Seawell Airport who point out that on Saturday afternoons the Wardair jet arrives in combination with many other flights and that therefore the Minister's explanation had no validity.

Specifically the Minister is criticised for saying that in ordinary circumstances there is no problem if the Jumbo jet arrives on time. That is what I mean by public relations, because as long as I have known the Minister he still convinced me that that was the reason why there was the crash at Seawell that time.

Now, I concentrate on the question of grasping at appearance; I am not dealing with realities. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has been in existence for a good number of years, and it is time that the image that CBC itself presents should be analysed and examined by those responsible for its operation.....

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. There is nothing whatever in the funds requested under this Head which concern the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I entirely agree, but this comes under Item 7 which states "Broadcasting". The only broadcasting system I know we have in Barbados is CBC.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, if I may explain that. That concerns.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

You are not going to argue. The Hon. Minister will take his seat. I have ruled. We are discussing

"Broadcasting".

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, the Government Information Service could not broadcast if CBC was not there. I presume that is what the Minister is going to say. The facilities of CBC have to be used to put Item 7 into effect. That is what I mean. He grasps at the appearance and cannot understand the reality. Because he has come from away he expects every Barbadian to take him for a genius. But, you, Sir, have demonstrated an ordinary commonsense fact, that without Item 7 CBC could not exist because there is only one broadcasting system in Barbados.

I know what the Minister wants. This week he telephoned the news department of CBC to tell them that they were giving the Opposition too much publicity for the Estimates, and he does not want to say that in here because he is perhaps afraid to deny it since he knows there are people who know the truth. That is why he does not want me to talk about CBC — because he knows he sought to control the news about the Estimates this week. If he has nothing to do with CBC, if there is no money voted for CBC, if the Minister has no control and is not to be asked about CBC, why did he tell one of them this week what he did about the news. Let him deny it, and I want him to deny that he has spoken with any employee of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation or given instructions to any employee of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation about the coverage given the Estimates this week. Let him deny it. There are still men of integrity in CBC no matter what party they belong to. There are some who are very dishonest, but there are, generally speaking, men of integrity in CBC. 10.50. a.m.

The vote here is for G.I.S. Services over CBC, but it can only be considered, in my suggestion, within the general framework of broadcasting programmes that are to be put before the general public of Barbados, because the G.I.S. takes on an integral part of programming on CBC, both television and radio. I can imagine that few people now would disagree that the general picture that is presented by the Broadcast Service of Government, the Corporation and the G.I.S. together which appear on the T.V. screen, is that general support must be given to the Government by the T.V. screen and the Radio Station. The news the G.I.S. Programme is offering is designed to present, as far as it deals with politics, a general Government Programme. I am suggesting to the Minister that if he reads how broadcasters think — let him read one of the Broadcasting Journals and Magazines — he can see that nothing brings Government owned, or Government controlled, broadcasting into greater contempt than the belief that it is politically orientated, or politically controlled. It is the practice of politicians to do it, but in the long run politicians get dragged down and the station gets dragged down.

Mr. Chairman, I worked once with a broadcasting organisation that was as non-partisan as it possibly could be. Sometimes we had occasions to complain within the ranks. I venture to say that the British Broadcasting Corporation stands on the top of the world's broadcasting ladder for the respect it carries for independence. The French Radio Service once used to be like that. Nobody speaks of it in that sense. But from the day General De Gaulle came to power and installed his lackeys and henchmen in Radio Television, R.T.V. has gone down in people's estimation. In the United States the broadcasting networks are operating at the peak of public respect. Why? Because they decided that America is ruled by, if not corrupt Government, a corrupt man at the present time. It is ruled by a man who has committed crime which should be exposed, and they have relentlessly fought against the United States Government, although, I believe, you will find that most of the ownership of the big American Radio Networks belong to the same party as President Nixon. As a matter of fact, they belong to the class of persons of

rich business people who generally support the Republican Party.

Now, I have moved to all of these strictures because I have seen some of the coverage on the radio there, and I believe it is balanced coverage. I cannot see how broadcasters can do their best — you know that they are on your side; hon. members over there know that they are on their side — while they are to be dictated to by a man with no broadcasting knowledge or experience and no appreciation of what is meant by independence in a broadcasting station.

With reference to the Government Information Service and the broadcast programmes, I heard the hon. member for Christ Church West dealing partly with this. Who can believe that "Telling The Nation" is other than an outdoor exercise in D.L.P. public relations — not Government, but Democratic Labour Party public relations? Mr. Chairman, it is an open secret that at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation you invite a member of the .Opposition to appear, or to deal with a subject, at your peril. I can remember the days before it was placed in charge of this Hon. Minister when intrigue used to go on to prevent the hon. member for Christ Church North Central from appearing when he was to appear on a panel game. I was very much made aware of the intrigue that was used by persons in and out of the Corporation and close to the top friends to prevent the hon. member from appearing on the panel game, and he never appeared. He should be more sympathetic with the intriguing, twisting and turning that go on at CBC. The hon. member for St. Michael South is yet another who can tell you some of the personality difficulties that have bedevilled the whole broadcast world in Barbados. It is these personalities that affect the Public Relations Division.

Who used to be the head of the Government Information Section? Poor Mr. Gladstone Holder, Sir. Things have been said in this House about Mr. Holder. The Prime Minister said that he had no conversation with D.L.P. Government Information Officers, and he said other words that, if they were said outside the House, would open himself to charges of slander. I assume that as a personality matter. We hear that an edict has gone out saying that Mr. Holder, Head of the Government Information Service, must not appear on these Broadcasting Programmes. I do not know if the edict is still in force, but we understand that this edict once went out. Mr. Holder is broadcasting again. We also understand that Ministers looked at a particular announcer, Mr. Trevor Simpson, and said that he was too ugly to be a newsreader. This was never denied, but I see him as a newsreader again. Why should Ministers have to decide on something like that? How is it that these matters which should be irrelevant to persons in charge of a Department seem to loom so large in the day-to-day administration of a broadcasting system in this Island?

Now, the hon. member, who has just sat down, spoke about libel and alterations in the law of libel, and I was amused by this. Again, dealing with the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, I seem to recall that when the talk of amending the law of libel first came up, he joined enthusiastically in the chorus of crying for it, but it turned out that his understanding of the issues were so limited that, while lawyers were calling for a relaxation of the laws of libel, the hon. member was calling for some tightening up. I do not know if he has amended his views since those days, but this Department concerns him and he must take this seriously into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, it is time that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was made to keep a recorded log of all of its programmes. There is an incident now before the Committee of Privileges of this House. Since the evidence of the matters are unpublished, I cannot refer to them in detail. Suffice it to say that it

relates to a conflict of testimony between an hon. member and a member of the staff of CBC. This matter has to be brought out in the open. CBC must keep a recorded log which must be made available to the courts, Parliament, or to anybody who may have to deal with certain matters. We cannot take CBC's words. I have personal experience of not being able to take the General Manager of CBC's word in writing as to something that was broadcast. I have said in another place that I am in a position to prove this on oath before any court in this Island. This is something that the Minister should seek to deal with. Rediffusion do it and newspapers are there to read and so on, but CBC goes into every household. It must not be in a position to seek to defend itself if it breaks the privileges of this House, or if it libels someone upon the basis of the persons inability to prove exactly what was said or broadcast at any given time.

As to the Public Relations Division, there are a lot more things that can be said, but we are limited by time. I want the Minister to take a general look at where the Government is gt>ing in this respect. To what does he relate the functions of the Public Relations Division in his Ministry? We see a sum of $281, 000 here, but he has a very small Ministry and his actual expenditure cannot be very much more than $400, 000 or $500, 000. I do not presume that he spends the $2.8 million that is paid to the Barbados Tourist Board. He has an obsession for changing the name of the Tourist Board. Only a man of public relations madness would go on with that. The laws of Barbados say it is the Barbados Tourist Board, and he says it is the Board of Tourism and asks us to vote money for it. 11.00 a.m.

There is no such thing as a Board of Tourism. The laws of Barbados say the Barbados Tourist Board/but that is only by the way. It shows the hon. member's obsession with sham, with words. You cannot blame him; he has not got the guts feeling as perhaps a Barbadian, I believe I have lived more of my adult life in England than he has, yet I would not presume to pontificate or speak about England and about English things and English life in the way that he can because he has it in him. He was born there and has the feeling, and he must understand that we were born here and have this feeling, and living here for a long time does not help you to get the same amount of understanding as those who were born here. He must understand that it is a problem and convince this public that he is seriously seeking to do something about it.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I think this is the appropriate time to make a comment now that the Hon. Minister is here on Broadcasting. I would like the employees of C.B.C. to know that I am a member of the Government and that I was elected here by the people of St. Philip. I served not only in this House of Assembly but as a Vestryman and Councillor. This is the point I want to make about C.B.C. and I have no apologies to make. Regardless of the speech I make in here, regardless of what I do; it is never given publicity on C.B.C. I wonder if they have my picture up there, yet they have taken several. The position is that when they are referring to certain members of Parliament who are placed in a similar position as I am, they refer to them as Junior Ministers and when they come to me in many cases they refer to me — and I do not care because they have not put me in here — as the backbencher or Parliamentary Secretary. I would like them to know that it is the people who have sent me here and if any of them have any prejudice, animosity or ill-will towards my presence in here, I do not care. They will find it possible at all times to be sending you bills which are legitimate to pay for T.V. and if they advertise the slightest thing for you they would always remember to send you a bill, but I am always willing to pay and to cooperate; but I will just remind them that I am a member of the Government, and this is my third consecutive term in the House of Assembly, and I demand the same privileges which they give to other

members of Parliament.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to reply concerning the Public Relations Department of which the hon. member spoke, and I would like to reply to the points made by the hon. member for Christ Church West. I welcome his comment that the Shadow Minister is the Leader of the Opposition, but I do assure him that I will see that he continues to get all the Government Information Service releases.

There is another point I would like to mention on that. It appeared the other day that the hon. member for St. Joseph was unaware of the release which was sent out in October last year, and while I would not want to burden hon. members of this House with all the releases because they take up a lot of space and it would be expensive and most of them would not be interesting to everybody, nonetheless I have given instructions that as many as possible be sent to members of the House, and that they should send any new releases from the Government Information Service which are of specific interest, and members will indicate the subjects in which they are interested. This memorandum I expect should reach members very shortly, I would like also to assure the hon. member for Christ Church West that the booklet which he suggested last year has not been overlooked or forgotten, but it is being discussed now in the Government Information Service Department, but it has been a question of priorities and what can be done with the personnel in trying to get something done. It is a very good suggestion. It is also a question of finance.

As regards the use of C.B.C. for broadcasting of political views and so on which has been referred to by both hon. members opposite who spoke, I would only say that this is the subject of a substantive motion before the House at this time, and I do not intend to comment now upon the Government's attitude with regard to political broadcasting.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, if the hon. member would comment on it now it would save time having to discuss the substantive motion which stands in my name at a later stage. I would not object to it, but if they are not going to do it, there is no point in the question. If he gives the Government's view now, it would save time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Let us do things in a proper fashion. There is a substantive motion and when there is, one does not refer to it in another context. It is simply a matter of when the Opposition is willing to give us time to debate the matter. It has been discussed twice since the hon. member proposed it, and he and the seconder, the hon. member for Christ Church West have spoken on the subject. Since that time which was back in January they have not given the Government an opportunity in Private Members' Business to discuss the particular Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of order, I must correct the record. I cannot let that go down in the record because people in later years may read this and tend to believe it. The Minister is once again trying to mislead the

people of this country. On several occasions the Government comes to Parliament and suspends the Standing Orders which specifically provide for Private Members' Business, and if they are suspended the Leader of the House sometimes gives the assurance that Private Members' Business will come up, but usually it is at the end of the day when members are trying to get away; so he cannot say we have not given the Government time to discuss anything. It is the Government which has deliberately time and again refused to stick to the Standing Orders which provide for us to have time to discuss the matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
No point of order and quite incorrect. Mr. Chairman, there have been days since January when Private Members' Business has been discussed in this House, and therefore it is incorrect to say that no opportunity has been given because no opportunity was there.

Mr. FORDE:
On a point of elucidation, when I spoke on this matter of freedom of expression, I did not intend the Minister to take it as meaning to allow only political parties in this country to use the media for broadcasting political matters. 11.10 a.m.

Mr. FORDE:
if the Minister would give way, on a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman, when I spoke in this matter of greater freedom of expression I did not intend the Minister to take it as meaning only allowing political parties in this country to use the media for broadcasting political matters, I am talking about a wider area of things in which people are allowed to express their views on political questions, regardless of whether they belong to political parties or not. The sort of high level discussions one finds in the United States, Britain and other countries. On a budget day in the United Kingdom it is a regular feature to find the leading politicians on either side being asked their views, as well as the normal citizen, and experts being asked to comment. That is what I am talking about, not simply the Democratic Labour Party versus the Barbados Labour Party.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:
Mr. Chairman, political broadcasting is the subject of a Resolution before this House. With regard to the amendments to the libel laws, I have said before, and it was taken up by the Leader of the Opposition today, that I do not pretend to know what is needed to be changed in the libel laws. I doubt very much that hon. members in this Chamber who are not lawyers understand what is to be changed, but I did as I had undertaken, I mentioned to the Attorney General that it was suggested in this House that the libel laws were in need of amendment, but that is as far as I can go. I cannot tell him exactly how it should be amended. If anyone, be it the hon. member who has spoken on this or be it the Press Association or anyone else, if anyone wants to recommend a change and submits in writing to me some specific points which he wishes to see changed in the libel law, then it would be a simple thing for me to forward that to the Attorney General, and I would perhaps be able to say what the answer would be, but I am not in a position to say to the Attorney General in what fashion the libel laws need to be changed.

I would like to refer now to the comments of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and first of all to thank him for the kind compliments he paid me with respect to my interest in public relations. He has

not been able to practise public relations in any valid fashion because public relations have to be believable. Such things are brought in, for example, I think yesterday Mr. Trevor Simpson's name was mentioned and his not being able to read the News. As far as I am aware I have never heard of any such suggestion and I have not heard anything like that from any of my colleagues. He said that I was brought in and was told my views on the need to change the libel laws were out of step. At no time did this happen, because I have no views on how to change the libel laws.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I said no doubt the Minister was told. I know he appeared in the Advocate-News talking about changing the libel laws and then when it was realised that his change did not meet with the views of others we never heard anything more again.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I know nothing about it, but I will take him up on another point here. He simply does not believe that it is possible to belong to a political party and be a decent public servant when another party is in power. It was suggested that I was a member of the Tourist Board when Mr. Cox and Mr. Mapp were in charge and that somehow I could not perform my duties well. He has plainly stated that he does not believe it is possible for a person to belong to a political party and give service to the Government if his party does not form the Government. That is a serious statement, but however, knowing some of his friends I would have to believe him.

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, I did not say that it is impossible to belong to one political party and give service to a Government of another party, I did not say that, if he wishes to attack some of the people in his own Ministry that is up to him. I know that he said he was a founder member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

The Democratic Labour Party was founded in 1955 and I joined it in 1956. For the record it was only the Minister of Communications and Works and the Prime Minister who were members when I joined.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, I did not go over it because my time was limited. The hon. member will be aware that he made a claim to be a founder member of the Democratic Labour Party and that this claim was exposed in 1965 when the 10th Anniversary of the Democratic Labour Party was held. The hon. member must remember that these things are in the newspapers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order, a point of interruption.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

If the hon. member read that in the newspaper it was quite wrong, and I am quite sure the newspaper would have to be the Beacon. As the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said to me the other day, I will put my hand on my heart and say I gave good service to the Government when they were in power.

I would like it to be understood quite clearly that I have not telephoned the Caribbean Broadcasting

Corporation at any time during this week, I have not spoken to any employee of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation this week — with the exception of Mr. Ian Gale, the General Manager, who was here in the House — and I would like to state unequivocally that I did not discuss any question of the reporting of the debates of this House with Mr. Ian Gale at any time this week. It is definitely untrue. It is quite easy to sow the seeds of doubt, but it is simply untrue that at any time this week I have spoken with anyone at CBC on this matter. I hope that buries that.

Mr. ADAMS:

How can it bury that? An employee of CBC told me — I will not call his name because I do not want him to lose his job - I would believe any employee of CBC before I believe the Minister,

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

Mr. Chairman, it is terrible to say that he would believe an employee before he believes me. That is another way of saying that I am telling a lie. He knows that he cannot tell you who it was at CBC because he does not want the person to lose his job, but that is a very underhanded way of telling lies on people. 11.20 a.m.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, is it parliamentary to say that I am telling lies on people? That is a reflection on my motives.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I will ask the hon. member to withdraw the word "underhand".

Hon. P. G. MORGAN:

I think that all of us are fully aware of the hon. member's motives. I would like to express my sympathy to the hon. member for St. Philip South, even though he itiay not be here at the moment, that he has been omitted from news broadcasts.

Mr. Chairman, I do not tell CBC whom they should feature and whom they should not. I have no doubt that although he is not in the House it will reach the ears of those responsible for CBC, and I hope that he will get his just share.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down has always gone down in my catalogue of persons who are unashamed of twisting the English Language so that when it is finally wound up the truth is as far away as heaven is from hell. The people of this country has grown to realise that whatever comes out of that mouth can be treated with scant respect and paid no attention to. He has been caught time after time trying to mislead people of this country.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to Standing Order 29.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

I rule that Standing Order 29 at no time applies in Committee.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I am going to proceed. When it boils down so as to show that you are so dishonest.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Who is dishonest?

Mr. BOLDEN:
"They" is third person plural. I have not referred to you, Sir. I would never put you in that category.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that he does not give instructions at CBC. You will remember that when we challenged the Government about certain instructions going out to CBC he said that he had no intention of withdrawing the authorisation of these instructions because he wanted CBC to be like the Times or something else above he Barbadian attitude to life. He wanted to be like the person who said that the reason why he liked Barbados was that the natives called him sir.

As long as he can get you to do his bidding it is all right. Who gave instructions to get rid of Ricardo Blackman? He knows so much about Parliamentary Government, coming as he does from England, but would disown his own Civil Servants when they want to do something for the good of the community.

When we challenged him about the airport he said that Ward Air was supposed to come in at a certain time. He was Minister of Information. I believe that everything that goes on and that affects Barbados should be under his portfolio. That shows the villainy that he is doing against the people.

Pan Am Flight No. 231 was due at 1.50 on the same day as the Ward Air. Ward Air comes at 2 p.m. on the same Saturdays and the Pan Am 425 Flight from New York on the same day. LIAT comes in at the same time, but he could try to put the blame on Ward Air because his whole intention is to get rid of the Barbados small man.

That shows what the situation is; but if I were the people at Seawell, the next time you come through Seawell I would drop one of the valises on your feet, and when you bend down to see what happen I would kick you in the mouth.

That is the sort of Minister we have in this country. He can say that I am bigoted as much as he likes, but I guarantee that the people of this country are on my side against his. They are finding you out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
Is the hon. member addressing the Chair? I do not think so.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Whom else could I address other than the Chair? As far as I am concerned I do not believe half of what the Hon. Minister says. He can always get up and say that it is not true, but history will prove that he could not fool the people of this country all the time.

When they came here and said that small hotels were enjoying the same privileges as the big hotels, how many of them have paid their membership fees and complained that their money was going down the drain to enhance the big ones, like Mr. Smith at Blue Waters, your good buddy and friend. I would

have felt more proud to see Douglas Lynch in here. At least he

was a Barbadian. People like yourself.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
I have already warned the hon. member that when he is speaking he must address the Chair.

The question that the sum of $8, 893 under Head 34(2) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26(1) - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 26(1) — Ministry of Communications and Works was called. 11.30a.m.

HEAD 26(1) - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 26(1) — Ministry of Communications and Works — General Administration — was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9, 898, 329 under Head 26(1) Ministry of Communications and Works — General Administration — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, there is an Item here relative to investigations of new schemes and surveys. Quite some time ago the Minister told us of certain surveys which were being carried out. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is the report about the surveys.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a statement about the bridges in St. Joseph which have been broken down for the longest time and some have now been overgrown with grass for the last eleven years. I would like to know what plans the Government has for doing the roads and bridges in St. Joseph because it would appear as if the Ministry of Communications and Works does not intend to look after them. I would like to hear what plans the Minister has and particularly for those bridges in St. Joseph, particularly in the Dark Hole area which has been in bad condition for the last twelve years.

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:
Mr. Chairman, I realize that the Minister's hands are full. The amount provided under this Head is not as tremendous as last year but I would like to ask the Minister not to forget other parishes such as the parish which you, Mr. Chairman, and I represent. Year after year we have been promised and we have not got anything done. I realize that the Minister is doing his work, and when I look around other

parishes I see the roads in these parishes are being looked after, so let us get the roads in the parish which the Chairman and I represent done. Bairds Village, that is about the worse road in St. George. It does not come in my constituency but I have a right to speak for St. George because I got in here on the strength of the people of St. George. At that time there were double member constituencies, and I still feel that those people in Bairds Village and in Bournes Village, running to Cole Hole should have good roads. Cole Hole is a land mark in Barbados but many people will not travel out there because of the condition of the road to it, and it would be good if the Ministry would pay a little more attention to some of the rural areas.

The other representatives of the other parishes, they can make their claims but you, Mr. Chairman, have to sit there and listen and I am taking this opportunity to speak for both of us. I think St. George needs something and I want the Minister, although his funds appear to be limited, to let us have something. Airy Hill in St. George; some of the roads there only need surfacing. There are some that have been promised repair for a long time and nothing has been done.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want to get a piece of the play now like anybody else. I do not want all to be done in St. Michael or for the constituents of St. Michael; don't mind they won eight seats, let us in the rural areas, St. George, get some too. I do not want to come back here probably at the next Estimates to repeat this claim.

Bourne Village, Airy Hill and the Drax Hall road to Bairds Village, these are essential roads. There are many people living there and they complain. Many of them come to us asking what we are doing about these districts. Well, I am putting in the plea to the Minister now to let him know that I also want those people to have some of the benefits as the others in St. Michael have been getting.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works I would say that I represent the constituency of St. Philip South and on behalf of the Speaker and myself I would like this House to know that St. Philip being the largest parish in this Island has a very large number of bad roads, roads which are in a deplorable condition, but when I sit in with the Minister to deal with the roads in the island I can never be parochial in my outlook. I have to consider the whole Island and while we as members of this House would like to see these roads repaired, we have to take into consideration the resources of the Island and the amount of money which is allocated annually for these roads.

Some members would feel that because I am there as Parliamentary Secretary that I have priority in getting roads repaired. I want to let them know that that is not so. In dealing with the repairs of the roads you have to take the whole Island into consideration and therefore when certain parishes may only be given one road or may be left out in a particular year you will have to take into consideration the amount of money which we have to spend.

I think the time has come when my Government would have to do something about roads even if we have to deal with a loan, because it has always been my opinion that roads, water and lights are the most essential things for the poor people of this country. They must be in a position to enjoy some of the amenities of life. There are roads, I know, in St. Philip, and I have no doubt throughout the Island where doctors find it impossible to visit patients in case of illness. All these are things we have to face, but when you consider the other commitments which the Government has, you must sympathise with the

Government when it comes to the amount which has been allocated for roads. 11.40 a.m.

Therefore, I should like this House to know that the Minister and I, in dealing with this matter along with our advisers, did not think about any particular Parish and we dealt with all Parishes in the Island. I am sure that those of you, who have complained on numerous occasions, will have your claims considered when funds are available.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, this is a Head in which each member picks his items, and that is understandable since we have transferred the Local Government and parochial politics to the National level. I do not intend these remarks to be considered derogatory in any respect at all, because I consider this Ministry to be the bread and butter of politics. It is an important Ministry since it concerns a part of the infrastructure of the country. I think we must comment that last year the vote under this Ministry was $10, 682, 036. For this financial year total expenditure is $10, 972, 301, so that the increase has been less than $300, 000 for this Ministry. We know for a fact that the inflation rate has exceeded 25% of the economy as a whole and that the price of materials which are used in this Ministry has increased more than 25%. When we talk about the Government not having its priorities right we are very serious. You cannot tell me that this Ministry, which is so necessary, should be treated like Cinderella. I believe that there are other Heads in these Estimates where we could have some reduction and improved productivity and a net saving to spend on the Ministry of Communication and Works.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that in the election year they will overburden the Ministry of Communications and Works with all sorts of projects; civil servants will be stretched out 100% to do work which will be done badly because they will not be given enough time, and a lot of money will be wasted. The Minister says that he is surprised to see the wastage in his Ministry, but some of that wastage must be due to the way in which he had things done. Perhaps, like me, he is not one of the favourite sons liked by people. I do not know if he is not liked as a Minister. I may be wrong, but I have the feeling that he is being squeezed a little bit to make him pay for being outspoken. He and his Parliamentary Secretary are very stout defenders of the good things which the Government have done. Although we intend to give this matter an easy passage, I must comment on it.

Mr. Chairman, last year the amount which was voted for tenantry roads was $215, 000. Under the Capital Estimates this year it is $200, 000, a decrease of $15, 000 in circumstances where you have over 40% increase in materials and wages. Tenantry roads are important. There are some roads in Christ Church West that are terribly bad. I may not be in Parliament as long as some hon. members, but it sickens me to see that whenever I speak to the Ministry about these roads I am told that there is no money to repair them. There is the desire to do the job, but the money is not available. I will have to go back to my constituents and tell them that I have spoken to the Permanent Secretary and the Chief Technical Officer; they have looked into the matter, but the vote has been reduced. I believe that the Government must prune expenditure in the right manner. I observe that increases have been made in every one of the Prime Minister's Departments, but the vote was decreased in the Ministry of Communications and Works.

With regard to drainage, we have seen the same approach. The vote was decreased by $235, 000. The decrease under Item 26 - Roads — is $982, 000, and nobody in his right mind would consider drainage in this country as other than a priority. How can you be serious when you find that, with the slightest

rainfall, you are flooded out? St. Matthias is a flood area. I spent a lot of my time in Water Street as a young boy, but I was brought up in St. Matthias. I want something done about it, or I will lead a march to Culloden Farm. I will not lead a march to "Cherry Tree Cottage". Since the Lord giveth, I will lead them to the Lord. The Hon. Leader of the House, the most distinguished member of the House in this country, knows September Square very well. The Junior Minister went up there when we had a terrible situation as a result of bad sanitation. It is time that some attention be paid to places like Bourne's Land, Worthing View and so on. 11.50 a.m.

These are the areas that do not support me. The Caribbean and that area I am not interested in. It is Worthing View I am interested in, St. Matthias I am interested in more than I can be interested in the Caribbee Hotel for the simple reason that their needs are more. They are all my constituents, but I must emphasise and beg that in the coming years Rockley tenantry, Worthing View, Barnes Land, avenues in St. Matthias, be looked after. These are only symptomatic of the general position and I would beg Government to do something about it.

You know, Sir, the question of roads are related to the question of sewerage and I will speak under the Head of Sanitation and Sewage, but part of the problem is that when the roads are built we also have no receptacles being provided in lay-offs on the road to receive the garbage which is being dumped, and as a result the roads are being blocked. I would only like to say that when I raise these complaints I raise them because I get letters. I got one on my birthday on 20th March. I thought it was one of those letters I would have to hide from my wife, but I did not have to; it was one in which I wanted her sympathy because in this one of my constituents wanted my reassurance that some action is likely over the clearance of the revolting heaps of garbage one sees every day and the amount of rotten kitchen waste and tins and bottles cluttering up the roads and the state of drainage which is existing in Barbados. That was my birthday present from a constituent.

I am raising this not only because this might be a vote from a constituent or something of the sort. This constituent .did not even vote for me as far as I know. He lives in Golf Club Road and I did not get many votes there. Golf Club Road happens to be in a better position than anywhere in Forde's Road which belongs to me, or Bonnetts, Worthing View, September Square or Barnes Village, and when I looked at die votes I got 75% from those that I called and only 25% from Golf Club Road. So let me make the position clear. It is not that I am not interested in the people, but on this Head of the roads I really must express some sympathy on it for the Ministry concerned. I hope the Officers and the Minister will try to make this half a pound of flower and sugar go as far as they can during the year. They are going to get a lot of this from the people about and I hope the Government will be sensible enough to use part of the money which it is borrowing from all over the place to some of these vital capital needs.

I am glad to see a token vote for the ring road, $200, 000, because I believe that we are only going to move towards removing congestion and speeding up the traffic between north and south and east and west by a proper system of link roads finally linking up to a spinal, and we cannot afford the full cost of the spinal; but in the meantime Government must press on with tenantries. Let me give an idea of tenantries. A lot of people in the tenantries today are prepared to buy their spot and pay a higher price for it so that Government can get a development levy under the Development Levy Act if they want, provided that Town Planning would move on with the permission in such areas, and I would like the Minister of Lands to know that in order to ease the situation he cannot follow standards that have been

laid down rigidly because the de facto situation at the moment is that some tenants would be prepared to remain there and live harmoniously for the balance of their lives if they are given an opportunity to purchase the land. I mentioned Rockley as one of the areas. There is no development in the road system but the tenants themselves are willing to pull their pockets and pay for the initial road that is going in in order to put in a road for themselves if they can get permission. This is one problem they are running into. I am told it has to go to the Minister of Lands for consultation before being done by Home Affairs, and that is why I am mentioning these places.

We are not going to be tight on this vote. The officials can go back, except that I ask them that in the Central Planning Committee let them know that next year the Opposition will beat the hell out of the Minister if he cannot get a bigger vote. I would like all his colleagues to support him because as the Minister who is next door to me in St. Michael South knows, part of the pressure I am putting over on him. Every time they come to me, I tell them to speak to the Hon. Minister of Education, since it looks to me that it is nearer to him. He is having some trouble in his area, so I expect him to lend his assistance to the Minister of Communications and Works to get a bigger vote next time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I am indeed heartened by the sympathetic approach of the Opposition because they have hit the nail on the head. You cannot make bricks without straw, and if there is one Ministry that is constantly being pestered by all my parliamentary colleagues including the Opposition, it is the Ministry of Communications and Works. I am committed personally and I think the Government is to providing the basic facilities for all the inhabitants of Barbados; so there is no question about that. As has been pointed out in the second reading speech by the Leader of the Opposition, if you look at the vote you will see you cannot make bricks without straw. I am no magician. I can only work with what is allocated to me and I shall do my best to see that that amount is distributed on an equitable basis to give the greatest facilities to the greatest number of people.

I did two subsidiary roads for the member for Bridgetown. They cost $31, 000 alone from a vote of $200, 000. So when you give two roads in Church Village for $31, 000 he cannot get any more. He may have a million others in the City, but he cannot get any more. To do a road at Stanmore Crescent is costing $89, 000 out of $90, 000, so to spend that amount with the whole Island coming from that vote, somebody is not going to get any. It is as simple as that. With the assistance of the Economic Planning Unit, the only way the Ministry of Communications and Works can tackle the road problem in this country is to get a massive vote from an international institution to the tune of $5 million or $6 million to do the roads. Otherwise we will have to do them as is being done now on an island-wide basis, giving roads where the largest number of houses are and spreading it out over thirty or forty years. You cannot with the present allocation do all. I am making my position clear because they say that the Ministry of Communications and Works is the graveyard of politicians. If I am buried I am going to rise the third day, not because I am any super human. I am going to see that that Ministry does not put me in the graveyard. The Leader of the Opposition said that Mr. Mapp went there and lost; Mr. Boxill went there and lost and I have gone there to get buried. I will not be buried through M.C.W., because I am fair to the people of this country. I am committed. Do you know the number of times I have to send marl fill to help somebody who cannot get in because you cannot get around to a road? With this present allocation I am committed to seeing that people do not have to wear two pairs of shoes to get to Church or that the doctor can get in, or that people can get to weddings or their children can get to school and their vehicles are not damaged. So I am committed to seeing that this is done, and I can point out from the work the

Ministry has done that I have endeavoured to give every parish a piece of the action. 12.00 noon.

There are a lot of bad roads in this country, Mr. Chairman, you know that. St. Andrew, St. Joseph, you name it, every parish has a colossal amount of bad roads which calls for a colossal amount of capital. If you divide $200, 000 by 10 each parish would get $20, 000, but in some parishes one road costs $40, 000.

I am greatly appreciative of the attitude of the members, even those on my side and you, Sir, because you have bad roads too, and I am really heartened to see that the Opposition is appreciative of how far that money can stretch. Some time ago I ordered an inspection of all bridges and culverts in this Island, and I will tell the hon. member for St. Joseph that the Bridge at Dark Hole is slated to be fixed in the coming financial year. When the Estimates are over I am having a meeting with my staff for the road and water programme. I hope I can resume the lighting programme because I heard that there is no fuel crisis, but many parishes have lights and water. It is not my money I am spending, this is money which people earned the hard way and they are entitled from . me and from any Government to get in terms of basic facilities these small rights as citizens of this country. I am prepared within the limits of the financial allocations to me to see that every citizen in this country gets these basic benefits to which he is entitled as of right.

Again I would like to thank the Opposition for their understanding of the problem. I have discussed it with the Economic Planning Unit to see if I can get a massive amount of money so that I can call in private contractors to do the roads. At the rate we are going, even if you get into power it will take you 20 years to repair all these bad roads. Added to that there are facilities in the front roads and the houses are at the back. A lot of problems may be solved if instead of having houses at the back of cane fields they were brought to the front where these amenities are.

Mr. BOLDEN:

On a point of elucidation, I think that is unfair and does not reflect the true position. In certain areas this is true but at Castle Grant where they wanted to move the tenants closer to the road the Town Planning Department took about three years to give permission. I am sure a lot of the houses "behind the canes could easily be resited and would facilitate the road building programme.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

I agree with that, but as long as they are there and the people are still there you have to give them the facilities. I shall not be any longer because, as I say, there is complete understanding. Any member of this Chamber who knows me knows that I am approachable, that I tried to co-operate and look after the people's needs as far as I can. Even although applications are made for political purposes, in my view they are made on behalf of Barbadians and I am a born Barbadian. I love my people. I am dedicated as long as I am in political life to serving them faithfully, well and true.

The question that the sum of $9, 898, 329 under Head 26(1) — Ministry of Communications and Works, General Administration — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26(2) - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS - WATERWORKS

DIVISION

Head 26(2) — Ministry of Communications and Works, Waterworks Division — was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4, 469, 416 under Head 26(2) — Ministry of Communications and Works, Waterworks Division — stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister is in the same position here as he was under the last Head, but I would like once again after three years to make a plea. Spa Hill in St. Joseph is one of the roads which had been washed out over the last 10 years, and the people in that area have to wait until the lorry brings water, but many days this lorry does not turn up. There have been discussions with Senior Officers who say that if the people cannot wait they would not get water for about three days.

I know nothing about engineering, except how to spell it, but from a common sense point of view I would like to make a suggestion. I have been to Ghana and have seen Mr. Nkrumah's house on a mountain and they ran a 4-inch plastic pipe across a river and up a hill so that he could get water. Can the Government not buy a few lengths of plastic pipe to get water up there so that the people do not have to wait until the lorry comes? The particular Waterworks official they were complaining about is a person I have known for a long time and I know he is a very approachable person, but human nature is such that when people are pushing and shoving you are liable to lose your temper. These pipes would at least relieve their hardships and they would be able to get proper water.

The question that the sum of $4, 469, 416 under Head 26(2) — Ministry of Communications and Works, Waterworks Division — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26(3) - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS - ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

Head 26(3) — Ministry of Communications and Works, Electrical Engineer's Department — was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Chairman, in moving this Head I should just like to take this opportunity to say that I have been particularly concerned about the letters which have been written about these three-way plugs in contra-distinction to the two-way plugs and I have had the Acting Chief Electrical Engineer — we have been trying to get an Electrical Engineer for some time without success — discuss this with me and he has assured me that houses which have been wired with the two-way plug need not be rewired at all, that there is some method of attaching earth to some part of this plug. I would like the member for St. Joseph who knows more about electricity than I do, to know that it is probably a safety measure rather than an

expensive one. 12.10 p.m.

If all the persons who find themselves in this dilemma will consult with him, he will explain that it is not such a colossal expense as was stated in the newspaper, but simply a measure to prevent a faulty gadget like an iron or some other piece of household equipment from causing harm. This is a safety measure. You do not have to tear down your walls. I would be grateful if the workmen who think that this is a colossal expense would consult the officer on this matter.

Say what you like about the Advocate; but I believe that Barbadians write because there is a grievance. I go through these letters that concern my Ministry and I refer them to the Waterworks section or the Electrical section as to whether the allegations are true. I am a servant of the people and therefore I think that any complaints from taxpayers and citizens deserve some sort of investigation on the part of a Minister.

As a result of the complaints and allegations in the newspaper I had the officer give me a report which I can produce, if the House wants to see it, to show that three way plug is a safety measure and is not instituted to cause any undue financial strain on anyone building a house.

I beg to move that Head 26(3) stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I think that the general public is worried about the time limit for which these new specifications are to come into force. It is six months which may appear relatively short because there is a world wide shortage of material. If you are going to change your wiring specifications — and this is something I wanted to raise with the Ministry of Trade — there is no control over electrical goods in this country. You will get charged one price at this place and another price at another place. I myself have had this unfortunate experience. I think that that is what people are worried about.

If you say that within six months all houses must comply with these specifications you will find that people building houses will not be passed because the plugs are not available. I also think that we should change our cycles from 50 to 60. Japan is producing electrical gadgets to suit the Americal market which is a 60 cycle market. We could benefit from a change to a 60 cycle unit. You can buy a record player in the U.S.A. for $15.00. It is the same thing with a car radio, but the same equipment from Britain will cost $224.00.

This comes from having our roots set in England. In 1970 I had the privilege of going to another country. Ask the Leader of the Government. We were considering trading with Ghana so that we could get cheaper wood products, and one member of the delegation said that we have traditional markets, and we could not pull up our roots.

The Hon. Minister said that they cannot get an Electrical Engineer. But the Government some time ago sent around a circular to technical staff giving them permission to do private work as long as it did not clash with their work for the Government. Now another circular has gone out dealing with part time

officers, and asking them to pay their own registration fees.

This cannot be right. The Government must take another look at this circular, and this is where the Trade Union comes in. You give these people the right to do outside work because you cannot retain them otherwise. Let us say that you are paying a structural engineer $1, 100 a month when he can go in an outside firm and work for 5 per cent of the cost of the building. He can make at least $9, 000 on a job. If you do it in respect of the doctors at the hospital, why stop other officers who have spent years in the university at the same expense? That is what is preventing technical officers from coming to this country.

Take the Central Livestock Station. One veterinary officer can do private work, but another officer coming in cannot; but when that vet goes to Trinidad with his race horses, people are losing livestock. Government must have a common ruling for all of these officers. 12.20 p.m.

There should be no discrimination and then you will get the technical officers you want, but as long as people who would apply for the job find that they are coming in, as the Prime Minister said, as second class citizens or as second class officers, a man probably having better qualifications than the man in the first class, he is not going to come in; he is going to play in a different team altogether.

The question that the sum of $131, 624 under Head 26(3) — Ministry of Communications and Works — Electrical Engineer's Department — Stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 1 - ANNEXED ESTIMATES - POST OFFICE

Head 1 — Annexed Estimates — Post Office — was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, I think that hon. members will excuse me if I do this now because I have got an appointment at 4.30.

I beg to move that the sum of $1, 460, 995 under Head 1 — Annexed Estimates — Post Office — stand part of the schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 32 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 32 — Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 32 — Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce — for the sum of $1, 625, 359 I would like to mention that the Ministry has assumed responsibility for the Handicraft Development Centre and is now in charge of this development. Insofar as Item 5 is concerned, — Public Utilities Board — that has teen reorganised and the membership has been increased as hon. members will recall, from three to five and the tenure of office three years, so the Public Utilities Board has been recognized and we are trying to put it on a better footing than heretofore.

There are many other points which could be elaborated on, but, as far as the cost of living which I know will be harped on eventually is concerned, there are certain items which have been controlled and there have been increases. Insofar as chicken and chicken parts are concerned, there have been increases recently. Chicken and chicken parts have shown the greatest increase, and the price of animal feed has gone up, which is mainly responsible for increased prices.

I will attempt at a later stage to give any extra information which I may have in order to justify the policy of the Ministry of Trade, Mdustry and Commerce.

I beg to move the sum of $1, 625, 359 under Head 32 — Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN:
Mr. Chairman, I believe it would take away from the excellent work done by a gentleman called Mr. Frank Alleyne of the University of the West Indies if I begin to comment on the performance of the Ministry of Trade in this Country; but there are certain things that I must bring to light and I want the public to know that the system that is being operated in that department is one that will come to light fully at the end of this year when people would be suffering more than ever in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to answer early a gentleman called Mr. Frank DaSilva, a political lackey who betrayed the poultrymen of this country, who used the B.M.A. in which at least 90% of the business involved in it do not suffer under control, for coming out in public and telling the people that the poultrymen could not justify their case for an increase in poultry meat products.

Mr. Chairman, in 1973 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ernest Payne, a technical officer of the Ministry of Agriculture acting as Chairman of the Poultry Industry Committee, prepared a report and forwarded it to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Crumpton Street, Bridgetown; and it reads: "Dear Sir, Request for revised control prices — poultry meat and eggs." Mr. Chairman, in that document which covers some seven paragraphs he set out the investigation carried out by the economist of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the conclusion reached was this "In summary, if poultry feeds increase 4c per pound then the controlled poultry meat and eggs prices should be increased as follows (1) poultry meat per pound, increased non-feed costs five cents, additional baby chick and feed costs 16 cents, four times four; total increase is 21 cents per pound." He also dealt with table eggs per dozen, 2 ounce eggs; "increased non-feed costs seven cents per dozen and additional chick and feed costs 23.2 cents per' dozen that is 5.8c times 4, that is 23.2c per dozen; the total 30.2c per dozen."

Now, Mr. Chairman, when you see the decontrolling of poultry eggs in December simply because it suited the prices which people had to pay to get an egg which came from the outside farmer, one can tell the attitude which the Ministry of Trade has got towards local producers. That attitude is exhibited in the fact that today there is silent war between the feed company and the Ministry of Trade. Week after week new names are appearing for feed in this country. You have Wayne feeds, then you got Pinnacle; after Pinnacle you are getting now Super X; you are getting A.P's, but what is happening? The end result is this, that every time a feedplant closes down the pig producer, the dairy fanner or the poultry producer loses money through the death from starvation of its animals or birds, with the result that money which is now costing 16% on an overdraft, has become scarce and tied up in building, which will probably take some time to be recovered.

It is clear, Mr. Chairman, that this Government intends to break the man they claim they are fighting for. 12.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, something came to my knowledge since last week, and only this morning I have had it confirmed. We hear a lot about the Caribbean Development Bank. We understand that there is a condition in the Caribbean Development Bank that no money must be loaned to a politician, a Parliamentarian, or relatives of such persons. Now, in the days of the Piles at Buckley, the Robinsons at Constant, Joshua Haynes and the Yearwoods, do you think the Government would have said that relatives should not benefit from any money which should be loaned out in Barbados? Today you have a different generation. This Government sits down and allows the Caribbean Development Bank to operate in Barbados with these constraints and then give us a lot of lipservice. The only persons who can benefit from the loans are the North Americans who come here and say that they are doing business.

Mr. Chairman, these are the things that worry me in this country. The performance of trade is such that one does not know what is happening. For instance, take chicken backs and necks. Now backs and necks cannot be sold in the United States for human consumption, but they are allowed to be imported in Barbados and sold at a price to compete against the chickens farmers who produce quarter chickens. The price for backs and necks is such that this country is subsidizing the sophisticated poultry farms.

Mr. Chairman, backs and necks cannot be sold in the United States. They would be sent to other manufacturing industries to be used as a sort of protein in poultry feed. You may go to the B.M.C. now and see them scraping off the words from the boxes: "Not fit for human consumption." Somebody is trying to get rid of our farmers. You will have to look for more dollars to buy eggs from outside. You will soon be having a lot of expatriates in this country. Arbaracre, an English firm, is now planning to set up business in Trinidad. Very soon we will be having our English masters in Barbados. If we are not careful we will find that we are Barbadians, but we will not own anything here.

Last year I said that the price of a young piglet at six to sev n weeks compared very favourably with the price of a 40-lb pig. The cost of the piglet was $33.00 and the cost of the 40-lb pig was $34.00. They had not taken into account the overhead expenses such as housing, feed, water, etc. You get people like Da Silva, a renegade from Guyana, telling us that the amount justified the increase. He said that he was sent by the Minister to hold consultations with the groups. They met at Da Silva's home, and before the persons got home he had passed on all of the information to the Minister. He wrote a letter to the B.M.A. stating that he was representing the poultry fanners. They met at Diocesan House and told him that he was not representing them. They called on him to write a letter to that effect, and he said that it would

make him look small. We are going to march in this country because Da Silva and others must understand that they cannot live peacefully in their country, but they are quite happy here.

Mr. Chairman, what is going to happen at the end of this year? We will have to import pork into this country. The Minister of Agriculture will tell you that he is now trying to re-establish pigs at the Government Agricultural Stations. The farmers in this country have lost interest in pigs because they could not get an increase in the price of pork. They were told that the Economist must work out the cost. The last document presented by Mr. Payne was dated March, 1973, but the Minister as late as December was saying that the poultry people had not yet produced any figures.

Mr. Frank Alleyne, a former Chairman of the Price Control Board, said that he had no confidence in the Minister and his words cannot be believed. I have spoken to him and he thinks he is the Lord God Almighty. He knows everything under the sun. As soon as you open your mouth, you are told: "I know about it; I have that under control; I know what to do." Last year I said that by November/December you would have a shortage of poultry, and that happened. I say that this year things will be worse. If the people rise up in this country again I will be sorry, because it is the innocent people who get hurt. Those who create the confusion will get out and hide themselves in some sanctuary until everything is over before they come back. You are not obliged to take my words, but I wish history to recall that those who say they are helping the poor man usually want to ride on his back. The Minister of Communications likes to talk about people crawling on the backs of poor men, and I hope the people are watching things carefully.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, for the past two years I have frequently, under this Head, drawn attention to the inactivity of the Ministry in setting up a legal structure in which all aspects of trade could properly be organised. 12.40 p.m.

Once again this year I am going to draw attention to the great defects in legislation in Barbados about which the Ministry of Trade seems to be doing nothing or is incapable of doing anything. Let us begin with consumer credit. The consumer credit legislation in Barbados is not only deficient, it is outmoded and archaic and due for review. This applies in the field of sale of goods, -it applies in relation to the protection of consumers in relation to the advert advertisements that go out and it applies also in relation to giving them the truth about rates of interest which apply to their borrowing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, the hon. member will reserve his right to continue his speech after the recess. I think this is an appropriate time for us to suspend in order to accommodate not only members as such, but the staff particularly.

I beg to move, if it is agreeable with the hon. member, that Your Honour 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, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER

resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.30 p.m.

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

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

On Resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:
When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it automatically reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
When progress was reported, the hon. member for Christ Church West was addressing the Chair. He may proceed.

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Chairman, the point I was trying to make before the suspension was that the local structure at present existing for the protection of consumers in this Island leaves much to be desired, and I was saying that the legislation in this field is outmoded and outdated and needs very urgent revision. I cited the Sale of Goods Act which was passed some time in the 1890s and I also referred to the lack of legislation in the field of protecting consumers in general in relation to the type of advertisements one gets in relation to hire purchase, credit sales and the whole gaunt of laws governing consumer transactions, and I said I think the Ministry had had enough time that it should look at this as a matter of urgency.

Only a few months ago I addressed the Committee at length on the necessity for an urgent review of credit laws in so far as they affect consumers. I am not going to make all the points I made on that occasion at this time. I would ask the Government to take note again of this need and hope that by next year the Ministry would be properly organised in such a way as to bring the legislation before this House. I have looked at the plans for this Ministry over the planned period 1973—76 and despite the fine words in the plan, there seems to be a lack of urgency in the activity the plan contemplates. The

plan talks about promoting our exports and about having an export agency, but this is a matter that we in the Opposition have been talking about before I came to this House, and it is a matter that even if politicians do riot talk about it, I think it is one so crucial to the economic well being of the Island that the delay which we have witnessed should not have occurred.

Let me give you an example of what is happening with us intra-Caribbean-wise. The exports in Barbados to the Carifta area between 1965 and 1970 moved from a mere $9.5 million to $16.7 million. The exports of Trinidad and Tobago moved from $40 million to $91 million and the exports of Jamaica from $7 million to $26 million. Jamaica has increased her exports intra-Caribbean 300% in the five year period and Trinidad has a little more than doubled it in the same five year period. These are not the up-to-date statistics. I regret very much that I have not got the up-to-date statistics with me to quote them in terms of actual dollars, but the growth between 1970 and 1974 for both Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guiana has been at a faster rate than the growth in the export position intra-Commonwealth

Caribbean-wise of Barbados. Despite the fact that we have been establishing manufactures — and I must say that the Industrial Corporation has had success in this field — we do not seem to have the apparatus or the drive to promote our exports at as fast a rate as we must if we are to use the plant which we have here and to move to the goal of full employment of which I hear so much being spoken recently both in the public and private sector, and we must level criticism at the Manufacturers' Association1 for the haphazard way in which it has approached this question of export. It is relying a bit too much on the fact that its markets are protected and it has not shown the same sort of drive that we have had, for instance, in the tourist field. It should show more drive; but I think too the Ministry is somewhat to blame, because we have not had the same sort of drive. We are still getting the carrying out of a survey with an expert now advising us on this issue when we could not only have been advised a long time ago, but we should have been seeing the fruits of that advice. 2.35 p.m.

Yesterday on External Affairs you will recall, Mr. Chairman, I talked about the absence of Trade Commissioners in the Commonwealth Caribbean. These Estimates are inextricably bound up between Departments and Ministries. As I see it we must really move towards looking at Barbados as an exporting country. We are small as compared with Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, but the expectations of each of our citizens are as great if not greater than those of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana or Jamaica. In Barbados we have been prided as being a people with a lot of commonsense and ingenuity and we must recognise that if we are to keep up with the Joneses we must be better than the Joneses in our export drive and must show more ingenuity than the Joneses in the manner in which we organise our economic life. We can only pay for the roads which we need, we can only pay for the increased pensions which we must have if the manufacturing sector is producing faster than any other sector, and it is in this respect I believe the Ministry of Trade needs to be conscious of the urgency confronting the country.

Every time I see another factory being opened I say it is a good thing for the country, but I wonder sometimes how serious these people are about pushing our manufactures. I know of some people who were trying recently to get into the Dominican Republic and some of the other Caribbean States and I welcome this, but when I talk to them I realise that there is no basic information fed to them from the Ministry of Trade or the Ministry of External Affairs on the trade patterns within these particular territories. I said before that you cannot run a department like this as if it is merely there to look at price control and dish out money to the IDC for them to get on with the job, this department must have

expertise in it, not merely a few economists attached to the Prices Control Commission, but expertise which would ferret out the areas where we can advance in relation to export trade, and I use that word rather advisedly and in parenthesis. If the figures for our export vis-a-vis the CARIFTA or CARICOM countries lead to some form of criticism I think likewise our exports vis-a-vis other territories.

I heard the Prime Minister say that the rum people in Barbados are another source of representation, but the Government has always had it within its power to direct the overseas markets for Barbadian goods. If I may just in passing look at trade now in relation to what is happening at home, so far as the people buy here. I have not heard anybody say anything so far but I intend to say this. The Hon. Leader of the House when he was Minister of Agriculture and when he was Minister of Trade was highly sensitive to what was going on. I -was much younger then and I have witnessed him in this field, but I have never heard the degree of dissatisfaction which I now hear being bandied around and expressed at this time when he managed the Ministry. I believe the young Minister in this Ministry must be receptive. I think he has to be careful how he is receptive, because one of the problems about trade is that you can become almost overnight the darling of the mercantile class who will try to convince you that you are doing this or the next right. He must be prepared to listen, and what is more, if he wants some general advice from someone who is probably slightly older or younger than himself, he must be prepared to sit down and make his decisions independently and stand up once they are made. I would ask him to rely a lot more than he has done in the past on his experts and advisers, whom I am sure are quite willing to work long hours in this field.

I regret very much, Mr. Chairman, that the relationship which should exist between the marketing and producing branches of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade has not been smooth. That is putting it more than politely, but there is no doubt to the outside person that despite this being noised for over a year now they have sorted out their difficulties. I feel we should move towards solving that difficulty. We have to protect our local producers because they are always with us, and if we are moving into the realm of import substitution the Ministry must recognise that finally it is only in our own country that we should have enough food produced at a price sufficiently economic to the farmer and sufficiently reasonable to the consumer. I think sometimes the Ministry is very slow in making up its mind on price increases because it seems to have the fear that because it is an increase for a local. group of persons they are going to get more blows than if they can say that the overseas markets are tight. I can cite individual instances. Just let me say this, there is no point if you have the facts and figures waiting for a long time to grant an increase, then give the increase and by the time you have granted the increase there has already been another increase. I can cite this with the feed plant, and I think I should cite it in places like Roberts Manufacturing where this has occurred. We are getting that not only from the people who run these enterprises but particularly from the workers who are very conscious of places closing down and then they have no jobs. When they come to me with these complaints I say it is a delicate decision but one which should be made quickly.

I want the Ministry to realise that they must be able to move on these points and be able to make up their minds quickly and make the Minister sign things if he cannot make up his mind. Tell him it is a serious problem. There is no doubt that the control of the cost of living is an urgent matter, and we can do a lot more to control it than has been made in some respects but it calls for close working between the Ministries of Trade and of Agriculture. Prices increase in some instances by as much as 157% of vital goods, 80% for goods over the past few years cannot make anybody at all happy.

Finally, I think I am running out of time but I want to talk in these last three minutes available to me about two other aspects. I am concerned that die Ministry has not looked at the question of the entry of Gold Bond stamps into this country, and I will bar specific on this. I am going to talk about the personal experience of my household. My family started to collect Gold Bond stamps to buy some odd item because it was attractive to the children and, I suppose, to my own family. I do not like to bring my family into these debates but I think I will bring them in at this time. 2, 45 p.m.

Eventually, when my wife recognised that she would have to spend over $300 to $400 for the benefit of getting something which would cost $36, she realised, that like a good economist, she could not possibly afford it. That might be one of the $36 that 1 would want to give to one of my constituents who happens to be in a less fortunate condition than I. What I am saying is that the Government should not allow Gold Bond Stamps to operate here. If we are going to spend on advertisements, let us keep the income here for the broadcasting stations or those who do business here. Let the Ministry introduce legislation dealing with the matter once and for all.

These Gold Bond Stamps are a terrible form of advertisement which has been completely cast aside in other countries. It is disastrous to the smaller person, and the cost of it is being passed oil to the consumer. We do not need Gold Bond Stamps here. -Because the idea comes from America it does not necessarily mean that it is good.

Finally, I come to the question of designs. This happens to be a very important part of the marketing arrangements of the country and that includes the manufacturing sector. I still believe that until we can get our own permanent design centre established and financed by the manufacturers with some help from the Government we will never be able to put forward the expertise of our young artists, and people who are engaged in making our products more attractive.

In this respect, I would comment that eight years after independence we are still giving immediate and automatic recognition to designs which have been done by English manufacturers. That is wrong. We still have no designs of our own.

People, including some of the other CARICOM countries, are taking designs brought out by young, enterprising people like Gary Husbands and Elton Mottley who designed the shirt-jac and completely lost his design. There are many people who find that their designs are being pirated and they are getting nowhere and then the designs are being sold back into Barbados as something novel, and there is no protection.

Rather than the manufacturers association wasting a lot of its time in doing other things, it should get someone to produce a Designs Act. The same goes for trade marks. I know that these are very specialised subjects and probably not vote catching subjects, but I am not interested in that aspect. I am interested in any subject which would help Barbados earn more and increase the gross national product and the per capita income of each Barbadian citizen so that we can redress the unbalances in our society. That is what is important to me. I think that the Ministry must recognise the importance of these subjects, and not believe that they belong to the academic realm.

Mr. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, the vote for the Ministry of Trade is a fairly comprehensive one and can at some times

cause a great deal of debate, particularly when you get to items like the Price Control Commission and the Industrial Development Corporation.

I want to deal with a number of aspects of this vote. Let me first direct my attention to the Industrial Development Corporation. This, to my mind, is a very important corporation in that one of its major responsibilities is to attract industrialists to come to Barbados and provide employment opportunities to people of this country.

Over the years, it would seem to me that the IDC has been adopting a rather strange approach toward the whole question of industrialisation. It would seem to me that they are more concerned with the number of factories attracted to the island than in the quality of the investors who are attracted, and the relationship which exists or results from the kind of people who come here and set up industries and the relationships which exist between employers and workers.

I would like to suggest that the IDC play a more positive role in the industrial programme of the country. I think that we should in no uncertain terms let potential investors know what the real situation is. Tell them of the quality of our labour force. Tell them of the stable political climate of the country. These are things that investors are keen on seeing, but I think it should also be pointed out to investors — I know that this is done, but not in a positive way — that we have a trade union movement operating here and that industrialists have to understand this.

I do not believe that this is done in as dynamic and forceful a manner as it should be done. You have industrialists coming and paying extremely low wages and when the Barbados Workers' Union goes to negotiate for new wages we hear that they were told by the IDC that these are the kind of wages we should pay. We should get our priorities right because if the time comes that employers want to back out of the situation it does the country no good. We have to be very concerned about this, and we must insist that the IDC play a more positive role.

I would also like, Mr. Chairman, to impress upon the Government the need for spreading out Industrial development all over the country. At present it would seem that the major concentration is on industrial estates in or near Bridgetown. I know that investors like to set up factories as near to the Port as possible because they will have a reduction in transportation cost; but if the industrial development programme is supposed to be operating for the benefit of the country as a whole, we have to take die circumstances existing in the country into consideration.

Those who are concerned with the programme should realise that there are a number of problems which prevent the concentration of factories in one area. It draws a number of people from the rural areas and you get a mass descent of people from all over the country into your urban areas. I am suggesting that greater attention should be paid to the setting up of factories and industrial estates in rural areas. This would mean that people who live in rural areas would be able to get jobs in those areas and the number of people coming into the urban centre would be reduced. 2.55 p.m.

The whole idea of more development in the country would be taken of. This is what I think we should be concerned with. St. George would do with an industrial estate, and what I would like to see is more factories put in places like St. Lucy because when a girl or a boy has to travel from St. Lucy to go into Grazettes or any other industrial estate in St. Michael to get a job you will see how expensive it will be

by way of providing herself or himself with bus fare, whereas if the factories are taken to the people, then this would redound to the benefit of everybody in the country; I think that this is very important and some attempt should be made to see that this is carried out.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to make reference to the Handicraft section which is very important to this country of ours. The 1973-77 Development Plan has recognised the importance of developing handicrafts in this country and I have no doubt that efforts would be made to see that the ideas mentioned in the plan would be put into execution, and I would stress that every effort should be made to see that this will involve people in the country area. Certain types of activities along this line have been dying out but I think it has been recognised now that there is a definite need for this and that greater interest is being shown for it, so I am glad to see that it is being given a bigger boost and that the Government has planned for this development. This development of handicrafts should not only be the concern and the interest of the Ministry of Trade but the Ministry of Education has got to be involved also because as I see it, this type of activity should not be started only when people have left school but it should be started in school and let the children know at an early stage something practical about these crafts. This would be rewarding and would be quite beneficial if brought under the Ministry of Education. We should ensure that the handicrafts development is spread out all over the country so that we can have total national participation rather than as has been the case over the years, merely concentrating in the urban areas.

Another point I would like to make is that it is my view that the Ministry of Trade and the Industrial Development Corporation should pay very special attention to the development of the pottery industry in Barbados. It is the oldest industry in Barbados and unfortunately it looks as thought the craft is dying out; I think we should do our very best to see that it does not die out, and we should give as much encouragement to the people involved as possible.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that in this small country of ours we have to concentrate only on the Chalky Mount area, although this area is one to which we must pay special attention, but we should spread the pottery industry out as much as possible and we should get those who are practising the trade to visit the schools and arrange programmes by which they could impart knowledge of the art to the teachers, and we should ensure that as many people as possible learn the art because it would redound to the benefit of the country as a whole. So we should aim at this when we are talking about industrialisation.

The next point I would like to make is in reference to the statement made by the hon. member for Christ Church West and I would like to join with him in his suggestion relative to taking the quickest action possible in providing legislation to protect the consumer, because the consumers in this country are taken advantage of. You get people who import goods into this country who are not particularly concerned about the quality; they are not particularly concerned about trying to ensure that what is in a package is something of a good quality but all they are concerned about is selling their product, and the consumers are being taken advantage of. So we should make sure that the necessary legislation to protect the consumer is put on the Statute Book as quickly as possible, and I hope sincerely that the Government will be able to get some action moving on this.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

Mr. Chairman, I had really promised never to speak on trade, because being a businesswoman I will

always be a business-woman, and I may be taken in the wrong light, and somebody may think I am looking for a position in the Ministry of Trade; but the time has come in this country when we must certainly take a serious look at trade. Trade is an important Ministry in this Government, and today, several people are complaining, and most of all are the people who are making the money. In my opinion it is absolutely necessary to encourage business in this country to make money so that the Government may be able to meet its commitments. 3.05 p.m.

If all sorts. of restrictions are placed in the path of business men, then how do you expect some of them to make money? I can remember the days when my parents were in business. They did not have any university education or degree, but they made money and did business in the right way. There are several down-to-earth people in Barbados who have made money through doing business in the ordinary way. Today we have economists in the country who have been educated and know the theory of things, but they cannot do anything with those who have worked hard and practised certain things.

I congratulate the hon. member for Christ Church West who spoke on gold bond stamps. In my opinion there are consumers in Barbados who want to see the cost of living reduced. Prices are high, but I feel that if we can make concessions we will be able to direct things to suit ourselves. We look at the South American countries and the big countries, and we want to do the things that they do. We want to use all of the different brands on the shelves, and that is not necessary. We want all kinds of service and measures instituted in business places, supermarkets and so on. People in Barbados do not value a paper bag. In America when I purchased articles, I had to buy a paper bag in which to put them. In Barbados people will come to a business place and expect you to give them a paper bag. Ordinary common sense will tell you that a paper bag will have to be paid for.

Mr. Chairman, it appears to me sometimes that if you are not a lawyer, or a university graduate, you are not expected to get anywhere, but as far as I am concerned the ordinary businessman in this country is responsible for the position in which Barbados finds itself today. I am wondering when we are going to appreciate the fact that certain people have worked hard to reach the top. It is time that the Government should be prepared to listen to them, even if some of them are indulging in bad practices. If you have six children, you do not expect all of them to be good. You will find bad businessmen, and you will find business men who are honest and sincere. I know that people like the Goddards can give us sound advice and tell us where we should go.

Mr. Chairman, must we borrow money from other people all the time? The people in the North East constituency have placed me here, and I am not satisfied with the way things are being run. (Asides) If the people do not want me in here, I will still have a place to go to when I am through. There is a lot more I can say, but there is a time for everything. I will leave the Hon. Minister to do the rest.

Mr. ADAMS:

If I had one regret, Mr. Chairman, at the end of these Estimates, it would be that of hearing some of the astonishing statements made by the hon. member for St. Michael North East before certain hon. members on my side were so loud in their comments as to force the hon. lady to pull herself together and refrain from any more of her outbursts. I have only been in this Chamber seven or eight years, and I have never heard the view of capitalism so flagrantly espoused. There is nothing wrong about being a capitalist, except that she is in the wrong Party and in the wrong place at the wrong time. I think that both political parties have adopted a certain attitude in so far as capitalism is concerned. We have fought

to take power out of the hands of the capitalist. I do not support her views that in 1974 Barbados' problems could be solved by putting power in the hands of the capitalist. If a member of my party had made such a statement, I would have left the party, or he would have left. Why should we give business men a free hand? What is meant by giving them a free hand? Why should we take away price control and permit them to do as they please?

Mrs. EASTMOND:
On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never said that price control should be taken away.

Mr. ADAMS:
I wish to say, mildly, to her that she must sit and listen carefully. Is it meant to take off the price controls? When I am on the platform, or in the court room, I sometimes repeat myself 12 times to each juror. I did not believe it was necessary to repeat myself 18 times to each member sitting opposite. I do not believe that this is a place where the numbers of rhetoric should be used to make people understand things. We are put in here because it is felt that we have sense. If we do not have sense, then we should sit and keep quiet.

Most of our business men were in power when the hon. member was a little girl. In those days the Conservatives were in power, and as recent as 1968 the people returned a Conservative . in Trinidad. Twenty-three of us in here today would vote against the idea of being represented by business men. In the United States what is good for General Motors is good for the State. Therefore, what is good for the Goddards in Barbados must be good for Barbados! 3.15p.m.

I admire the contribution which the small business people in this Island have made to the lite of this country and the political life of this country. I have even at this stage a very great belief in the small retail shopkeeper in the country districts as against the more wealthy merchants who are trying to drive them out of business. I have a profound admiration for people who are prepared to take the credit risks of carrying on a business in a country village of a few hundred or a couple of thousand people, or in bigger places like Orange Hill, St. James, parts of St. Philip and Redman's Village, St. Thomas, but I cannot believe that the principles which are to be applied to the running of a small business are the principles that can also be applied to the running of a country. That is one of the things socialism is about. 1 do not utter that word in here. I believe people have to judge me on policies I put forward, not by whether I say they are socialists policies or otherwise. I have my views and they can be determined by the appropriate persons, and no policy that 1 ever put forward or ever support will be any policy to return Barbados to the anti-diluvian years that the Democratic Labour Party, the Barbados Labour Party and the Conservative Party before tried to extract Barbados from, and it is a measure of the dilution of our politics that the political parties have persons — not our party because our party is very pruned and refined by the electoral process - but that the Democratice Labour Party'can contrive in this day and age so far as to forget all the principles as to embrace persons with views as extreme on political matters as the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South East. I take that to be two roles of the spectrum that the Democratic Labour Party is contriving, it is a circle. You start at one point and you go right round from left to right and find you end up where you started irom. A Party that prides itself with the businessmen of Barbados, the Barbados Manufacturers' Association headed by the members of the Democratic Labour Party, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce headed by supporters if not perhaps card carrying members of the Democratic Labour Party, The Democratic Labour Party prides itself on that and at the other extreme expects to be credible with the utterances of

the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. You may call that a national party. I call that a Party without a soul, a party without spirit, a party without a principle whose basis is expediency, whose interest is power, not a party interested in doing something.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

On a point of order, a party that has done more for Barbados than any other party.

Mr. ADAMS:

The hon. member is saying that for the approbation of his Committee. In private he does not say that, he goes to the other extreme and says that the two parties are the same and he happens to be in that now. The hon. member must not interrupt on such a vague point of order. He can gain credit from his members by other means. I just want to go on record as saying that in no way can I support any of the sentiments uttered by the hon. lady who has just sat down.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, no one about to deny that the Ministry of Trade has become the target hi recent years of the community by the criticism levelled against it. It is very easy to criticise, but it takes a lot more effort to be constructive, if the amount of money spent by the Ministry is any indication of the amount of work it has been doing or the importance it is to the total economy, one will have to concede that the amount of money being spent by the Ministry of Trade in the ensuing financial year is not adequate. But then again one has to go back to the question of how much money you can afford to spend. If you examine the history of Barbados in relation to trade matters, you will observe that in Barbados for a long time we have been more concerned with importation both by the present Government and the previous Government, who tried not to interfere with the importation policies of this country, because the public at high and low levels thought that it was best left to the commercial sector of this country. It is obvious today that Government must exercise some control and some influence on trade whether they be imported or exports grown in this country, and it should be obvious that in any attempt to influence or control these matters there is bound to be stresses or strains created within the commercial sector of this country. For a long time the business people of Barbados had a free hand both on the plantations and in the Broad Street area. Both have been going through the same policies. If you look at the pattern of trade. It has been concerned with the importation of goods. You will observe over a period of ten years that our imports have increased tremendously whereas on the other hand our exports have not increased at any proportionate rate. Our exports in the past have been confined principally to sugar and sugar products. People have imported and continued to import and justify the importation of these commodities and Barbadians have been encouraged to develop certain tastes. The Barbados economy is one that is trying to improve. Now people put forward many arguments that we should ban this and ban that, but we have to scratch a bit deeper because a large quantity of the revenue which the Government derives comes from customs duty levied on goods imported into this country, and if they are going to get up overnight and start banning left, right and centre, you will realise just as quickly that the revenue has diminished and many of the projects we seek to maintain and expand cannot be expanded or even maintained. So while it may be nice to get up and shout that these things should be banned, left, right and centre, a wise Government has to be cautious. We are not saying it should not and could not be done, but what we want to point out on this side is that it cannot be done overnight. It has to be thought out carefully and phased in. It is not a question of banning an item and saying you should use what is produced locally, because when we ban an item we have to look for some other item on which to attach a tax which was hitherto duty free. Trade has problems. Nobody is going to deny that. Any developing

country nowadays which is seeking to redress its adverse balance of trade must have problems, but such problems are not peculiar to Barbados, you find them even in some of the developed countries. In trying to adjust this imbalance, we have to take advantage of certain conditions as they occur.

We have been trying for some time to shift from agricultural exports into a wider base. We have to realise that there is high competition in the world for the money available, whether it comes from financing agencies or from individual financing. There are many other countries competing, and one of the reasons why we have the Pioneer Industries Act is to be able to attract people into Barbados who otherwise may consider it better to go to Hong Kong or Puerto Rico. 3.25 p.m.

When one looks at many of the problems confronting the Ministry of Trade one finds that many of these things have come about as a result of Government attempting to have some control over the policy carried on in this country by the business community and obviously you are going to get opposition. There are business people in this country who for a very long time have dominated the economy of this country and who feel that they should still be dominating the economy as a right and privilege. Some of them boast that while the poor people can have political control they will control the economy. As a result of this attitude when Government sets out to do something we find that every effort is being made to sabotage the Ministry or to castigate the Minister whose only crime may be that he is making a modest effort to control the cost of living. I am not saying he is perfect, not one of us is perfect and many of us have to learn by our mistakes.

In this country you can see the whole face of colour shining forth whether you acknowledge it or not. Certain people of a certain colour have dominated the economy of this country for a long time and coloured people are now trying to do this but they have very little chance of succeeding. They cannot do it without a fight. While all this economic expansion has been going on, greater and greater effort is being made by a particular section of the community to maintain their control of the economy, so what do you expect to happen when a Minister tries to do something which he believes would go a far way to settle many of the problems facing him? While on one hand we are saying we want to see this thing erased from the Barbadian society on the other we are saying that the man who sets about to do it is not doing it efficiently. I am not saying that some of the criticisms made may not be reasonable or justified but a lot of them might be unreasonable and unjustified. We do not have many coloured people with expertise of other countries which is due to the long experience they have in certain fields or activities, and one of the problems facing this country is that the coloured people who complain make absolutely no effort to prepare themselves for the roles which this country needs so much if it is to advance.

One of the problems affecting not only the Ministry of Trade but other Ministries and Boards is that the people you put there make no effort to come to grips with the problems of the country, if the coloured people of this country want to control the economy they cannot do it just by sitting down and criticising, they have to get interested and study, whether they go to the university or elsewhere, so that they can prepare themselves to get into positions to help the country and themselves, but we are still a far way from that. As long as they remain as they are they are not going to wrest the economy from the people who now control it. It is so nice to get up here and shout, but we are not dealing with the reality of the situation and the coloured people themselves have to pull themselves up by their boot straps. If they do not do this in spite of what we say we will see a return to the former days which none of us would like to see. We have a far way to go. We have brought industries into this country and find that they do not perform in the way they should. Nobody on this side will say, and I doubt that anybody who

takes a serious look at what has been going on in this country for the past six or seven years will say that the Government is not making a determined effort to shift some of the emphasis from importation to exportation. If we have not got the results we or the people of Barbados would like it is not that we are not trying, we are still trying but these things are going to take a long time to achieve.

We find too often that the Barbadian does not get involved in what should be done to help his country, and this is unfortunate. It is a very interesting Ministry and one which affects the people's bellies. Take a commodity like English potatoes. People have developed certain tastes and they want to keep those tastes. They are not concerned with the amount of sweet potatoes and yams we have available in this country, they feel they must have English potatoes. We cannot put all the blame on them however because the commercial sector spends a tidy sum of money advertising all these things and if a wise Government which is concerned about the economy of this country tries to do something to help them they are not interested and these are the things which the Government has to contend with in trying to change the economic face and colour of the Barbadian society, but it is not an easy task. It is a trying one, and while I say some of the criticisms may be reasonable and justified, at the same time Ministers are human beings and criticism can very often wreck people's nerves, especially if it is unreasonable and unfounded it can very often make people realise that it may be useless to make these sacrifices because none of their good intentions are appreciated. I feel if we are thinking seriously of changing the economic face of Barbados we have to give the man a chance. I am not saying we should not criticis: him because as a Minister I expect to be criticised, if I were not I would be surprised, and I believe that any Minister who is in politics and know what it is all about should expect to be criticised, but I feel the man should be given a fair chance. I am asking not only members of this place but the people of Barbados one question. Are we really giving the Minister a chance?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I think the Hon. Minister has just given a very able reply on behalf of the Government, so I do not think it need go any further.

The question that the sum of $1, 625, 359 under Head 32 — Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.35 p.m.

HEAD 133 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 133 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, before moving that this Head stand part I should like to draw attention to an amendment which I want to make. The amendment is to delete the figure $11, 325, 200 and replace it by $11, 325, 200.

Mr. Chairman, the pattern of debate on the Estimates under this Head has shown a great deal of interest in Item No. 1, National Housing Corporation. I presume that this will be the case here today as it has been on former occasions. I regret that I was not able to table the Auditor General's Report for the year 1971, that being the latest because that Report was not yet in when this debate started. However,

having got a copy of this Report some days ago, I was able to rush it through Cabinet and I have a copy of this Report which has not yet been laid on the table of the House.

Because of the fact that hon. members have not got copies of this Report, I want to draw attention to certain aspects which I know will be of interest. I presume that there will be some interest in.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, unless the Hon. Minister is prepared to make the Report which he is reading a Document of the House, it would be an abrogation of the rules.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, it was always my intention to make this a Document of the House. I repeat that that was always my intention, to make this a Document of the House this afternoon.

The Auditor General made some comments, or continued to make comments which he made in the last report on a couple of errors found in the accounting system of the Housing Authority. One is found on paragraph 11 where he found that a certain sum was omitted and which should be credited to the General Workers Fund and not to the Public Officers Housing Loans.

It was not the fault of the Housing Authority as it was known then, but the fault of the Treasury which paid money into the Authority's account at Barclays Bank to the Housing Loans Account rather than to the General Workers Account.

The Report goes on to say that repayments totalling $35, 125.60 shown in the records of the Authority have beeen omitted from the Suspense Account awaiting detailed information as to the expropriate personal accounts. I believe that the Auditor General made some comments on this system last time. I know that not only has the Housing Authority suffered from this system, but other departments and Ministries using the check off system.

In other words, Sir, these workers had the money deducted from their pay packets. The money was sent to the Treasury and the Treasury deposited it at Barclays Bank without informing the Housing Authority of the persons in respect of whom the money had been sent to the bank. We had in Barclays Bank a sum of money to the credit of the Authority, but the Authority has no way of finding out the individuals to whose account it should be credited.

I believe that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in his capacity as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee knows about this. The check off system is no longer employed, but the pay to order system. The money deducted is no longer sent through the Treasury, but directly through the Housing Corporation so that it is easily known in respect of whom the money has been deducted. 3.45 p.m.

Paragraph 15, Mr. Chairman, makes reference to the special programme for the maintenance of houses and to which attention has been drawn. This relates mainly to the financial year 1970. It states here: "While the normal expenditure in respect of maintenance of houses was being incurred, the special programme of operations for the maintenance of houses which commenced during the previous year has been continued during the year under review." I will add that it explains that "A total of $455, 340 was paid in favour of five persons who were not normal employees of the Corporation. The payments were

made in respect of repairs and redecorations to 559 houses at the original cost and 1, 078 houses at the increased cost, " and it shows how the total was paid in proportion per person.

I explained here on the last occasion that a number of persons were engaged in maintaining some of the properties of the National Housing Corporation.

Paragraph 20 of the Report refers to the Christmas loans. There are a number of loans still outstanding, particularly from persons who are not on the establishment of the Authority, who since have left employment. These Christmas loans were advanced by the Authority and it was expected that they would be paid in monthly equal instalments before the 31st March of the year in which the loans were made. What happened is, that some of these people left the employment of the Authority and as I stated on the last occasion, authority was given to the Solicitor of the Housing Authority to see after the refund of this money. It is stated here that an examination of the analysis of the total due to the Authority by sundry debtors revealed that this asset includes some amounts, Mr. Chairman, which are shown here, and, which remained outstanding at 31st March, 1971 in respect of loans advanced during the Christmas season to weekly paid employees for the years 1962-1969 respectively. A balance of $54.36 was also shown to have been owing by the monthly paid staff of the Authority in respect of loans advanced.

Attention is specially drawn to these balances for the reason that the relevant loans were advanced with the stipulation that they should be repaid by 31st March of the financial year in which the advance was made. Mr. Chairman, the fact is that in certain cases a worker before 31st March may have left for the United States and has not returned, so this amount would be still due and owing by that person.

Paragraph 22, Mr. Chairman, refers to the Public Officers Housing Loans. It states: "The number of loans shown as approved in favour of Public Officers during the year was 303 and the amount shown as advanced in respect of loans totalled $1, 397, 133.10. This total includes sums amounting to $171, 080 which were advanced on the basis that the relevant loans were approved during July, 1969. According to available information, however, and as indicated at paragraph 27 of my Report, the Housing Authority was without a Chairman at the time of the presumed approval in view of the fact that with effect from 1st July, 1969 the Chairman had resigned and the succeeding Chairman was appointed by letter dated 31st July, 1969."

So for the whole of July, 1969 the Authority was without a Chairman and was without anyone with the necessary authority to approve these loans, but, these loans were approved. These loans were presumably approved during the year by a person to the satisfaction of the Minister of Housing. The Minister gave authority for certain loans to be advanced and at the first meeting thereafter of the Public Officers Committee a large number of these loans was approved by this Committee.

The Report also revealed that a further amount of $500 was advanced as loan, but no approval in any form whatsoever was seen in relation to such advance. This $500, Mr. Chairman, was advanced to a public officer or officers without the approval of the Minister or the approval of the Authority and the fact is that the Secretary of the Public Of fleers Loan Fund was not given authority in this respect.

My final comment here, Sir wil be in respect of paragraph 24 of the Report. "Interest shown as receiveable on loans was $123, 502.24. It should be pointed out in this connection that the position remains unchanged regarding sums totalling $46S to which reference was made at paragraph 29 of my

last Report." Paragraph 29 of the last report refers to this amount of money, Mr. Chairman, it was explained that the three loans together with other loans amounted to $9, 680 making a total of $29, 680 and were for certain reasons being treated in a special manner.

Mr. Chairman, I will have to repeat again this year what took place because reference is again made to this amount of money. The then Solicitor of the Corporation collected certain sums - three amounts of money - I think this is well known to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committees. I want to state here that I gave my officer all authority; in fact, I do not have to give them, it is their right, but I advised them to go and give the Public Accounts Committee all assistance necessary and my understanding is that they have done just this. Now I am advising here in respect of this $465 that certain sums of money were collected by the then Solicitor of the Authority and were not paid over to the Authority. Subsequently, however, Sir, these sums of money were admitted by the Solicitor as having been collected on behalf of the Authority and have indeed been paid over. So that although this is the report, I will remind hon. members for 1970-71, subsequent Report or Reports will show that this amount is no longer outstanding.

Mr. Chairman, I think this represents matters which would be of interest to this Honourable Chamber and I have great pleasure in making this a document of this Chamber. As regards the other items, if there are any matters on which hon. members would like assistance I will be only too happy to supply the information.

I now move that the sum of $11, 325, 200 under Head 133- Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:
Mr. Chairman, the Minister has taken a somewhat unusual course in dealing with this matter by presenting an Auditor General's Report which we have not seen as yet and therefore there will be some difficulty in discussing it, if his proposal is indeed to initiate a debate on the Auditor General's Report or if the Auditor General's Report is the justification for the reduction of Item 1 of the Head of the subvention to the National Housing Corporation. 3.55 p.m.

I do not think we have to go into details. While you have $2 million in the Housing Corporation's vote, this amount is below the figure that the former Minister of Housing, the hon. member for St. Andrew, said five years ago, when we were discussing the 1969 Estimates, was reasonably necessary to satisfy the housing needs in this country. My position as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, perhaps, makes it unwise for me to say what needs the hon. member for St. Andrew was seeking to satisfy when he was asking for the sum of $4 million for the Housing Authority as it was then called.

The point I am trying to make out is that while, on the one hand, I recall that the waste in the Corporation, or the Housing Authority, has been recognised by this reduction in the vote, they were saying that the Opposition did not know what they were talking about and were bringing the wrong charge at the wrong time. It seems that the right place has now arrived for this reduction. It has been said that we in the Opposition must study the housing needs in Barbados with care. I have no doubt that the

Hon. Minister will explain things. Anyone who reads the Development Plan and relates it to what is happening in the Housing Corporation will understand what is happening in housing in this country. I do not want to go over all of the I arguments about spending too much money on unessential things in this country instead of looking after our housing needs and things under Communications and Works. There is a need for houses which will last 50 or 60 years. Fifty or sixty years is the maximum life of a wooden building. There is a necessity to set higher standard for housing in this Country. (Asides.)

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister was conversant with North American houses, he would have known that most big houses in America are built of wood. These houses will cost about $100, 000 to build. Of course, some houses are built with a 3-cell wall and a roof in the colder parts of the United States. The Minister will know that there are wooden houses in the U.S.A. The houses are not built, as we understand it in Barbados, with one wall which serves the inside and outside wall. I am not referring to a wall house. They are cheaper than houses constructed of stone, and that is the reason for building them. There is no point in the Government building houses that will have to be repaired in 30 or 40 years' time. Some of these houses cannot stand up to the tropical weather they have to endure. Barbados has a housing problem and it will become greater because the people of Barbados accept consumer goods such as motor cars, refrigerators and so on as a way of life, but permanent housing has not yet become a significant part of the aspirations of Barbadians. In the meantime, Barbadians aspire to the ownership of a motor car this year or next year. These are some of the things that any future Government in Barbados will have to deal with.

Mr. Chairman, it has been mentioned that Barbados does not have slums similar to the slums found in South American countries. Some of those slums have sub-standard housing. In Barbados the stringency on the part of the Government has forced it to reduce the vote for the house building programme from $2 million to $1.2 million. A previous Minister said that his father painted the houses constructed by the Housing Authority, and it was known that the Government did not advertise for tenders for the job. The fact remains that the vote has been reduced. The Auditor General's Report, which has been laid, will be discussed by the Public Accounts Committee and, perhaps, on public platforms of this country, but this is not the place for it. I am glad that the Minister has laid the Report so that I can have an opportunity to read it. 4.05 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, we in housing have a programme. I made that point at the beginning of this debate, because I wanted to emphasise that the reduction of the grant by $2 million will in no way affect the housing programme of this country. That may sound paradoxical, but it is a fact for this very reason Whereas in previous years the thrust of the housing policy had been the construction of houses for rental, this present administration is concentration on the construction of houses for ownership, so that what we are doing is building houses and selling them and collecting the revenue from these houses to carry out our programme. Whereas before we were building houses and renting them at $3, $4 and $6 a week and spending something like $7, 000 doing this and only collecting these small rents per week, we will now be building houses and collecting about $9, 000 per month. I want to disabuse the hon. member's mind from all he has heard in the course of this whole debate that the sum of $7 million has been reduced by $2 million in order to take care of the activity of the coast guard. I could have said it then, but it was not opportune. We are providing more houses but we are using a smaller grant from the Treasury in order to do this.

We have heard statements made in this Chamber that I dealt with on the last occasion. There has been no corruption at the Housing Authority by persons to whom hon. members would like to point their fingers. Of course it sounds good political propaganda to keep it alive, but I want to repeat that without wanting to use the same argument.....

Mr. ADAMS:

On a point of order, the Minister well knows because he said in his speech that the Auditor General's report is under consideration by the Public Accounts Committee. The Parliamentary Privileges Act enjoins that nothing that has transpired in Committee or has not transpired in Committee shall be published to any one until the Committee has reported to the House. I am telling the House that as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee that is the issue of corruption in so far as evidence is being taken. At the moment the then acting Manager of the Housing Authority is giving evidence to the Committee, and the Minister is out of order in my submission in commenting in any way on evidence being given. You are a member of the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS:

It is illegal to say anything about it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES:

It was the hon. member himself, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee who raised this issue this afternoon by saying that he had recognised that there is a reduction in the vote. You cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time. He spoke about corruption. It has been well explained and set out in the Development plan why we are building timber houses, because we want to make more available for the people of Barbados. We have set ourselves certain standards to which we want to adhere.

Reference has been made to the single wall construction. In the Housing Corporation when we are building blocks, we build a cross wall that carries the full load of the building and at the same time it has the added effect of dividing one dwelling unit from another. We do not need the insulation that the people in North America need. They need inflation against extreme cold and extreme heat. We do not need that here in Barbados.

The question that the sum of $11, 325, 200 under Head 133 - Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance - as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 109 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Head 109 - Ministry of Finance and Planning -was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this sum of $2, 796, 962 members will notice the sum of

$100, 000 for the Inter-American Development Bank and for the Caribbean Development Bank the sum of $1, 845, 962. Now most of that money under that Head is for the completion, I hope, of the building for the Caribbean Development Bank at Wildey Heights which is under construction at the moment. It does appear to me that the National Insurance building which will be a much more massive structure costing more that twice the amount of money will be completed long before that building is completed. The firm that is constructing the building up there is the one that was engaged in a Labour dispute last year, but they certainly do not have a Labour dispute this year to offer as an excuse, but I sincerely hope it will be completed during my chairmanship of the Board of Governors of the Bank which I assumed in May this year, because I would not like to go out of office after Barbados has spent all this money without a Barbadian taking possesion of the building; but it was part of the agreement for the Caribbean Development Bank that whichever country acquired the headquarters of the Bank should put up the building, so we have provided the land and we are building the headquarters of the Bank. The office blocks, professional fees, Conference Centre and so on are included in that amount and contingencies whenever they arise. Also in the amount as in the amount under Item 1 is the encashment of promissory notes which is part of our agreed quota or subscriptions which we hold in non-interest bearing and in some cases interest-bearing promissory notes. In the case of the Caribbean Development Bank, as far as I remember they are interest-bearing promissory notes, and that sum includes provision for the encashment of those promissory notes. The amount for the Barbados Development Bank is $% million, and again we agreed to have a certain number of tranches paid into the Barbados Development Bank from time td time in order that the programmes of the Bank may be carried, out. You will also note in Item 6 that we have a sum of $200, 000 for the purchase of a computer. I should like to make it clear that the computer is not going to cost $200, 000. I do not want any hon.members coming back next year and saying that we had $200, 000 last year for the purchase of a computer and we are coming back this year for the purchase of another computer. I have explained that, I think, at length during the debate on the Current Estimates the position with the data processing unit and that we will have to buy a fourth generation computer in the 370 series. The computer should cost at current prices approximately $800, 000; it may be $872, 000 or $870, 000. We will not know precisely at this point of time. 4.15p.m.

The computer should cost at current prices approximately $800, 000. It may be $872, 000 or $807, 000 but we will not know precisely at this point in time, but in order to place a firm order we will have to make a deposit and we cannot expect delivery of that computer before say the middle of next year. This will be the most modern computer that there is and our people are getting some kind of practice and experience on the third generation computer opposite their own office in Bridge Street because ours has broken down. In a discussion we had yesterday it was the consensus amongst some of my Ministers and others that as soon as we get this there is a very good likelihood that our computer will be working again. They have a contract to get it in a serviceable state and right now we are not paying for the computer, they will be using the one at the IBM centre free of cost because they have a maintenance contract with us.

All I am saying under that Head is that I do not want anybody coming back next year saying we had $200, 000 this year and coming for money again, It is possible to get second-hand computers, but when you get a secondhand one IBM does not guarantee anything on it. We have decided, belatedly or other wise, to buy a computer which should be capable of handling all the public accounts and the electoral rolls, and by that time the building would have been completed, the Statistical Service would be over there and we hope we will be able to avoid any duplication of machinery or staff.

That is all I have to say on that Head, Sir.

The question that the sum of $2, 796, 862 under Head 109 - Ministry of Finance and Planning stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 116(1)- PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Head 116(1)-PrimeMinister's Office, Airport Development - was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, we have had a long discussion on the airport and I am not going to discuss it in any great length. One of the reasons why we decided to go to Springhall -Springhall was not acquired for my Ministry but it is about 700 acres and I said I could use 75 acres, so I walked over it with the Surveyors but one of the main reasons was that the purchase of Springhall alone was justified after a second look at the runway at Seawell.Furthermore, a lot of people were being inconvenienced and there was a problem of getting around the end of the runway which was 12, 000 feet long, and it means that a whole lot of land south of the runway would have been immobilised and we could not build a tunnel or any other way for getting out of that area without going to more expense quite apart from the cost of the 12, 000-foot runway. On re-examination we are going to open up a part of the country which does not need developing because it is the most developed part of the country and has produced the most outstanding Parliamentarians.

I beg to move that the sum of $6, 067, 327 under Head 116(1) - Prime Minister's Office, Airport Development - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 119 - DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION

Head 119 - Defence and Security Division was called.

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW:
Mr. Chairman, this is the one I have been waiting for. I remember during the Current Estimates there was a lot of discussion about Government spending $2 million this year on the Coast Guard Service, and I let them go on talking. The amount of money which we were discussing then was something like $562, 000 and I went into a very full explanation as to what that money was for.

I want to say categorically that it is not true that the Government is spending $2 million on the Coast Guard Service. It is not true that we took money from the Ministry of Housing so that we could spend the additional $1.5 million on the Coast Guard Service, but I was not prepared to discuss that under the Current Estimates, they were only talking political propaganda. The amount which is being spent under

this Head is not to the end of the financial year, and after discussion with the Auditor General — because we have entered into a contract for the purchase of these boats with Commercial Export Credit Company Limited, for some reason best known to the Auditor General and for some highly legalistic reason, since the Government is committed to the expenditure which has been put in the Capital Estimates for this year, and according to the Financial Administration and Audit rules this is the correct way it should be done.

Could I try perhaps to give an interpretation of the reasoning behind the Auditor General and the Accountant General insisting that it be done this way? We have undertaken a lot of contracts, and in some of these contracts the House has approved that we spend so much money, but it should be spent let us say $50, 000 this year and $50, 000 next year. 4.25 p.m.

They were sent around to try to find out what the public debt is, as we do not get a true picture because they only show what is committed under the Capital Estimates.

Let us take the case of the Coast Guard Service. We are committed to the expenditure of $1.5 million for these four vessels and the construction of docking facilities etc. — like the purchase of the gantry which will lift the vessel out of the water. If we put in the correct amount we will find that we are going to spend for this year already £26, 316 which is just over $250, 000, and the interest which we have to pay in two instalments is roughly £15, 000.

Now this is all that the Accountant General is being asked to pay out this year. On bills of exchange the interest will be £34, 201.54 and the second instalment is due on the 30th November for £33, 422.4. This is the total amount of expenditure on the Coast Guard Service apart from the Current Estimates for this year. When we put in the sum of £68, 000 under Capital Estimates, we have had to sign a document which is tantamount to borrowing the total amount from export credit and paying back in instalments. We have taken the opportunity of voting that as capital which can be put on our books as $1.25 million worth of ships, and that goes down as part of our assets; but they are liabilities. You have not paid for them. Someone has paid the money for you.

If you only show £68, 000 as your debt, then the accountants will be misled and they will say that the national debt is $60 million plus another £68, 000. The Bills of exchange come through on the 30th November each year until the final instalment is paid on the 30th November, 1978,

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Chairman, I will not be long, but there are one or two matters which should be cleared up very shortly. It seems that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Housing are stung by our comments that $2 million less is being spent on Housing while $2 million is being spent on the Coast Guard Service. Members on this side said that it was a pity that the vote for Housing should be reduced while the $2 million is to be spent on a Coast Guard Service. The Prime Minister said that only £68, 000 was to be spent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I would like to tell the hon. member and the Chamber that the people who are supplying the ships are responsible for the building of the facilities. They are Tony Hoad Associates.

Mr. ADAMS:
There is a provision for boats, and not boats and buildings. I can only go by the note.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:
I believe that the hon. member is somewhat like his predecessor. He reads to the end of a sentence and then stops. The note says "Provide for the construction of the Coast Guard Station, fuel supply installation, Equipment and other related expenses'. The note then adds that it also includes provision for full cost of boats. He elects to read the last sentence.

Mr. ADAMS:
I thought that it was the Prime Minister who said that we should not be wasting time on trivialities. The note speaks about other related expenses, and then it goes on to say, "Also includes provision for full cost of boats." The suggestion is that there is a difference between the construction of the station, fuel supply installations, Equipment and other related expenses, and provision for the full cost of boats.

The Prime Minister has explained that you put down the whole amount even though it is payable by instalments, The note says that it also includes provision for full cost of boats. The note implies that these expenses should be separated from the expenses of the construction of the Coast Guard Station. The note implies that it is only die boats which are on hire purchase.

All that he had to say wits that the boats are being taken on hire purchase. The riotes say that buildings will coast $374, 369. Motor Vehicle $40, 000 and Equipment $80, 160. Lower down we see under Unclassified (Boats, arms, ammunition) $1, 290, 780. I take it that that is what is being paid on a hire purchase. I believe that this is too trivial a point to bother the House with and I would not have raised it if the Prime Minister had not burdened the House with his speech.

There are one or two aspects of the Naval Base which I would like cleared up. Last year at this time the Prime Minister told the House in respect of the Naval Base that we will not go as far as the Sea Rocks. 4.35 p.m.

There is one other matter. The hon. member for Christ Church South Central and I have already discussed this matter very briefly. The hon. member for Christ Church South Central did say, Sir, that he thought that I had said in the House that Senator St. John — Mr. St. John as he then was — had proposed having this naval base at Oistin and I think I convinced him that I did not say that. I am sorry he is not now in his seat — but, Sir, with the consideration of the House I will read what I did say: "I remember back in the early part of 1966 Bernard St. John, now Senator Bernard St. John, and I sitting down and preparing a document which formed a part in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto of 1966 which said that a by-pass road, a Magistrate's court, a new Jetty" — and then it is put in parenthesis, Sir — "I must confess that we did not think of a naval-based jetty"— and the parenthesis is closed here — "for fishermen and aH these facilities should be constructed at Oistin along with a proper drainage system to prevent the road from being flooded every time there is a downpour, " The hon. member must hate misheard me because what was said then was that we did not think of a naval based jetty; we did not think of it, and I am sure he misadvertently misled the House on that occasion,

Sir, whether or not the whole $2 million is being spent is neither here nor there; it is $2 million. The Minister is saying that the reduction of the vote from $7 million to if 5 million for housing does not

mean that any fewer houses are being built. That is neither here nor there, Sir. Obviously you can build more houses whether for sale or rent with $7 million than with $5 million. Obviously; and there is a need for rented houses as well as houses for sale. I do not see why it is that we should be asked to vote the Coast Guard money because you can build some number of houses for $5 million, as the Minister of Housing said. If hon. members think about it they will realize the argument holds no water at all. Last year the Government could find $7 million to spend on housing; this year they can only find $5 million to spend. The Minister has explained what economies have been made. The economy has been made at the expense of the lowest income earners in so far as persons who cannot afford to buy a house — and believe me there are many in Barbados — will not now get them to rent either. That is the point. Every reduction in a vote has to be made at somebody's expense. It is made at the expense of not repairing a road, it is made at the expense of not carrying out a project. Well, the project which is not carried out this year, presumably, is the building of $2 million worth of houses for rent. So there is no sleight of hand which can be produced by either the substantive Minister of Finance or his Deputy which can make five million equivalent to seven million. The fact that only five million is being spent but it is going to be spent in such a way that the houses would be sold, only means that the people who are bearing the brunt of the reduction are the lowest paid workers in our society; people who cannot afford to buy a house, the people who are referred to in the Development Plan as exceeding 7, 000. Now the 7, 000 applicants who want a house to rent and whose names are on the records of the Housing Corporation, they are the people affected by the $2 million.

Sir, the hon. member .for St. Michael North West introduced it I am sure, very sincerely, and he put forward his arguments very sincerely but sincerity is not equivalent to logic. Seven million is two million more than five million and that is the logic of the situation.

Mr. Chairman, we on this side cannot vote for the Coast Guard Service whether all the money is to be paid one year or not. That is my contribution to this.

Mr. CRAIG:

Mr. Chairman, the Leader and the Prime Minister of course, would see this matter in the light where they can look at it and think in what manner they feel best as to the amount of money spent here and there. I want to look at it in a very simple form. I was not in the House when this Coast Guard Resolution came down. When I read about it in the newspapers and I discussed it with my party colleagues, I said a few days ago in the debate that I believed they could be caught napping. I was told that they supported the idea because there was a promise by the Leader of the House to present a white paper on it. Now I do not care about a White Paper or a Green Paper on any Coast Guard as far as I am concerned. The position is this; it is not a priority on my list and I have made it very, very clear to my party leader that I am going to vote against it. I am not concerned with whether the Prime Minister or the Government has committed themselves -to bringing the boats here. I am not concerned with if more boats are to be built. I am not concerned with having any privates or Lance Corporals on it. It is not a priority as far as I am concerned, in the present state of affairs in Barbados. There are too many things that I believe that the $1.5 million can be used for. There are tenantry roads to be done, there are poor people still trying to get water for their houses, there are old age pensioners to be helped. Youth Town is broken down and there is nowhere for the young people to go. Things of that nature are to be attended to and I believe that at least $2 million in the initial stages — and you do not know what it is going to cost as it goes on from there, because you will recall very well, Mr. Chairman, that Independence for Barbados in 1966 was spelt out very clearly by the Government party would only cost $500, 000; today

it is costing the Government $3 million. That is now history. We have it and we have to live with it, but I am not going to sit down here and vote any $2 million to have a Coast Guard operation going on in Barbados. I would support a National Defence because I feel that many young people on the roads can be constricted, taking into national defence, they can be taught some skills, some of them could be made to cut canes because they would rather go to Jamaica and Canada to cut canes but they would not want to cut them here; you can teach them some farming. All these things I would think about, but, I see there was a boat here for air and sea rescue, which I think was given to the Government of Barbados by HARP, and all that was done with it was, it was put out there in Oistins and the Prime Minister and his friends used to go out on it on occasional trips, and the same Harbour Police — the flatfooted, varicose veins harbour policemen — used to go out there when the evenings come, start it and carry it out on trial runs. Now I am hearing that you are going to have a coast guard at this stage. I cannot support it because to my mind it is not a priority. There are too many things which I believe are lacking in this country which the $2 million in the initial stages can provide. Maybe next year you will hear it costs 5, 6, 7, 8.

In the 1972 survey the Prime Minister came in here and said the economy of the country grew less than one percent; there was no growth in the economy of the country, he said. It was less than one percent; and you are picking up $2 million to spend on a coast guard operation, I cannot support it. The only thing the Government can bring about to justify this claim is that it is for smuggling and to assist in air and sea rescue. There are fishing boats which go all around the North point, all around South Point, and all around by the Crane where the seas are rough. Why cannot they use the same Harbour Police to improve their system and let them carry out the same duties which the coast guard is going to do? I am sure it would not cost, initially $2 million. 4.45 p.m.

You have not made any indexed valuation to find out how many people are smuggling things into this country. The people on the West Coast can bring in dope, even if you have a Coast Guard Service, Pilfering is easy to control. You have a Coast Guard boat with two guns on it as though you have something grandiose in Barbados that somebody would like to take away. St. Lucia has better fishing grounds than we have. Barbados is not like Trinidad and Guyana where it would be necessary to have a Coast Guard Service. Can you imagine our two Coast Guard boats being involved in a fight? The only people who will be going out there are the Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister. I cannot support the Coast Guard Service. All of this is merely to fool young people in this country that the Government is doing something to alleviate their troubles,

Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate having a National Defence Force. You will soon hear the Prime Minister coming here for a National Air Force. Of course, he would want to be the Commander of the Air Force. I have already warned the Leader of my Party that I am going to vote "No" against it. Now, in St. James you have a programme known as the "Meals on Wheels." These people take food to poor people, and they have never been given 1 cent. I know where to go in St. James and ask for things and where to get them. The people in St. James have taken me into their confidence because they know that I am a sincere politician. If I had been in the House at the time the Coast Guard Service was agreed to, I would not have supported it. I am sorry that my Party did not divide the House on the matter. We regret to vote 'No' against it. Nobody in the world can convince me that it is necessary, at this stage, to have a Coast Guard Service. To do what? Shoot fish out of the sea?

Mr. Chairman, let me recall that some time ago a plane came down in the sea and the Police Launch was sent to take the pilot out of the water. You are now asking for a Coast Guard Service merely

because you have a lot of friends to carry on the boats.

The question that the sum of $1, 785, 309 under Head 119 — Defence and Security Division of Prime Minister's Office — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. C. A. E. HOPPIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Mrs. EASTMOND; Mr. N. G. A. MAXWELL; and Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES - 10.

Noes: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. FORDE and Mr. MOTTLEY - 4.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A Resolution for the sum of $315, 070 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $315, 070 under Head 120 — Ministry of External Affairs — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WEEKES:
Mr. Chairman, under Item 3, during my visit to the United Kingdom on my way back I travelled via the U.S.A. I should like to place on record the special treatment meted out to me by the Consul General and members of his staff, and to express my sincere thanks for the many kindnesses rendered to me. You will remember that yesterday a member of the Opposition and I thanked the High Commissioner for his many kindnesses. I consider it my duty to thank the Consul General and his staff for the interest they have taken in me. I had no problems with transportation over there due to the arrangements made by the High Commissioner. I consider it my duty to let this Honourable House know that the method of approach as well as the punctuality was such that it is of vital importance that the Civil Service of this country should try, at all times, to emulate it. I can assure the House that the money spent, or allocated, on this Department is in the interest of Barbadians, and I take this opportunity in congratulating the Consul General and members of his staff for the inestimable services they are giving to this country.

Mr. MOTTLEY:
Mr. Chairman, it appears that in four years we have spent more money on the repairs to "Iverta" than we have spent in purchasing it. 4.55 p.m.

In 1970 this house was bought, I believe, for $169, 000 and at the time my party opposed the purchase because we felt it was a waste of Government funds which could be better spent in providing social services for Barbados. We find now that less than four years after its purchase that last year you spent $46, 000 on repairs and this year the Government has come back for a vote of $155, 000 to carry out as the note says "balance of cost of repairs and renovations to "Iverta" official residence of the High

Commissioner." This means that in the space of four years we are spending more money on repairing this building than the place actually cost. As I said yesterday this must be plain madness, because no Minister of Government would take his own money and buy a house in these circumstances and then turn around and in four years spend more money than it actually cost, and for this reason I am going to oppose this vote. I will go further and divide the House on it. This is one of the things you get when you deal with your friends and get these back door deals with your friends. The then High Commissioner's wife palmed this off on the Government of Barbados. It was the summer home of somebody who lived in Bermuda in the winter. I understand it was on the market for a very long time and nobody would purchase it, and it was palmed off on the Barbados Government and now I understand that Peter Stevens has carried out a report on it and it is full of dry rot. This is a criminal waste of the taxpayers' money and we will not support this Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows that this is for the purchase on mortgage basis, legal fees, furnishing and redecorating of official residence for Counsellor and Revote for purchase on mortgage basis, legal fees and furnishing of official residence for Consul—General.

The question that the sum of $315, 070 under Head 120 — Ministry of External Affairs — stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon.E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. WEEKES; Mrs. EASTMOND; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Mr. WALCOTT; Mr. GREAVES and Mr. HOPPIN - 11.

Noes: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. FORDE and Mr. BOLDEN - 5.

HEAD 121 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Head 121 — Ministry of Home Affairs — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $929, 000 under Head 121, — Ministry of Home Affairs — stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

I want to be very short, Mr. Chairman. I do not know whether the present Minister of Home Affairs is taking sides or gives assent or not. Some talk was made in here on the policy and the position of the person who has been in charge of crime in the Police who will be operating at a particular police station. The Minister has not given any defence. I would just like to be sure that is the Minister's position. As far as we are concerned the crime statistics of Barbados are such that the person in charge and given the responsibility for overseeing it in Barbados must carry a good deal of blame. Somebody pointed out to me when I said there were over 400 serious offences against property and only 27 convictions that I

should have stated how many cases came before the court. The number of those cases that came before the court was 36 out of more than 400 crimes against property with violence, and only 36 were brought before the court in last year under review. It was a very small number. I just mention that. 5.05 p.m.

I just mentioned that under Item 1. Under Item 4, I am sorry the Prime Minister is not in his seat because he is the person to reply and not the Minister of Home Affairs. I would like to know why it is the Government is going to spend $215, 000 on a new jetty? Why is the Government going to give these old, flat-footed, varicose veined old men a jetty for $215, 000?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to Item 1 I have taken note and I will give some consideration to it. With regard to Item 4, for many years, from the time I know myself, there was a jetty at the Harbour Police Pier. If you are having a Coast Guard Station at Oistin there are times when some of the ships would have to go into Bridgetown and it is not easy for people even to get into a small boat or to bring in one of the police boats alongside the present pier. You have to take the opportunity and the men have to be very cautious or they will lose their lives because the water there seems to be more shallow than it used to be. If I had anything to do with it I would build a new jetty further away which would be deeper.

Mr. CRAIG:

Sir, I would just like to make this point, fhe policy is not consistent. As I understood the Prime Minister yesterday if we are going to phase the Harbour Police out and send the men down in the Customs at the Port to look into salt meat barrels and at passports, and it was felt that it was necessary to have the Harbour Police Force, therefore it would not be necessary to spend the $215, 000. This is what I do not understand. The Minister who just spoke said the reason for having this jetty was that the Coast Guard ships could go down there and tie up.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I did not say that the Coast Guard ships would tie up there, I said if they wanted to refuel they could go there. These would be the same measures for refuelling, and it would be a convenience for the same Coast Guard ships. That is also an arm of the Government as is the Police Force and if there is a pier there it could be used by both of them.

Mr. CRAIG:

It is not relevant whether or not the Coast Guard ships go there, what is relevant is if it is necessary to have this $215, 000 if you are phasing out the Harbour Police and sending them down to the Port to check salt meat and passports with their flat feet.

The question that the sum of $929, 000 under Head 121 — Ministry of Home Affairs — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 125 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 125 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3, 547, 610 under Head 125 — Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology — stand part of the Schedule. Members will probably realise that there were certain amendments made to this Head to Items 3, 4 and 8 which I believe have already been incorporated and accepted as such, that the amount is the same.

Mrs. EASTMOND:
I beg to second that.

Mr. GREAVES:
Mr. Chairman, before this Head is passed I want to say that I was sorry I was not here yesterday when the Current Estimates of this Ministry were discussed, so I would like to take this opportunity to make a few points on some of the Items under the Capital Estimates here with regard to this Ministry.

The first one relates to what I notice here in the notes in relation to land settlement at Springhall. There is no gainsaying the fact that rural development is something in which we in this country should be interested. I made the point earlier today when we were discussing another Head about the good which can be done to the country and that we give some thought to this whole question of rural development. I am not sure how far the plans are or whether the Minister could give some indication as to what is exactly going to be involved in the Springhall development, because we talk about rural development and we hear about land settlement and what have you. Are we going to have a situation where the Government owns land at Springhall which will be cut up and given to people without certain agreed conditions to work? We would like to know something about what the Government intends to do for this area and with these estates, because as I have said on more than one occasion in here agriculture is a very important aspect of our economy and we have to deal with it in as expert a manner as possible. If, for example, we are going to have a situation where Springhall estates are going to be subdivided, do we know what can be considered as the economic size of a plot, are we going to be thinking in terms of dividing up and giving people plots of 2l/2 acres, or are we going to be concerned with larger plots. 5.15 p.m.

It is my considered opinion that we should be concentrating on much larger plots and not giving some person something that can be considered as a house spot and a little piece of land to work. We have to have the kind of policy which will occupy people full time. I believe that why there has been a turning away from agriculture is because people were not getting the rewards from agricultural pursuits that they should get. If we are to get people back to the land, we will have to make it attractive and rewarding.

I am hoping that in relation to the Spring Hall Development this would be taken into consideration and that we will be making a serious effort to ensure that the size of the plots will be the kind which will enable people to find agriculture worthwhile.

We have to give as much encouragement as possible to the farmers. The Government gives encouragement to industrialists to come and set up industries. What kind of incentives do we give to the farmers? We must give serious thought to these things.

Mr. Chairman, we should also look at the kind of agricultural extension services that we have and at the functions of the agricultural stations which are scattered all over the island. Are they fulfilling the role which we would expect them to fulfil in a country which is still to a large extent agriculturally

based? It seems to me that there is need for serious consideration of expanding the extension services.

Last year we voted some money for the training of our Extension Officers. We must have these kind of people to go around the country and advise farmers as to the way in which crops should be planted. Farmers should be guided in harvesting, planting and the use of pesticides. These are very important things which can be of benefit to the economy.

Mr. Chairman, this brings me to the point about the role of the Agricultural Stations in this country. I think that there is a tremendous amount of room for improvement, and a more dynamic approach to the kind of advice which they could offer farmers in this country.

Take for example the station at Jerusalem in St. Peter which also serves St. Lucy and which does not give any advice to the farmers in the area. This is important to people in the rural areas and we would like to see the Agricultural Stations playing a more effective and dynamic role in the whole question of agricultural development and diversification.

Fisheries is another area to which more study should be given. I looked at the Development Plan and I noticed that there are. plans for the establishment of a fishing fleet; but this seems to be more concerned with off shore fishing. What I would like to see is the Government paying more attention to the smaller craft which fish in shore.

I am aware that there is provision for assistance to fishermen for the repair of their boats. If you want to develop the Fishing Industry this is worthwhile, but I would like to see more study given to people who are engaged in the industry, using the conventional craft. They should be given more assistance because these are the people who play a very important role in this industry. I think that every avenue should be exploited to give assistance to these people.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words about Fisheries. I am glad to see that Barbados is now making a move to venture off shore because, as it is, Mr. Chairman, as regards our in shore fisheries, if records are kept, the records would show today that although our boats are better equipped with greater speeds and are larger boats, the number of fish from our in shore boats today is far below whatsit used to be years ago.

We can see a marked difference especially in the months of March, April and May when we were accustomed to have large catches of marlin, which is better known in Barbados as the bill fish, the yellow fin tuna, the albacore and shark. These are very rare in Barbados today.

No doubt, Mr. Chairman, this is caused by large Japanese fleets cutting off other fish from coming from the south east where the North West Equatorial Current brings our fish to the land.

Mr. Chairman, it will have to be realised that in a country like Barbados where you have a limited continental shelf, and where there are no rivers to feed the sea, your fish will be few. We are as much dependent on rain as agriculture is dependent on rain. You must have good rains on the South American Continent and around the Equator where tlfe River Amazon, the Orinoco, the Essequibo and the Demerara and most of these rivers feed into the sea, and from which most of our fish is dependent on

coming down. if you do not have the rainfall, the rivers do not expand as wide so there is much more likelihood off Barbados being out of the range of the flow.

The Japanese today fishing 11, 000 to 12, 000 miles from home are in everybody's backyard. They have modern inventions. They use their long line system. One line is 15 miles long, and every four to five fathoms would be a hook. You can imagine what that would mean in intercepting.

There are certain species that are practically useless to them. When I say useless, I mean that they never worried with them before, but today they are marketed in the Caribbean countries, but the bulk of fish like tuna is saved for high price markets in the USA or sent back to Japan.

A lot of our fish has been cut off. Today we are seeing little or no flying fish. This is particularly due to poor Equatorial Rains last year, but shark, albacore and bill fish are practically unseen. Most of the bill fish that we see today are bought in St. Martins or Trinidad and other countries, and the Japanese just keep these as a side line. 5.25 p.m.

I am glad to see that in the Development Plan we will be training people and I hope, Mr. Chairman, that whoever has a hand in this training will pay special attention and not select people just because he likes them. The person should look for people who can produce something, and I would say here and now that I think people like that should be screened very carefully to make sure that you get the right people because there is no use training a man and giving him shore training and after putting in five or six months and you put him to sea, you find that he cannot stand up. I see too much of this go on. Men who are first class men, say, as engineers, in a mechanic shop and good men, but those same men may be useless on board a ship; they cannot stand the sea. So I think we should make sure and select people who can contribute something to the training because there is no doubt about it that with our population - I do not know if it is due to the fact that we are now in the twentieth year of our powered fleet and if the effect of oils and so on, the water which causes pollution can have any effect on our flying fish which are usually fished out on the surface. There are two species of fish mainly and one is the fish which moves with the currents and come maybe from the south east along with our Equatorial Current and come down to Barbados, but the longest off shore distance that we have got would be off the Crane, off Sam Lord's Castle. In a lot of the other islands they have banks and places from where they can feed themselves from the bottom fish but ours is very, very poor, and we exploit it between the months of July to October out of our normal flying fish season and it is less than one tenth of our fleet that actually operates on this type of fishing.

We have got over 400 boats in our fleet. They have improved considerably in speed because in 1953 when I was one of the main men in this country to consider changing over a fleet to a powered fleet - because I felt we were losing twelve or fifteen fishermen every year with heavy winds in the sail boats, and I knew the only solution to it would be the powered fleet. Lots of people who should have been interested in it then told me that the fishermen would never be able to operate a powered fleet, and I started a powered fleet and it was so successful that the fishermen of this Island make demands on the then Government, and it was then that arrangements were made for engines to be installed in the boats. They followed my pattern. I took the first one that was built down to St. Vincent and brought it back to show that the boats were competent.

Fishing boats are no different from an ordinary motor car; if it is looked after and the machinery is

kept in good condition and serviced when this is due, you can get good service out of it. The one thing we suffered then from, was power. The fishermen of today are asking for more power and rightly so because they are going further off shore, so boats that onced used ten horse power engines would today be asking for 25 and 30 horse power, engines and we have got boats now operating with as much as horse power as over 100, going as far as 40 and 50 miles a day, and making ten to twelve knots. Now that is quite good for our inshore fleet but we have got still to do much more, and I think that in our training for off-shore fishing for trout and such fish, the time has come when some of our people have got to be trained in making their own cod fish because, Mr. Chairman, in that type of development, with offshore fishing there will be room for this type of development in making your own salted fish and smoked fish. In our waters it would never pay us because the quantity of fish is not sufficient and people must realize that fish salted and pickled, is worthwhile, when there is a market today for fresh fish on the world's market at high prices and a pound of cod is produced out of three pounds of fresh fish plus extra labour and extra salt. People do not quite understand this. It takes about three pounds of fresh fish, plus labour, plus salt to produce one pound of cod. Despite all that may be said, Mr. Chairman, it is necessary that our people become interested in making their own salted fish and we hope that we will get fish in such quantities that they will be able to smoke, salt and process in various manners because Barbados is a small island and our people should be encouraged to do all they can in order that this Island can produce in every way possible.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I was not going to speak under the Capital Estimates under this Head, because the Hon. Minister of Agriculture had mentioned to me that he had to be away from the Chamber this afternoon, I had given him an undertaking that I would not comment on anything which would affect him in his absence, but having heard the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs who is an an expert on fisheries, I will forget the agricultural part and I will deal with the fisheries part, because it is all well and good to pontificate on theories on what must be done about onshore and offshore fishing but there are certain basic things which must be done if we want to increase the productivity of our inshore fishing. I am not going to take very long on it because I would rather develop it in the presence of the Minister who is responsible for this Head.

Now first of all the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs must remember that the increase in fish landed in Barbados came around the time when the fishing boats were being changed from sailing boats to powered boats, therefore the boats were able to reach the fishing banks at an earlier time, they could fish longer and return to port before dark, and 99% of the Barbadian fishermen are afraid to be caught out there at night. Also, the Japanese have been fishing electronically for years now and I have been asking what training we have been giving to our fishermen because the new electronic method of fishing, Mr. Chairman, is such that they do not have to put down their bait and spend an hour or two hours one place to see if they get a catch or how the catch is running before they start to haul. They are able to read their instruments and know within certain areas what the fishing is likely to be. They are pretty cheap instruments and this something the Government should investigate quickly - how to train our fishermen to use simple instruments and.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. I would like to draw to the hon. Member's attention that when he is talking about electronic fishing he is talking about fishing from the bottom of the sea and not from fish floating and coming along, because within three miles outside of Barbados you are always a

way outside your hundred or thousand fathom kerb.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Now another point we have to look at is the monopoly which the BMC holds over deep sea fish coming into this country. This has hampered a number of local boats which would normally bring deep sea fish into Barbados from coming here; and the hon. Minister cannot deny this. 5.35 p.m.

It was sold at a retail price higher, I am it old, than what Jason Jones had been selling fish at. I feel that fishermen should be properly trained, and they should be given some form of assistance during their training. It is very difficult to get young people to enter the fishing industry. Take, for instance, Bathsheba and Consett Bay. Fishing boats have not gone out from those two places since October last year. Go to Tent Bay and ask how many fishing boats have gone out to sea since October last year. The tide runs in such a manner that it is dangerous for them to get out, and these boats which happen to be at sea cannot enter the Harbour in Bridgetown.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. That is not true. If you go there you will see boats from St. Joseph and other places. It is due to the incompetence of the people who made the fishing boats that fishermen are finding difficulty in getting out of Tent Bay. They are using the wrong type of boat. Nobody has ever seen a lifeboat with a big stern. The fishermen should learn to take advice from people who know what they are talking about. I am the first person in this country whoever made a keel. I used to own a large fleet before I came into public life. I have spent many months at sea carrying out experiments. The importation of fish can only hold our market when our local fish is not sufficient. Our supply does not come to a stop. We have fishing boats that are capable of doing 12 to 14 knots and spending two days outside. Fish in Barbados depends on the continental.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN:

No point of order! This is another speech.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, has the Fisheries Department ever produced a plan for building specific fishing boats for Barbados? The fishermen from Consett Bay cannot take their fishing boats into the Bridgetown Harbour. The Act has not been repealed. Some fishermen have complained that the Government would not put up a beacon so that they would be able to estimate how far they were from Barbados. Where is the beacon in Barbados? (Asides.) Mr. Chairman, the light at Sturges has no relation to the position of fishing boats at Consett Bay. I go to Tent Bay every week, and the fishermen have asked me to ask the Government to clear the channel down there. If the Minister says that at this time of the year you cannot get enough fish, then he should devise some system whereby the fishermen can improve their productivity. When productivity goes down the standard of living of the fishermen goes down. The hon. Member for St. Philip will tell you that fishermen do not go out to sea during October and November in that area. If they do not have the right type of fishing boat, then the Government should provide money for the reconstruction of the boats.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I should like the Minister of External Affairs to consider the external aspect of fishing so far as Barbados is concerned. The members of the Barbados Labour Party are concerned with the fact

that, at the moment, there have been negotiations going on in conncetion with the revision of the laws of the sea, and we feel that the West Indies must be concerned with what final conclusions we get on this matter at the United Nations Conference, which is to be held later this year in the Latin America area. We have not seen any statement by the Government on this issue. We know that, from time to time, the Solicitor General has been attending conferences. We also know that consideration is being given to evolving a uniformed CARICOM policy in relation to this matter.

Mr. Chairman, we trust that the Government will bear in mind what the. economic aspects of fishing rights mean to the economy of this country. We have such limited fishing resources on the continental shelf in Barbados that we must extend our area of shrimp and fishing limits so as to preserve what little fishing we have. We are conscious of the fact that we have to negotiate with other states like Brazil concerning the right to fish in certain waters. I know that there has been an agreement reached with Brazil with regard to shrimp, although this House has not had the privilege to see a copy of the Agreement. I know that the Government does not have to bring it before this House, but in other countries these treaties are made available for public knowledge. However, in this country, certain documents are not even made available for a cursory perusal. I trust that the Minister of Fisheries will make sure that any negotiations which may affect the fishing and territorial limits of this country will be made known to this House before a final decision is taken. 5.45 .m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I think in fairness to the hon. Member for St. Lucy, I should say that the acquisition of Spring Hall Plantation has been effected, and there are certain plans which are being formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture together with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and it is expected that certain arrangements will be made with the Caribbean Development Bank in order to establish a land settlement scheme for small farmers.

The Question that the sum of $3, 547, 610 under Head 125 - Ministry of Agriculture - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 126 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS ANND WORKS

Head 126 — Ministry of Communications and Works was called.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $7, 593, 010 few Head 126 -Ministry of Communications and Works — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTM3ND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like under subsidiary roads, where the vote is for over $1 million for the department, to give some direction as to some of the areas that will be looked after. People complain to me that for years the road behind Dan Springer's place and Dear's Land has been in need of repairs, and people have to run 100 yards of galvanised pipe to get water. In Wavell Avenue which is a main

highway, there is a hole as deep as a hole in the cemetry and you can bury a child in it, and as soon as the rain falls, the road becomes impassable. I think the Minister is aware of it. He is away this evening performing another function at the Post Office or Telephone Company and I hope the Parliamentary Secretary will pass on this information. I would like to see some trucks get on the road and help people in these areas. I would like to see a policy on roads in which roads are done on an allocation basis. There are eleven parishes and twenty-four constituencies, and there should be such an allocation that everybody would know what will be done, because nobody expects you can go into one constituency and do all the roads. The Minister of Communications and Works is different from the Minister of Education who cannot build all the schools in his constituency but the Minister of Communications and Works can fix all the roads in his constituency. My view is that roads and water form a strong political and national situation where people come to you day and night about water and roads as if you had them in your hip pocket or you can open a drawer and fix the roads. I think it is time that the Minister comes out with a policy and say so many roads would be done on an allocation basis and save the problem of having people pressure you each time the rain falls when somebody would ask you to come down and let him show you something as if you are an inspector. I had to get a load of stuff from Mr. Rayside to put in the back of Dodson's Land because people could not get in with their motor cars. When people in the next gap heard that you had dropped a load of marl over there, they felt that you should drop some there too. I think the time has come when the Minister must understand that a representative is not to put in roads and there should be some policy for these things so that everybody would know what would be coming his or her way.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, I have made a note of the comments made by the hon. Member, but as he is aware, the amount allocated to this Head is very small, and therefore we have to cut the suit to match the cloth.

The Question that the sum of $7, 593, 010 for Head 126 -Ministry of Communications and Works - as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 127 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 127— Ministry of Education for the sum of $6, 174, 595 - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6, 174, 595 for Head 127 - Ministry of Education - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

I would like to point out however that there is an amendment to Item 2. Delete the figure "1, 910, 000" under the Head Analysis of Expenditure - Buildings, in the note and insert the figure "1, 911, 000" therefor and make the necessary consequential amendments.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that as far as the expenditure for eduation is concerned, I would like to refer to the item on Primary Schools and to indicate that contrary to the statements that have been made during the course of this debate, this Government does place prime importance on the primary phase of education. This is indicated in the current Development Plan which indicates that a sound primary education is basic to the development of the total system because it provides the basis on which

higher levels of education are built, and also the proposals set out in the Manifesto of the ruling party make provision for nursery and primary phases of education, and therefore I wish to indicate that this Government places prime responsibility on the primary, including nursery, phase of education. I do not wish at this stage because of the time which is passing away to go into any details on this particular matter, but in due course I will be setting out quite fully, lest there be any misunderstanding at all, the work that this Government has done in terms of the primary phase of education in this country.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that. 5.55 p.m.

Mr. FORDE:

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to debate the question of primary education, I think we had all our say on that already but I would like to speak on Item 8 - Community Centre. I think that both in the Development Plan and in the provision in this year's Capital Estimates the Government has down-graded its accent on community centres and I for one regret this. Although some partial repairs have recently been done to some of the community centres and there is a bit of new thinking on how to make them more useful and used in the community, I believe the Government in the next few years should place a bit more accent on community life. I represent a constituency which borders on highly populous areas and part of my constituency is also heavily populated. I am talking about the Brittons Hill, Clapham, Forde's Road, Clapham area. I have said before in this House that it is an ideal place for setting up a community centre along with other facilities like a nursery school, day nurseries, library facilities and also proper facilities for toiletries. I understand that Government has sent a Civil Service team to inspect certain areas up there and I do not know if any decision has been made on the matter, but if it has I will be glad to hear that some consideration will be given to this. May I say that the fkst Resolution of this issue was introduced some way back in the 1960s by the hon. Member for St. Michael South East. Just like him I recognise the need for this and could not let this Item pass without commenting.

Item 10 - National Stadium. I have said before very openly in my capacity as President of the Basketball Association that I appreciate the efforts which the Ministry has been making to help the Basketball Association. Since he has asked me to mention it, I will say that it was initiated by the hon. Member for (Bridgetown, but I am glad to see now they are going to have multipurpose sports at the Stadium to encourage basketball, and I am happy to say that within the last couple of weeks, the Ministry has made an effort to help the Association by providing them with a coach who has come in under the Peace Corps Programme. I personally would like the President of the Basketball Association to thank the Minister for showing an interest in basketball.

I want to finish off on Item 12 School for the Deaf and Item 13 - Assistance in Special Education. I said that it is necessary for the community to accept its role towards Special Education, the education of those persons who are handicapped either physically or mentally, and again I personally welcome this vote under Items 12 and 13. It justifies my comments I made on the main vote. I like to make my own position clear, and if I appreciate something, I am happy to say so. I am glad to see the Government is going to widen the facilities available at the School for the Deaf. Hon. Members should know that it was through my Presidency and as a member of the Lions Club that I had the privilege to invite the then Minister, who was new in his post at the time, to open this school, and that is why when I make a statement I am not interested in who likes it politically. I am satisfied that it should be made.

Mr. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, there is just one Item under this vote that I want to ask the Minister about. I notice that there is some money set aside for the St. Lucy's Secondary School. What I would like to find out from the Minister is whether or not, included in this money, there is provision made for the playing field to get it in a proper condition, and at least seeing that it comes into operation and the pavilion built as was promised. I think this is ah important part of the life of the school. At the present time the roll of the school is approaching 1, 000 and there is no place for the children to run around. The place where they could have moved around is now used as a parking area and it is very difficult for the children at this school. I would like to let the Minister know that it is very important that a playing field is provided as expeditiously as possible, because not only is it necessary for us to cater to the educational needs of the children, but at the same time, we have to consider their recreational needs, and sports and games should play a very important role not only in the life of the school but in the lives of the children of this country as well. I hope that the Minister will give some attention to this.

Additionally I would like to suggest that when plans for the playing field are being drawn up that we will have the kind of playing field on which a variety of games and sports can be played and practised. I would like to see provision made, for example, for the various multipurpose sports. We do not have such good facilities in St. Lucy, and since this school is in a central area of the parish, it is a good place for multipurpose facilities to be provided so that when the children are out of school and not using them, at least some arrangement could be made where people from the parish could go and use them.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I have no intention at this stage to enter any debate with the Minister as to whether or not the Government has a policy in respect of primary or nursery education. 6.05 p.m.

Anyhow, I am appealing to him at this stage in view of the fact that the Methodist Church has signified its intention to sell Youth Town, and there is a real problem there, I will ask the Minister to investigate the possibility of the Government purchasing the building now known as Youth Town.

As the Minister knows, community centres in the City of Bridgetown are almost non-existent. I think that the Minister should investigate the possibility of purchasing that property because even as regards the Physical Development Plan for the City of Bridgetown, it will assist the Government if they have this land available.

Some time ago the Minister replied to a question about a community centre in New Orleans and implied that it would be coming with the Development Plan, the four year Development Plan. I hope that he will not change his mind, and that the Ministry is actively engaged in looking for a site for a community centre in the New Orleans area.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to indicate to the hon. Member for the City that I have not read the Manifesto of my own party because that does not require any reading by me. If you need to read it, on this question, obviously you are not aware of the good work that has been going on over the years since 1961.

The Member for St. Lucy raised the question about playing fields. I know that this particular Member is a very good representative and that he not only sees matters in terms of his own constituency but also in a national perspective. On this occasion, however, he has spoken in terms of St. Lucy, and I would like to assure him that there are plans, and that funds will be provided for the development of the playing field at the St. Lucy's Secondary School as part of the overall programme for that particular school.

I can assure him that work is going on for completing the legal formalities for the acquisition of the land for the playing field and indeed for other matters relating to the construction of the school.

Our programme for schools includes multi-purpose hard courts. In so far as the Member for Christ Church West is concerned, I would like to express my thanks for the complimentary remarks that have been made, and I would like to assure him that we are very conscious of the part that the Lions Club has played in terms of development of education in this country.

We are planning to include a school for the deaf, and I will hint that plans are going on for the construction of a school for the blind, and we hope that these plans can be brought to fruition as soon as possible.

As far as community centres are concerned, I cannot make any promises about the construction of new centres because I will admit that the existing community centres have presented a problem to this Government and to the former Government. I do not think that one will deny that they have not been put to the best possible use in terms of the facilities which one has been given.

Mr. BOLDEN:
On a point of order. Is the Minister saying that because the community centre in St. Joseph has been used as a tailor shop by a DLP representative in that area that they will not be providing St. Joseph with a community centre?

Mr. CHAIRMAN:
No point of order.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:
I hope that you will control the hon. Member. What tailor shop is he asking me about? We are trying to upgrade the existing centres, and I would like to let the hon. Member for Christ Church West know that there is no reduction in the programme. We have in the current year carried out improvements to some of the centres including the one in St. Thomas. That is why we do not have a larger sum. Whatever we can do in terms of developing new programmes and bringing about new centres, we will certainly do.

The Question that the sum of $6, 174, 595 for Head 127 — Ministry of Education, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 129 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Head 129 - Ministry of Health and Welfare— was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee that there are a number of amendments. They have been circulated to all honourable Members. I therefore beg to move that the sum of $2, 438, 206 for Head 129 -Ministry of Health and Welfare as amended stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I see that the crematorium has been shifted. I do not know what to call it. I cannot say that it is a "yo yo" because it does not go up and down, and it is not like a scale because it does not balance. When you ask the Minister of Health about the crematorium, you hear, "ask the Minister of Communications and Works?" Before the word can come out, you hear, "not me". The Minister of Health said that he would make a statement on it. 6.15 p.m.

I can tell you what they are trying to do. They are trying to get the building back up the level of the road, because the first big rain we get in Barbados, it will be floated out and gone. I have never seen any engineer in this country or elsewhere who dug out 16 feet of mould and marl, and brought back in marl to fill back up a hole and then put a building at least two feet below ground level. The garbage looks like some little domestic house which you drive into with a wall across it and a little door, so whoever is going to be sited at the Crematorium, when he drives in, he gets out and walks through his garbage and come in through the office.

The church is like the half-finished symphony, half-way there standing open. The roads are unfinished, and the people's money is lying down. If they were paying 15% or 16% like the farmers of this country.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is no money for the Crematorium on this. Not a penny is being asked for. Not one farthing. I do not know what he is talking about because nobody is asking for any money.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am entitled to talk on the Head, and last year $300, 000 was voted for cemeteries and a Crematorium, and they came in here with a quick Resolution, saying "Don't hold it up, the Westbury Cemetry can't hold another dead body, we must have the money now for the Crematorium, " and there is none voted this year. The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is in control of that department which builds things. Is that correct? Right. I do not know if he is building a large pork barrel at the Pine to salt down the dead bodies in another month .....

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. MCW builds for other Ministries who pay MCW. We do not have the money, so the pork barrel will have to be for the Minstry of Health rather than for MCW because they have got to release the money to us to build for them. So the pork barrel, if there is one, cannot be

for MCW.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, there is no pork barrel coming under the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Pork barrel relates to the keeping of goods.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I am serious now, I would be glad if the Minister could tell us something about the Crematorium. It is unfinished. It is there lying down. They have just spent money shovelling it off. Nothing has happened. It is the people's money and some Member of the Government should make a statement so that the Chamber can know what has happened to the money that was voted. Is it lost? I am of the opinion that you are going to have to knock down what is there to start again. If you are going to have to do that, admit that somebody was wrong and let us start afresh. I know for sure, of the order that went to the Barbados Foundry to build old brass windows. People are coming and asking what is going on in this country that they want to initiate and build brass windows of the 14th and 15th century with certain locks and hammers and what not on big doors.

So I want to know what has happened to the people's money. Have they paid out money on the contract to the Foundry? These are the things I want to find out. This is no laughing matter; it is the people's money.

I heard something, and I am going to say something now. I heard that the engineer who went trying out the cemetery does not know how to get it finished; that the workmen cannot follow the plan any further. That is why I asked a series of questions. So some Minister is responsible. If the engineer is wrong, hold a Commission of Enquiry. I suspect that the people's money is lost. Let us hold an auction up there, sell out the two-foot blocks and somebody might be able to get the base of a good house out of it now, but do not keep it there any longer.

Another point is, Sir, the Minister of Trade went on Television and talked about conserving energy. I am not going to say what the Prime Minister said, that there was no energy shortage, there was only a shortage in the minds of people; but, every night you have lights burning at the unfinished cemetery. Every night you have lights burning all over the place. For what reason? There is nothing to steal from up there now. You might as well let the people carry it away and have an excuse, and start again.

So I would like to hear particularly from the Ministry of Communications and Works which is constructing the building, what is being done. They would know what has happened; whether the money has run out. The Minister of Communications and Works is responsible for the building. He said so in this Chamber; that he is building it for the Ministry of-Health. So I would like to know if the Ministry is paying, and if not, what is happening.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very short on this Item. There are just two areas that I want to refer to in this, and one is the area of occupational health. It is that on which I first want to concentrate. I would like first to say that the interest which the Government is showing in this very important area is something to be commended. I had hoped that by this time, we would have had the instruments and equipment for which I think we had voted the money last year. It looks as if this is a revote. The

important thing however, Mr. Chairman, is that I consider that occupational health is of extreme importance to the nation because this is an area which has been neglected for some time, and particularly now that we are accelerating our industrialisation programme every effort should be made to ensure that people who are working in industry, that their health is not unduly affected by so doing, because there is no point in having an industrialisation programme which will provide employment for people and should hopefully raise the living standards and the quality of life in the country but at the same time it is going to have a bad effect on the health and welfare of the workers who are employed in these areas of occupation.

So that the fact that the Government has voted money to purchase equipment to monitor the various occupational diseases which can arise from working in some of the factories which are set up here is an indication of concern, and I sincerely hope that we will be able to get on with the job. I am not sure whether the Minister has any indication of the incidence of occupational diseases but this is, again, an area where something should be done, and do not allow employers to, as it were, palm off some serious defects in their factories as something they cannot get rid of. We have heard a number of complaints from our members, workers in this country, about for example the level of heating in a number of factories, and this is something which bothers one, 6.25 p.m.

because when it is recited, often the employer can say that they called in the engineers and they cannot do anything about the matter. I think it is definitely a reflection on the quality, or the technical ability of people who are supposed to be competent in this area. I hope that the Government will be able to move ahead with this programme as soon as possible.

I have mentioned in here on more than one occasion the question of air pollution. The Government is, indeed, very concerned in this .matter, and it hopes it will be able to get some action in seeing that the atmosphere remains as clean as possible. I think it was last year, during the discussion of the Estimates, that I raised the question of Government establishing out-patient clinics in the northern area of Barbados. I should like to see the first one established in St. Lucy, as it was mentioned in our Manifesto. When people have to travel from St. Lucy to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it creates a number of difficulties. Therefore the establishment of an out-patient clinic in St. Lucy would remove a lot of hardship on the people. Even if the Government has abandoned the idea of establishing out-patient clinics in St. Lucy, I hope it has not abandoned the idea of establishing one in the north. I think it is very important that this is done.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to see that the Capital Estimates have made provision at Item 10 for Refuse Cleaning and Disposal. I hope that this new equipment will relieve some of the problems with which we are now faced. We are not interested in old-fashioned methods. We are interested in modern methods. I am sure that if we adopt modern methods of Garbage Cleaning and Disposal then the community will have a better chance of getting the garbage removed from the streets. It is known that this sort of machinery is expensive.

On the question of occupational health, I hope the Minister will be able to tell us something about the matter raised by the hon. Member for St. Lucy. I have my reservations about how doctors here react to the question of occupational health. I am a member of the International Council of Health and Safety. One of the problems that was discovered in Barbados was that certain insecticides which should have

been opened and used once, were opened and used on several occasions. When the insecticides are used in the wrong manner, then they will have harmful effects on people's skin. Some doctors were of the opinion that agricultural workers had some sort of disease which came from the mould, from manure, or something like that. These insecticides should not be opened, closed and opened again. If you had a 10-gallon tin of insecticide, you should not use 8 gallons and leave the balance to be used again. I have seen a certificate from a doctor complaining about it.

Mr. Chairman, we have had problems with an employer who refused to accept that a worker was sick from lead poisoning because he had not been seen by the company's doctor. When that sort of thing occurs, the employers will retain an expensive lawyer to argue that lead poisoning could not be proved. I do not know what they are going to do, when they get over the other side. The company fought us on the question that we could not prove or establish that the worker contracted this illness on his job. It is a very difficult matter because we do not have the facilities to determine whether a man working in a company really contracted lead poisoning on the job he was doing.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the system of collecting garbage in Barbados should have been modernised years ago. The old fashioned 10-ton trucks suitable for 1920 should be removed, and we should have a modern system of garbage disposal so that the people taking up garbage efficiently will not be made to feel that they are garbage collectors. 6.35 p.m.

I have been informed too, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Health should like to know that there is some aspect of the waiting room in the District Hospital in St. Lucy to which some attention should be paid. I understand that the hon. Member who knows more about St. Lucy than I do would understand some of the parochial problems in the northern parish and it would be a good thing if improvements are carried out.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. Member for St. Joseph Question No. 199 on the Order Paper which was given notice of on 18th December, 1973. It is not my intention to deprive the hon. Member of the satisfaction of having this question answered; so at this stage it is not necessary for me to say anything more about the national cemetery and crematorium.

As regards sanitation and cemeteries a lot has to be done, but I would like to point out that I have been able to get a package deal and the money voted here is just an initial down payment. In this package deal we expect to acquire sixteen compact collection vehicles, two road sweepers, one gully emptier and street flushing vehicle, four open body trucks for removing objects, tree trunks etc., four 30 cubic yard open body trucks for disposing of pulverised refuse, one traxcavator, one loader and two land rovers. In addition to that, there is a pulveriser plant to deal with 400 tons of refuse per day. The total cost of this is $2, 160, 000 and with the necessary interest added on to it, this would raise it to a bit more, and the money being requested, $760, 000 is the initial payment on this deal. So from some time later this year we should see a tremendous improvement in the service of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. They have a problem. Part of the problem is that the vehicles are no good. Five vehicles can carry away a lot of money. In fact there has been one vehicle that carried away $11, 000 last year in repairs alone and I do not think this type of thing can be permitted to continue. I myself am very glad to be able to get such a deal, so that before the end of this year we will start to see some improvement and I mean a tremendous improvement in the service rendered by the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. I would like

to point out that we have new legislation to be introduced into this Chamber for that Board also.

As regards occupational health, it is nothing new. I think the problem with occupational health in Barbados is that the medical practitioners seem to have ignored it in the past, and I would like to stress that agricultural workers and people who work in that industry which we consider as being so important to the country have been neglected because they get exposed to bagasse, and bagasse affects the lungs and produce chronic disease which has gone unrecognised. Also the cane prickles create problems. The hon. Member for St. Michael West mentioned lead poisoning. This has been a problem in Barbados all the time and it is due to the fact that the medical practitioners have been taking occupational health rather lightly.

As regards air pollution, the equipment has already arrived in the Island. This has been brought in by the Pan American Health Organisation and we are looking forward to making use of it in the very near future. There is not much of a problem with air pollution for the simple reason that the winds sweep and replenish the air quite often but I think on occasions when there are large numbers of vehicles in Bridgetown there is the problem of sulphur dioxide accumulating which could pose some threat, and we want to monitor this. There are many other things which I could mention in connection with this money which has been asked for, for the capital programme of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, but I believe that in the course of this year we will have time to expand on this, but more important, I would like to say I have every reason to assure this House that in the 1974-75 financial year, the better performance by the Ministry of Health and Welfare will be evident all around.

The Question that the sum gf $2, 438, 106 for Head 129 - Ministry of Health and Welfare -stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 132 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 132 — Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3, 599, 912 for Head 132 — Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule as amended, stand part.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 be amended by deleting the words "143, 614, 497" and inserting the words "144, 100, 897", therefor.

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

The question that the words proposed to be left out stand part, was put and resolved in the negative without division.

The Question that the words be there inserted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE Clause 2 as amended stood part.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do not report the passing of one Bill with amendments in Committee of Supply.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
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 motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Bill as amended was read a third time and passed. Its title was agreed to.

RESOLUTION RE THE PORT DEPARTMENT FOR 1974-75

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker, in moving the passing of this Resolution I should just like to tell hon. Members that they know Government is committed to the extension of the Port and in the last two weeks, we have had a consultant from the Inter—American Development Bank and we have been meeting with the Economic Planning Unit. 6.45 p.m.

You will have noticed too under the Capital Estimates that the sum of $1 million has been put in to being or to take care of preliminary work which is necessary for the Port. At this point in time, it is not possible to give the House the details of the final loan because we are having arguments as to certain aspects which have been found necessary at this time and which the Government wants carried out. We

have not settled the amount of the loan or the final details or in what respects the report of the consultants will be curtailed. I promised hon. Members that as soon as these details are settled this House will know the terms of the loans and the modifications of the consultants' plans and when the work will commence. Since the final settlement of all the details are incomplete, it would not be fair for me to mislead the House or give any facts which I am not in possession of.

I beg to move that this House approves under Section 10 of the Harbours Act, 1960 the Annual Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1974—75. I ask that with the undertaking I have given.

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

Mr. FORDE:
Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to delay this House any longer than is necessary except to say that we certainly are looking forward to receiving the details concerning the Port extension. The Port is an area very close to the heart of the Barbados Labour Party, having regard to the role which it played in its construction. We would want to know that the terms are as favourable as possible and that we be taken in to the confidence of the government on this matter. We hope it will not be long before we see the necessary document.

There is only one point which I wish to draw to the Minister's attention and that is that there are many people who wanted to carry out various developments in the area adjoining the Port. They have been held up in the meantime because Government had not finally decided on the areas of land it wanted. Now the Government is coming to a decision, I think it should be made known quite quickly to those persons whether or not their land is wanted for Port extension or whether they can go on with development. Some of the development involves the construction of new factories and I think they should be given some early indication on the matter.

Mr. WALCOTT:
Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister to know that on this matter of the Port I think all of us would like to see the Port expansion and development, because I have been interested in the Port for 20 years as Chairman of the Deep Water Harbour Committee. We have lost a lot of workers and I do not believe anyone has gone through more on this matter than I have over the many years so much has been spoken about the Port. We now have a Deep Water Harbour, but what I am worried about is that each time there is any discussion on the Port, some people want to make a crisis out of the situation. There is going to be an expansion of the Port, there is now talk that the Port is using stuff in bulk, but we find that each time they reach a crisis stage they want to do it tomorrow, but at the same time dealing with the workers as if they are villains. I feel we are gradually getting in this community the idea that the workers are not too uplifted, and one of these days something will come about that. You do not identify the worker with anything other than something villainous and hard working. It is still predominantly the middle class society in which you identify certain people, like Samuel Jackman Prescod, Charles Duncan O'Neale and Sir Grantley Adams. This is the only country where you cannot find anybody like Busta because this is the only country you can be identified as a worker without any of the other privileges attached.

For that reason the workers always has to be on the defensive, and I take this position because we are at a stage now where we have built a Port on 99 acres of reclaimed land, we have industrial development

there, but it is shocking to know the kind of communication you got from one of the people who were the recipients of the privilege of living on Port land. He wrote off to his firm in the United States. We went througt a bitter struggle to put this Port here, a lot of sacrifice was made. This has nothing to do with any party, this is something to do with the people. This was built reluctantly, it was a forced situation. They either had to build it or get things coming here and putting them on their heads, there was no question about building the Port. We are aware of that, we have reached the stage now where the Minister has made plans to expand the Port and we are all in favour of that, but we hope the people understand that the expansion of the Port is going to mean more machinery, and quicker handling for lots of people. They want to take all the cargo in bulk, so we have to know how many thousand tons of cargo you are going to handle in bulk. This is going to mean a loss of employment to people and we are not heartened about this. As long as you are prepared to have a policy where the expansion would mean employment will go up elsewhere, workers here will be properly rewarded for the work they do, we will make the necessary provision for these things as long as you have a proper Development Plan on the basis where workers will find alternative jobs in other avenues.

We had to fight somebody for $40.00 a week and they wrote to the United States saying that the Union wanted to introduce a go-slow, but we did not want that, we wanted something which would give the workers a fair reward for the work they had to do. There is a tendency today — and I heard words being spoken, about the general climate where workers are involved — but this is at a time when a Government which is in power is reflecting the wishes of workers. I want to say that it was the workers over the years who marched these streets protesting throughout this island, and it was these protests over the years which have culminated in the kind of situation in 1974 and were able to make 1971 what it was. 6.55 p.m.

If these marches and protests did not take place, we would not be here today in such large numbers. I want it to be understood that we are marching in the vanguard of the emancipation of the workers, and not the emancipation of the affluent. I want a clear understanding about where we stand.

There is too much jumping on the little man. You call him lazy and not productive, but he is still as poor as ever, and those who are getting rich are getting rich faster.

I feel that the Minister responsible for the Port should be paid a compliment. Since he became Minister, he has stimulated work in the Port and the long projected Port canteen will begin to work very soon. I hope that some of the. hon. Members of this House will some day wend their way to see this canteen.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Chairman, I think that one of the most vital aspects of our planning should be to look into the situation which was created with the construction of the Port. There is stagnant water which flows out into President Kennedy Drive, and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs will tell you that this water is very stink. I hope that any new plans will seek to remedy that situation.

Times are moving, and as the Member for St. Michael West said, there will have to be a lot of bulk storage in the Port. Grain is now being trans-shipped all over the world in bulk. Barbados, I believe is still one of the few countries where grain is handled by the bag. I know that we have been working on the facilities at the Port to handle grain in bulk. I do not know the pros and cons of it, but I have been

told that if we handle grain in bulk it will be much cheaper and would lead to a reduction in the cost.

When you go to the Port you will see people handling 50 lb bags. I know that there are certain places where you load a trailer and it goes straight on to the deck of the ship. It means that the labour employed in handling the bags will become redundant.

I am asking the trade union boss and the Minister to get down to business and have some sort of temporary arrangement. I have constantly said that you do not buy grain as if you are going into a shop and saying, "give me a pint of rum or whisky." In order to get grain at competitive prices you have to buy it in advance because if you wait until February, March or April, you will get what is left over. People have to know in advance what storage facilities exist.

When there are disputes between the Government and the feed companies, it is the man in the middle who is being squeezed. I understand that the union's agreement comes up for renegotiation with the Port at the end of July. Let them sit down like big men and have some temporary arrangement whereby they can put up temporary facilities. They can then supplement any arrangements for bulk storage at the Port.

This will help the poultry industry in this country. We are suffering from our antiquated method of handling grain. I hope that this will fall on receptive ears.

There is another thing. Everyone knows that larceny from the Port is very high. I hope that any new arrangements will take into consideration security arrangements. I know of incidents where certain things have arrived and have been off loaded and then two or three days afterwards they have disappeared. I hope that these things can be remedied now that we are talking about a new Port and that we can make plans to reduce the cost of living in the country.

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

LEAVE SOUGHT AND OBTAINED FOR THE LAYING OF DOCUMENTS AND THE GIVING OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking leave to lay certain documents at this stage.

There being no objection, leave was granted. DOCUMENTS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning I am commanded to lay the Account of the transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island for the quarter ended 31st December, 1973.

Also, on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I am commanded to lay the Auditor General's report on the audit of the accounts of the Housing Authority for the year

ended 31st March, 1971.

Hon. A. MORRISON:
Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Financial Statement of the Barbados General Agricultural Society for the year ended 31st March, 1971.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. F. G. SMITH:
Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following—

(1) The Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Ship Station) (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.

(2) The Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Transmitter) (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.

(3) The Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Model Aeroplanes, Model Racing Cars and Model Trains) Regulations, 1974.

(4) The Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Land Mobile and Fixed Radio Telephone Services) Regulations, 1974.

(5) The Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.

7.05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:
Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 26th March, 1974, at 12.00 o'clock noon.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 7.10 p.m.