

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th August, 1975.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.50 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN J.P., (Deputy Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology) and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of the Meeting for Tuesday, 29th July, 1975, are before you for confirmation, and unless there are any corrections or alterations, those Minutes will be confirmed.

There being none, the Minutes are duly confirmed.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The Public Utilities Board Report and Accounts at 31st December 1974.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The Barbados Tourist Board Annual Report 1973-1974 and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1974.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the following:—

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,800 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975-76, Part 1 - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76, No. 5 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the following:—

The Resolution to amend the note to Head 109 - Minister of Finance and Planning, Item 7, Central Purchasing, of the Capital Expenditure for 1975-76.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:—

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,783 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Estimates 1975-76 Part 1 - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1975-76 No. 6 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with these three Resolutions in all their stages at a later stage of today's Sitting.

The reason for that is that we would like to go into recess. I have spoken already to the hon.

Member for Bridgetown and the hon. Member for St. Joseph, and I do not think we have any disagreements on that. The position in that we are going to wind up and go into recess for six weeks as from today, and of course any matters that are outstanding, as far as the Opposition is concerned will be dealt with.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave is being sought to deal with those three Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given at a later stage in today's Sitting, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

THREE WEEKS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED TO MESSRS. H. deB. FORDE AND E.D. MOTTLEY

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. member for Christ Church West, I am asking for leave of absence for three weeks commencing next Tuesday.

Also on behalf of myself, I am asking for leave of absence from 1st September, 1975. The hon. member for Christ Church West will be out of the country on business and I will be going away on a short vacation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave of absence is being sought by the hon. member for Christ Church West and the hon. member for Bridgetown, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. members.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I beg to inform you that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 34, asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy, is ready.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to inform you that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 41, asked by hon. Member for St. Lucy, is ready.

RESOLUTION RE THE DEATH OF THE LATE MRS. RUBY MOTTLEY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the business of the Day is proceeded with,

I should like to pay tribute to the passing and memory of the late Mrs. Ruby Mottley, widow of the late Ernest Deighton Mottley, J.P., M.P., former Mayor of the City of Bridgetown, of revered memory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I am correct in saying that behind every great man there is a great woman. This adage could not be more appropriate than in the case of the late Mayor Mottley and his dear wife. Nor only was the late Ruby Mottley an inspiration and driving force to her late husband, but she was possessed of sterling qualities in her own right. She was extremely knowledgeable in many areas including the political area, and endowed with great human sympathy and understanding for her fellowmen. She was a great social worker, and in this field she did remarkable work for people in the St. Michael area and in the City of Bridgetown in particular. I think that her name will long be remembered in the social activities for the work she has rendered this community over the years.

I think it can truly be said that she was a loving wife to the late Mayor and very affectionate and devoted to her children without exception. I remember in 1959/60 when my wife and I were in London how the late Mrs. Mottley journeyed to see her son, the present hon. member for Bridgetown who qualified as a barrister, and she took exceptional care of him, so that his success is to a great extent part and parcel of her care.

I think I have said enough, but the fact is that she has rendered yeomen service and she has been a right hand to her late husband, former Mayor for the City of Bridgetown and a member of this House of Assembly for 26 or 27 years. To her sorrowing relatives and friends, I wish to extend the sympathy of this side of the House and of the entire community.
12.25 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the following Resolution do now pass.

Resolved that the Honourable the House of Assembly place on record its profound sympathy concerning the death of Mrs. Ruby Mottley, the mother of Elliott Deighton Mottley Esquire, Representative for the constituency of Bridgetown.

And Be It Further Resolved that a Copy of this Resolution be forwarded to her sorrowing relatives.

Dated this fifth day of August, one thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in seconding the Resolution which is now before us, I would like to associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and to also add that I myself knew the late Mrs. Ruby Mottley for some time, thought I am almost in the same age group as her sons – and I would have thought that it would not be kind for me to say such a thing as my colleague on my left is still around the under 40 age.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mrs. Mottley was known to me from the time I was a very young boy and my father worked for the late Mr. Ernest Deighton Mottley in his capacity as a motor mechanic; it was then that I first met the Mottley family and during the short time I found myself around them I can say that Mrs. Mottley could be considered a lady at all times. She was a real loving mother, faithful wife, who saw her husband the late Mr. Ernest Mottley through the rough political years, and she lived long enough to see one of her sons sit in the seat which his father formerly occupied for the City of Bridgetown.

We on this side were hopeful that she would be alive to see both her sons occupy a seat in Parliament, and I regret that she has not lived long enough to see her other son occupy one of these seats. I am told that she did quite a bit of social work. That I can only speak of from what I have been told but I am quite sure that the large gathering which turned out to pay respects to the late Mrs. Mottley was testimony of the type of person she was during her lifetime, and on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House I would like to join with the Leader of the House in expressing our deepest sympathy to the entire Mottley family.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one considers the yeomen service which the late Ernest Deighton Mottley has rendered to this community as a vestryman, churchwarden, councillor, and Leader of the Opposition, he must come to the conclusion that without the co-operation, love and dedication of the late Mrs. Ruby Mottley he would not be able to make such a contribution to this country.

I therefore consider it my duty as one who appreciates the service which he had rendered, to extend my deepest sympathy to all the members of the family and especially to her son who represents the City and who has followed in his father's footsteps. I can imagine how grieved the hon. member is on this occasion at the passing of his dear mother whom I am sure has done everything possible to mould his character. It is

my hope that he will at all times remember the care and upbringing which he received from the loving hands of his dear mother.

It is known that without the special interest that a mother displays in her children, life in some cases would become a complete failure, and therefore while I did not come into direct contact with her I am sure that she has been an asset to her late husband, her children and the community. In these days when there are so many failures in marriage life we can only say now she has gone, 'well done, thou good and faithful servant'. May her soul rest in peace.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I, as Deputy Speaker, extend my sympathy to the bereaved family. As a mark of respect, on the passing of this Resolution I will ask hon. members to join with me in standing in their places for one minute.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE OBSERVED

Members stood in their places for one minute, and observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting. If at the end of Government Business the Opposition has business to be done, the Opposition will be accommodated.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a usual formality for the Leader of the House whenever he is having the Standing Order suspended to make a statement to the effect that if any business on this side has to be done, that the Government would accommodate the Opposition, but I would like to remind the Hon. Leader of the House that might is not always right.

12.35 p.m.

Last Wednesday, you will recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there were almost full seats on the Other Side, and after the luncheon break no more than three or four members of the Government decided to come back and assist the Opposition in carrying out the functions of Parliament. When I say assist the Opposition I want to make it clear that it is the duty of the Government to form a quorum. They have the

numbers. Very often it falls on us to assist the Government; and if we have Resolutions over here which we set about to do after the Leader of the House gave us an opportunity to do Private Members Business after the luncheon break, I think that the Leader of the House should hold himself fully responsible for his members not coming back to the House and forming a quorum.

I know that I will hear from the Members on the Other Side that members on this side sometimes fail to help form a quorum; but we have to understand that when we come here we come in the interest of all concerned; and if the Government is prepared to do that, if they cast the first stone, they must know that we are human beings too and when they cannot form a quorum we will object to helping too.

You will recall that when there was a Resolution dealing with the Housing Authority about some time ago the Government refused to form a quorum for almost three Tuesdays to avoid dealing with that Resolution. What I am calling on the Leader of the House to do is to let us have a mutual understanding. They have the numbers, and if we introduce a Resolution they can sit over there without debating and the Resolution will still not pass; but the idea of telling us that they will give us Private Members time and when the occasion arises they do not come into the House is not good enough. I am appealing to the Leader of the House.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no Government quorum in the House of Assembly. There is a quorum of the House of Assembly and therefore members of the House of Assembly form a quorum. All the members form a quorum. Therefore it is only nonsense to talk about a Government forming a quorum. The Government meets in Bay Street and the House of Assembly meets in here.

I have come into the House and I have seen members lurking outside and not coming in to form a quorum. They have stood outside on purpose because they felt that their members will help form a quorum. Last Wednesday their members should have been there. If there were six over there and three here we would have had a quorum.

The Leader of the House cannot lasso any member on this side and say come in here and form a quorum. Are you dealing with little children?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member had better watch his words carefully. *(Asides.)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. BOLDEN: He says that you form a quorum of the House of Assembly and that last Wednesday if hon. members had turned up there would have been enough members to form a quorum.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. I never said so. I said that all of the members on that side were not in the House. That is not saying that all of their Members could form a quorum.

Mr. BOLDEN: He said that there were enough members over there.

Mr. WALCOTT: I said that six members from over there and three from over here would have formed a quorum.

Mr. BOLDEN: That is true, but the 18 members over there would make two quorums. This morning we had to come in and help form a quorum. If their 18 members had turned up, they would not have to worry, they would not need us. The hon. member said that the Leader of the House cannot lasso them. One thing I am asking him to do is not to suspend the Standing Orders. We have intimated that we have certain things to do before the House goes on recess. If that is so, there is no necessity to suspend the Standing Orders. That will ensure that members will come back and finish the work that they want to finish today.

We can break at 2 o'clock and come back at quarter to three. We can do Private Members Business and revert to Government Business. I am asking the Leader of the House to withdraw his motion to suspend the Standing Orders. I gave you the undertaking that we would not object to the money Resolutions being done in all stages today. We agree to help them. I am asking him to play the game right and withdraw the motion for suspending the Standing Orders. That will ensure that the Opposition will have their time to do their Resolution, ask questions etc.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it has taken quite a long time for the hon. member for St. James to realise fully that each and everyone of us has been duly elected in here as members of the House and owes a responsibility to the electorate. We come here because we have been duly elected. It is your duty to be here and you should be sufficiently broad minded and responsible to take your seat and assist with the business of the House.

What happened last week was not the fault of anyone. Only three of their members were in

their seats and some of ours did not return after the luncheon recess. The hon. member was accommodated before luncheon. He had an opportunity of introducing his Resolution and it was duly seconded. It was his misfortune that this Resolution could not be finalised last week. Do not blame me. I am not a scapegoat for anyone after the luncheon interval. It was suggested that Standing Orders be not suspended. I do not see any harm in not suspending them. If you vote against the suspension of the Standing Orders that is your business.

12.45 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this case, I have to use my numbers and demonstrate some sort of strength.

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

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

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

Order No. 1 was called.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEAVE
PASSAGES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2)
ORDER, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 1 is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Leave Passages (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1975. It is an abstract Resolution, and it is just to take care of a mistake. As the Addendum sets out, the Leave Passages (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1975, has been laid in Parliament.

The Order seeks to amend the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order, 1975 to correct an error appearing in the preamble to that Order which makes reference to the Civil Establishment Act, 1975. The reference should be to the Civil Establishment Act, 1949. It is merely to correct that error.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Order No. 2 was called.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF THE COM-
PULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
WELCHES, ST. MICHAEL, FOR
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution seeks to acquire two parcels of land in the area of Welches, St. Michael. These two parcels of land belong to one owner, and there is no problem. The owner and the Government have agreed on the terms of the acquisition. The purpose of the land is for Highway Improvement in the Welches area. The land is in the area where the late Mr. M. Hewitt lived, and we realise that there are road problems in that area and that the roads should be improved to assist the free flow of traffic as well as to remove any danger lurking in that area.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before this Resolution is passed, there is only one point I should like to make on the question of Highway Improvement. I think this is an area in which we have to pay attention, because there are a number of areas around the country which need to be looked into from the point of view of making it easier for traffic to flow and at the same time for people to walk in safety.

I am glad that some effort is being made to improve this section of the Highway in Barbados. I would hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Hon. Minister responsible for Highway Improvement would also be looking into areas other than the areas surrounding the City and in the City. I am particularly concerned with the fact that enough is not being done to improve the highways in the rural areas of Barbados. Speaking particularly in terms of St. Lucy, where for some time we have been asking the Government to improve St. Lucy's Church Corner, which is a definite hazard to pedestrians and motorists, nothing has been done. I hope the Government would pay attention to this matter, and that something will be done to improve this area.

I should also like to remind the Government once more that Six Men's Corner, which is the part of a road leading into the Constituency of the hon. Member for St. Peter, needs some improvement. People have been

involved in accidents, or near accidents, in that area, and I hope that serious attention will be given to these two areas of the highway in order to remove the hazards which at present exist so far as motorists and pedestrians are concerned.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the time has come when Government is considering any matter regarding Welches, St. Michael, that consideration ought to be given to providing a broad plan for the development of the area to include putting the Welches Post Office in the type of setting it so richly deserves. We agree that there have been traffic problems in the area, but we cannot see how the Government can go on with this inch-by-inch method in carrying out this type of development that one hears about. The Welches Post Office together with its immediate surroundings has become a sufficient eyesore to the Minister who is moving this Resolution. It should be an eyesore to each and every member of this House who passes that way, or who has business with the Post Office from time to time. I have in mind the pensioners who have to go there, from time to time, for their pensions.

It cannot be denied that when one looks at the Welches Post Office, its immediate surroundings are likely to engender in one's mind the feeling that one is facing a fire hazard and so on. It is true that we would not want to deny a businessman from carrying on his business, but I believe the Government would be doing well to have a proper Post Office at Welches with a good parking area. You will find that people, who go to the Welches Post Office to do business, have to leave their motor cars parked on the main highway near the white line, which is put there for the guidance of traffic.

12.55 p.m.

Motorists have got to park within the white line when they are doing business at the Post Office, and it is time that the Hon. Minister should give some consideration to this matter if he intends in truth and in fact to give the Welches area the face lift that we now see he is trying to do.

I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this matter of highway improvement, as the hon. member for St. Lucy has said, must extend much further than within the immediate boundaries of St. Michael or the suburban area. For instance, there can be no more pressing need for highway improvement than the junction of Archers Lane

with Highway 1 at St. Peter. The rainy season we do hope is upon us, and with the slightest rainfall the Archers Lane junction with Highway 1 poses a threat to life not only to pedestrians and residents of Archers Lane who cannot then come unto Highway 1 but to every motorist, and this is one matter which we do hope and pray the Government will see to before it is too late. We do not want to hear that somebody has lost his life to bring Government's attention into realising the danger that can be caused by water settling on the highway, and Archers Lane is crying out for a little highway improvement in the same way that we welcome the Government's attention that is being paid to the Welches district area.

But let us look at Speightstown properly where we have the Church Street junction with Highway 1. It is high time that we shelve this Speightstown plan that will never come into being, stop fooling ourselves about this Speightstown development and do something to widen the corner, because one very well sees and knows that with the Speightstown Fish Market located as it is, when there is a brisk trade to be done there, there is nothing but confusion and the traffic involved can be so heavy that one often wonders how it is that we escape injury to persons and the like from time to time. In the absence of a vegetable market which has long been promised, the hawkers who are forced by dint of circumstances to occupy the little pavement that there is, add to the congestion, and if Speightstown is to be worth its name, there must be some immediate attention to the widening of this corner so as to remove the dangers that persons who are forced to use this corner going to and from in the course of their daily duties are likely to encounter. I should like to draw the Minister's attention to this to see what can be done to widen the corner there for the benefit of people generally.

I know that the Government is trying to give as much attention as possible even to plantation tenantry development and are now carrying out inquiries in the parish of St. George to see if tenants would move if facilities are provided, but whatever facilities you provide, it means that you have to provide highway improvement and you have got to provide street lighting. Whatever is the rural development programme, we know that there are certain key areas to which Government must address its mind immediately if we are not to be faced with long lists of injuries, because whenever these occur, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one very well knows that ultimately the taxpayers whose money ought to have been spent in providing the type of developing we have in mind, have got to provide

the wherewithal to resuscitate these victims, bring back life to those persons who have suffered injury for one reason or another, all linked with the absence of proper highway improvement whether it be in the City of Bridgetown, the parish of St. Michael or further north.

We believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the present Government has been making approaches from time to time on this problem, and there ought to be laid on the Table of this Honourable House a broad plan for highway improvement throughout the island. We appreciate that under any circumstances it would have to be done in phases, but nevertheless we believe that if we had such a plan before us, it could then be pointed out what Government intends putting into operation as phase 1 activity as against phase 2 or phase 3. If that is the case it would allay the fears of some of the people of this Island, because it would be known long in advance that at some given time in its development programme the Government would be reaching us wherever we are situated. We would urge upon the Government to give some consideration to this and seek to bring before us in the not too distant future the type of plan associated with a highway development programme so that we can all give the matter the type of consideration that it really deserves and seek to improve things generally for the people wherever they might be.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is interesting to see the Government purchasing land in Welches, but what worries me about the Welches area is the narrowness of the roads there, and it seems to be the trend of Government to spend a lot on money in putting down concrete slabs all over the road and narrowing the area of vehicular space. Anybody who drives around the Welches area particularly if you come from the Glendairy end to turn right across Welches on the eastern side of the Post Office will note that the road is extremely narrow. The division in the road is dangerous in my opinion and it is all taken up by a slab of expensive concrete which has been put there which in my opinion had no right being there. I would like the Minister to convey to the Minister of Communications and Works the waste of good funds that is going on on the roads of Barbados. I asked questions in here during the last session about the amount of money spent by the Ministry of Communications and Works in painting yellow lines along the sidewalks of the road from Nelson past Haggatt Hall which were all washed out in the space of two months.

1.05 p.m.

When you look along the whole of the Government road building programme you will see that there are tons and tons of concrete in the road restricting the free flow of traffic, and, it is expensive. I would like to see something done about this. I do not think that this is the way that road building should be done.

There is a system which is used all over the world. You either get a paint machine and fill it with paint and roll it and mark out your squares, and you put either zebra crossings or other squares where traffic should not pass, or on the other hand you put up rubber bolishes; but this question of building concrete in the middle of the road and then knocking it down in another year I find is a waste of good funds.

The Minister has also said that everything is arranged, the price is fixed, etc., for Government to acquire this land. I understand from the very Minister that the Government was trying to acquire some land in St. Joseph now for nearly a year and a half in connection with a playing field, and I would like to know if it could proceed as quickly as this has proceeded, because I believe that something should be done for the rural areas of Barbados and not all the money spent in St. Michael and Bridgetown constituencies.

There is very little work going on outside the St. Michael constituency and I would hope that the Government realizes that there are some seats out there too and all are not in St. Michael. I am not worried about the Christ Church seats any longer. The minister of propaganda has predicted, and I know his predictions will deal with him — but I would hope that the Government would look at the country areas and let us have some work going on out there too. There are taxpayers out there as well as there are taxpayers in St. Michael.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to get this point clarified by the Minister. He said that this land was being acquired from one owner and I would like him in his reply to indicate what position of this part of the road improvements will be carried out; whether it is to be carried out on the Welches side of it and whether it goes back to the Fairfield Road side.

I believe that some time ago it was said that the Wesleyan Mission had given some land to the Government also carrying out road improvement there; I believe we were given five feet along the road on which to build a sidewalk so that you will have a sidewalk

similar to that which runs along the lower part of Welches Road as you approach the traffic lights.

The other point is this. I think that on this question of road improvement we have been hearing quite a lot about the ring road and other roads that are to be built in order to assist with the traffic problems in Bridgetown. I think anyone who looks at the problem of traffic in Bridgetown today would realize that there is an urgent need to have something done about the traffic and to have perhaps a resiting of the traffic as at present set up. The present one-way streets need to be looked at again because I know that at certain parts of Bridgetown between the hours of four and five o'clock you find that there is a traffic jam and it only needs one along one road, that is to say, one car can stop and traffic starts piling up, Sir. I would like to find out from the Minister how far has the Government got with its plan for the construction of the ring road into Bridgetown; also how far has the Government got in relation to their plans for the Oistins Development and the development which the hon. Member for St. Peter referred to, in the Speightstown Development plan.

I think that there was supposed to be a road which was going to bypass Speightstown, to be built. I do not think anything so far has been done about this. If anything has been done I would like to find out from the Minister what has been done.

Sir, on this other point of road improvement, dealing with the Welches area, I wonder if there is included that triangular bit of land which is planted or on which grass now grows along with the round-a-bout by the Globe; I wonder what steps have been taken on the part of the Parks and Beaches Commission to get private business houses to invest in the upkeep of these areas. It is certainly an eyesore to see the triangular bit of land at Welches just in wild grass and to see the round-a-bout by the Globe also not well looked after.

I believe that in Holetown somebody some time ago started to develop or look after (*Asides*) — Banks Breweries I am told — after the purchase of land, as you cross the bridge. I would like to find out from the Minister if the Parks and Beaches Commission has taken any further steps to encourage local business houses to invest in these things; and particularly what I think is an eyesore is the

land on the Princess Alice Highway between the road and the beach. I think every effort should be made as soon as possible to beautify that area. I think that one passing would accept that at present it is an eyesore. I would like to find out from the Minister what the Government is doing about these things, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to be very long. When it comes to acquisition of land, I would like to draw to the Government's attention that the time has come when the Government must decide to protect those people who live in tenancies. It is true that there is this Tenancies Act which makes it very clear that if six or more tenants occupy a parcel of land it becomes a tenancy and therefore no one can have you removed from off the land; but another aspect is, there are a number of people going around inviting those unfortunate people to sign documents. Most of those people are very poor people, some of them were not fortunate to have an education which would protect them as to these fancy papers which they are asked to sign, and I would like to see the Government examining the whole aspect of this Tenancies Act, for the simple reason — I am drawing this to the attention of the House because I know for a positive fact that there is some land in St. James known as Trents Land, on the seaside in particular. Apparently there is some sale which some of these DLP members have got themselves involved in, and they are now trying to have the land sold, and they are pressing the people at Trents; they have been pressing the people there for over the past year and a half, they have been going to poor people to get them to sign documents, trying to get them off the land. They have been harassing the people, and I feel the time has come that the Government should listen to what I am saying carefully. Do not let it all fall on deaf ears. There are very unfortunate people who live not only in Trents area but others living in other areas where there are more than six house spots.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I remind the hon. Member that we are dealing with highway improvement and not the Tenancies Act.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am dealing with this, and this is land acquisition. The Government wants to acquire a piece of land. This is what I am dealing with, and I am asking

that when they acquire land and people go on the land, they try and protect the people. That is all I am dealing with. I am not talking about the hospital.

1.15 p.m.

I am not talking about a hospital. I am talking about the land and about people who live in the tenancies. You, Sir, will not have these problems. You live all the way in the valley. I have heard about this. You have a number of solicitors – some of them are solicitors and some are real estate brokers going around to people with these long forms asking people to sign their names and they will give them money to move off the lands. They are harrasing people.

I am not an economic expert like the member for St. Michael West. He confessed his ignorance of economic matters in 1973. I am confessing mine in 1975. I am asking the Government to examine this aspect of it. Under the Tenancies Act six plots become a tenancy. I will ask the Government to examine it and see what they can do about it to protect people from being harrassed. I believe that it is a very serious matter because it is not fair to harrass poor people all the time; and I am asking the Government to carry it before the legal experts they have at their disposal and see what amendment they can make to the Tenancies Act. That is my suggestion to the Government.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a number of questions asked by the member for the City. I think that there were rather general comments to which it was not intended that I should reply. Some of the comments of the member for the City should be properly directed to the appropriate Minister – matters like the building of roads, the development project at Oistins and Speightstown – I believe that they should be dealt with by the appropriate Minister who is not present. If the member wants an answer to those questions, they should be set out as substantive questions.

I want to say that the Parks and Beaches Commission has from time to time assisted in areas completely outside of its responsibility. For instance, the area by the Globe is neither a park nor a beach as defined by the Act. However, the Parks and Beaches Commission have assisted in trying to put some order in the area and to do what is required to put it into some sort of shape.

Surely that does not apply to the area of land in Holetown. There are some business places that have responsibilities for some of the open

spaces; but not only business places but a business and professional organisation. It has a long name which I think some members will remember. They give some help too. They have more or less adopted this special project, but there are problems and the problems are the result of the irresponsibility of some people.

We find that we have people who do not attend the Globe but who are merely onlookers who sit on the fence erected at great expense and the fence is being continually broken down; and that is despite a notice asking people not to sit on the fence. I have had to telephone the police from District A and get them to clear the area because all over the roundabout was littered with cars. I had to ask them to have those vehicles removed. It is the irresponsibility of some Barbadians that has not permitted us to develop these areas for responsible citizens.

As far as the Princess Alice Highway is concerned, Sir, here again the Rotary Club has put forward proposals which we have accepted to undertake responsibility for developing a portion of that land. They have started and they had to stop. The possibility exists that at some stage the Government will have to go in and complete the work, if they are incapable of doing it. If they drag their feet on it we will do it; but we rather feel that they should be allowed to do it because they volunteered and we do not want to stand in their way. If it is not done in good time we will have to develop the area ourselves.

As regards the question relating to the land at Welches I am a bit hazy. It is expected that improvement will be carried out on the Fairfield side as well as the Welches side. I think the question is whether the work should be done on one side of the road. I am only dealing with the lands that I am asking to acquire. (Mr. MOTTLEY: The Pilgrim Holiness Church has already given land.) I am not sure what is the position with regards to the Pilgrim Holiness Church. If they have given land we will gladly accept it.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I propose, subject to the wishes of the Opposition to deal with the Resolutions of which I gave notice of earlier and as regards which, leave was granted earlier.

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

of Supply to deal with the two money Resolutions the first of which is for the sum of \$1,800.

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 of Supply. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1975-76
No. 5

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as the Addendum sets out, the amount of \$3,600 provided for ex-gratia payments of compensation has become inadequate and a supplementary amount of \$1,800 is required to meet anticipated commitments to the end of the financial year. It is a straightforward Resolution, Sir, and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am a bit lost at the words in the Addendum "ex-gratia payments of compensation". The Government is either liable or not liable. I do not believe that you can have an ex-gratia payment of compensation.

1.25 p.m.

I would like the Leader of the House to clarify this matter. You cannot have *ex-gratia* payments of compensation. I should like to draw to the attention of the Committee that Government, by its negligent action, is costing the taxpayers of this country a lot of money. Mr. Chairman, a few years ago, I think not more than about two years ago, this House voted a large sum of money for compensation to be paid to a gentleman who was walking through the Court Yard going into Tudor Street when one of the mile trees broke off, struck him on his head and caused serious head injuries. The Government had to pay him compensation. They started to prune those trees in the Court Yard. I do not know who is responsible, or who is the expert who advises Government on how these trees should be cut. They cut off a few branches of the trees, and on two subsequent occasions, the last being less than a month ago, these mile trees have fallen again and caused extensive damage to people's property. This means that the Government will have to pay compensation again.

Now, when the first occurrence took place, they could have trimmed those trees down to a

certain height and no more damage could have been done. Somebody ought to be called upon to state why he advised that certain parts of the trees should be trimmed and the balance left standing. When day after day the Government is required to pay compensation for damage done by falling trees. You have an example in this yard; The evergreen tree outside of this building. They have made two attempts to cut that tree already and, as far as I can see there is another portion of the tree which will fall again because the tree is rotten inside. We have no right spending this amount of money from day to day on a matter like this, and this money could be used for a better purpose. Some people are not performing their duties efficiently, and they are running the Government into unnecessary expenditure. This is a matter of negligence, and a Ministry must be held responsible for it.

A month ago three motor cars were damaged by falling trees. I believe one of the cars was written off. If they say that the vote is down to \$1,800.00, I am sure this amount cannot pay for the damage I saw done to the Motor cars at the back of the Court Yard a few weeks ago. I feel that somebody should be held responsible for this. At a time when everybody is hard pressed for money, the taxpayers are called upon to pay large sums of money over and over again when proper precautions could be taken to prevent the Government from spending money on a matter like this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: There is a point in what the hon. member, who has just sat down, has said. In truth and in fact it is payment of compensation, because there is a distinction between compensation and *ex-gratia* awards. Compensation is where a man has made a claim, and the Government has agreed to make the payment. An *ex-gratia* award is where the Government is showing sympathy to a person who has no legal right, but the Government is prepared to give the person some form of compassionate allowance in order to assist him. There is a distinction between the two things. In this case it is compensation, and the civil servants may have got confused in dealing with the matter.

Mr. BOLDEN: Sir, I believe that the Addendum should be changed. It must either be *ex-gratia*, or compensation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Item 13 referred to compensation. The note is quite in order, and the Addendum need not be changed.[

The Question that the Resolution for the sum of \$1,800 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

Resolution to amend the note to Head 109 – Ministry of Finance and Planning, Item 7, Central Purchasing, was called.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTE TO
HEAD 109 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND PLANNING, ITEM, 7, CENTRAL
PURCHASING**

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as the Addendum to the Resolution sets out the present note in the Estimates restricts the purchase of furniture and equipment from that Item although the intention was to provide office accommodation including furniture and equipment and storage facilities for the Central Purchasing Department.

Due to the increased operations of Central Purchasing Department it was agreed that a new accounting machine should be provided in the 1975–76 Capital Estimates of Expenditure to facilitate accounting procedures of that Department.

This Resolution seeks to amend the existing note to allow for the purchase of furniture and equipment which is required.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that all hon. members are aware of the fact that, from the time of its establishment, the Central Purchasing Department has been encountering something more than man made difficulties. It is all very well and good for us to hear from the Leader of the House that they are making provision to facilitate accounting procedures and so on. If we provide a typist's desk and other furniture, it is a question of the human element that is involved.

You will find that quite recently it was brought to our attention that millions of dollars worth of commodities had been ordered for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other Hospitals, and it is a case where we are satisfied on this side that Central Purchasing Department started off on the wrong footing and it lacks up to the present moment the type of expertise that one would expect to be associated with that organisation. Central Purchasing Department has vast sums of money entrusted to it to spend on behalf of the various Government Departments.
1.35 p.m.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that we have not up to the present been able to associate with the general management and administration of this Department of Government the type of knowledge that is necessary. We have got to bring new blood into Central Purchasing if we are not to have associated with it the type of complaints that people find themselves making from time to time. We have learnt, and I am satisfied about this, that Central Purchasing lacks the training experience that the clever business community which we know so much of is capable of bringing their activities associated with central purchasing. There is a very slow stock where Central Purchasing is concerned, in that there is not a proper system in operation where Central Purchasing might place an order for a quantity of supplies for two or three departments of Government – I am speaking with reference to their local purchasing – with a firm, or a firm makes a short delivery in respect of two or three of these places that supply these commodities. There are occasions when orders are not filled as they were placed. In other words, you might order 100 gross of this or 100 gross of that, but the supplier might be able to supply only 75 gross or 78 gross of the particular item, and then you find some clerk or somebody responsible puts in the remainder of something that was not ordered. When delivery was made to a Government Department and there are returns, you will find that there is not the credit note system in operation or a short delivery note so that Central Purchasing would be able to keep proper records of what was actually received, what was not usable and what they were able to return. That is the kind of operation you should have because Central Purchasing is a trading department.

The tendering of Bills is another important matter. For some good reason Central Purchasing might find itself receiving supplies from business houses but no bills accompany the goods at the time of delivery or there are no receipts by Central Purchasing or the respective departments to which these deliveries are to be made. There is a reason behind this, Mr. Chairman. If you do not have the type of personnel administering the affairs of Central Purchasing, you will see that a bill is tendered three or four or may be five months after when in truth and in fact there might have been no written record of the transaction, and somebody may just call to mind that they did order this or that but not remembering well enough what was actually ordered, and to get out of the whole mess a decision is taken to pay the bill. Very often, and this has happened right here in Bridgetown, Central Purchasing has been paying for commodities that never left the warehouses

from which they were ordered. If this is the type of exercise that Central Purchasing is engaging in, rather than vote another penny for that Department, we need an investigation into the operations up to the present of how Central Purchasing has gone, how it has been able to spend the money that has been voted and allocated from time to time for central purchasing operations, and we ought to be told what are the results of the investigations that may be carried out.

After all, Mr. Chairman, Central Purchasing I think, was established with a view of saving Government much of the unwanted expenses that had been embarked upon from time to time from year to year where some Permanent Secretary or head of Department was in the habit of placing an order here and somebody else placing it there for which there were reasons, and the Minister of Finance himself was the one person who gave us to understand that he wanted to remove these great gifts to Permanent Secretaries and other person who had been placing orders here and there; and hence Central Purchasing was established to handle the bulk purchasing of certain Government commodities with a view to removing the element of corruption. We cannot say, Mr. Chairman, that with the establishment of Central Purchasing we have been able in truth and in fact to remove that element, because there are other avenues which have been able to creep into the operations of Central Purchasing that lend themselves to wider corruption than perhaps has ever been seen or witnessed or thought of in the way to which the Minister of Finance has been able to refer in this Honourable House.

It is not that anybody is trying to bring Central Purchasing down. We are trying on the other to see what we can offer Government to help to build Central Purchasing and get it functioning to the benefit of the taxpayers, where any hon. member whether on this side or on the other side of the House can have a feeling of contentment that the money we vote for any particular Department of Government is being spent in the way it was represented to us it would have been spent. In other words, it is being spent to the benefit of all the taxpayers of the nation as a whole. If we are to have the type of operation carried out from time to time that we are seeing associated with central purchasing, we are heading nowhere. If the Government decides to investigate Central Purchasing operation now, I feel we would be much better off at a later date. There is no point shying away from it. We agree, Mr. Chairman, that any time we establish an organisation such as Central Purchasing, you will have teething problems and

troubles that will give some people grey hairs to surmount, but we are satisfied beyond doubt that there is too much involvement by too many persons not to be corrupt. Nobody has any intention of being corrupt, but there are areas that have opened up to some persons that they cannot at all times resist what we might call temptation, and we would not like to hear any scandal whatsoever associated with Central Purchasing, and we are urging upon the Government to do its best at this time not to let things deteriorate and become worse with Central Purchasing, but to let us see a marked improvement in these operations to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is something radically wrong with the methods of how the Central Purchasing Department has been operating.
1.45 p.m.

It is now well known that many Government departments are quite dissatisfied with the operations of the Central Purchasing Department. There was one spectacular case in which there was no soap, no toilet paper, no brooms or anything in the particular department. When a senior officer asked about it he was told 'we have to wait until the Central Purchasing Department collect enough orders, then we will get some.'

Now, Sir, I do not believe this is the way how a department should work. It shows the incompetence of the Central Purchasing Department.

There is also a complaint of the Central Purchasing Department ordering things which had not been requested or ordering different makes or brands of goods to those which have been requested, and this is causing quite a lot of confusion. The Prime Minister came into this Chamber himself — and this is as regards the question of payments — the Prime Minister himself came into this Chamber and he said that when the merchants in Bridgetown or the distributors in Bridgetown were complaining that they were not getting paid by the Government, it was not that the money was not available; it was simply that the Central Purchasing Department was not doing the job. This makes me believe that the Government in attempting to set up a department like the Central Purchasing Department, did not do its homework. Obviously it is not staffed by the people with the necessary qualifications or the necessary technique in bulk buying.

The question of collecting orders from various departments must be done on a particular system so that there are no shortages reflected in the department due to the lack of or the inefficiency of the Central Purchasing Department. It means that something must be done, and as the hon. Member for St. Peter said, the Government should now look at causing an investigation to be made into the Central Purchasing Department.

One of the reasons which the Prime Minister also gave was that the Government was not profiting from the various discounts which were available in Bridgetown. I would like to know what profits the Central Purchasing Department has shown over the departments themselves when they were purchasing as individual departments, in order to see if there is justification for the operation of the Central Purchasing Department. I would hate to know that the same situation which existed in this particular department where there was no soap, etc., occurred again. In that particular case an officer took it upon himself to make specific orders of goods from business houses in Bridgetown and said, 'send the bill to Government, let them pay, I cannot sit down and wait on the Central Purchasing Department'.

I have seen this reflected in the courts, that when you complain of certain things in the court, the answer is, 'we have put the order in, we have to wait until Central Purchasing Department send the goods.' You wait for as long as a year before the Central Purchasing Department can satisfy the demands of the various departments, and Government should look at the whole operation now to see if there is a benefit in having the Central Purchasing Department operating, if it is a hindrance, or what modifications can be made in its operation, so that these things do not occur again.

The Question that Head 109 – Ministry of Finance and Planning, Item 7, Central Purchasing – be amended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975–76

No. 6

A Resolution for the sum of \$1,783 – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple Resolution and its purposes are outlined in the addendum. I would like however

to thank the Opposition for having accommodated us with the courtesy of agreeing to deal with this in all its stages today.

I would simply like to add that I personally regret that when the opportunity was there this morning to return this courtesy we did not take it.

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

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

Mr. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, before this Resolution is put, there is a matter which I would like to raise, and it relates to a question I raised during the debate on the Estimates for the current financial year. It was a question, you would recall, Mr. Chairman, about the discriminatory practice which was being carried on at Sunset Crest, St. James, and the fact that the Honourable Minister of Tourism had indicated in this Chamber that he had set up or was in the process of setting up a Committee to look into this matter. This was some time in March.

I do not recall the House having to deal with any matter relating to the Ministry of Tourism since then, and so the Minister might not have had an opportunity to give the House a progress report on that investigation, and I thought, Mr. Chairman, that it would be useful to raise this matter once more and to find out from the Hon. Minister what is the position, if the Committee has been able to come up with any definite thing and indeed, whether any proposals have been forthcoming from the Committee, since it is a matter which relates to the entire community and indeed since it is a matter which all Barbadians are concerned about.

I do not think that members of this Honourable Chamber would like to condone a situation where Barbadians on the basis of a group of people getting together and forming a private club in what is obviously a public area is something which we would want to tolerate and to have continue for any period of time. So I wonder whether the Hon. Minister would favour this Chamber with some indication as to what has been the outcome of the investigation.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would not like it to appear that the hon. Member is singular in this matter. I do not have any

hangups about colour. I despise some black people; I do not have to make anything about that. I despise some white people, red, black and grey; so it is not a question of colour, but I despise the idea that we like this pussy-footing and when it comes to colour we try to rationalise it in all stupid ways by saying that a man has a right to choose his friends and you can have a club and you can do what you like.

For the last thirty years I objected — I was on the executive committee and I told the then members of the Barbados Aquatic Club and the Yacht Club I did not have any interest in those institutions because they practised a discrimination to which I was opposed. My way of thinking is that any club or any institution that is going to do that in our community should be closed. Our community cannot afford these luxuries.

Some people say, well you have black clubs that have black people in them; but the black clubs that have black people in them are so because white people feel they would spoil them if they come into them, but black clubs like white people to come into them.
1.55 p.m.

When it comes to the question of Sunset Crest, I have gone into some of these places and I want to say that they are organised ostensibly to give the impression that Barbados is a place for white tourism. (Mr. CRAIG: That is how he organised it when he was Chairman of the Board.)

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

Mr. CRAIG: I was not addressing the Chair. I made a loud aside that the Tourist Board was organised when the present Minister was Minister of Tourism.

Mr. WALCOTT: Is this a burlesque show? How can you allow the hon. member to say all of that and you are enjoying it? He is breaking all the rules of the House. I was making my speech. He has a right to get up later and make his speech because he has not spoken yet. You must not do that when I am speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I only asked the hon. member if he was addressing the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: The rules do not seem to be really Standing Orders. However, I do not like this idea. When you come to the question

of development you get a lot of people putting up shutters. Barbados is a small community of 166 square miles with 200,000 people and everybody knows everybody. Sometimes people pretend to know people that they do not know. Sometimes you even get the posturing of members who have an opportunity to speak.

I want to be able to make my own speech in my own way because I think it is bad to give this impressing in a community where there are more blacks than whites that you can come to this society and have any stupid discrimination where they want to get around the legal position by putting up a framework whereby only white people can go to certain places.

I had the spectacle that one of the occupants of these houses at Sunset Crest is a black man and he experienced this situation because the guard in our society not expecting a black man to own one of these houses began to address him as if he was an intruder although he was going into his own house. It was this idea that a black man was going into the white people's place, and what right he had to go in there. It meant that the man was embarrassed to see that he could not get into his own place.

They are creating a kind of club to get around this situation. I do not know what is the legal position of the club and what rights they have, but I do know that we are giving the impressing to visitors that this is a white haven. As you know, the tendency is that if you see two white people going somewhere there is no trouble, but if you see a black man taking a white woman somewhere there will be questions.

The Minister of Tourism is a white man. I do not think that anyone who knows him can accuse him — no matter what fun members of the Opposition like to poke at him — I do not think that they can say that he is addicted to colour prejudice. Because some on that side have married to English women, no one says that they have a greater love for white people than they have for black people.

Some of us sometimes try to change our colour, but whatever you are, you are. It is on that basis that I object to anyone objecting to me because of my colour. I do not intend to change it. I will not take any medicine to bring about a change. I was born this way and I see myself this way and I do not have any

dissatisfaction even with all the prejudices that come against me because I was born this way.

However, I am objecting to any institution which encourages, perpetuates or allows any of our institutions to operate on the ground that colour is a criterion and allows it to be understood that if a person is not white he or she cannot go into certain establishments.

I think that the Minister has a duty to the public and to himself to make sure that not only an investigation is carried out, but to make it crystal clear that this question of colour is not one of the first inroads into this question of tourism. I say that because the majority of people coming from North America are going to be white and we do not intend to sell our souls, because when you are going into tourism your country can be taken for a ride on the question of colour.

People who come here and want a hotel room should be treated like any other person. Give them the facilities that they can pay for, but do not base it on colour. It is a bad thing for a small community because small communities cannot always resist its bad effects as large communities can. In a community with 200 million people, you get people streaking. You get some idiots and you have in these places people who are not really on the track who will be marching in a society of 200 million; but in a society of 200 thousand it does not have the same effect; and so you have to be a little more careful about these aspects that are not in the best interest of your society.

I do not have any political axe to grind. I am not using this with any political motive. I feel that Barbados is blessed with advantages for tourist development and, I hope, an open society for those persons who intend to come here and live a life that will enhance the dignity of the community.
2.05 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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

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

On resumption

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

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression that, after the luncheon interval, we would go on with Private Members' Business and then revert to Government Business. A general undertaking was given. The general undertaking is that, after the luncheon interval, we will deal with Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I never said at this time. For what were the Standing Orders suspended?

Mr. CRAIG: You gave us the usual undertaking.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I said the usual undertaking. The Standing Orders have been suspended; we are near the end of passing the three Resolutions, and we will remain here and do Private members' Business.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I quite appreciate the Leader of the House saying that he is not going to leave the Chamber, but we understood on this side that, after the luncheon interval, we would have left off Government Business and gone into Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, when the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that we now revert to complete Government Business. What the hon. member is doing is merely wasting time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was suspended the hon. member for St. Peter was on his feet, and he may now proceed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76
NO. 6 — *Continued*

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are considering a Supplementary Provision of \$1,783, and the Addendum tells us that it is to meet the cost of furniture and equipment required in consequence of the creation of a temporary post of Stenographer/Typist for the Ministry, but it does not say "the Ministry of Propaganda." Mr. Chairman, it could hardly be expected of hon. members of this House to be called upon to vote money for a Ministry that finds itself performing, when at its best, making a mockery of this House, not to the extent of contempt of the House as such, but functioning in such a manner as to hold members up to ridicule. Let us for one moment just take a view of the pictures that are projected of members of the Opposition on the Television Screen.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot refer to the Hon. Minister of Information as something, because I would be qualifying him as something, but that is not the point. One has to take into consideration the fact that the Ministry of Tourism and Public Relations functions to educate and enlighten the public generally as to what is the Government's policy, or whatever plans the Government intends to put into operation.
3.05 p.m.

On the contrary, we do not find that this Ministry in truth and in fact is paying attention to such matters as the enlightenment of the public generally. In our view it is not in the Ministry's programme to carry out any such educational projects. Let us look then at the matter to which the hon. member for St. Lucy made reference with respect to the situation at Sunset Crest Development, and which was referred to by the hon. member for St. Michael West as regards the type of discrimination and colour prejudice that is practised. I am to wonder how our Minister of Information feels, whether his blood does not move more quickly in his veins when he hears what hon. members have got to say in this particular with regard to colour prejudice as practised and as he knows is being practised at Sunset Crest and in many other areas.

We well remember, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister had promised that he was going to set up a Committee to investigate and report and do

all sorts of things except to remove such instances of prejudice and discrimination as had been brought to our notice and must have been brought to the Minister's attention. What do we find instead? We find only today, although the Minister has tried to bow assent while sitting in his chair, that the Committee has been established. I have never seen it published or learnt in any respect that a Committee had been appointed to carry out such an undertaking. The Hon. Minister must be seen by all of us to set up such a Committee to investigate what we do not want to say he can be guilty of because I find he has a broad back. The Minister must of necessity try to bring himself into appreciating that hon. members on this side of the House and the whole House for that matter must be concerned with removing any indication whatever that Government is spending money or permitting the establishment of anything that lends itself to the question of black or white or discrimination for one reason or another against people because of the colour of their skin. Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister moves in and out freely. I remember he was once reported as saying that he so loves Barbados because the natives refer to him as "Sir".

We are not now questioning under this Resolution how he happened to come here, but, as we have said on this side of the House, he must lend assistance in every respect to removing acts of discrimination against people because of the colour of their skins. The black people in his constituency do not practise any sort of colour discrimination, and he ought to be the happiest person in the world to find himself in the present position in which he finds himself, having authority now to set up a committee to investigate instances of colour discrimination as is known to be practised at Sunset Crest.

Now we provide office equipment, furniture and what not, but we provide these for human beings. The Minister ought not to have lost the opportunity in introducing a Resolution such as this to give us a little working knowledge or to give us of his own experience, let us say, of how this money is being spent by the Tourist Board, because the Minister very well knows that there is the biggest scandal presently arising out of the misconduct with regard to the handling of the Tourist Board's money at the New York office. We are asked to vote money to buy furniture to equip the office for the Tourist Board or for the Ministry of Information, but you find that the Minister is employing his host officers who can go for a vacation up-State. There are some gentlemen who find it convenient to leave the wife at home and go up-State with somebody else

at the expense of the taxpayers of Barbados. The Minister knows all about this, and the amusing thing about it all is that the person who unearths this misconduct is the person to be censured for having brought it to light. These misgivings on the part of the Board of Tourism and the Ministry as a whole are not things that we can take to kindly on this side of the House.

It must be brought home to the Minister in a forcible manner that he is responsible in this House for every penny that is voted by this House for his Ministry. How then can he account for the mishandling of funds? What we find is that he is a Minister who has a Board that is not prepared to set an example to the Public Service generally when it comes to the question of spending the taxpayers' money in the way it should be spent, and in the way that it was represented to hon. members on this side of the House that the Resolution for these sums was brought. We believe, Mr. Chairman, that the time has come when the Minister should pin himself down not to propagandising to the extent that he has shown himself capable of in holding the Opposition or any of us up to ridicule. That is not his first duty. That should be his duty if he feels so to indulge on the eve of election, and when I say on the eve, I mean around the second of November this year. If he practises it on the eve of the second of November or thereabouts, you can understand, but if we are to provide a chair or a desk for people to be carrying out this kind of exercise, we on this side of the House cannot support it, and we are saying so.

If this Minister really wants to prove he is entitled to the oats that are fed to him by this Honourable House, he has a unique opportunity to lay a solid foundation for the upliftment of this nation. Let the Minister get to his feet now and tell us of any one undertaking in his whole administration where he has proven himself equal to the task of building this nation in any particular. We do not for a single moment, Mr. Chairman, forget the sums that are squandered on some of these joy trips abroad saying that they are luring tourists.

3.15 p.m.

We do not for a single moment forget the sums of money that are squandered on these trips abroad, saying we are advertising and luring tourists. Luring what kind of tourist? The tourists and people who come down here are those who cannot afford to give a tip to anybody at the hotels, because they are those who can just afford to work for the money to bring them here and pay their fare back. They are the lousy types of tourists who are being invited to Barbados. We

do not, at this particular time, find the wealthy type of tourist coming here, who can really spend a vacation and spend money. They only come down here on some card — some kind of credit card. They can hardly buy a round of drinks at a hotel. So in truth and in fact, when we are asked to pay for this furniture and equipment or whatever it might be we have to be satisfied that we are buying equipment to make people happy.

But, Mr. Chairman, happy to do what? To improve the image of Barbados abroad? To improve the image of this honourable House and this country as a whole? But these are the functions that the Minister has not found it possible to engage in in any appreciable manner. We believe, Mr. Chairman, that sooner or later we will have to come to the conclusion that the responsibility with which the Minister now finds himself charged is just too much, and it just seems to have fallen in the most incapable hands.

I believe I am right in saying that there is hardly anybody who can expect that the hon. Minister is capable of doing anything for the upliftment of this nation. In other words, in truth and in fact the Minister cannot say that he is at one with the people of this nation. He cannot say so. He has applied for citizenship and he has been granted it in the same manner as anyone who had been granted from Russia — as if it had been granted to somebody from Russia, I do not want to say from Cuba, because the Government of Cuba is now embosomed by us, and all Latin American friends of ours are doing the same thing.

However, the point is this — I am going to wind up now, Mr. Chairman — we are to vote money for this purpose. Are we doing what is right? Will the Minister get up on his feet and make out a case that his Ministry is entitled to the very office chair, furniture and equipment or whatever it is for which we are now asked to vote \$1,783? I can say that he cannot, because he has not been functioning and he does not have any programme set out for the upliftment of this country. None whatsoever. I believe that if he had an opportunity he would not prove himself a self-seeker; not at all, and I am satisfied, that if there was a question of uplifting anyone the Minister would certainly not forget himself in this particular.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must join with the hon. member for St. Peter in saying that this Minister has proved to be the most incapable Minister charged with handling the affairs of a Ministry in this Government that we have ever seen. From the time he came to this House he

has had the practice of telling the House he would give an undertaking to bring certain figures and information to the House. He has never kept his word up to this date, and this Resolution is such that the House, including his colleagues on that side, have got to be at a loss as to what this \$1,783 is really required to do.

In introducing Resolutions into this House it is customary that the Minister will say, the work in the Ministry of Tourism or the work in the Ministry of Information, or the work in the Ministry of Public Relations has increased, or certain established staff have gone on holiday and it is necessary for us to bring in somebody and give them seats; but the Minister is so accustomed to fooling this Chamber and the people of Barbados that he brings down a Resolution which tells you nothing; because he knows that he has his colleagues out there whose hearts are not with him but they do not have the guts to stand up and vote against him.

This does not tell us what this temporary typist is to do, where she is to work, why it is necessary to bring her in and why must the Government pay for it, and that is the first thing I have to say. He would stay there and grin, and when it gets too loud he will perform his customary monkey act by pushing his fingers in his ears and playing he does not hear or understand; but the people of Barbados, as I told him, one day are going to meet him downstairs and rip him apart. You can fool some of the people some of the time but you cannot fool all the people all of the time.

Is this \$1,783 required to carry on the misleading propaganda which he began two weeks ago by sending out a letter which was so stupid, which displays ignorance of what is happening in Barbados, by telling the people that they are going to earn twice as much money from sugar, you are going to increase tourism by so many people, when this Minister came in this House after sending out a confidential letter only to members of the Democratic Labour Party saying his Government will be building four massive hotels and a convention centre and therefore you want buses, you do not want taxis?

The Leader of the House will tell you that if when the first massive hotel, Welcome Inn, sought to come into Barbados, it was not he who had to get Welcome Inn out of the Town and Country Planning Office; if it was not the Leader of the House in his constituency who had to save the day when at half past twelve the day, after the Minister of Tourism bluntly refused to go and open Welcome Inn, the Leader of the House had

to go at half past four and deliver a half-baked speech to save the day. That is how he, the Minister, keeps on fooling the people of Barbados.

Where is the convention centre that was to be built? The remodelling of Cable and Wireless office? Is that the convention centre? Where are the thousands of tourists who were supposed to land at Seawell and did not want to travel in taxis, but wanted to travel in buses? Who has got the shares in the buses? Who has got the major shares in the Co-operatives? What was the Government's report on Co-operatives in Barbados in respect of which that Minister came in here and told us that co-operatives were the only thing to work?

Ask the Minister of Agriculture under whose portfolio co-operatives fall and see if he will not repeat his statement which he made when I warned him in this House over a year ago that he should have held an investigation into the matter. 3.25 p.m.

But the Minister of Propaganda – I think that he could be safely called the Minister of Propaganda and leave out the other Ministries – should seek to tell you something about it, but let us look at tourism, another aspect of the Minister's duties. Tourism is down, so why do you want a temporary typist for the Ministry of Tourism? To do what? I believe that you should start retrenching as far as that Ministry is concerned because he has not shown that he or his staff is capable of running that Ministry as the country would like to be run.

I go further. There is now in Barbados a person who has just come in from Canada a week ago and one of his complaints was that the Tourist Office in Canada is very deficient, that when the Barbados dollar was untied from the pound sterling and tied to the US dollar, several people phoned the Tourist Office and asked "is it true that the Barbadian dollar is on par with the US dollar"? The lady up there said "I a'int know nothing about it. I a'int hear nothing. Find out how you can."

This is the Tourist Office under the Minister, and you are seeking to bring tourists from Canada to Barbados, and the Tourist Office cannot tell people who are to come from Canada to Barbados what is now the new value of the Barbados dollar. Again there are complaints that when you ring the Tourist Office and ask for information about Barbados they will send you a bundle of brochures in an envelope, and that is that. Blue Waters has changed its name, Mr.

Chairman, and I am telling you that people in Canada have been asking what has happened to Blue Waters; and the Tourist Office has said that it has shut down. They do not know that it is just only a change of name.

It is the Minister that I am talking about. That is how his Ministry is run; but he has neglected the money earning aspect of his Ministry and has concentrated on the propaganda section to think that he can fool the people of Barbados. As I have said, "time longer than rope" and as the Minister of Health has helped me, "time longer than the rope and twine." Time and twine will catch up with him.

We will have to vote against this Resolution because we want to let the Minister know that he cannot keep trying to fool the people of Barbados. It is the duty of the Opposition to protect the interest of the public of Barbados at large. I know that those over there will vote aye because they say it is party policy; but if they have any guts left they will show their displeasure by voting against this Resolution.

The Minister is doing a disservice to the House and to the country when he sends addenda like these down here. It says supplementary provision for the Ministry. Which Ministry? Which section of the Ministry? What is the necessity for creating a temporary post of typist? What is the person to do? Is the Ministry overworked or is it part of his personal propaganda machinery being operated in the Ministry?

I will say openly that it is just a question of putting somebody there to perpetrate his personal propaganda in trying to fool the people of Christ Church. They have proved themselves fools before. I wonder if they will prove themselves fools again, because the Minister gets up and says do not blame me. Blame the people up there who put me in. I hope that the people who put you in will now see what you are trying to tell them.

He has told them that Barbados' balance of payments will move out of the red into the black by 1976. The Prime Minister once made a statement in here that by 1975 there shall be full employment, that every person in Barbados would be working. The Prime Minister came back in here in November, 1974 and said that, because of certain economic trends, things could not work out; but "Mr. Prophet" now forecasts that things will be even rosier.

They are what you call overnight experts and water-washed experts, and the Minister has

proved himself an expert on everything in this country except tourism. He started out as an expert in tourism with the result that while the number of people coming to Barbados has grown, the actual revenue received therefrom has diminished.

What is the situation between Air Canada and Sunset Crest? Will the group still come? These are things that the Minister should take the opportunity to tell this Chamber. What is the correct forecast for tourism next year? Do not try to fool the people outside. We say thank God, you may be able to threaten the reporters from the Advocate, but you cannot threaten the reporters from the Nation who are all Barbadians.

What has the Tourist Board done outside of the traditional tourist markets for Barbados since the Minister left the Tourist Board and has become Minister of Tourism? Absolutely nothing. You have opened up offices abroad, but have the tourists come? The answer is no. Do not tell us that economic conditions have prevented them from coming because in places like Nova Scotia, the Leader of the House will tell you that they enjoy 2 million tourists a year since economic conditions have changed and it is more expensive to travel from Vancouver to Nova Scotia than it is to travel from there to Barbados. That was told to us in Nova Scotia two weeks ago, so do not come with that excuse now.

He may have fooled the people in Barbados before as being an expert on tourism, but stop the jolly rides, the flying to Venezuela and Puerto Rico and you will see how quickly the Minister will get out. That is what you have to do. Let him be a typical example of looking after "I". If you just clamp down on that you will see how quickly the Minister will bid us farewell because this is where Barbados is being used.

This Resolution is another typical example of the use of this country and the taxpayers' money by a single individual, because there is no information whatever given as to the necessity of creating a new post at this time. Taking the Minister's word, election year is a challenging year, and if you utilise the people's money to enhance your own position it is wicked; it is criminal.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I wonder why my colleague on my left seemed so excited in his address to this Committee. I say that because I am quite sure that when he set out to address you, Mr. Chairman, on a Resolution of this nature, under the portfolio in which it falls, I am

sure that it is like water falling on a duck's back. Absolutely nothing that the member has said means anything to the Minister of Information because the Minister of Information means nothing to his Ministry; he means nothing to Barbados and he means nothing to this Parliament.

3.35 p.m.

I do not understand why he worked up so much heat. The Addendum is all I am concerned with. It says to create the post of Stenographer/Typist for the Ministry. What I think is bothering everybody over there as well as everybody over here is that the Addendum is not wide enough. When the Minister was introducing this item, I was listening carefully to hear what he had to say, but all I could understand during that time was that the Opposition decided to do it in all of its stages. The Minister should know that this Resolution could not have been passed in here today unless it had my assistance.

I am going to use the Ministry of Information under which C.B.C. falls to point out something. The Minister of Information has taken it upon himself to deny the Opposition, and 43,000 people in this country that this Party represents, the right to use the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to reply to the glad-tidings speech made by the Minister of Finance. I am confident that if ever a tragedy has taken place in this country since Hurricane Janet, it is the Minister of Information who has been imposed on the backs of the people of this country. I do not believe in race. You are either black and good, or white and good. You are either black and bad, or white and bad. I believe in people, but when I look around and see that the black people's children in this country are denied the right, and you, Sir, are denied the right of hearing the views expressed by the Opposition over C.B.C., the people's station, it hurts me.

Now, the Minister had the audacity to write me a letter saying that we know the policy of the Government. I challenge the Minister, when he gets up to reply, to let me hear what is Government's policy on C.B.C. The General Manager of C.B.C. is not in Barbados now to assist him. I want to inquire of the Minister, for what is this year's leave of absence? Is this year's leave of absence to enable the General Manager of C.B.C. to go to Canada with his wife? I want to know if the taxpayers of this country are to be saddled with that again.

I have a letter here that was pinned up on the Notice Board at C.B.C. "We did not have the opportunity to wish them farewell". I am not going to make it a document of this House, but I will quote from it, Sir. "I will be going away to Canada on Sunday for an absence of one Year's leave." No other reason at all, apart from the fact that the General Manager of C.B.C.'s wife has been appointed Ambassador to Canada. There is one reason why she was appointed High Commissioner to Canada. Let us call a spade a spade. I am sympathetic with the lady's illness. It is regrettable that Barbados will have a sick ambassador abroad. I am sympathetic towards the illness of any individual, because at some time in our lives we are going to be ill, but for the taxpayers of Barbados to be called upon to pay that cost is not good enough when you have old age pensioners getting \$10.00 a week. A Resolution was blocked in here by the Government to give them free medicine, but the taxpayers will have to be saddled with the illness of the High Commissioner to Canada. This thing stinks, Sir. But the Minister can sit over there and give the General Manager of C.B.C. one year's leave. C.B.C. is under his Ministry, so do not tell me about any Statutory Board.

Sir, I can remember when the television cameras were in here and the Leader of the Opposition was addressing Parliament, the Minister of Information took it upon himself to try to interrupt Mr. Daniel on the Floor of the House, and suggested to him to turn off the television cameras; so do not say that you are not part and parcel of the administration. We saw you in here instructing Mr. Daniel to turn off the television cameras. If you were in Uganda, they would eat you without salt. The Prime Minister is to be blamed and not you, Sir. You are partially to be blamed, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture let us forget the Leader of the House who is old; we do not mind the Minister of Housing, because we understand his position. The young Ministers on that side should have objected to having a man of that colour sitting on the Front Bench with them. In this day and age, after Sir Grantley Adams has fought the conservatives all through this country to give the people in here the right to serve this country, because we are in the majority and not in the minority like South Africa, you can have this sort of thing taking place.

Sir, the Minister of Information had the audacity to write a letter to me acting, as Leader of the Opposition, stating that I know Government's policy on C.B.C., and we do not

have the right to reply to the Prime Minister of Barbados' glad-tidings speech, or whatever sort of speech it was. That is the sort of behaviour you get in this country. You hear people talking about Amin is a bad man. Amin is one of the nicest men in the whole world. When you can see the Prime Minister and former Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party impose the Minister of Information on the backs of the people of this country, then Amin is a Sunday School child, an infant.

Sir, we know only too well that, when the Minister of Information was Chairman of the Tourist Board, he used to carry out Calling Cards for Bonanza Tours and so on. We know of these wicked, vicious, acts. Last Sunday he had the audacity to talk about an election year being an exciting year. People like Haile Selassie must die and leave others. Do you think that this sort of thing should happen to me in my lifetime? Do you think it is fair, Sir? This is the sort of behaviour and we are having in a black society — a society in which we all say we are fighting for the small man and the poor black man.

Mr. Chairman, I believe you must be turning in your bed at night, because you know how you had to hold a kerosene oil lamp in Roebuck Street for Sir Grantley Adams along with my father. You told me that, Sir. We now see that a Minister, a water-washed Englishman, can come to Barbados and take over, while you are sitting down here as Chairman of Committees at \$1200 a month, and the Minister of Information is getting \$2,800 a month and the back-kicks! That is the sort of behaviour we have. You can have a fire and an innocent man will be arrested. The Minister of Information had a fire at his hotel while he was at a dance. They said that it was a fire of unknown origin. When they told him that the hotel was burning, he said: "Not yet". or "Already?" or "Not so soon," or something like that.

You, Sir, have spent all of your years battling through St. George fighting Senator Tull, Mr. Freddie Miller and so on, and somebody can wash up on the shores of Barbados overnight — you had to fight the Sam Lords, the Wilkinsons, the Leacocks — and the Prime Minister has pushed this Minister down the throats of the people of this country! But he will have to answer for that. I am going to see the Prime Minister of Barbados one of these days jumping about like a frog for allowing the Minister to occupy that seat. When I look across there and see the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health, there is a complete

contrast especially when they are wearing dark suits. It is regrettable to hear that the Minister of Information has the courage to come in here. If I had met the Minister of Tourism in your rum shop, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition would have to defend me, because I could not contain myself.

3.45 p.m.

I would have to drop two bull-pistol lashes in the Minister's back to take the feeling out of me that my three children, Geoffrey Craig, Ricardo Craig and Margaret Craig, cannot hear the voice of the Leader of the Opposition on the television, because the Minister of Information who came in here on some boat like the Jolly Roger can now tell the people of this country what they are to listen to, what they are to see and when they are to see it. Is that not an indictment on the society? Now you have come in here for \$1,783 for a chair. Is this to send circulars to the people in Christ Church North Central whom you are accustomed to using? Is that what you are prepared to do again? Have you not bled the country enough? What do you expect of the poor black mortals around here getting \$10 a week as a pension while the Minister is cooling out with \$2,800. Of course he brought nothing into Barbados, but he is hoping to carry out something. I think there is a saying: into this world you have brought nothing and out of this world you can take nothing. I am sure of that. But there is one thing I know, and it is that if the Minister of Information leaves Barbados tomorrow, he can safely say to his friends abroad that they not only called him "Sir" and he is happy, but he had the privilege of stopping the Deputy Leader of Her Majesty's lawful and elected Opposition from coming into Chez Jean Pierre since 1959.

I have been practising discrimination in Barbados since then and I will continue to practise it in St. James which I represent; so it seems I have a shadow. I must have a little taste of him, Sir, some form or fashion. I cannot look across on the Government benches and see the Minister of Information, an Englishman, dictating the policies of this society in which my children and my children's children must live. I would never be able to swallow this. It is a very bitter pill, and as long as he remains in here I shall attack him personally or otherwise, and you or Mr. Speaker will have to send me out. Of course, he says he has no nerve, he has all steel in his body.

I am not supporting the Resolution on the premise that the Barbados Labour Party Opposition in Parliament cannot use C.B.C., unless we hear what is the policy of C.B.C. enunciated as set out in a letter from the Minister of Information from the then Acting Leader of the Opposition. I do not know what is the policy. We have not heard it in here; I do not understand what it is all about. The Leader of the Opposition can tell you that he has repeatedly called a press conference and when the Reporters and other persons turn up and we ask where are the cameras, we are told: "Well, skipper, you know we have to carry out orders." This is the sort of behaviour you are having. Some 104,000 persons went to the polls, 43,000 supported the Barbados Labour Party and gave us six seats, but the voices of these six persons cannot be heard by the 43,000 through the wicked, vicious behaviour of the Government through its policy.

Senator Owen T. Allder and Mr. L. B. Brathwaite resigned from the Democratic Labour Party immediately after it was formed because they never accepted Douglas Lynch, a Barbadian white. But today the Prime Minister is responsible for this situation. I am sorry he is not in here; he is the person I would like to hear this. Tell me what contribution the Minister of Information has to make in a third world society. He could make it in Rhodesia, but nowhere in Black Africa; he could not make it in St. Vincent, Jamaica, Trinidad or in Dominica; but in Barbados the old colonial mentality still prevails, and we talk about pride and industry.

Mr. Chairman, I am not supporting this Resolution on the premise that the Opposition Labour Party cannot use the Caribbean Broadcasting Station.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as was stated, this Resolution seeks to provide \$1,783 to meet the cost of furniture and equipment required in consequence of the creation of a temporary post of stenographer/typist for the Ministry. I am particularly concerned, Mr. Chairman, with what has been happening in the Ministry of Information because from reports it seems that the Government has established what can probably be referred to as a Ministry of Propaganda headed by this latterday Goebbels. This is totally unacceptable to us, because we are seeing that the Civil Service Head of the Information Department is being treated like a yard fowl, and is being ignored. We have heard from time to time the Minister of

Information when he was in the Senate attack the Government Information Officer. Now we are seeing a deliberate plan on the part of the Ministry of Information to downgrade and to remove the functions of the Government Information Officer.

We find, as I have said before that we now have a section directly under the control of the Minister of Propaganda, the latterday Goebbels or I daresay the English Goebbels. We find that he is now directing propaganda out of the Ministry because the Civil Service Head of that Department wanted to perform his duties as a Civil Servant, he wanted to be objective and to use the Government Information Officer for information purposes, but this was totally unacceptable. The Minister is sitting laughing, but I am not like the rest of members. I feel he is laughing like some hyena, because his mere presence here is offensive to the independence of this nation. I have not been in here for too long. I have been in here since 1969, but I have been coming here and listening to the debates during the 1950s when there were white Barbadians in here, but never have I seen conduct equal to the insulting behaviour of the Minister of Information a few years ago when a member on this side was speaking and he had the audacity to put his fingers in his ears. That was not only an insult to the member who was speaking, but it shows the contempt which he has for Barbadians. We find that his contempt goes a lot further because it now permeates into the Civil Service and interferes with the functions of a Civil Servant because he is not doing what the Minister wants him to do and he cannot ride rough-shod over him. He has removed somebody that he can use and put him there at his direction and established this Ministry of Propaganda.

I cannot support this Resolution, Mr. Chairman, because this does not tell me whether this typist is supposed to work for this Ministry of Propaganda. How else can we define a Ministry of Propaganda when you take somebody from under the Government Information Officer, establish him in a separate office and give him permission to issue bulletins and information sheets without having to clear them with the Government Information Officer? You cannot treat Civil Servants in that way. I know that the Prime Minister has called the Civil Servants an army of occupation, but you cannot treat the Government Information Officer that way, and that is why I will not support this Resolution.

I will not be party to this sort of conduct, but it is in keeping with the attitude of the Minister for Barbadians whom he can treat with that contempt. He can do as he likes, he can ignore them, laugh at them and say do not blame him, blame the people that voted for him. That is his attitude to Barbadians. This is significant when it comes to the establishment of this new section of propaganda, and you see it from time to time on television when the gentleman who is now under his control has anything to do with the programme. You can see it is purely political propaganda.

3.55 p.m.

Ask yourself a simple question, Sir. When last did you see the Government Information Officer on television? This must be the only country in the world where the Government Information officer cannot go on television, and I use the words 'cannot go.' He is forbidden by the Ministry to go on television, and you find all the junior civil servants in the Ministry can ignore the Government Information Officer. They can do what they feel like; they do not have to care anything about him; they can go on television. They are not restricted, but you find that the Government Information Officer is restricted from going on television purely because he saw fit to do his job in an objective manner and would not conform to the political dictates of the Minister and the Ministry of Public Relations.

I am not surprised to hear the member for St. Michael West talk as he did about the racial discrimination in the tourist trade in this country, Sir, because when you look at the whole development of the tourist trade over which the Minister presided as Chairman of the Tourist Board, the whole tourist trade is based and developed on colour prejudice. When he was Chairman of the Tourist Board and was not a member of this House we had to raise in here and produce evidence of hotels in this country advertising overseas private beaches, and telling people you do not have to mix with the natives, etc. He was then associated with the Tourist industry. He was at that stage associated with the tourist industry and he was guiding it along the lines he wanted it developed — lines based upon racial discrimination — and that is why in this country today organizations such as Sunset Crest find that they can treat Barbadians in the manner in which they treat them, under the pretext of private clubs.

You see, Sir, we hear a lot about the Ministry of Tourism doing this and doing that, but for all the years the Minister was there, what was the Minister doing? What has the Minister, when he was Chairman of the Tourist Board or now that he is Minister of Tourism done to benefit the ordinary man, the little man in the street, Sir? What has he done for the benefit of the man who deals with handicraft and arts and craft? What steps has he taken as Minister of Tourism to ensure that the tourists, coming into this country can get an opportunity to see the handicraft, the arts and craft of the poor man in the street?

When I pass by the Sunset Crest Development it hurts my heart to see that, after all these years, with all the development at Sunset Crest, your hotels, your supermarkets, your tennis courts and everything, yet the Barbadian who has to sell his handicraft and various things like this, has to sit in the sun until people pass by to buy something from him. That is disgraceful. Why should people who make the handicraft, and arts and craft, have to walk up and down the beaches in the hot sun to sell their handicrafts after all these years? Why should they have to sit on the hot concrete outside Sunset Crest to attract, to get tourists to buy their handicraft? Purely because the Minister when he was Chairman of the Tourist Board and now he is the Minister, has never seen fit to look after the interests of these people.

For many years now, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party has been calling for the establishment of a handicraft market, an arts and craft market, a central market where tourists can come, where the Barbadians can display their work, instead of having to run after people begging them like Lazarus from Dives, begging people to buy something from them, purely because the Minister has no interest in these people. We, on this side, would like to see established as soon as possible a central market where the people dealing with handicraft could display their handicraft; and also, in the tourist areas, small markets; at Sunset Crest, for instance, in the Hometown area, in Oistins area and around the St. Lawrence area. These are the areas where the Minister should see that some sort of shed is built so that the poor man who is dependant on his arts and craft as a livelihood, where the artists of this country, can display their work, so that the tourists coming into this country can get an opportunity to see the arts and crafts in this country.

It may be, Sir, that in the words of a famous poet you may find that "Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid a heart once pregnant with celestial fire." Something like that, Sir. But, because of the total disregard and lack of feeling, because of the sensitivity of the Minister — I do not care of the Minister is insensitive to me; in fact I would be glad if he is insensitive to me because I am insensitive to him; but it is when this insensitivity goes down to the poor man in the street, that I am concerned. We are not concerned with if the Minister can stick his hands in his ears or any other place as regards the members of this House, Sir, but when he sits there presiding over a Ministry and does not show any care or interest in the small man, it is that that causes the Members of this party concern, Sir.

We urge upon the Minister to take urgent steps to establish a central handicraft market for the display of the arts and craft and various form of craft like that, so that the small man in this country who does this sort of work would have an opportunity of displaying it and getting a dollar out of the tourist trade, not only for the benefit of hoteliers, but let tourism benefit the man in the street. Let the small man who has some art and some contribution to make in that respect earn a dollar out of the tourist trade.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, before this debate started I was in considerable doubt whether I should contribute to it, because I do in fact have a law suit for defamation against the Government Information Service and against the Minister of Information personally, which is at present in the hands of my Attorneys, and in these circumstances sometimes what you say can be misconstrued, and I would not like any hon. member to think that what I am going to say is coloured by the fact that I regard myself as having been wickedly slandered by the Minister, and therefore hon. members might feel that my motives smack of impurity.
4.05 p.m.

However, I think that I have dealt with the Minister sufficiently in here before he slandered me for hon. Members to be aware that I do not have a high opinion of his performance in office. I have nothing against the Minister personally. I think that he is a very pleasant conversationalist. I think that I can safely say that I would love the Minister to the end of his days, for the remarks that he once made to my wife as it happened at a luncheon. It was a very amusing remark about Mr. Cameron Tudor. I will not repeat it; but

hon. members can rest assured that I treasure it among my great memories of wit and repartee; but the Minister knows that even although there is no personal animosity on my side — I do not think that he likes me, but on my side there is no personal animosity. the Minister knows that, even without me going so far as to join my colleagues in saying that his very presence is offensive to the independence of this nation.

Yet, I have never been an admirer of the Minister in office. I am not going to categorise him as a local Dr. Goebbels. Dr. Goebbels was a very well educated and intelligent man, a Doctor of Philosophy. He succeeded in sustaining the morals of the German people through four years of the most bitter war that any nation has ever known. I do not believe that the Minister of Information can approach the intellectual qualities of Dr. Goebbels, or indeed many of his other qualities. I believe that he is merely a very humdrum person who has succeeded to a high office in the affairs of a small country mainly by the quality of loyalty.

Other persons, less well-intentioned, might use more earthy language loyalty principally to the Prime Minister. The English produce many great generals. England can safely be called the country of great leaders. It is also a country of great followers. Behind every great general there are several hundred great lieutenants and great captains.

It happens that the hon. members was chosen to be a great captain in Barbados, and again, as I have said in here, *Omnia ignotum pro magnifico*. The hon. member's achievement is to be an Englishman who has made Barbados his home, and he is being rewarded for that; but when he is exposed to the demands of office which, although Barbados is a small place, are yet considerable, and they include a demand for moral leadership, intellectual qualities for some and for some a knowledge based upon a sensing of the people's aspirations. It is in this difficult job of meeting these demands that the hon. member falls down.

I could never be offended by the hon. member putting his fingers in his ears. That is the act of a school boy and I laugh at school boys. Some reach the age of 50 and have not grown up. That is their misfortune. I treat it with amusement, but there are certain acts of the hon. member that it is difficult to treat with amusement.

One is his treatment of the Government Information Officer which has been adverted to by the hon. member for Bridgetown. I have referred to many other aspects of the hon. member's shortcomings on earlier occasions, but I want very shortly in saying that I oppose this Resolution to say that I oppose it, not on the ground that I do not want a typist to get her money, but I am opposing it on the ground that I have no confidence in the general administration of the department.

I want to say also that what has been giving me a lot of concern recently is that the Minister is not a person of humility or of a sufficient sense of his own limitations, primarily, his own intellectual limitations. He does not understand his own superficiality. He cannot apprehend in a way that many other hon. members of this House on both sides can apprehend their incapacity to delve too far into subjects in which they have not been trained and which they may not have the equipment to understand.

When any Minister in this island talks blithely about subjects that concern the Government, his words have to be given a good deal of attention. When the Minister of Information speaks about the achievements of the Government and makes projections as to the likely achievements of the Government, even if those projections are made to the relatively select audience of Christ Church North Central, they achieve importance because they fall into the hands of the public and what is written is believed.

The Minister has never denied the authorship of the document which has been making the rounds and which has been published in the Press recently. I believe that he has written a letter to the *Nation* Newspaper in which he not only denies, but tries to justify some of it, and indeed takes the chance of repeating some of the very words that have involved the Government Information Service in a slander action. When the *Nation* comes out on Friday we will see whose other heads it may fall on; but when the Minister says that the Sugar Industry in Barbados is earning \$120 million in a particular year, and it turns out not to be true, it is a reflection not just on the Cabinet or the members of that party, but on all of us because we are giving the impression of being irresponsible persons who make statements without regard to their essential truth.

When the Minister says that Barbados will be self sufficient in oil in 1977 without understanding that Barbados' oil needs do not necessarily correspond to the potential amount of oil that can be brought out of the ground, and that the type of oil you may produce may not be suitable for the type of gasoline that you need — these are merely incidental matters. These are merely illustrations of the fundamental superficiality of the man, and the reasons why he should be careful before he speaks on any subject.

When he says that, a whole series of events may be set in train. People may make decisions unless it is clearly pointed out to them that this is perhaps the most irresponsible of the Cabinet members speaking. People may take decisions upon the basis that what the Minister says is true. That is why, particularly today and at this time, we have to take note of these matters.

I remember two years ago the Minister coming here and reading faithfully and even circulating for the Government Information Service a statement saying that the world's food reserves were down to 30 days supply. Now, that statement was severely criticised at the World Food Conference and it was dealt with at length in numerous analyses. It was pointed out that what was meant by way of reserve stock were stock in transit and not yet assigned to a buyer. It was pointed out that the Russian wheat crop was a record, and the American wheat crop was almost a record. All of these things were pointed out, but the Minister could never understand because his mind is so shallow. His mind is so shallow that he cannot look beyond a journalist's remark. We cannot afford in this country to suffer from such superficial analyses.

4.15 p.m.

It is not the Government Information Officer who should be muzzled. It is the Minister of Information. I am glad that, upon this occasion, he has wisely resolved, even though he has had to take more insults than any man in my life I have ever heard any man take without reply, to sit down and save his reply for the end of the debate. I am glad that the debate has not been disfigured by any of the ill-humoured, ill-tempered, and I fear offensive — I would not like to say racially offensive — remarks we have had from the Minister in his exchanges from time to time.

I am going to beg and implore him in his reply to try to deal with what members of the

Opposition have said in depth. Do not trot out the textbook phrases of an overgrown schoolboy, who lacks the academic training and intellectual depth to analyse statements and look for fundamental truths. He does not even have the capacity to make a good debating speech, because he does not amuse us in here. He is not a debater in the sense that we would sit down and listen to nonsense as we used to listen to from Cameron Tudor, because it was amusing nonsense or witty nonsense. Let him take a lesson in himself; let him learn something about himself, if he wants to continue as the Minister of Information in this country.

If it is one point I would like him to answer — it is not one that I have made myself, but one which the member for St. James has made. Let him justify to the House the present policy on political broadcasting or whatever it is. I have been in this House longer than he, and I have never heard the policy set out in terms, and explained and justified. Let him justify to this House the policy of political broadcasting now carried on by the Ministry of Information. He has a duty to set a moral tone to the miserable acolytes at C.B.C, the miserable little people, who skulk in corners and try to drag down those in whom the people of Barbados have placed confidence, at least by electing them in here. He has a certain prestige unfortunately, perhaps, in this country. Unfortunately, because he has prestige as coming from a country where, from the time we were little children, we were taught that the people were fair-minded, that they believed in open politics and open decisions openly arrived at. If that prestige and his influence were used at C.B.C. in the direction of a fuller reporting of news and giving another political group a fair whack at the T.V. cameras and so on, I believe that some results might follow.

I believe that, if the Hon. Minister of Education was dealing with it and had not had the unfortunate disturbance over the appointment of the General Manager, we would have a fairer broadcasting policy at the present time. I would like to ask the hon. member, if he is capable, to set out the Government's policy on broadcasting. Explain why it is that the policy, enunciated by Mr. Tudor years ago, of giving every political party regular access to the radio waves was abandoned, and explain what is the Government's present policy. Make us believe that the Prime Minister has not banned the T.V. cameras in here altogether merely because he does not like how he looks on them. Take that thought right out of our minds that the Prime Minister's personal vanity has prevented the T.V. cameras from

coming in here. Take it out of our minds that the Reporters at C.B.C. believe they can expect promotion, based upon how well they can distort the words of the Opposition, and how completely they can ignore the Opposition's contribution to debates in here; Make us believe that he himself is not eaten up with envy of more capable persons who happen not to be his colour and, therefore, who he thinks, perhaps, should not be more capable than he. Make us believe all of those things. Make us believe he does not come in here with a secret inferiority complex masquerading under the mask of Demetrius. Make us believe all of those things when he gets up to make his reply.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I think I must be one of the most fortunate Ministers in this present Government, because whenever there is an item before this House concerning the Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations, the hon. members of the Opposition spend 90% of the time talking about the Minister of Tourism, and devote 10% of the time talking about the subject on hand concerning the Ministry of Tourism. I have no intention whatever of taking them on at a personal level. I think the people in Barbados know now that I was born in England, and I think that the people of Barbados appreciate it and see that I am white. It has been said before. Let us deal with the few things which were material, and which deserve an answer. The first point was the Sunset Crest matter. Despite the fact that neither of the hon. members who raised the subject is here, I would mention that the Committee is comprised of the Permanent Secretary in my Ministry, another official on my Ministry, the Research and Development Officer, the Director of Tourism, and an officer of the Attorney General's Chambers. They have made an interim Report to the Cabinet. Their final Report will, I hope, be forthcoming not too long from now, but it is a rather complicated matter as they seem to discover and as they have reported. When they report to me. I shall report to the Cabinet. As usual, what is to be done or is not to be done, is not solely a matter of the white English Tourism Minister, but a Minister of the Cabinet, and it will be for the Cabinet to decide what will be done, very obviously.

The second point that I would like to take up, is that I heard the hon. member for St. Joseph say that I have promised some figures in this House, and that I have never brought them before the House. I tell him in all honesty that, if I promised figures and have not brought them, I do not remember promising them. I apologise,

and if he will inform me what they were, I will try and get them for him, because that I do not recall.

With regard to the hon. member for St. James' point about political broadcasting, I do not know how hon. members on the opposite side could possibly have forgotten already that during the course of some six or seven months last year we had a debate, which was initiated by the hon. member for the City, and I think it was seconded by the hon. member for Christ Church West, which concerned the very question of political broadcasting, and there was some other aspect to it as well. We debated this matter over several days during Private Members' Business time. I do not remember how many days, but many members on both sides of the House spoke. The Government's point of view was put, a vote was taken, and that was the opportunity which they all had to hear what the Government's position was on political broadcasting, and I do not intend to repeat it now.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I recall the debate very well in here when the hon. member for the City brought in a Motion under Private Members' Business, but we did not hear what was the Government's policy. We would be very grateful to the Minister of Information, if he would let this Committee know at this time what is the Government's policy on political broadcasting. It is very simple. Tell us the policy now. He is the Minister and, therefore, he is in a position to tell us what is the policy of the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I regret that they did not listen last year, and I am certainly not going to repeat it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is misleading the House. The Resolution I brought here was to establish an All-Party Committee to look into the possibility of broadcasting. It had nothing to do with the Government's policy.
4.25 p.m.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, in practice it comes to the same thing.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, this Minister must not seek to twist persons' words on a Resolution which was written in specific terms. The Minister has no character for the truth. He must not try to tell the Committee that a decision was taken in this House on a specific Resolution which was asked to set up a

Committee. It gives a clear example of the Minister's policy in relation to truth.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: There will be no further dissertation upon the matter because the Government's position was put then.

Mr. ADAMS: It must be out of order to give the House a false report. That debate was never finished because I intended to speak and never got the chance to speak. (A VOICE: I had completed.) It dealt with the question of setting up a Committee; it did not deal with Government policy on political broadcasting as such. We cannot force the Minister in here to tell the truth. We cannot make him tell the truth. When he does not tell it we can deal with it, but doesn't he understand that members want information? That is what we are asking for and that is what he is here for. We are asking for information on what he conceives to be a statement relating to Government policy, because he is the only person in this House or in Barbados who is aware of what the policy is. That is all I can say. I challenge any other hon. member to get up on the other side and say what the Government's policy is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. That is a second speech.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, you will not be getting any second speech from me on the same subject. They have had an expression on Government's policy on political broadcasting less than a year ago.

Mr. CRAIG: Would the Minister tell this Committee what is Government's policy? If you are a responsible Cabinet Minister you can safely answer any question like any front bench Minister. Let us know what is Government's policy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: The next point was that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition trotted out some facts which I gave concerning, for example, the value of the sugar industry in 1975 as \$120 million or very close to it. If he does not want to believe it, he will just have to wait and see, but it is a fact. I would like to take the opportunity since they raised the point, Mr. Chairman, to go on record as saying that despite what was reported in the Nation, at no time whatever did I refer to the 1976 sugar crop. I would not be so foolish because the experts do not know what is going to happen to that. How could I possibly know?

I made reference to it whatsoever, and I am confident that the Nation would be glad to confirm that. Neither have I any recollection of saying anything about the world food stock. So I think the Leader of the Opposition must have somebody else in mind when he talks about that kind of thing. We have set up a public relations unit in the Ministry of Information because the public relations aspect of Government work was not in my view satisfactory. If they want to call me the Minister of Propaganda and talk about Dr. Goebbels, that is only to be expected, and again it is not going to unduly worry me. But there is a public relations unit and the Ministry's work will go forward despite all these things.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Is the Minister saying that there is a public relations unit in the Ministry of Information?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: That is what I said, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Resolution...

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What point of order are you rising on now?

Mr. BOLDEN: I am seeking information Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will take your seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: Am I entitled to seek information on the Resolution which you asked us to vote for?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not at this point. Discussion on the Resolution is completely closed.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is not completely closed. The Minister has not told us why he wants the temporary typist/stenographer up to now.

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

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. R. StC. WEEKES; Mrs. EASTMOND and Hon. A. MORRISON – 7.

Noes: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN – 5.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of three Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. R. StC. WEEKES and Mrs. EASTMOND – 7.

Noes: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. HINDS and Mr. BOLDEN – 5.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Resolutions were read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that these Resolutions be now read a second time.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometimes you see performances in here which are lent weight by the issue on which they take place. Sometimes you see performances which leave a bad taste in the mouth by the reason of the lack of taste which inspires them. Sometimes you see performances which are unsatisfactory in one way or another and whose unsatisfactory nature is occasioned by unfortunate issues of personality.

Now, Sir, hon. members in here asked for certain facts relating to the Ministry of Information. Even the Leader of the House should do something about it because he is a decent man.

4.35 p.m

Hon. members in here, we ask for certain facts relating to the Ministry of Information. Even the Leader of the House should do something about it because he is a decent man. He is a decent man and at all times, I believe, endeavours to do his best to maintain parliamentary traditions is here.

We ask for information. We want to find out what has happened to this Government's policy

on broadcasting. A sound point is asked by the hon. member for the City about handicrafts. All of this we ask about and all we can hear is that the sugar cop is going to make \$120 million this year.

I am not taking up, and we on this side are not taking up any cudgels for the *Nation*. The hon. member, the Minister of Information, may be glad that we have chosen one of the points that he thinks he can justify himself on. The hon. member may not be aware that we know that he has written to the *Nation* saying that he made certain mistakes and asking the public to believe that he actually corrected some of the mistakes on which the *Nation* takes issue, and so on. We can deal with all that and the *Nation* can deal with all that, but the House of Assembly is entitled to ask for replies to its questions. (*Aside*) I am speaking on the Resolution for the sum of money to vote a new typist for the Minister of Education. (*Aside: Information.*) I beg the hon. member's pardon. I should say 'Minister of Information.' Perhaps it was a transference of ideals. I was thinking of the youth and glamour which the Minister of Education brings to the performance of his duties, rather than to the worn out charms of the Minister of Information, Sir. But that is only in passing.

We are entitled to ask these things, and the Leader of the House ought to take this opportunity of avoiding a parliamentary disgrace by getting up and telling the public and us what is the Government's policy on political broadcasting. We are entitled to ask for it on a vote for the Ministry of Information. We are entitled to question the general policy of the department. The question that somebody may have made a speech and said something is neither here nor there, Sir. We wish to know what is the Government's policy on political broadcasting.

I believe that the Minister of Information has run outside to go and look up the debate to see if he can remember what he said. I can only assume that his memory is as superficial as his understanding, and his powers of recall as slight as his powers of intellectual analysis, and he has gone outside to ask somebody to tell him exactly what he should say on the question. I cannot believe that he has run outside because he is incapable of taking the insults that we have been heaping upon him in this debate. I, Sir, have never heard anybody take such insults and not get up and make any answer to them at all, except to say that he heard them before, and I am surprised to see the Minister of Information is showing himself to be so little of a man. However we are not asking him to defend the indefensible.

We are making an honest, straightforward request for a reply to our questions.

Assuming that we are ignorant, that we did not hear, that we do not have access to the Gazettes, that we cannot understand what we read assuming that we are all on his level, we are asking for information about political broadcasting in this country. That is what we are asking for, and we are challenging the Minister to give it to us. We will have to call him, in addition to all the other names we have called him a coward who cannot get up and set out his policy as a man, for whatever reason. We will have to call him a coward, Sir, if he cannot get up and tell us what we are asking for.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister has sought to mislead this House when he said that six months ago this question of political broadcasting was discussed...

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that surely this is imputing a dishonourable motive to a member, saying that I sought to mislead this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He said that you sought to. I am trying to find out how you have.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I said 'sought to', Sir. I share the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition that he does not possess the mental capacity to mislead the House. He can only seek to do it, Sir.

As I was saying, Sir, the matter came before the House asking to establish an all-party Committee to go into the system of broadcasting debates of the House of Assembly, and a system of party political broadcast, and I remember well the Minister of Health making a speech saying he does not see why it should call for so much debate, because the Resolution was not calling on you to broadcast the debates but only to establish a Committee to investigate it, and at that stage, the minister of mis-information spoke and made certain remarks but did not set out anything in relation to the Government's policy.

One other aspect of it, Sir. When I said earlier that the Minister obviously does not have any sort of feeling for the poor man, the young craftsmen of this country who have to run behind tourists with various bits of handicraft they have to sell at Sunset Crest and down on the beach, I would have thought that the Minister would have used this opportunity to say that he agreed with the Barbados Labour Party's suggestion that there should be a central market

for these people to sell their handicrafts in, but he did not do that, Sir, and I can only come to the conclusion that he obviously has no interest in these people. He will defend the hotelier and he will seek to do everything for the hoteliers, but does not seek to do anything for the poor craftsmen in this country who want to make a dollar out of the tourist trade. He was not interested in that in his reply. He never mentioned it at all, Sir. It did not arise. He did not even say Government's policy is to do it. He is totally insensitive to the feelings of the small man in this country.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, just before you put the question, Sir, I feel very disturbed now that the Minister of Information has bluntly refused to point out to the Committee what is his Government's policy on broadcasting. There is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you yourself or members of the House at this very moment can say what is the Government's policy, and since the Minister can bluntly say in here that there is a policy of the Government of which he is Minister of Information under whose portfolio Caribbean broadcasting falls, I feel within myself that the Minister himself should let us know once and for all now what is Government's policy so that we would not be calling on C.B.C. or writing the Ministry to find out if we can have broadcasting time, or anything of that nature. If he fails to do that I would urge out of common courtesy to both you, Mr. Deputy Speaker and to the House and to the people of Barbados that he resign from his Ministry, because he certainly does not understand what is going on, he does not know the policy of his own Ministry. He does not care, he does not know, he has no intention of even allowing this Honourable House to know what is Government's policy.

You yourself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would like to know what is the Government's policy on broadcasting. That is what we would like to know so that we will find ourselves in the position that we would not be calling on the Ministry, or would not come in here to ask the Government if we can use any broadcasting time. That is all we want to have clear. Clear the air now once and for all.
4.45 p.m.

This is what we would like to know so that we would find ourselves in a position that we would not have to call on the Ministry or ask the Government if he can use broadcasting time. If we cannot do this, it is the bounden duty of the Ministry to let us know. I think that it is a matter of courtesy to this House.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have had many quarrels with other Ministers on the Other Side. I have also had to admire Ministers on the Other Side. Even today, at the beginning of Government Business the member for St. James raised the issue of Private Members Business, and he took to task the Leader of the House. Man as he is, the Leader of the House got up and said that he was going to show power and strength today. After I had to ask him to withdraw the motion to suspend Standing Orders and he listened to us; but he came up with an answer. He said that he could not tie his members in here today; but he said that he could only give an undertaking.

You have to admire a man like that; but he knows. He has suffered indignity at the hands of people who once sought to rule this country to their own benefit and at the expense of the man in the street. He was around in 1937, 1938 and 1939 when the riots took place and he knows what an angry and irate people can do.

But, Sir, on the other hand you have Robinson Crusoe in all his glory. History has a peculiar method of repeating itself. You have Robinson Crusoe sitting over there. There have been questions asked by the Opposition. I have said the Tourist Board Office in Canada up to last Wednesday was not in a position to tell the Canadians what was the value of the Barbados dollar in relation to the US dollar.

I am asking why is it necessary to have a temporary typist on the staff of the Ministry of Robinson Crusoe. He stands up and answers in what could be written on five lines of foolscap paper and sits down.

I have sat in this Chamber when the Minister acted in the same manner when we were seeking information — not for ourselves because we know where to find it — we were seeking information for the 240,000 souls outside. He sat down and kept quiet and pushed his fingers in his ears. History will prove whether he is mute from a visitation of God or from malice. That the Minister got up and spoke afterwards shows that he is a wicked and malicious person, that he is mute through malice and not from a visitation of God. (*Asides.*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear you.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am on my feet.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Will you hear a point of order?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I hope that you will ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark about being malicious. He should not be saying that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Was the hon. member speaking about the Minister of Information? I heard him speak about Robinson Crusoe. I was wondering who was Robinson Crusoe. I am merely asking the hon. member to speak on what is before the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect, I am speaking on the second reading of the Resolution. I was speaking about Robinson Crusoe, a man who was washed up ashore.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. member to confine his remarks to the Resolution. As far as I know there is no Robinson Crusoe in the Resolution or in here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you, Sir. I have already said that a man who visits this country asked how the Prime Minister can walk about and drive about and go into Nelson Street and does not have a police armoured car surrounding him. In Trinidad Dr. Eric Williams would be in a bullet proof car and have out riders. In Grenada Gairy cannot go out of his house without being guarded.

I have seen the Prime Minister of this country have to seek shelter in the yard downstairs behind policemen. If Robinson Crusoe thinks that going down these stairs some day people will not grab him he is mistaken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the hon. member is entirely out of place to refer to any Minister or anyone in here as Robinson Crusoe. I would like to hear Robinson Crusoe more specifically defined so as to know who exactly is Robinson Crusoe. *(Asides)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. Let us have some order. I am asking the hon. member for St. Joseph to stick to the Resolution, or I will ask him to take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: I heard the Leader of the House invite me to say who I meant by Robinson Crusoe. I will not say "a man Morgan from Christ Church." I will leave them to define it. If the Minister thinks that it could

refer to Robinson Crusoe washed up on the beach then it is up to him.
4.55 p.m.

All I say is if the Minister of Information thinks he can be referred to as Robinson Crusoe, having been washed up on a beach, that is up to him. We cannot, have this sort of mockery being made of our Parliament. Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you sign this Resolution as having passed this Chamber, in your heart of hearts when you go to St. George South and the people there ask you, "For what is that money voted?" If you cannot answer them, you would have failed those people, and you must not join forces with this disruptive personnel in our community. It is time that his own members say to him: "Go, and let us run this place as it deserves to be run." If you think you can sit down, keep quiet, and fool the people you are mistaken.

As I have said, I am one of those who do not believe in wars; I do not believe in armies, but these are the reasons why armies will take over. *(Asides)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BOLDEN: When you hear people outside saying that Ministers are this and that, all of us can be ripped apart because of the action of one person who could, tomorrow morning if his own Information Service told him that there is likely to be an uprising, throw down the Barbados passport, take up the British passport, go to Seawell, get on an aircraft, and even if it does not leave the tarmac, he can say that he is on British soil there, but we have to stay here and face the music. That is what we are worried about. In times like this they do not ask you about Morgan; they will ask you about my M.P., and what is he doing for us.

As I have said, when they attacked the Prime Minister in Parliament's Yard, and he called on the police for help, he should know that in 1939 my people suffered. History has a nasty habit of repeating itself. He might find himself not being able to reach Seawell because he has fooled the people. Gowan of Nigeria has just suffered the same fate. The people took over from him, too. The Minister might not be able to get to Seawell.

The question that the three Resolutions be now read the second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. MORRISON; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. LOWE; Mrs. EASTMOND, and Mr. WEEKES — 8.

NOES: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. HINDS, and Mr. BOLDEN — 5.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that these three Resolutions be now agreed to.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to be very short on this occasion. I want to say that the Minister of Information commented that, whenever there is a debate about information, we get in here and talk 90% about him, and 10% about the policy on the issue. He cannot really complain about that, Sir, because we talked about issues today and he has not taken us on, but to some extent he is bringing his complaints on his own head. When we discuss the issues, he ignores us.

In the course of the debate, I have felt myself guilty of participating in a little of what I have complained of. I complained of schoolboyishness. I should like to say that there are 14 of us in here, I believe, and in many ways we ought to consider the personality of the Minister of Information that more or less forces others — he knows that there are 14 members in here and 13 of us do not like him, and he is the fourteenth. I think that we are a little guilty of the schoolboy element of which I condemned the Minister earlier.

I believe it may very well be time to pass a moratorium on attacks on the Minister. His personality is highly abrasive; he sandpapers those with whom he comes into contact, but it does not always make for the best parliamentary occasion. Now that I have heard the speeches, on reflection I think the Minister probably is not able to reformulate whatever has been said on an earlier occasion as a matter of Government policy. He is not able to put it in a form which would satisfy himself, and he may be afraid to put it out. That is, probably, the most logical explanation of what has gone on.

We have had to keep this going a long time. It is not really that the Minister is the worst man on that side. There is not enough in him for the Opposition to regard him as the worst man on that side. He would know that I am not attacking him on racial grounds. We have had a long debate on this subject, and much of it could have been

avoided if we were dealing with a different type of personality. I am sorry that it has come to this stage that the whole House of Assembly present has had to tell the Minister how it feels. Just as the lesson is sinking into me, I very much hope that the lesson is sinking into the Minister.

The question that these three Resolutions be agreed to was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. MORRISON; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. LOWE; Mrs. EASTMOND, and Mr. WEEKES — 8.

NOES: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. MOTTLEY; Mr. HINDS, and Mr. BOLDEN — 5.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

The question that Question Time be now taken was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 34 stands in the name of the Hon. member for St. Lucy whom I observe is not now in his seat.

Hon. R. StC. WEEKS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking that the Reply be laid.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Reply be laid.

Parliamentary Question No. 41 also stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Lucy.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the hon. member is not in his seat, I should like to lay the Reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Reply be laid.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this now concludes Government Business. We will

now proceed to Private Members' Business in accordance with our promise.

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

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

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

THE MARRIED WOMEN'S SEPARATION
AND MAINTENANCE (AMENDMENT)
ACT, 1975.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, perhaps I can have your guidance. Three months having now expired today, this Bill should stand committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To which item is the hon. member referring?

Mr. ADAMS: The first item under Private Members' Business. I just want the assistance of the House because I do not know if they want to recommit it to another Select Committee or if it is meant to take its chance. I should not think that hon. members are ready to do these two Bills today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I inform the hon. member that according to Standing Order No. 62(6), when a Select Committee does not report to the House in the period set out in Standing Order No. 61(5), the House may commit the Bill to a Committee of the whole House, and the powers of the Select Committee in relation to that Bill shall cease.

Mr. ADAMS: I am asking now what the House wants to do?

I would move that this Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House. It does not have to be discussed today. If it is committed I will move that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called and passed.

On motion of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Mr. ADAMS seconded by Mr. MOTTLEY, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1975

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 be amended to change the date to 1st January, 1975 to 1976.

The reason is that this Bill was first introduced into the House perhaps in 1974 and was intended to come into operation on 1st January, 1975. Now by Clause 3 it is intended to come into operation on 1st January, 1976 and this proviso that "nothing in this section shall effect any marriage solemnized or contracted and so on" is to give all those who are under the age of sixteen now and wish to get married time to get married in. This is not an empty problem as the latest Registrar's certificate shows that fifteen

year olds have been getting married in recent years, — I think even one of thirteen years was. No doubt an easy deduction will be drawn that the thirteen year old pregnancy corresponds with the thirteen year old's marriage, but nonetheless once you accept the principle we will wish to make this amendment which I commend to the House to conform with the general policy of the Bill. It should be 1976 throughout.

I would beg if the amendment is carried that Clause 2 as amended stand part.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

Clause 3 was called and passed.
5.15 p.m.

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

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

BILL TO AMEND THE BARBADOS FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY ACT, 1881

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Items 3 and 4 both depend on the hon. member for Christ Church West, but unfortunately he could not be present. He is otherwise engaged.

I beg to move that Item 5 be the next item under Private Members' Business.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill is a very short Bill which seeks to change the name of the Barbados Fire Insurance

Company to the name of the Barbados Fire and General Insurance. That is the purpose of this Bill.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be sent to a Select Committee. (A Pause)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has not been seconded.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I beg to move that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and myself — I do not know who from the Government — Your Honour the Deputy Speaker, and anybody the Leader of the House wants to nominate from his side, I would suggest.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Select your Committee first, I would suggest.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I nominate three, Sir. You, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and myself. Whoever the Leader of the House wants to put on, he may add.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the whole Committee should be selected first. The Bill is Private Members' Business and you have the option of selecting your Committee.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to nominate the Hon. Minister of Health and Welfare, the Hon. Minister of Education, the Hon. Minister of Lands and Labour, and myself.

The question that those Hon. Ministers and members do comprise the Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Item 6 of Private Members' Business. There is a possibility of this item being controversial. If it is not controversial we are quite happy to go ahead with it now. If the Government wishes Cabinet to meet on the Bill we will be quite content to have further consideration postponed.

It is obviously a significant matter that impinges upon Government policy. We on this side believe that sugar workers should be entitled to draw their Provident Fund monies as well as the National Insurance. The Government not long ago took a decision in the other direction.

If we can dispose of it today, I would welcome an invitation from the other side — if we can dispose of it by passage. If it is likely to require long debate I will move that further consideration be postponed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at Cabinet level we have not yet considered this; so I would like to have it postponed.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I beg to move that further consideration be postponed.

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

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

RESOLUTION RE MEDICAL ADVICE AND ATTENTION FOR OLD AGE PENSIONERS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next item under Private Members' Business is Item No. 7.

The hon. member for St. Peter was the last member who spoke. The hon. member St. Andrew who I do not now see in his place did intimate his intention of speaking; so any hon. member who so desires may speak.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one looks at this Resolution one will be willing to admit that it has some merit in it, but at the same time I think there are a number of points which I should seek to bring to the attention of the Hon. Chamber.

We know the concern of the hon. member for St. James regarding the plight of the old age pensioners. In the past he has repeated his concern over and over, and tries to get the Government to do some of the things which he considers and we on this side consider to be of immediate relief to these people.

5.25 p.m.

At the moment as it now stands old age pensioners do get free medical attention. They do get drugs free of cost from government

dispensaries and the district medical hospitals. That has been going on for a very long time, since 1969. In addition to that some of these people who prefer for various reasons to go to private medical practitioners can apply to the Chief Welfare Officer and get their prescriptions filled free of cost.

I do not want to labour the point. We are well aware of the problems that face old age pensioners, including having to travel from one place to another much further on. We know the problems they have with bad eyesight, arthritis and such things. Sometimes it is difficult for them to get adequate transportation from their homes to the district medical hospitals.

My Ministry since last year has entered into a series of discussions with the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners and also with the Pharmaceutical Association in trying to get additional relief in these particular areas, and we did hope that we would have got a fairly quick conclusion to these discussions; but so far we have not been able to reach definite conclusions. It is not my intention to go into detail at this stage because it might well prejudice the outcome of these discussions.

I share the concern of the hon. Member and I would like to say where the position of the old age pensioners is concerned, that we would like to see other people who would be able to go to any medical practitioner in Barbados and get free medical attention and then go to any dispensary and get prescriptions filled. The point is that it is very easy to direct people employed by the Government to do so; but, as the hon. Member will know, when you have to go to people in the private sector there are a lot of little problems and attitudes that make it difficult.

While you may well like to see conditions bettered in the society, you have to appreciate that there are some in this society who are not as community minded as they should be. It takes a lot of motivation and education to get these particular people to change their attitudes and become more community minded and to assist in making Barbados a better place for their less fortunate brethren. In dictatorships it is easy to pass a decree and say that is the case. In a democracy one has to go in for a long series of negotiations.

However, Sir, I am happy to report to the member for St. James that we have seen a change in the position of the Barbados

Association of Medical Practitioners and the Pharmaceutical Association which has been responsible for the setting up of the Diabetic Association without any prompting on the part of the Government. I believe, that given time, we will see a desirable change in the attitude of those people which we all would like to see and which would go a far way in assisting the Government and members on the Other Side coming to the aid of people living in the constituencies which we represent and which they represent.

I would like to assure the hon. Member that we are concerned and that we are working on the matter. We are hoping that in the very near future, certainly before the beginning of the next financial year we will see a satisfactory outcome about our discussions and that we will be able to tell you the results of those discussions; and that they will be able to go back to their constituencies and assure the old age pensioners and those other people who are not employed and who are living in straitened circumstances.

I say that because we have to bear in mind the plight of these people and to assure them that they will get medical attention without having to pay a doctor, and also that they will be able to go to any dispensary in the country and get their prescriptions filled.

We would like to associate ourselves with the sentiments which have given rise to this Resolution. I would like to assure the member once again that we have been pursuing this matter in the Ministry and we have discussions going on. We hope in the near future to be able to report to him the outcome of these discussions.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been in Parliament for the past seven years and during that time I recall that I looked at some of the pronouncements of the late Sir Winston Churchill. He said that the first duty of the Opposition is to oppose. The second duty of the Opposition is to oppose. The third duty of the Opposition is to oppose, and it is the bounden duty of the Government to carry out the wishes of the people.

This evening it gives me great pleasure to commend the Minister of Health for the first time for helping us to get this Resolution through Parliament, because it is on the sweat and blood of these people that this country has been built up. I sincerely hope that the Ministry of Health will make sure that these people will not be left in the cold for too long.

We wish to express the desire that they will think of expanding in a wider area with legislation of this nature. I am sure that that is part of my party's policy. I would not say its manifesto. We all know that this Resolution which has had an easy passage this evening is just part of the national health scheme which we will set out to have established if it is the will of the people for us to guide the destiny of this country.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are no other items that we wish to deal with at this stage. This is the end of Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we have earned our recess.
5.35 p.m.

I think that we have earned our recess, and climatic conditions demand that we take a certain amount of rest. In view of that, Sir, and in view of the fact that it is the custom to take a recess at this time, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 23rd September, 1975, at twelve noon — six weeks recess.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to advert to the activities of the various Select Committee of Parliament. I very much hope that hon. Members will give up some of their time to attend the various Select Committee of which they are members, and in particular, Sir, the Public Accounts Committee of which I only see two members present, but, perhaps, my words will be passed on to the right quarters. I anticipate we will be meeting on most, if not all, of the Tuesdays on which the

House is not sitting. I hope that members will not find it too great a sacrifice to make. I would like to assure hon. Members that if they have to attend for long hours, the provision of refreshment will be continued as before.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I would just like to say to you, the Clerks of the House, the staff of the House, and all hon. Members on this side the Government Business has been so little nowadays that there has always been a recess. I hope that you will have a happy summer, and

we will all come back in here with renewed vigour, not only to carry out the work of the people of this country, but to get ourselves ready to face up the battle that lies ahead in future. I sincerely hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we shall meet in the Promised Land.

ADJOURNMENT

The Question that the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 23rd September, 1975, at twelve noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.40 p.m.