

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1971 - 76

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

Tuesday, 7th May, 1974

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.35 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 Reader of the House); Rt. Hon. E. W. BABIROW, 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. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before the Business of this Honourable House commences, I would like to raise a Matter of Privilege in respect of an article appearing in the Nation Newspaper dated Sunday, 14th April, 1974 on page 9. The article is entitled "A change of Heart". Among other things, Paragraph 3 reads "According to Maxwell, Members of Parliament must attend Sitzings of the House dressed in shirt jacs of long or short sleeves and trousers of the same material." This is not what I read to the Honourable House in my

Statement. Nowhere in that section of my statement dealing with dress was the word "must" used. I am therefore making the newspaper a document of this House, deeming this a prima facie Breach of Privilege which will be dealt with in due course by the Committee of Privileges.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Minutes of this Honourable House for Friday, the 5th April, 1974 and Tuesday, the 9th April, 1974 are before you for confirmations if there are no alterations or corrections, the Minutes will be confirmed. There being no alterations or corrections these Minutes are hereby duly confirmed.

I have the honour to lay before you the Statement of Accounts for the months of December, 1972, and January, 1973 prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following- (1) The Rules of the Supreme Court (Amendment) Rules 1974; (2) The Supreme Court (Constitutional Redress) Rules, 1974.

On my own behalf I am commanded to lay the Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year 1973.

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 on 31st March, 1974.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

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

(1) The Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders as at 31st October, 1973; and

(2) The Statement of Money Order Transactions through the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations for the month of October, 1973.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. G.E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions —

(1) The Resolution to approve the lease of certain lands at Seawell Airport to Forbes International Moving and Storage Co. Ltd.

(2) The Resolution to approve the lease of certain lands at Bay Street, St. Michael, to Mr. Stephen Fields.

(3) The Resolution to approve the lease of . certain lands at the Garrison, St. Michael, to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.

Also on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Pittance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$2, 500, 000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974—75, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 1, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$1, 080 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 2, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with these two Resolutions, of which the Hon. Minister of Health and myself have just given notice, in all their stages at this Sitting. Copies of the Resolutions have been duly circulated.

Mr. CRAIG:

It is true that with the numbers at Government's disposal this side will be again out-voted, but I must draw to Your Honour's attention that we received these Resolutions yesterday afternoon and to deal with a Resolution for an amount of \$2.5 million would need a bit of work being done by the Opposition so that we can give a creditable performance in Parliament. With such short notice, it is unfair. I have repeated on more than one occasion, as well as my colleagues on this side, that Government cannot expect to bring legislation and push it into our hands overnight and expect us to make a proper contribution. It is quite all right to say that this money is needed to pay their outstanding debts in Bridgetown, but I hope the Leader of the House will set about in the future, especially after a recess of a number of weeks, to make sure that Resolutions are circulated in time so that we can discuss them and that when we come in here and we can give an account of our stewardship.

It is unfair, and I would draw this to Your Honour's attention. I believe that Your Honour had to talk about this same thing quite recently. This is a Resolution for \$2.5 million and we are asked to come in here this morning to debate it, when we were out for a number of weeks. I cannot understand the Government's intention in a matter of this nature.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, although there is something in what the honourable Member has said, the bare facts of the case are that this particular Resolution was only dealt with recently at Cabinet level, so we were not in a position to send it down earlier. 10.45 a.m.

The second point is that the object of asking that these Resolutions be dealt with in all their stages is because there is absolutely no Government Business on the Order Paper. The most valid point is that the

Opposition is aware of the urgency of the Resolutions, one of which has been brought down to pay outstanding creditors their money and to prove that the Treasury is not empty as the Opposition has so often said. The object is to see that these people are paid at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we have spoken on the substance of this Resolution, unintentionally several times. The substance of the Resolution is well known. It has been spoken on for the greater part of this year.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to object to this method of passing legislation in this Chamber, Since 1971 I have heard utterances.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I trust that you are not making a speech.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I am dealing with whether leave should be granted or not. I have heard talk about 18 — 6. They do not have to see what this side says or thinks, and that is the reason for so much bad legislation coming out of this Chamber.

Your Honour will remember that on the 12th of last month when the Leader of the House was asking that legislation be dealt with in all its stages, it had not even been circulated. Again he said that the matter had only recently been dealt with by the Cabinet. If the Cabinet is going to do its business on a /"hodge-podge" basis, come out and say that they are working a one-party Government or a dictatorship and that they will do what they decide to do regardless of what the other side thinks.

When we criticised certain aspects of Government, the Prime Minister himself got up and said that we did not know what we were saying. Yesterday evening at about 4 o'clock an envelope came into my office saying that there was nothing under Government Business today and that they intended to deal with these Resolutions in all their stages.

Your Honour will have to rule, and your ruling will go down in history as to whether or not the Government is entitled to give less than 12 hours notice to deal with legislation despite the fact that the lawful Opposition has had no warning and it is unable to prepare a case for dealing with the legislation.

I am saying categorically that I will refuse to take part in any legislation of this nature which people are finding out cannot work because the Government has not allowed sufficient time for the Opposition and other interested parties to look at it and to draw to the Government's attention difficulties which may arise after the legislation has passed. It happened with the Land Tax Act. The Laws of Barbados are becoming confused simply because legislation is rushed through, and even before it reaches the Senate you realise that something is wrong and you have to come back with amendments. It is because the Government has no plan of action.

I think that it is the duty of Your Honour as Speaker of the House to protect the interests of the minority and of the people at large in this country. The same thing happened with the Brussels Agreement. People were not able to look at it. The Government rushed it through and you found later the problems that arose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is becoming general.

Mr. BOLDEN:

It is time that Your Honour looked at this sort of thing.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is usual for there to be unanimity on these matters of which such short notice is given. There being no unanimity on this occasion, leave is not granted.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Interpretation Act, 1966.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Firearms Act, 1896.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question which stands in the name of the honourable Member for Bridgetown —

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, Question Re

(1) TEACHER-PUPIL RATIO IN SCHOOLS IN BARBADOS.

Would the Minister state what is the Teacher/Pupil ratio in:

- (a) Government Secondary Schools (Grammar).
- (b) Government Secondary Schools (Comprehensive).
- (c) Infant Schools.
- (d) Junior Schools.
- (e) Primary Schools.
- (f) Nursery Schools.

(g) Private Secondary Schools.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question which stands in the name of the same honourable Member.

(2) QUESTION RE DRIVERS' LICENCES

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister..., .

Mr. SPEAKER:

There must be order. It is quite in order if honourable Members want to carry on a conversation to leave the Chamber temporarily.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister—

1. Is the Minister aware that for some time, drivers' licences have not been available?
2. Would the Minister take immediate steps to remedy this situation?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question which stands in the name of the same honourable Member.

(3) QUESTION RE PURCHASE OF YOUTH TOWN BUILDING.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister—

Does the Government propose to purchase from the Methodist Church the building situate at Baxter's Road, St. Michael now used as Youth Town?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Question which stands in the name of the same honourable Member.

(4) QUESTION RE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR ST. CECELIA'S BARRACKS

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister —

Would the Minister state what are Government's plans for the property formerly known as St. Cecelia's Barracks and formerly occupied by the Royal Barbados Police Band?

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Interpretation Act, 1966, be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Firearms Act, 1896, be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Replies to Parliamentary Question No. 127 asked by the hon. Member for St. Andrew, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 148 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph, and also the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 150 asked by the same honourable Member are now ready. 10.55a.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 153, asked by the hon. Member for St. George, His Honour the Deputy Speaker, and the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 260, asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter are now ready.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 177, asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is ready, and the Oral Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos 193, 215, 221, 228 and 229 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter are all ready.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 205, asked by the hon. Member for the City of Bridgetown is now ready. Also that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 223 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter is ready, the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 233 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph, the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 246 also asked by the same hon. Member, are all ready.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 247, asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is now ready; also that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 249, asked by the same hon. Member, and the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 254, asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter, are all ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 235 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is ready; the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 241 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph and the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 242 asked by the same hon. Member are now all ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will draw to the attention of the Honourable House Standing Order 31(1) which reads as follows "The two Sitting Days which shall immediately follow the Annual Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals shall be allotted to debate thereon." Before us is a Resolution standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition, that this House takes note of the Minister of Finance's Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals for 1974-75.

**3 WEEKS LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED TO
HON. MEMBER FOR ST. MICHAEL
SOUTH WEST**

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Before we proceed with that, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that three weeks leave of absence be granted to the hon. Member for St. Michael South West, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, the period of three weeks with effect from May 13th, 1974.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND:

I beg to second that.

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

(Pause)

**RESOLUTION RE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS 1974-
75**

Mr. SPEAKER:

A motion is before the House. Are there any speakers on that Resolution?

(A Pause)

There is a Resolution before this Honourable House standing in the name of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. If there are no honourable Members who wish to speak on this motion, the Question will be put.

The Question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the negative.

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Divide.

The Question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in negative the House dividing as follows:

NOES:

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES; Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS and Mr. W. R. LOWE -12.

AYES:

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

THE REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 127 POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 127 asked by the hon. Member for St. Andrew.

Hon. C E. TALMA; I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, that all the Oral Replies standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be postponed for one week.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 11.05 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 153 asked by His Honour the Deputy Speaker.

QUESTION RE THE SUGAR WORKERS PROVIDENT FUND

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister 1. Is the Minister aware that money due to Sugar

Workers from the Provident Fund has not been paid for at least four (4) months? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Minister investigate this matter and take the necessary steps to remedy the situation thereby relieving the suffering of the sugar workers?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the appropriate Minister is unavoidably absent, and I am moving that the Oral Replies standing in his name be deferred for one week so that he can have an opportunity to examine the Oral Replies.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

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

**QUESTION RE THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE
SUBJECTS AT WEST ST.
JOSEPH SCHOOL**

Mr. SPEAKER:

Parliamentary Question No. 177 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that (a) despite the fact that many Science Subjects are taught at the West St. Joseph school, proper facilities for teaching these subjects do not exist at the said school; (b) the room currently used as the Science laboratory has running water installed but no wash basins or sinks are under the taps; (c) at the said West St. Joseph School there are numerous unopened crates of science equipment given to the school by an overseas agency more than two (2) years ago; (d) some of the said unopened crates have been lost due to the insecurity of the room in which they are stored? Would the Minister state what steps are being taken or will be taken to rectify the above conditions and to provide safe and adequate premises for the teaching of science in this school?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 177 is as follows—

Facilities for the teaching of Science at the West St. Joseph Secondary School are being improved through the renovation of the original laboratory and through the adaptation of existing unused space into an additional laboratory. This work was interrupted inasmuch as the vote from which the costs were being met became exhausted. Instructions have now been given for the work to be resumed. Equipment intended for these laboratories is stored in crates at the school. No evidence is available to me to indicate that any of these crates has been lost.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister say how soon this work would be resumed, and what is the estimated time for its conclusion?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Those are two Supplementary Questions.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I am....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Do not question my Ruling.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, I am withdrawing that. Will the Minister state when he expects the work to be completed?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. Member that work has commenced, and the second laboratory is actually in use as well as the original laboratory. There are still some laboratory works to be completed, and I expect that these works will be completed shortly.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, in the first place, the Questions were never answered as they were put down.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Supplementaries, please! Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 193 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter.

**QUESTION RE THE PROPOSED ESTABLISH-
MENT OF COMMUNITY PLAYING FIELD
AND RECREATION CENTRE
IN ST. PETER**

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to inquire of the appropriate Minister Where does Government propose establishing the first community playing field and recreation centre in St. Peter? 2. When will Government do so, taking into consideration the pressing needs of the youth of the parish generally?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to that Question is as follows—

An area of land approximately 5.198 acres has been acquired from Warleigh Plantation in St. Peter in the vicinity of Mile & Quarter and surrounding districts. It is proposed to provide a government playing field and recreation facility on this land within the current development plan period, subject to the availability of funds.

**QUESTION RE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY
RE ORGANISATION AND CONTROL OF**

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 215 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport What is the policy of Government with respect to the organisation and control of such Institutions as Parent-Teacher Associations and Old Scholars' Associations?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 215 is as follows—

It is the Government's policy to support and encourage the formation of such institutions as Parent-Teachers' Associations and Old Scholars' Associations recognising the useful and important role that well organised institutions of this nature can play in the integration of schools within the Community, Since these organisations are largely voluntary, the Government does not intend to organise and control them rigidly.

Mr. HINDS:

Does the Government intend to organise and control them?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, it is envisaged that a new Bill dealing with the provision of education in this country will make reference to these Associations of Parents and Teachers setting out the Objects of the Associations, namely, including the promotion "of the interests of the school by attracting parents, members of the community, pupils, etc. in an effort to have close co-operation.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell us how soon this legislation will be enacted?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper Supplementary Question.

Mr. HINDS:

With regard to the purpose of making reference, as the Minister has said, to Associations and Teachers, what is the purpose of all of this?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper Supplementary Question.

QUESTION RE THE RESIGNATION OF TEACHER AT HARRISON COLLEGE

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 221 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter. 11.15 a.m.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport: Is the Minister aware that a young Barbadian who joined the staff of Harrison College in September, 1973 has already resigned to return overseas? 2. Is the Minister aware that the said Barbadian alleges discrimination relating to salary and work schedules as being responsible for his short stay at Harrison College? 3. In the interest of Barbadians overseas who might desire to return home and serve the country, would the Minister investigate the allegations of discrimination as at No. 2 above and make a statement thereon.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 221 is as follows-

The Barbadian referred to accepted the offer of an appointment on the teaching staff at Harrison College on one year's probation with effect from 1st September, 1973. He was paid a salary in accordance with the qualifications and the teaching experience applicable to his case and was assigned appropriate teaching duties by the Headmaster. A careful consideration of the facts of this matter has not revealed any evidence of discrimination in relation to salary or to work schedule.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us if the teacher under reference was served at any time with a notice or notices relative to his alleged late coming?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the Headmaster of the school found it necessary to draw to the attention of the teacher matters relating to his punctuality for classes.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us if another master whose transportation at all times brought the teacher under reference to school, and they both arrived at the same time each day, if the other master received any such notice from the Headmaster as to his late coming?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper Supplementary Question.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister has said that after careful consideration of the facts he has come to the conclusion that there was no discrimination, would the Minister tell the Honourable House the facts he took into consideration in arriving at this conclusion?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The facts relate to the offer of appointment, the acceptance of that offer, the assignment of teaching duties, and the responsibilities at the school.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us if this teacher was given equal teaching periods as other masters in his particular category? If not, why not?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

The information made available to me indicates that the teacher in question was given a time table consisting of 30 periods per week.

QUESTION RE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATION

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 228 asked by the same hon. Member.

Mr. HINDS:

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To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport: What is Government's policy with respect to education at (a) Secondary Modern Schools, (b) Comprehensive Schools and (c) Multi-lateral Schools?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 228 is as folio ws-

It is the policy of the Government to expand education at the newer Secondary Schools' and to continue to develop curricula, to upgrade the competencies of the teaching staff, to provide more non-teaching support staff and improve the physical plant — all with the objective of developing to the fullest the interest, aptitudes and abilities of students attending these schools.

Mr. HINDS:

Will the Minister tell us how many multi-lateral schools we have in Barbados?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, there are no schools in Barbados designated as multi-lateral schools.

Mr. HINDS:

In the light of the answer which the Minister just gave, does the Minister see that his Reply to my main Question still relates to the types of schools I had enumerated as (a) secondary modern schools, (b) comprehensive schools and (c) multi-lateral schools?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the question deals fully with the Question as asked and as it relates to the facts, that is, Secondary Modern Schools and Comprehensive Schools.

QUESTION RE THE DISCIPLINE AT CERTAIN SCHOOLS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 229 asked by the same hon. Member.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport Is it a fact that incidents involving children and others at (a) Springer Memorial, (b) Parkinson Memorial and (c) St. Georges Secondary School, amongst others, have been enough to warrant Government's deep concern over the question of discipline in these schools? 2. What steps have been taken during the past few weeks to correct the unfortunate situations which have occurred and to ensure that proper standards of discipline are maintained at the schools concerned?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 229 is as follows-

Breaches of discipline occur from time to time among students at educational institutions, and these are dealt with in a routine manner by the Heads in consultation with the Governing Bodies. The even tenor of life at schools is also disturbed from time to time by irate parents and by intruders. Consideration is being given to an increase in the non-teaching staff at such schools as a means of assisting the Heads in dealing more effectively with the latter type of problem. , 11.25 a.m.

Mr. HINDS:

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister can tell us that head teachers were transferred as a result of the incidents that he took into consideration when he decided on the Reply to the House.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any transfers of head teachers arising out of the matters referred to in this particular Question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Question No. 205 asked by the hon. Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister 1. How many work permits were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs during the year 1973? 2. Will the Minister state- (a) the categories of persons to whom work permits were issued and (b) how many work permits were issued in respect of each category?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows-

The categories of persons and number of persons in each category in respect of which permission to work was granted in 1973 were:-

Categories Numbers

Accounting Firms 15

Airlines Personnel .. 11

Architects 8

Research Staff, Bellair Research Institute 1

Banking 32

Building 8

Commonwealth Development Corporation 3

Caribbean Meteorological Service 15

Dental Officer 2

Dentist 1

Doctors 16

Diplomatic 1

Education (teachers) .. 27

Engineers 7

Categories Numbers

Entertainers 94

Motion Picture Production .. 69

Hotel Staff 38

Industries 25

Insurance 7

Radio and T.V. ... 5

Restaurants 4

Religion 30

Self-employed 18

Surveyors 2

Technicians 35

Public Service 13

Advertising 4

Business Executives .. 11

Mining/Drilling .. 9

Supervisory Staff .. 11

Other (unclassified) .. 11

553

Sugar Industry

Cane Cutters 1, 024

Pan Boilers 12

1, 036 Total number of work permits granted 1, 589

Mr. ADAMS:

Would the Minister like to give a definition of "work permit"?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

A licence or permission to work on the Island.

Mr. ADAMS:

Would the Minister say when a new Immigration Act which would provide a new framework under which such things as work permits may legally be granted will be brought down by the Government?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enquire in view of the statement of policy about the policing of work permits issued, whether the Minister can state what steps were taken to see whether, for instance, in things like banking and hotels, persons to whom work permits were granted are in fact carrying out the training of Barbadian nationals, and how many are being trained?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Yes. It is very essential. In most of the instances in hotels, even in the highest categories, promise to train is one of the stipulated clauses in granting permits; but as I will say, in some instances you break

down in these things by not having a choice of the right people. We have been insisting that they choose the right people for the right fields, otherwise you will always have to renew permits if they choose people who are not competent enough to fill in the places required.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Is the Minister saying that as far as banking and the hotel industry are concerned there are not the right people in Barbados who can be trained in these fields?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have not said so, but you have to put people in the category suitable for them. You cannot pick somebody for banking without educational standards suitable for banking, if you pick him he will not qualify. He will never be capable of qualifying.

Mr. FORDE:

Is the Minister in a position to tell us how many of these persons came from Commonwealth Caribbean countries, how many from the rest of the Commonwealth and how many from foreign countries?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, at present I cannot tell the hon. Member because the records of each category have not yet been kept. I have asked that this should be done, particularly when this question came up because I would like to know the fields in the sugar industry and in what fields in the hotel industry so that I would be able to give a breakdown; but they have only started to put this together lately.

Mr. ADAMS:

Would the Minister state whether in granting permits in Barbados to people who come to work as cane cutters he sees to it that these persons remain long enough after the end of the crop season to spend some of the money they earn in Barbados and not take it all back out of the island?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Not a proper Supplementary Question.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state whether or not there are any conditions attaching to Work Permits granted to entertainers?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Yes. We make sure in the Ministry that every group that comes in, employs some of our local people. In other words, no one group can come in and perform all around on their own. They must have some of our entertainers being employed with them.

Mr. BOLDEN:

What is the method of guarantee used by the Government? (a pause) I have another question. Would the Minister enumerate the category of employment which was involved by the 18 self-employed people to whom work permits were granted during the relevant period? 11.35a.m.

QUESTION RE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION IN THE VICINITY OF MILE AND A QUARTER, St. PETER

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 223 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister 1. Is it the intention of Government to construct a Fire Station in the area of Mile and a Quarter, St. Peter or somewhere in that vicinity? 2. If there is no such plan, will Government give consideration and seek expert advice on such a matter?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 223 is as follows

It is proposed to construct an additional fire station to serve the northern area of this island during the 1973-77 Development Plan period. The site of the station has not yet been chosen.

Mr. HINDS:

Can the Minister tell us if a site near Farris in St. Peter has been recommended to Government?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. Member already that the site of the station has not yet been chosen.

Mr. HINDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am putting it to the Minister that a site near Farris in St. Peter has been recommended. Is there any likelihood of a decision being reached in the near future?

**QUESTION RE THE BEDS SUPPLIED TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BARBADOS
POLICE FORCE**

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 246 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Would the Minister state (a) the number of beds supplied to the Royal Barbados Police Force since the Commission of Enquiry into the Police Force recommended that cots should be replaced by beds; (b) The number of policemen stationed at each police post and the number of beds supplied to each post; (c) Has every policeman been given a bed? If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state the reason why all policemen have not yet been supplied with beds?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 246, asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is as follows-

(a) Four hundred and twenty-five beds.

(b) The number of policemen stationed at each Police Post and the number of beds supplied to each Post are set out below:-

Station/Unit	No. of Policeman	No. requiring Beds	No. of Beds
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Central	455	161	165
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Writ Department ..	28	—	—
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Band	40	40	40
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Bridge and Harbour ..	51	46	30
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Hastings	18	18	15
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Worthing ...	15	15	14
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Oistin	16	16	11
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Black Rock	18	18	16
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District "A" ..	34	34	28
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" "B" ..	30	21	16
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" "C" ..	22	17	16
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" "D" ..	16	13	12
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" "E" ..	26	23	22
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" "F" ..	16	14	14
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Belleplaine	12	11	9
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Holetown	30	26	17
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Government House Guard	5	5	5
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Crab Hill	2		
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Seawell	22	-	-
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856	478	425	
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(c) No, Sir. Every policeman has not been given a bed because of -

(i) inadequate room space at the

Stations; (ii) beds being required only for

policemen sleeping at the Stations.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister state what provisions are being made to supply those policemen requiring beds, with these beds?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, beds take up more space. You cannot get the same number of beds as cots because a bed would be larger than a cot; if you have a watch with ten men in, then you might have 18 or 19 beds. There were all cots before and they have changed over now to beds. Before, they had no beds; there used to be all cots - canvas cots. Now even in the fire stations practically all have been substituted for beds, and beds take more room.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying then that the policemen are supposed to share beds under the present system?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, prior to the last couple of years, there were absolutely no beds in any of the stations - fire or police stations. Beds are something new, and a bed is of a larger dimension than a cot.

QUESTION RE THE TELEVISION SETS AT SEAWELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 235 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Would the Minister state- (1) The total number of television sets installed to date at Seawell International Airport for giving information to persons using the airport; (2) The name or names of the suppliers of the sets and the contractors carrying out the installation of these sets; (3) What is the cost of the sets and the contract price for installation of the said sets; (4) Were the contracts for the supplying and installation of these sets awarded after tender. If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state why this procedure was not followed; (5) When was the installation commenced and the date fixed for completion; Is the Minister aware that during the month of December, 1973, none of these sets were in operation; Will the Minister state what steps are being taken or will be taken to expedite the operation of those sets which are already installed?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 235, asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph is as follows -

(1) The installation of the television monitors is in progress; the system is not yet in effect.

(2) The Space Research Corporation is supplying and installing the system. (3) The cost of the sets is \$950 each and the contract price for the supply and installation of the whole system, including generators and keyboard input unit, is \$49, 470. (4) The Suppliers in Barbados do not hold reconditioned equipment of this type in stock and the prices sought of overseas suppliers for new equipment of the kind were considerably higher. Consequently no tenders were issued for the equipment. (5) Installation commenced in mid-1973 but was suspended when a decision was taken to develop a twin-monitor display instead of a single monitor one in order to have arrival and departure information recorded on separate monitors. There has been a delay in the arrival and installation of the additional equipment, but it is anticipated that the system will be operational in about a month's time.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister state the age of these reconditioned sets which are being installed?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I was not there at their birth so I would not be in a position to know.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister state who made the arrangement between the Government and the Space Research Group and whether or not those arrangements included the age of the sets and the availability of spare parts for repairs if and when necessary?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, with the arrangements for Seawell International Airport, we have a project team consisting of engineers, architects, cost accountants and economists at Seawell, permanently stationed there. The head of that team is a former deputy director of Public Works, Mr. Matthews. All of the technical arrangements are made through the Seawell Development Project Team. They then come to the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's office for approval for funding but provision has been made by the legislature and all of the technical advice is given to the Permanent Secretary by the Seawell Project Team, not by any politician.

QUESTION RE THE SPEEDING UP OF THE FLOW OF PASSENGERS AT SEAWELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. SPEAKER:

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 241, asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware (1) That the present flow of passengers through the arriving section of Seawell International Airport especially during the week-ends are putting a heavy strain on the policemen, who carry out immigration duties and the two (2) Port Health Officers normally on duty at such times; Would the Minister consider increasing the number of Port Health Officers and Immigration Officers now operating at Seawell so as to speed up the flow of passengers?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 241, asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph, is as follows-

It is not considered that increasing the number of Port Health Officials and Immigration Officers at Seawell will of itself speed up the flow of passengers since delays are mainly experienced after clearance with Health and Immigration. Alternative methods of processing passengers and baggage are, however, under examination.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state what are the alternative methods of processing passengers who are being examined?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I said that the alternative methods of processing passengers and baggage are under examination. 11.45 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister state if an investigation has been carried out to see the length of time passengers have had to wait in order to pass the Health and Immigration Authorities before reaching the baggage section?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the average time for processing a single passenger is about fifteen seconds, and there are normally two Health Officers and 5 Immigration Officers in attendance when there is a heavy through-put of passengers. (Asides)

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. Member cannot sit and speak.¹

QUESTION RE THE TELEPHONE SWITCH BOARD SYSTEM AT SEAWELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 242 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware that (1) The present telephone switch board system in operation at Seawell International

Airport is inadequate (2) Persons intending to call Seawell International Airport by telephone are experiencing great difficulty due to the constant busy signals on the switchboard; (3) That as a result of the poor telephone switchboard facilities, many airlines now have private telephone numbers; (4) That the Police Department at Seawell is. also connected to the central switchboard and as a result the police experience great inconvenience because of the lack of an independent telephone; Will the Minister state what steps are being taken to improve the telephone system at Seawell International Airport and to

provide the police with an independent telephone system?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Question No. 242 is as follows

- 1. The present telephone switchboard is inadequate particularly in the light of the heavy incidence of flight information calls which could properly be made by direct line to airlines.

2. Yes, Sir.

3. It appears likely that even the installation of a new and larger PABX will not by itself solve this problem. The airlines have therefore been asked, where possible, to install direct lines for dealing with flight information calls. Most airlines now have some such direct lines, but the public appears to be unaware of this facility and the Telephone Company has agreed to give some prominence to the telephone numbers of these direct lines in its new directory. It is hoped that this will reduce the load on the PABX to an acceptable level. Meanwhile discussions have been initiated with another communications company to see if other action may be feasible to relieve the problem.

4. The Police Post at Seawell is connected to the central switchboard but steps are being taken to install a direct line for the use of the Police.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the majority of private telephone lines to individual airlines are ex-directory?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I am now trying to understand what the hon. Member means by ex-directory.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, the direct lines to the airlines are not listed in the Directory.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARRQW:

Mr. Speaker, that is possible. Some of them are not listed because they have been recently installed. As far as I know, if you ring the operator you will be able to get the correct number. Frequently when I ring to ask whether a flight has arrived, the operator tells me where to ring.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister take steps to make sure that airlines operating from Seawell International Airport will have their private telephone numbers listed in the Telephone Directory?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know of any law whereby I can compel them to have their telephone numbers listed, but we will encourage them to do so.

QUESTION RE THE POLICE ACCOMMODATION AT SEAWELL INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

Mr. SPEAKER:

Parliamentary Question No. 233 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware-(1) That the present building at Seawell International Airport which houses the Police Department is in a bad state of repair; (2) That the roof of the said building leaks whenever it rains, thus causing the policemen to shift around articles of furniture and beds so as to avoid the water, which enters the building; (3) That at least three years ago, the said building has been condemned as unsuitable for the purpose for which it is being used; Will the Minister cause an investigation to be carried out into the condition under which policemen stationed at Seawell Airport are forced to live and in the meantime make the necessary repairs to the roof of the said building until better housing facilities can be provided?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 233 is as follows

1. (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

2. The conditions at Seawell have already been investigated and repairs have started.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister say how soon these repairs are expected to be completed?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Mr. Speaker, I can only tell him that the work has started and will be completed.

QUESTION RE THE DIFFICULTY IN ENTERING AND LEAVING DISTRICT "E" POLICE STATION

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 247 asked by the hon. Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister Is the Minister aware (1) That the entrance to the District "E" Police Station Speightstown causes great difficulty to motor vehicles entering and leaving those premises; (2) That the difficulty is caused by the presence of a wall which runs along the Southern end of the said entrance? Would the Minister cause an investigation to be made and take the necessary steps to remove or lower the said wall and widen the entrance to the said station?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, on 24th January, 1969, the Government issued instructions for the improvement of the corner of the road leading to the Coleridge-Parry School and the entrance to District "E" Police Station.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the wall in respect of the Station does not bear any relationship to the entrance to the Coleridge-Parry School?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the whole purpose of highway improvement included the wall. The Government gave certain instructions to the technical section of M. C. W. since 1969, but the Civil Servants have been playing around with the plan. It was approved by the Central Purchasing Committee, and nothing has been done. They have been altering the plans, they have made 100 site visits, and every time you ask about the matter, you can hear some nancy story.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, what has the Minister done to improve the entrance to the Police Station?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the only thing the Minister can do is to send home some of the people who are dealing with the matter, but I have no power to do so.

Mr. ADAMS:

Mr. Speaker, has the Minister reported any of the civil servants concerned to the Public Service Commission for dereliction of duty?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not in the habit of reporting any civil servants. They are there like "Old Man River"; they go on for ever.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not aware that, by his complaining about civil servants and not reporting them for any dereliction of duty, he is, in effect, condoning their attitude? 11.55 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN? Will the Minister state what steps will be taken to have the work instituted as soon as possible in order to avoid possible serious injury again in the same area?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister has repeatedly impressed upon the Technical Section of his Ministry the urgency of highway improvement, and there is nothing more the Minister can do except take the political blame in Parliament.

Mr. FORDE:

Has the Minister considered farming out this job to private contractors in view of the fact that he states that his Civil Servants have neglected, omitted and/or refused to carry out the work?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

No consideration has been given to giving this work out to private contractors because of the fact that it has been given to the Ministry and was paid for since 1969.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

In view of the fact that since 1969 nothing has been done, would the Minister give us the undertaking that he will consider the Question of giving it out to private contract?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister cannot give that undertaking because it is collective responsibility.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Would the Minister give the House the undertaking that he will discuss it with Cabinet in view of the fact that it is collective responsibility?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister gives that undertaking.

QUESTION RE THE USE OF PLASTIC PIPES FOR HIGH PRESSURE MAINS

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 249.

Mr. BOLDEN:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister

Would the Minister cause an investigation to be carried out into the use of plastic pipe for high pressure mains and report the results to this Honourable House?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Reply is as follows-

My Ministry has never used plastic pipe for high pressure mains but an investigation will be carried out in due course.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Will the Minister state whether or not recommendations have been made to Government for the use of plastic mains particularly in private housing developments in order to reduce the cost of the installation of water?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Minister is not responsible for housing and would therefore be totally unaware of what recommendations are made to the Ministry of Housing.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Is the Minister aware that his Ministry, via the Waterworks Department, determines what type of water mains is laid in Barbados?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

My Ministry has never recommended this to the Ministry of Housing.

Mr. BOLDEN:

I would like to repeat the Question. Is the Minister aware that a recommendation has been made to the Department to use high pressure plastic water mains particularly in private developments?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

We have never used it. The Minister is not aware because we have never used it in private developments.

Mr. BOLDEN:

Would the Minister take steps to investigate the Waterworks Department in respect of recommendations which have been made that high pressure mains being laid in private developments can be made out of plastic pipe which would substantially reduce the cost of laying the services?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The Chief Engineer has been investigating the matter and to me he says that the report on this matter shows that the use of it is controversial and therefore he has not used it.

QUESTION RE EXTENSION OF WATER MAIN AT CEMETERY LANE, ST, PETER

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 254 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

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

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

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is as follows

I am aware that there is a need for extension of the water main at Cemetery Lane, St. Peter. When the Question was worded the extension would have been considered when the programme of additional mains and standposts for the financial year 1974—75 was being drawn up. It has been drawn up and this particular area has been included in this year's standposts and water mains programme.

Mr. HINDS:

Would the Minister see that the technical staff get on to this particular job and not let it lay in obeyance like the other one?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, there was a question, if you may remember — I am not sure if Your Honour was in the Chair — by the hon. member for St. Peter, Parliamentary Question No. 227, and I think it was requested that this question be left over until his return. If the Member wants it dealt with now, it can be done.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is quite right, it was left over, and it can be dealt with at this stage.

QUESTION RE INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 227 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS:

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works

Is the Minister aware that residents and property owners at 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue, Rock Dundo, St. Peter are experiencing grave difficulties in acquiring adequate supplies of water?

2. If the Minister is not so aware, would the Minister please investigate?

3. Will the Minister take steps to relieve any difficulty which may be experienced by causing to be laid adequate water mains for supplying pipe—borne supplies to : residents and others requiring same at 1st, 2nd and 3rd Avenues, Rock Dundo, St. Peter?

Hon. F. G. SMITH:

The roads mentioned, Mr. Speaker, are private roads. The requirements of the area will be borne in mind for the 1974—75 programme which has been considered, and it is proposed to do the area from any savings resulting from the pther programmes. There are more urgent priorities.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question Time is now ended.

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 Friday, 10th May, 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD:

I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS:

Sir, there are two points. It may very well be that some hon. Members would like to speak in Private Members' Business, particularly on an Item like Item 7 which relates to Party Political Broadcasts, but even if we do not stick our heels in on that, why has this question of adjourning till 10.30 a.m. suddenly become the Order of the Day? I am aware of some of the arguments that are used, but the normal meeting time of the House of Assembly is 12 o'clock Noon. It is extremely difficult for those of us who have to earn our living outside the House, especially on a day not a Tuesday, when little consideration is shown to businessmen and attorneys-at-law on Fridays, little consideration is going to be shown other than on a normal meeting day, and I would move that the motion be amended to delete the time of 10.30 a.m. and substitute therefor the time of 12.00 noon.

Mr. CRAIG :

I beg to second that. 12.05 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. Member's query, I would like the House to know that at one time, we came here at 2.30 p.m. It was changed to 3.00 o'clock p.m. Today we have set aside a day, namely Tuesday. If the people's business cannot be done today, it has to be done at the nearest convenient time, and Friday at 10.30 a.m. is the appropriate time to get this business done. If Members are going to represent the people, let them come here and do so. They are paid. It is a day's work. Come early and do the people's work when you are fresh. Whether you are a Member or a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary, you are paid adequately, and you should be serious about coming here early when you are fresh and not when your energy has been used up in the Law Courts or the Ministerial Office or elsewhere.

"The Question that the words proposed to be deleted stand part of the question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES:

Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDIE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. E. E. GREAVES, Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, Mr. W. R. LOWE, His Honour C. A. E. HOPP2N and Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES - 12.

NOES:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question is that the House do now adjourn.....

Mr. BOLDEN:

Mr. Speaker, there is no Resolution, If you go back to their vote and according to our Resolution and

the way we voted, the two Resolutions have been negatived.

Mr. SPEAKER:

No. I refer to Standing Order 25, Paragraph 3 which says "Upon an amendment to leave out words and insert other words instead, a Question shall first be proposed from the Chair That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question', and if that question be negatived, the question shall then be proposed 'That those words be there inserted'."

The Question that the House do now adjourn until Friday, 10th May, 1974, at 10.30 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly. 12.15 p.m.