

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd April, 1975

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P., (Deputy Speaker); R. St.C. WEEKES, Esquire, J.P.; W. R. LOWE, Esquire, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); W. C. B. HINDS, Esquire; L. S. CRAIG, Esquire; J. B. SPRINGER, Esquire; J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Esquire, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); F. L. WALCOTT, Esquire, O.B.E.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance and Acting Leader of the House); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); and Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology).

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting for Tuesday, 15th April, 1975, are before you for confirmation, and unless there are any amendments or corrections, they will be confirmed.

There being no amendments or corrections, I declare those Minutes to be duly confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Accounts and Statement for the month of March, 1974, from the Accountant General. Copies of these will be circulated to all hon. Members in due course.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I proceed to give Government Notices, I should like to inform Your Honour that I shall be taking care of all Government Business today in the absence of the Hon. Leader of the House from today's Sitting.

I beg to give notice of the following:—

- (1) The Resolution to approve the lease of a parcel of land situate at Eden Lodge, St. Michael, to the Soroptimist International Club of Barbados for the establishment of a village for senior citizens.
- (2) A Bill to amend the Patents Act 1903.
- (3) A Bill to amend the Protection of Wages Act 1951.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to amend the Paramedical Professions Act 1975.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

THE PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, a Bill to amend the Patents Act, 1903, was read a first time.

THE PROTECTION OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, a Bill to amend the Protection of Wages Act, 1951, was read a first time.

THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS
BILL, 1975

On the motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, a Bill to amend the Paramedical Professions Act, 1975, was read a first time.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE CENTRAL BANK OF BARBADOS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 1 is a Bill to amend the Central Bank Act, 1972. By the Act of 1972, coins that have a par value in excess of \$10.00 are not Legal Tender in Barbados. It is the intention of the Government to strike a \$100 gold coin to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Settlement of Barbados. In order to assist the sales promotion of this coin, it is important that this coin be made Legal Tender. The purpose of this Bill therefore is to amend the Act in this way so that the coins that have a par value exceeding \$10.00 might be Legal Tender.

Opportunity is also taken to amend Section 34 of the principal Act in order to correct a typographical error.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not opposed to the principle of the amendment to this Bill, but I am going to take the opportunity to say something about the Central Bank, and in so doing, I am sorry that the Minister of Finance is not here, though the Hon. Minister who is now acting as the Leader of the House is Minister of Labour.

The Central Bank has been created by an Act of Parliament, but there is somewhere in the head of the Governor of the Central Bank the feeling that the Central Bank is something that he brought back to Barbados with him from the time the Government asked him to assume the position of Governor of the Central Bank. Maybe it is one of the penalties that we are paying for 20th Century education and advancement, because when some of our students go abroad, all they seem to be able to do from all the scrappy attitude of the North Atlantic systems, is to lose their understanding of the country from which they came, how it is going to operate, where it

came from and how it came to be where it is. Too many people have the idea that the workers in this country are something that is unknown to Barbados, that they really do not mean anything, that maybe a few businessmen and a few people like that, matter, and that the workers do not seem to mean much.

12.25 p.m.

I was surprised that when the people at this institution, who work there, showed interest in becoming members of the trade union, the Governor of the Bank employed all the delaying tactics, and still delaying tactics, as a means of seeing if he could frustrate the people by getting them not to join a trade union of their choice.

Now Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not like to repeat overheard conversations because you are not sure if what you are hearing is true, but what I know is true is, that the union wrote the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados a letter since October last year seeking recognition from the members who are members of the union, and every effort to settle this matter went to the Department of Labour, on all of these things, but we have not yet settled this matter. I say this because, here it is, the Minister today is coming to Parliament to have an amendment to an Act for this Bank to do something but we get the Governor of the Bank behaving as if the workers who are working in there are his preserves.

I want to know who is responsible for the policy of this country; the people we employ, or the Ministers? Who is going to determine if the Government, that is in power, is in favour of the workers forming a trade union of their own choice? Are we going to get some head of some little Republic within the establishment determining that he is to determine if you have the right to join it or not? I am a man and I do not like to take a sledge hammer to crack a nut but when some people really want to fight, I will fight anybody; and I do not have to be afraid to have a fight with anybody especially where fundamental rights of the people are concerned.

There have been more people advising the Minister of what kind of legislation there should be for labour legislation than those of us who are in the labour movement; but what is amazing is that the same Government that has told public servants who are members of the trade union that if they want to run for Parliament they can run for Parliament, but what do you find? The Governor of the Bank is telling his staff that it is better for them to have an association, than to belong to a Trade Union.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not like to be personal, and I do not think it is necessary, but sometimes I wonder where we are going with some of our people. I do not like looking back for the sake of looking back but whenever I look back, I find that we are getting a lot of problems with some of the things we thought we were underwriting when we were removing certain people and we were replacing them with our own people; but I believe I will deal with that in more detail at some other time. However it is very disheartening and very disenchanting to find that this Central Bank was established in 1972 and it has certain powers, and nobody is opposed to the powers that it has, but no matter what kind of powers a Central Bank has, a Central Bank is an instrument of the Government of Barbados and not an instrument of Dr. Blackman.

Sometimes people get the idea that when you accord them certain facilities, an office and give them proper facilities, which I agree with — give a man a motor car, give him a chauffeur, give him all of these things that are in consonance with his office — that this sort of thing must make him “stiff and stuff-shirted”, and do not understand where life begins and where it ends, and doing as if he is condescending to people when he comes here.

Now the Central Bank is going to operate with the money that the people in Barbados must earn, and the major amount of money that the Central Bank will be able to control now in any case is our money; money from the National Insurance that our people pay and put up, and some of the money that we are going to get from sugar.

Sir, a talkative politician sometimes is a bad person because as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he may talk himself out, but a talkative public servant can be an ass, a stupid ass, in that public servants have a job of efficiency to do and they do not have to be telling the world that — if you are efficient you do not have to tell the world you are efficient; somebody will get to know you are. We must not be too tempted by these public relations gimmicks. Some people make money out of public relations, but public officers must understand what public relations mean as related between them and the public rather than making themselves stand up in the public as some orator.

Now I would not say anything more because the Minister as Minister of Labour one of these days may be faced with this matter not in the form that he is faced with it today but he may be faced with it in a completely different form;

but what I am concerned about is that the Central Bank could be giving the Trade Union Movement delaying tactics and preventing its members from forming a trade union when the central Government itself has from the Permanent Secretary right down to a messenger having the right to join a Trade Union. Now what kind of nonsense then do we have? Who is going to dictate policy in this little country? I do not like to get on like some people in some other countries, saying that you are going to run anybody. I do not believe in saying that you are going to run anybody out of a country. I do not believe in that, because I feel everybody has a right to live wherever they are born, because you have people who were not born here who make a better living than those of us who were born here, and want more say than those of us who were born here; so I would not say that we should even run them out of Barbados. I do not go in for that; but I feel that the workers whether they are in the public service or in the private sector, have a right to join a Trade Union of their choice.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know all the Members of the House and I know that there are sections of the community who like the union and some who do not like the union, but, that is not in dispute. It is not a question of whether you like the union or you do not like the union. It is a question as to whether the worker has a right to be a member of a Trade Union or not; and if he has that right to be a member of a Trade Union, then these bogus, delaying tactics — They have now copied the North American system where there can be a jurisdictional row.
12.35 p.m.

I gave this as an example. When one Trade Union asks you about 39 members at the Central Bank, the Governor of the Central Bank told me that he had to deny them. He replied on the 8th October and told them that they had 31 members. He said that they would put the matter before the Board and that we would hear from them. That was on the 8th October, 1974. We had to remind him on the 29th November that they had not replied. We gave them up to the 5th December, to reply in writing.

He replied on the 11th December, stating that he had informed the Chief Labour Officer to take a survey of the Barbados Workers' Union membership on the staff of the Central Bank. They will carry out a jurisdictional method when there is no jurisdiction in dispute. It was not to say that the NUPW was fighting for membership and the Barbados Workers' Union

was fighting for membership so let us find out if one union has more members than the other.

A survey was carried out. I think that he said that we have 36 or 37 members. He said that he dismissed some, or some had left and so the percentage fell, and that he had been advised that we do not have a substantial number. I asked him what was the meaning of a substantial number; because if we said that we had 39 members, and he said that we have 37 members, we still have a majority.

The point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that as regards an institution like this, we do not want to have industrial dislocation on a matter of principle because you are thinking of a Central Bank where you are at least dealing with a body of directors and governors that are different or should be different from the narrow private sector who are afraid to let people know what is happening; because the Central Bank is a public institution.

Members can ask any question in here about the Central Bank. I am not like one of those Members who talk about the competence of people in such positions; but what I am worried about is a group of workers working in the Public Service of this country and being held up; but I am not going to use the phrase which is in some people's vocabulary about being held up to ransom. This is a question of people employed in the Public Service and we have one man acting as if he is the sole repository of the rights of these people to decide if he is going to grant them recognition or not. These are little things that can end up in bigger things, and I would advise the Minister to investigate this matter before it reaches unnecessary proportions.

These delaying tactics are made so as to frustrate members that they will drop out. From the 8th November, 1974, up to this date, we have not been able to get a positive answer from this public institution. I would like to say that I thought I would like the public to hear about it before you mobilise your troops, because I do not believe that there should be any troop mobilisation or things like that.

I think that the Central Bank has a job to do in Barbados and that members of the staff should be able to join the Trade Union of their choice. That has been stated by the Government, and I hope that what the Government has stated will percolate into the head of this gentleman who heads this institution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, from my position as Minister of Labour, I do not wish to say very much on this issue because it is possible that it will have to be discussed in a different place at a different time. I would like to say that it has been drawn formally to the attention of Parliament, and as a matter of interest I would like to say that the royalty on the sale of the two sets that went on sale at the beginning of 1973 is now \$1,718,300.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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

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

12.45 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive of the Bill were called and they stood part.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Bill was read a third time, passed, and cited as the Central Bank of Barbados (Amendment) Act, 1975.

THE REGISTRATION OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 2 is a Bill to amend the Registration Office Act, 1961. It is being amended in order to give the Minister responsible for Legal Affairs the power to amend by Order the Schedule to the Act. The Minister does not have such power at this time. It has become necessary because from time to time, the House has been called upon to amend the Schedule in order to make certain changes in the Schedule of charges set out in that Act.

This becomes necessary because whenever there is an increase in salaries granted to the Government Servants, increases are at the same time granted to Copyists and Examiners who operate in the Registration Office, but these Copyists and Examiners are remunerated from the amount of fees collected for carrying out their work of copying and examining, so that whenever there is an increase granted to these Copyists it has to be recovered by a corresponding increase in the fees.

The amount by which it is intended that these fees should be increased is not in the Orders of the Day, but it is proposed to submit a new Schedule. For copying a plot \$50, for recording any document other than a plot per folio of 90 words, 30 cents, 32 cents and 34 cents, for copying any document other than a plot per folio of 90 words, 27 cents 29 cents and 31 cents, for examining the record of any document referred to in paragraph (b) per folio of 90 words, 8 cents, 9 cents and 10 cents, for examining the copy of any document referred to in paragraph (c) per folio of 90 words, 8 cents, 9 cents and 10 cents.

I mention this now because in due course these will be brought before the Chamber when this Order is laid on the Table of this House, but the important thing now is that this Act is to be amended in order to give the Minister responsible, the power to vary, amend, revoke and otherwise change the Schedule.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill were called and they stood part.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON,

the Bill was read a third time, passed, and cited as the Registration Office (Amendment) Act, 1975.

LAW REVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 3 relates to the amendment to the Law Revision Act, 1967. It was in that year that Parliament enacted the Law Revision Act for the purpose of enabling the Commissioners who were appointed to revise the laws to do so and to prepare for publication a Revised Edition of the Statute Laws of Barbados which is a cumulative edition. We have now reached the stage where the laws are in Barbados but before they can become law, certain legislation has to be enacted because the Commissioners have themselves made certain amendments to the laws, and indeed it is important that the laws should be kept up to date by constant revision and be supplemented from time to time.

The Minister for Legal Affairs considered it necessary to amend this Act, to correct certain errors, and omissions which are found in the Revised Edition prepared by the Commissioners, and also for the purpose of ensuring that the Law Revision Committee would have the necessary powers for this purpose.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill is fairly voluminous.
12.55 p.m.

This Bill amends certain Sections of the Law Revision Act, 1967.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I feel that this Act is harmless: an objectionable enactment is being removed to include law which has a good construction point and so on, but I also know that certain hon. Members have spent so much time studying the Amendment Act, which we have not yet dealt with, that they have been unable to grasp the implications of this one. I know that certain hon. Members have not even seen them because they were not circulated to them. I wonder if the Minister would give us a chance to read them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thought this was only automatic, so I only glanced at it, but I

did not read it. I am fairly familiar with the other one. Would a week's postponement to the next meeting of the House be unreasonable for this, Sir? This is such a long Schedule! The hon. Member for St. Philip South will remember sitting on a Select Committee dealing with the Acts which are embraced in this Schedule. I have not had an opportunity to compare the Acts in this Schedule with the Acts in the Schedule of the 1967 Act and so on. I would ask the Minister to be kind enough to postpone this matter.

I beg to move that further consideration of the Bill be now postponed.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Second Reading of the Bill is before the House. Would the Minister withdraw the motion?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No Sir. This motion is that further consideration of the Bill be now postponed. That is the motion by the hon. Member for St. Thomas, which I have seconded.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this completes Government Business for the day. I do not know if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, or any other honourable Member, has any matter which he wants to deal with, in which case it will be necessary to suspend some of the Standing Orders.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, am I allowed to move that Private Members' Business be now taken notwithstanding Standing Order 6, or whatever is the relevant Standing Order?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that the Standing Orders should be suspended.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, with great respect, can it be pointed out what Standing Order says that the Standing Orders should be suspended? It says that the Business should be transacted and so on: Replies to Questions; Notices; Orders of the Day. The last Business that you transact is "Orders of the Day". When you come to Government Business, you go to the next Order of the Day which is Private Members' Business.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Private Members' Business should commence after Question Time

is completed. Standing Order 20(3) states that Private Members' Business shall commence immediately after the conclusion of Question Time but shall not continue after 4.45 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: If there is no Question Time, then Private Members' Business is the next Order of the Day.

I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member has come in here with some "very fast" Rules today. What the hon. Member is saying is that, so far as the Standing Order is concerned, we may as well "throw it through the window" because it would have no meaning. All you need to do is to come in here any day and, without asking that the Standing Orders be suspended, start a debate. If that is done, then the Government could burden you all day long. The hon. Member cannot use cleverness in this matter now. He has forgotten that he has checked this matter before. He can see that if we adopt his style that the Government, with its majority, would override the Standing Orders. All the Government would have to do is to do what he is now saying. Make a motion that the next Order of the Day be A, B, or C, and Private Members' Business would never be done at all. The Government could refrain from suspending Standing Orders, get through with the Government Business and so on. If you have the Standing Orders and you will not suspend them, then you will have to play according to the Rules.

The hon. Member wrote in the newspaper this morning about cricket. You cannot interpret the Rules by writing new Rules when something happens. You can only interpret the Standing Orders now. The hon. Member is making new Rules. When we come to the end of Government Business you will move that the House do now adjourn.

I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. ADAMS: You cannot move that.

Mr. WALCOTT: You can move that any time.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. That would be wrong. I see now how the construction goes. There is, perhaps, a little hiatus in the

Rules. Although the Orders of the Day are to be taken as they appear on the Order Paper, presumably, there is a little contradiction since Order No. 16 says what Question Time is and that Question Time shall start at a certain time and end at a certain time. Therefore, I think that the hon. Member for St. Michael West, although he is not yet a Minister and cannot move the adjournment — his experience may have let him down, but his logic has not let him down when he said that we should not just make a motion for suspending the Standing Orders.

If I may be permitted, I would ask leave to withdraw my motion, and move, firstly, that Standing Orders 16 and 20 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.
1.55 p.m.

The Question that Standing Orders Nos. 16 and 20 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. J.M.G.M. ADAMS; Mr. L.S. CRAIG; Mr. E.D. MOTTLEY and Mr. W.C.B. HINDS — 4.

Noes: Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT and Mr. W. R. LOWE — 9.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 6th May, 1975, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is really an amusing matter. We get accused in here of not wanting to do the people's business, but the hon. Member for St. Peter and I made up a quorum in order for Government's Business to be done today. There was no quorum without the two of us. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is not true.) There were eight members and the two of us. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: The hon. Member for St. Michael North Central was by the Speaker's Chair.)

The records will reveal that when the hon. Member for St. Peter and I were standing up with the Speaker outside, either the Chaplain or the Marshall or both said there was a quorum and we followed the Speaker in and made a quorum, no

matter where you may have seen the hon. Member, those are the facts. Now when we want to do some Private Members' Business, we hear that we are not to do any. The voice of the turtle is heard in the land — the hon. Member for St. George South. He said we are not doing any; we are going to adjourn for the last time. Let the hon. Member deny it. So we can't even get an announcement of an election from the Prime Minister; we have to get it from the hon. Member for St. George South. Well, look at that! That is right. We are not doing anything, we will adjourn for the last time according to the hon. Member for St. George South. Well I am glad we had the warning, and that the hon. Member for St. George South has leaked it out. I would not have thought that he would be the one to be in the confidence of the Prime Minister or anybody else. I believe they called the two of you No. 10 and No. 11 and he was the one who said don't mind they are the No. 10 and No. 11, you have to vote for them if you want the Skipper. Never mind the insults you all have endured in your day, I hope that both of you face the polls next time. I hope both of you receive.....

Mr. LOWE: On a point of order, I would like the hon. Member for St. Thomas to understand that there is no Prime Minister when the House prorogues; there is no hon. Member either. It is the people, and when the people say that they want "Russell Lowe" and do not want the Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition will be out and Russell Lowe will be present.

Mr. ADAMS: There is one thing that the hon. Member for St. George South said in that non-point of order. Perhaps he has made a mistake. The Leader of the Opposition will not be running in St. George South; get that quite clear. If he wants to argue with the Leader of the Opposition, let him argue with the gentleman who is running in St. John and not with whoever happens to be running in St. Thomas. But there it is. If this is to be the last adjournment of this House for this session, let it be. I see the Acting Leader of the House who has conducted Government Business very capably today, I must say, smiling. If this is to be the last adjournment, so let it be in the fullness of time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, do I address you as Mr. Speaker Mr. Deputy Speaker or Mr. Acting Speaker?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. Member continue his debate.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I want to get this point straight. I would like to find that out. (Hon. F. G.

SMITH: Don't answer that. He knows who you are.) You must be thinking that you are talking to Barrow or to one of the little children home at you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I find it somewhat surprising that on an occasion when the Government has no further Business to do, and there is business on the Order Paper under Private Members' including a Bill to amend the Married Women's (Separation and Maintenance) Act which will increase the maintenance now paid by the father of an illegitimate child from \$5 to \$10, and increase the maintenance in respect of a wife from \$20 to \$30, the Government does not want to do this, because we have a position now in Barbados.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the motion before the House is the Adjournment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I also want to draw your attention to Standing Order No. 17. I do not know if the hon. Member has been granted leave to raise the matter that he is now raising. If any hon. Member wants to raise any matter on the adjournment of the House under Standing Order No. 17(2), he would have had to have the prior permission of the Speaker to raise these matters. A matter may be raised by any Member who has obtained the right to raise a matter on a motion for the adjournment of the House that day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Acting Leader of the House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You see, Sir, that you made a mistake with him. I do not want to make any mistakes, and that is why I asked how I must address you. I do not understand why there is this attempt to try to muzzle the Opposition any time we want to say anything in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been brought to my notice that you would be contravening Standing Order No. 17(2).

Mr. MOTTLEY: That I would be contravening what?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to Standing Order No. 17(2) no prior notice has been given to me.

Mr. MOTTLEY: A lot of people as the Prime Minister says from time to time quote the Scriptures for their own benefit. A lot of people quote certain sections of the

Rules for their own benefit, ignoring other sections. During the Estimates when the Rules say you can only speak so many times, certain Rules applied to us, but when it was the Prime Minister or somebody else over there, they could do as they liked in this Chamber. I am not going to abide by those sort of rulings. The Rules either apply to all of us in the same way or they do not apply to any of us. Nobody got up just now and said that the Leader of the Opposition could not speak, but because I raised an issue which the Government does not want me to speak about, they say I cannot speak.
1.15 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition has the right to speak on the adjournment, and that is what he has got up to speak on.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Where do you see that in there, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Member.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: There is no ruling in any of the Rules in that Book which says the Leader of the Opposition has any right to speak on any adjournment. Any Member can speak on the adjournment. He has no more rights in here than I have or any other Member. So when you start quoting, do not quote one-sided rules to me; because I do not believe in this attempt on the part of the Government to muzzle the Opposition. This is the very point I am making.

Here it is we have Private Members' Business to do. There is nothing else.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to draw your attention once more to Standing Order 17(2) because the hon. Member is now trying through the back door to reintroduce the matters on which he attempted to speak earlier. It is not a question of muzzling the Opposition. We all sat down in this Chamber and devised rules for the conduct of the Chamber....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point has been made.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is the point I am making on the adjournment. I do not see why we should adjourn at this stage when there are five Items of Business under Private Members' Business that can be done, one of which is a Bill to amend...I was speaking on the adjournment, Sir. Well let me speak now, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not stopped you. I am looking at you.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You are putting your face in contortion like another gentleman I know.
(*Aside*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a peculiar thing. I would have thought that this Act was urgent; that there was some urgency about this. Let me say this, Sir. I am talking about the Business on the Order Paper, Sir. I am saying that we should not adjourn but we should stay on and do Private Members' Business because the situation in Barbados today is that an illegitimate child can get more than a legitimate child, and this matter is very urgent.....

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker,
(*Asides*).....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Order please! Order please! The hon. Member has gone too far. He is trying to – (*Asides*) a motion has been put that the House would adjourn. The question is that this House.....

Messrs E. D. Mottley and F. L. Walcott rose.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let both members take their seats, please. (*Loud Voices*) Will the hon. Member take his seat? The Question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday 6th May, 1975 at 12.00 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.
1.19 p.m.